

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY,  
FLORIDA and the  
POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**TEACHER  
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT**

**February 28, 2023 - June 30, 2026**

**Ratification of Unit- amended February 6, 2026**

**Board Approved- amended February 24, 2026**

***This Contract is negotiated by YOU through YOUR union,  
the Polk Education Association.***

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**PREAMBLE** .....iv

**ARTICLE I - EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED** ..... 1

**ARTICLE II - NEGOTIATIONS PROCEDURE**..... 2

**ARTICLE III - SCHOOL CALENDAR**..... 3

**ARTICLE IV - TEACHER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**..... 3

**ARTICLE V - ASSOCIATION RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES**..... 3

**ARTICLE VI - TEACHING CONDITIONS** ..... 10

    6.1 Teacher Responsibility: ..... 14

    6.2 Teacher Workday:..... 15

    6.3 Planning Time:..... 17

    6.4 Non-instructional Duty: ..... 18

    6.5 Faculty Meetings: ..... 19

    6.6 Safe and Healthy Working Environment:..... 19

    6.7 School Based Committees: ..... 19

    6.8 ..... 22

    6.9 Lesson Plans: ..... 22

**ARTICLE VII – CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**..... 23

**ARTICLE VIII - STAFFING PLAN**..... 24

**ARTICLE IX – TEACHERS ASSIGNED PARAEDUCATORS**..... 24

**ARTICLE X—TEACHER AUTHORITY AND PROTECTION**..... 24

**ARTICLE XI - ACADEMIC FREEDOM**..... 24

**ARTICLE XII - POLITICAL ACTIVITY** ..... 27

**ARTICLE XIII - GENERAL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES** ..... 27

**ARTICLE XIV - PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS** ..... 29

**ARTICLE XV - INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL EVALUATION** ..... 34

**ARTICLE XVI - TEACHER DISMISSAL PROCEDURE** ..... 45

**ARTICLE XVII - TRANSFERS AND CHANGES IN ASSIGNMENT** ..... 48

**ARTICLE XVIII – VACANCIES** ..... 52

**ARTICLE XIX – LAYOFF**..... 53

**ARTICLE XX - PAID LEAVES**..... 56

<b>ARTICLE XXI - UNPAID LEAVES .....</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>ARTICLE XXII - PROFESSIONAL COMPENSATION .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>ARTICLE XXIII – INSURANCE .....</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>ARTICLE XXIV - EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING .....</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>ARTICLE XXV -- SCHOOL COMMUNITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.....</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>ARTICLE XXVI - INTERN PLACEMENT .....</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>ARTICLE XXVII - EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMS.....</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>ARTICLE XXVIII - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE .....</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>ARTICLE XXIX - MAINTENANCE OF STANDARDS.....</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>ARTICLE XXX - NO STRIKE.....</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>ARTICLE XXXI – BOARD'S RIGHTS .....</b>	<b>84</b>
<b>ARTICLE XXXII – CHARTER SCHOOLS.....</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>ARTICLE XXXIII - CONTRACT TERM .....</b>	<b>87</b>
<b>APPENDIX A – OFFICIAL GRIEVANCE FORM .....</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>APPENDIX B – TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE .....</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>TEACHER APPENDIX C – SUPPLEMENTAL SALARY SCHEDULE .....</b>	<b>117</b>
<b>APPENDIX D - Activity pay for duties not related to regular position outside of the regular duty day... 126</b>	
<b>APPENDIX E- GROUND RULES .....</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>APPENDIX F- SICK LEAVE BUY BACK.....</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>APPENDIX G– JROTC (Junior Reserve Officer Training CORPS) instructors.....</b>	<b>129</b>
<b>APPENDIX H- OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS AND PHYSICAL THERAPISTS .....</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>APPENDIX I– INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANCE CONFERENCE GUIDELINES .....</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDINGS .....</b>	<b>134</b>

Part-time Firefighter Instructor Hourly Rate Ridge Technical Fire Academy

25-26 District Managed Improvement Schools Collaborative Planning

25-26 District Managed RTD

25-26 Pre-Planning Week with Orientation Guidelines

25-26 School Improvement

25-26 School Site-Managed RTD

25-26 Paraeducator Teacher Apprentice

25-26 Instructional Technology Liaison

25-26 District Managed Improvement Schools Collaborative Planning

25-26 Addendum to School List District Managed RTD

25-26 Addendum to School List School Improvement

25-26 BAC ESE VS Self-Contained Teacher Para

25-26 Retention and Performance MOU for CLMS and NLE

## **PREAMBLE**

THIS CONTRACT, made and entered into by and between **THE SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA**, hereinafter referred to as the "BOARD," and **POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.** (an affiliate of the Florida Education Association, the National Education Association, and the American Federation of Teachers), as representative of the teaching personnel employed by the School Board of Polk County, Florida and included in the bargaining unit certified by the Public Employees Relations Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "ASSOCIATION,"

## **WITNESSETH:**

**WHEREAS**, the Board and the Association recognize and declare that providing a quality education for the children of the Polk County Public School System is their mutual aim, and that such quality education should, in most cases, include teachers and Association involvement in formulating policies and programs, and

**WHEREAS**, the Association recognizes that the Board has responsibility and authority to manage and direct, in behalf of the public, all the operations and activities of the School District to the full extent authorized by law, including disciplinary action, subject to the provisions of this agreement in dealing with instructional personnel, and

**WHEREAS**, the Board and the Association have agreed to negotiate in good faith with respect to the determination of all terms and conditions of employment, and now, having reached agreement on same, desire to execute this contract covering such agreement, and

**WHEREAS**, the parties, following extensive and deliberate negotiations, have reached certain understandings which they desire to confirm in this agreement,

In consideration of the following mutual covenants, it is hereby agreed as follows

## ARTICLE I - EMPLOYEES REPRESENTED

The Board recognizes the Association as the exclusive bargaining representative for the following unit of employees whether under contract, on leave, or employed by the District, all as included in the certification instrument Case No. 8H-RA-754-1092, issued by the Florida Public Employees Relations Commission on the 30th day of June, 1975: Amended 22nd day of August, 1983; Amended 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2000; Amended 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2009; and last Amended 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2014 (Case No. UC-2014-006).

### **Classroom teachers including:**

Band Directors	Primary Resource Teachers
Certified Tutorial	Psychologists
Compensatory	ROTC Instructors
Consultants (certified Rank III or above)	Social Workers, including Visiting Teacher/Social Workers, 94/142 Social Worker, County-wide Social Worker
Deans	PSOC Social Worker
Earn & Learn	Speakers of Non-Standard English Program
Guidance Counselors, including Occupational Specialists, Elementary, Secondary Counselors, and Reading Teachers	
Health Educators	Specialists (Certified Rank III or above)
Homebound	Student Activities Teachers
Librarians, including Central Process Librarian, all media persons (certified Rank III or above)	Visiting Teachers
Migrant Early Childhood	
Occupational Therapists	Vocal Directors
Physical Therapists	Vocational Education Teachers
Rehabilitation Nurses	Work Experience
	Registered Nurse Specialist/ Trainers of Prevention and Resource Specialists/Trainers of Health Services

### **Special Education teachers including:**

Autistic	Socially Maladjusted
Deaf Education	Specific Learning Disabilities
Diagnostic Classroom Teacher	Speech/Language Diagnosticians
Educable Mentally Handicapped	Speech Therapist/Clinicians
Emotionally Disturbed	Staffing Specialist
Gifted Specialist	Trainable Mentally Handicapped
Physical Education – Exceptional	Visually Handicapped
Physically Handicapped	

Such representation shall exclude the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Chief of Staff, Associate Superintendents, Regional Assistant Superintendents, Assistant Superintendents, Directors, Principals, Assistant Principals, Technical College Directors, Technical College Assistant Directors, Technical College Coordinators of Evening Programs, Supervisors, Coordinators and Executive Secretaries. Any new managerial positions created shall also be excluded.

The term "teacher" when used hereinafter in the agreement shall refer to all professional employees represented by the Association in the bargaining unit. Any new instructional non-managerial or non-supervisory positions created by the Board shall be considered as part of the bargaining unit.

## ARTICLE II - NEGOTIATIONS PROCEDURE

### Table of Contents

#### Table of Contents

#### 2.1 Annual Negotiations

#### 2.2 Beginning Date for Negotiations

#### 2.3 Power and Authority of Representatives

#### 2.4 Mediation/Special Master Costs

#### 2.5 Regular Meetings During Term of Contract

#### 2.6 Amending This Contract

#### 2.7 Network Manager Task Force

**2.1 Annual Negotiations:** Negotiations will be conducted each year according to the ground rules as mutually agreed upon prior to negotiations. Ground Rules (see [APPENDIX F - GROUND RULES](#)) used at the previous year's sessions will serve as the basis for discussing any changes before adopting ground rules for the current negotiating sessions. Such ground rules mutually agreed upon shall assist in the orderly process for negotiations.

**2.2 Beginning Date:** Both parties agree that negotiations for a new contract shall commence no later than 30 days after ratification of the current collective bargaining agreement in a good faith effort to reach a contract. The Association agrees to give the Board notice of intent to negotiate a contract a minimum of sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of the contract in force at the time and also notify the Public Employees Relations Commission in writing of this intent.

**2.3 Power and Authority of Representatives:** The parties mutually pledge that their representatives shall be vested with all necessary power and authority to make proposals, consider proposals, and make concessions in the course of negotiations.

**2.4 Mediation/Special Master Costs:** Any cost incurred through mediation or special master will be shared equally by the Board and the Association. The expense of consultants shall be borne by the party requesting them.

**2.5 Regular Meetings during Term of Contract:** The Board and Association negotiating teams will meet together each month during the regular school year on a regularly set day and time for the purpose of reviewing the administration of this agreement and to resolve problems that arise there from. These

meetings are not intended to bypass the grievance procedure. Further, each party shall submit to the other prior to the meeting an agenda covering what they wish to discuss.

**2.6 Amending This Contract:** Any matter not specifically covered by this contract but of concern for one or both of the parties may be brought up for negotiations during the contract period if both parties agree that its consideration is necessary and desirable. When such a meeting results in a mutually acceptable amendment to this agreement, the amendment shall be subject to ratification by the Board and the Association, the same as is the agreement.

**2.7 Network Manager Task Force:** The District and PEA will establish a Task Force to review the positions of Network Manager covered by both the Paraeducator and Teacher CBAs. The purpose of the Task Force is to review the practical requirements of these two positions and make recommendations to the District's and PEA's Bargaining Teams regarding the necessary training and skills needed to successfully meet the District's established purpose for these positions. The Task Force may consider a multi-tiered system where documented training such as Microsoft certifications are a factor in determining pay. The Task Force shall also consider equity of compensation, skills, training, and workload.

### **ARTICLE III - SCHOOL CALENDAR**

**3.1** The Board agrees that the Association may name at least four (4) total members to the Superintendent's Calendar Committee for the duration of this agreement.

**3.2** The Board agrees to provide teachers with six (6) paid holidays per school year for the duration of this agreement.

**3.3** Non-student contact days for teachers shall be designated as six (6) Workdays and four (4) Staff Development Days. Workdays shall be available for teachers to use as Teacher Self-Directed Planning (Article 6.3) except that the principal may schedule and hold one-Faculty Meeting (Article 6.5) of not more than 60 consecutive minutes during the day. Staff Development Days may be used as described in Article 6.5 Faculty Meetings.

**3.4** The Board shall include at least ten (10) Student Early Dismissal Days distributed throughout the school year. Students shall be dismissed 150 minutes early to provide teachers 150 minutes of self-directed planning time. All remaining time shall be used by the employee for self-directed planning activities.

### **ARTICLE IV - TEACHER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **Table of Contents**

#### **Definitions**

#### **4.1 Right to Organize**

#### **4.2 Non Denial of Rights**

#### **4.3 Non Discrimination**

##### **4.3-1 Teachers Not Subject to Discrimination**

##### **4.3-2 Teachers Not Subject to Retaliation**

- 4.4 Just Cause Discipline
  - 4.4-1 Progressive Discipline
  - 4.4-2 New Hire Probationary Period
  - 4.4-3 Right to Representation
- 4.5 Reports in Personnel File
  - 4.5-1 Limit on Use of Records
  - 4.5-2 On-going Criminal Investigation
- 4.6 District Curriculum and Textbook Committees
  - 4.6-1 School Committee (See Article 6.7-1)
- 4.7 Professional Dress
- 4.8 Classroom Decorum
  - 4.8-1 Administrative Feedback
  - 4.8-2 Education Agency Feedback
- 4.9 Teacher Responsibilities
- 4.10 Use of Personal Property
- 4.11 Faculty Funds
- 4.12 Teacher Orientation
- 4.13 Polk County School Board Policies
- 4.14 Forms Management Committee
- 4.15 Supervisor Feedback

**Definitions:**

***Continuing Contract (CC):*** a contract issued to a teacher prior to July 1, 1984 allowing the teacher to continue in that position or a similar position on the salary schedule authorized by the School Board without the necessity for annual reappointment until such time the position is discontinued, the person resigns, his/her contract status is changed, or the teacher is terminated in accordance with Florida Statute.

***Professional Service Contract (PSC):*** a contract issued to a teacher prior to July 1, 2011, that renews each year until such time as the person resigns, his/her contract status is changed, or the teacher is terminated in accordance with Florida Statute.

***Annual Contract (AC):*** a contract issued to a non-probationary teacher for one year which may be renewed annually in accordance with the provisions of this collective bargaining agreement and state statute.

***Probationary Contract (PC):*** a contract issued to a teacher during the initial year of employment in Polk County Public Schools where the teacher may be dismissed without cause or may resign without breach of contract. An employee may only be issued one Probationary Contract unless the employee was rehired after a break in service for which an authorized leave of absence was not granted. A Probationary Contract shall initially be awarded regardless of previous employment in another School District or state.

***Just Cause:*** fair and reasonable basis for disciplinary action up to and including termination, as defined in applicable Florida Statutes specific to the contract under which the employee is employed.

***Moral Turpitude:*** gross violation of standards of moral conduct, vileness. An act involving moral turpitude is considered intentionally evil, making the act a crime.

**4.1 Right to Organize:** Teachers shall have the right to self-organization for mutual protection, to form, join or assist the organization or refrain from such activity, and to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing.

**Neutrality:** The Polk County Public Schools hereinafter “the District” any members of management including but not limited to administrators, supervisors, agents, or other representatives) will remain neutral and will not oppose attempts by employees to organize or select a collective bargaining representative and will not take any action or make any statement that directly or indirectly states or implies any opposition by the Employer to the selection by the employees of a collective bargaining representative.

**4.2 Non-Denial of Rights:** The Board agrees that nothing contained herein shall be construed to deny to any teacher all rights as guaranteed by the laws and Constitution of the State of Florida and the United States.

**4.2-1 County-wide Election Days:** To encourage all employees to participate in local, state, and national elections, the Board agrees that no events should be scheduled outside the regular employee duty day on all County-wide Election Days.

#### **4.3 Non-Discrimination:**

The School Board of Polk County, Florida prohibits any and all forms of discrimination and harassment. It is the policy of Polk County Public Schools to not discriminate in admission or access to, or employment in its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, pregnancy, age, homelessness, disability, or the use of trained guide dog or service animal, veteran or military status, marital status, genetic information, or other legally protected classification in its educational programs or services.

**4.3-1** Teachers shall not be subject to discriminatory treatment.

**4.3-2** Teachers shall not be subject to retaliation as a result of exercising any rights under this agreement.

**4.4 Just Cause:** No teacher will be disciplined, reprimanded, suspended, terminated or otherwise deprived of fringe benefits or contractual rights during the term of his/her contract without just cause. No teacher shall be demoted from continuing contract/professional service contract to annual contract nor be deprived of his/her contractual salary for the remainder of the contract year without just cause. No teacher will be relieved from a supplemental position during the term of that supplemental contract without just cause. Refer to 14.4-1 for discipline concerning supplemental positions. Any teacher terminated during the term of his/her contract shall be entitled to a fair hearing based on due process.

**4.4-1** Progressive discipline shall be followed, except in cases where the course of conduct or the severity of the offense justifies otherwise. Unusual circumstances may justify suspension with pay. Progressive discipline shall be administered in the following steps:

(1) verbal warning in a conference with the teacher. (A written confirmation of a verbal warning is not a written reprimand);

(2) dated written reprimand following a conference;

- (3) suspension without pay for up to five days by the Superintendent and
- (4) termination.

“Letters of Expectation” are not a form of discipline and may address issues related to professionalism or policy.

**4.4-2** This section shall not apply during a probationary period when the employee may be terminated without cause, or the employee may resign without breach of contract in accordance with Florida Statutes.

**4.4-3** A teacher shall have the right to have present a member representative of the Association and/or the Association staff during any disciplinary or investigatory conference with said teacher conducted by the principal or other designated County school official regarding the teacher's infraction of rules or delinquency in the performance of his/her professional duties. Teachers shall be notified twenty-four (24) hours in advance of such conferences when possible. When the teacher requests such representation, no disciplinary action shall be taken until representation is present. If a teacher is called upon to assist in an investigation of a principal/immediate supervisor, which was initiated by administration, that teacher shall have the right to Association representation including staff.

**4.5 Reports in Personnel File:** Personnel files shall be maintained in accordance with Florida Statute 1012.31. Each teacher shall receive a copy of all evaluative, reprimanding, disciplinary, complimentary, and derogatory reports to be placed in his/her personnel files at the school/department or District office. These reports shall be delivered in person, and the teacher shall sign to acknowledge receipt of them. Each teacher shall have the right to answer in writing to all evaluative, reprimanding, disciplinary, complimentary, and derogatory reports. These answers shall be delivered in person, and the immediate supervisor shall sign to acknowledge receipt of them. The responses then will be placed in the teacher's personnel file. The teacher and/or the Association, upon written authorization from the teacher, may review and reproduce the contents, at his/her expense, or any of same. The review shall be made in the presence of the administrator or his/her designee, responsible for the safekeeping of such file. The teacher may challenge, through the established grievance procedure, the maintenance of any document therein. At the written request of a teacher, any report in a teacher's personnel file (school/department or District office) excluding assessments or observations, that may be considered or construed by the teacher and/or Association to be reprimanding, disciplinary or derogatory will be placed in an envelope and labeled "not relevant for disciplinary purposes" and returned to the personnel file. This would be done only after three consecutive years of no serious reprimands or problems on record.

**4.5-1** Any record of disciplinary action or derogatory report which has been in the file longer than three years, or any reference in the file to an incident that occurred more than three years ago, may not be used as evidence or testimony against a teacher. Cases of disciplinary action which was the result of moral turpitude or a pattern of allegations of child endangerment that results in disciplinary action by the District or professional practice services are exempted from the three-year moratorium.

**4.5-2** In the event of a current, on-going criminal investigation, a public criminal history may be obtained and used in determining possible disciplinary action.

**4.5-3** Materials relating to work performance, discipline, suspension, or dismissal must be reduced to writing and signed by a person competent to know the facts or make the judgment. No such materials may be placed in a personnel file unless they have been reduced to writing within 45 days, exclusive of the summer vacation period, of the school system administration becoming aware of the facts reflected in

the materials. Additional information related to such written materials previously placed in the file may be appended to such materials to clarify or amplify them as needed. A copy of such materials to be added to an employee's personnel file shall be provided to the employee. The employee's signature on a copy of the materials to be filed shall be proof that such materials were given to the employee, with the understanding that such signature merely signifies receipt and does not necessarily indicate agreement with its contents. No anonymous letter or anonymous materials shall be placed in the personnel file. An employee has the right to answer in writing any such materials and the answer shall be attached to the file copy.

**4.5-4** Except for items that are by law exempt, all material placed in the teacher's personnel file shall be available to the teacher at his/her request for inspection.

**4.5-5** There shall be a single point of contact in the Human Resource Services Division for an employee or the Association to review the personnel file as defined in FL Statute. Furthermore, it is agreed that the school/worksites shall send those materials noted in 4.5-3 to the Human Resource Services Division for placement in said personnel file.

**4.5-6** When statements are made against a teacher no written copies or related materials will be placed in the teacher's individual file nor any disciplinary action taken against a teacher until the teacher is made aware of the person who is making the accusation, the matter is discussed with the teacher, and the teacher has received a copy. If the principal/administrator finds that the statements or accusations are false, no record shall be maintained. Before disciplinary action is taken, the teacher shall be made aware of the person who is making the accusation and that teacher, at the discretion of the principal, shall be given opportunity to confront the accuser.

**4.5-7** A memorandum will be distributed annually from the Human Resource Services Division to all administrators reviewing the expectations for personnel records set forth in Article 4.5.

**4.5-8 Probationary Period:** The parties intend to assure that an environment exists that encourages employees' success on an initial probationary contract. Before making a recommendation for termination of an employee during an initial probationary period, the principal/supervisor must contact the Human Resource Services Division. The Human Resource Services Division and the Polk Education Association will review the proposed recommendation for termination. The options of offering the employee a *transfer* to another location or upholding the release during the initial probationary contract will be reviewed, which may provide the employee a greater chance for success.

The decision of the Associate Superintendent of Human Resource Services Division shall be final and binding, and the decision shall not be subject to the grievance procedure. Nothing in this subsection shall be deemed to waive an employee's rights under local, state, or federal law.

**4.6 District Curriculum and Textbook Committees:** Recommendations of curriculum and textbooks for the District shall be made by committees appointed by the Superintendent or his/her designee. Teachers in the appropriate grade level or subject area shall comprise at least 50% of each committee. Secondary Textbook Committees should include a Reading Specialist. Said Committees shall recommend up to three (3) books/series for each grade/subject appropriate to meet the varying instructional ability levels. The selections shall be recommended to the Superintendent for presentation to the Board for adoption.

**4.6-1** Teachers shall be encouraged to give suggestions and shall be included in the procedure to determine textbook budget allocation and curriculum within each school.

**4.7 Professional Dress:** In as much as teachers are role models for students, each teacher shall maintain a neat, professional appearance appropriate for his/her specific teaching assignment.

**4.8 Classroom Decorum:** The Board and the Association agree that proper classroom decorum is essential to the learning process.

**4.8-1** Feedback shall not be given to teachers by District staff in the presence of students or peers, and instruction shall not be interrupted except for the safety of a student or other person.

**4.8-2** When officials from other educational agencies are conducting campus visits, any feedback that needs to be made to teachers as a result of these visits, should not be made in the presence of students or peers, however all feedback should be made in the presence of the school administration.

**4.9 Teacher Responsibilities:** It shall be the duty of the Superintendent and his designees to see to it that the teachers are informed of all teacher responsibilities. It shall be the duty of the teacher to comply with such requirements. Among the duties and responsibilities for which teachers will be accountable to perform are as follows:

1. Teach efficiently and faithfully in the classroom or place of duty.
2. Use prescribed instructional materials and methods of instruction.
3. Punctual and accurate record keeping.
4. Fulfill the terms of any teaching contract unless released from the contract by the Board.
5. Conform to Board rules and regulations.
6. Regular and prompt attendance is an essential job function for all employees. Employees who are absent from duty must be on a contractually recognized leave.

**4.10 Use of Personal Property:** Teachers shall not be required to provide/use personal property while carrying out their professional duties. A teacher shall have the right to appeal to the Board for payment for loss relating to personal property damaged beyond use or stolen (such personal property having been listed with the principal and not covered entirely by the teacher's insurance) while the teacher is acting in the performance of his/her teaching duties. Prior to appealing to the Board the request will be discussed with and investigated by the Superintendent or designee.

**4.11 Faculty Funds:** Personnel contributing to faculty funds shall yearly select a committee to manage the fund. An annual financial statement(s) of distribution of receipts from faculty funds and those vending machines used primarily by faculty members will be kept on file and made available to appropriate faculty members.

**4.12 Teacher Orientation:** The District employee handbook, the school faculty handbook which contains all local school policies and regulations, and any handbooks specific to assigned job tasks shall be updated annually, shall not be in conflict with the contract, and shall be provided to each teacher prior to the start of classes. Said handbooks shall provide written direction to access school board information on the web.

**4.13 Polk County School Board Policies:** Employees shall be notified of any changes in School Board Policies and all current policies shall be posted on the District's website.

**4.14 Forms Management Committee:** A county-wide standing committee shall be established to review paper and electronic forms that originate from any office within the school system to be completed by other divisions, other departments, principals, teachers, students or parents. The Association shall name a majority of the committee members.

**4.14-1** The goal of this committee shall be to recommend the reduction of as much paperwork as possible.

**4.14-2** Teachers shall not be required to fill out forms, checklists, or data gathering and other documents that do not have an official School Board number on them. §. [1008.385\(2\)](#) FLORIDA STATUTE requires each district school board to reduce paperwork and data collection and reporting requirements.

#### **4.15 Supervisor Feedback**

Each member of the bargaining unit shall have the opportunity to provide anonymous feedback regarding worksite operations, policies, and administrative practices during the first and third quarters of each school year through a District-administered electronic survey.

The development, content, format, administration, timing, methodology, data ownership, data storage, analysis, and use of all surveys shall be solely determined by the district, with results shared within a collaborative, solution-driven conversation between association representatives and the Head of Schools when documented situations occur.

In developing any District-administered employee feedback survey, the District may include, but is not limited to, the following content domains: Worksite Climate and Culture; Student Safety and Supervision; Instructional Support and Resources; Communication and Operational Clarity; Professional Conduct and Accountability; Workload and Operational Efficiency; Professional Growth and Support; Facilities, Safety, and Environmental Conditions; Technology and Systems Support; Employee Well-Being and Retention Indicators.

Survey feedback is intended solely for continuous improvement of District operations and worksite morale and shall not constitute evidence for disciplinary action, grievances, or performance evaluations unless independently substantiated through formal District procedures.

Survey administration shall occur upon approval of the Superintendent, Chief of Schools or additional designee.

4.15-1 (NOTE: Proposal for Teacher 4.15-1 is for Teacher CBA ONLY and not for Para or ESP CBA as it pertains to Instructional Staff being evaluated by stakeholders in this survey.)

District-Administered Student & Parent School Climate and Operations Survey Framework  
(Instructional Staff will be evaluated by stakeholders in this survey.)

#### **Purpose and Administration**

Each member of the bargaining unit, students and parents/guardians shall have the opportunity to provide feedback regarding school operations, climate, safety, communication, and instructional

supports through a District-administered electronic survey conducted during the first and third quarters of each school year.

The development, content, format, administration, timing, methodology, data ownership, data storage, analysis, and use of all surveys shall be determined collaboratively between the PEA and District.

Surveys may be administered anonymously and conducted at least once per semester.

Survey feedback is intended solely for the purpose of continuous improvement of school operations, student experiences, family engagement, and campus climate. Survey results shall not, by themselves, constitute evidence for disciplinary action, grievances, or personnel evaluations unless independently substantiated through formal District procedures.

## **ARTICLE V - ASSOCIATION RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES**

### **Table of Contents**

- 5.1 Right to Self-Organization**
- 5.2 Payroll Deductions**
- 5.3 Association Use of Board Facilities**
- 5.4 Information Provided to Association**
- 5.5 Monthly Meeting with Superintendent**
- 5.6 Association Visits to Worksites**
- 5.7 Provision of Contracts to Association and Employees**
- 5.8 Representation on District Committees**
- 5.9 Communication**
- 5.10 Use of Building**

**5.1 Right to Self-Organization:** Employees shall have the right to self-organization for mutual protection, to form, join or assist the Association or to refrain from such activity, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing.

**5.1-1** The rights granted to the Association in this agreement shall be granted to the Association exclusively as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent and shall not be granted to any other employee organization seeking to represent employees in the bargaining unit except through the procedure as provided by law and recognized by the Board.

**5.1-2** The Board agrees to grant Association leave to the president and a second officer of the Association during their term of office.

**5.2 Payroll Deductions:** Upon appropriate written authorization from the employee, and as long as the Association is the recognized bargaining agent, the Board shall deduct Association membership dues from the employee's salary. Such authorization may be revoked by the employee with a thirty (30) day written notice to the Association and the Board. The Association agrees to provide the Board with a list of additions and deletions. The Board agrees to promptly disburse such dues collected at the end of each pay period.

**5.2-1** Upon appropriate written authorization from the employee, the Board shall deduct for annuities, credit union, United Way, insurance or other plans or programs jointly approved by the Association and Board. The Board agrees to promptly disburse said sums.

**5.3 Association Use of Board Facilities:** The Association may use school buildings for special meetings with no rental charge. The Association must make arrangements with the principal/director with notification to the Board, show proof of liability insurance, and pay for custodial services.

**5.3-1 Courier Service and Email Privileges:** The Board agrees to provide the Association a box at the District office courier mailroom for the collection of informational materials from the Superintendent and his/her staff as well as Board members and from worksites. Materials may also be distributed to the same through the courier service. Further, it is agreed that the Association will be provided the use of the Board e-mail. Strict adherence to the Board's e-mail policy shall be followed. E-mail privileges may be rescinded with timely notice at the Superintendent's discretion. Copies of e-mails to 'all schools' distribution list will be exchanged between PEA and the District.

**5.4 Public Records Requests:** The District, through the designated contact shall provide, upon lawful request from the Association, information concerning school finance and budgeting and any additional information concerning the terms and articles of this contract. The Board agrees to make available to any employee or to the Association information available that is designated by statute as public information.

**5.4-1** The Board agrees to publish agendas, minutes and to furnish upon request all supporting documents of Board meetings.

**5.4-2** The Superintendent agrees to furnish to the Association all District memos sent to employees and memos concerning employee conditions of work and/or employment.

**5.4-3** The Superintendent, upon request, shall provide the Association the following applicable information about employees: name, personnel number, worksite, department/division, position/job, hire date, subject area or grade level, certification, ethnic group, annual salary, PS group, salary level, or public record wage information, annual hours, cost center, birth date, telephone number(s), and home address.

**5.4-4** The Superintendent shall provide the Association with all reports stating racial, ethnic, and gender ratios of all staff members and student population in the District upon request.

**5.4-5** The Superintendent shall annually provide the Association data regarding teachers receiving an overall evaluation of *Needs Improvement/Developing* or *Unsatisfactory* and data regarding the outcome of all appeals within two (2) weeks of the completion of the annual evaluation process.

**5.5 Monthly Meeting with Superintendent:** The Superintendent or designee and the President of the Association or designee will meet on a regularly scheduled monthly basis to discuss the implementation or maintenance of this contract and/or matters of concern to either party. An agenda of general concerns to be discussed may be exchanged three days prior to the scheduled meeting to enable the parties to prepare for discussion.

**5.6 Association Visits to Worksites:** Association staff representatives will make prior arrangements with the principal/director or designee when planning to visit a school or worksite. The Association will provide the Director of Labor and Employee Relations the

names, in writing, of staff representatives who are authorized by the Association to participate in such visits. Immediately upon arrival at the school or worksite, the representative shall report to the administrative offices and check-in following school visitation procedures. Such visitation shall in no way disrupt or interfere with the educational procedures, programs, or work processes. If access to an employee is denied, upon request reasons for denial will be given in writing to the employee and the Association.

**5.7 Provision of Contracts to Association and Employees:** The Board agrees to electronically provide the collective bargaining agreement for all employees and will electronically provide subsequent changes. The collective bargaining agreement will be posted on the PCSB website within 45 days of the Board's ratification. The Board will provide printed copies of the contract for employees upon request. Contract will be released for printing no more than twenty (20) days after School Board approves the agreement. Copies will be given to all new employees hired during the term of this contract. Copies and changes will be provided to the Association, at cost, to meet its needs.

**5.8 Representation on District Committees:** Committees assigned related to educational pedagogy shall include a minimum of two teachers appointed by the PEA President.

**5.9 Communication:** The Association Representative has the right of communication with the administration and with members at each worksite, as long as it does not interfere with instructional time.

**5.9-1** The Association building representative(s) shall be given the opportunity to meet and address issues and concerns of staff with the principal at a mutually agreeable time.

**5.9-2** The Association shall have the right to use a bulletin board in each school. The decision as to which bulletin board to use will be made jointly by the principal/director and the building representative. The bulletin board shall be used for the purpose of posting materials related to the Association.

**5.9-3** The Association may use employee mailboxes to distribute information to employees in the unit at the worksite.

**5.9-4** The Association building representative shall be given an opportunity at the conclusion of each faculty meeting (before it is dismissed) to present brief reports and announcements. The principal/director will receive prior notification.

**5.9-5** Brief (defined as up to three (3) minutes) Association announcements may be made over the building communications system before or after the normal class schedule. The principal/director will receive prior notification.

**5.9-6 On-Boarding:** The District will work collaboratively with the Association to create a schedule for onboarding and/or orientation that would require new hires to attend an in-person breakout session to be delivered in conjunction with PCPS staff and the Association regarding contract terms, rights, evaluation, and grievances.

This training must be completed within seventy-five (75) calendar days exclusive of holidays and summer breaks or be in jeopardy of disciplinary action up to and including termination.

5.10 Use of Building: With prior notice to the principal/director, Association members of that school may hold meetings in their school building before or after regular duty hours or after the student contact day. Assigned duties take priority over such meetings.

## **ARTICLE VI - TEACHING CONDITIONS**

### **Table of Contents**

#### **Definitions**

#### **6.1 Teacher Responsibility**

- 6.1-1 After School Responsibilities**
- 6.1-2 Grade Reporting**
- 6.1-3 Required Software Availability**
- 6.1-4 Engaging Substitute Teachers**

#### **6.2 Teacher Workday (Includes Student Contact, Duty, Planning Time, & Duty Free Lunch)**

- 6.2-1 Voting Process Regarding Duty Free Lunch**
- 6.2-2 Traviss/Ridge Teachers**
- 6.2-3 Technical College Special Program Teachers**
- 6.2-4 Classroom Visits**
- 6.2-5 Communication Systems**
- 6.2-6 Access to Classroom**
- 6.2-7 Variation from Regular Schedule**
- 6.2-8 Teacher Resource Specialist Trainers Hired Before July 1, 2005**
- 6.2-9 Teacher Resource Specialist Trainers Hired After July 1, 2005**
- 6.2-10 Salary Rate for 8 Hour Day**
- 6.2-11 Travel Time for Meetings at Other Locations**
- 6.2-12 Flexible Schedule for Meetings**

#### **6.3 Planning Time**

- 6.3-1 Planning Schedule for Shortened Weeks**
- 6.3-2 Elementary Teachers**
- 6.3-3 Middle School Teachers**
- 6.3-4 High School Teachers**
- 6.3-5 Traviss/Ridge Teachers**
- 6.3-6 Leaving Campus During Planning Time**
- 6.3-7 Early Release Schedule for Students**
- 6.3-8 Student Early Dismissal Days**
- 6.3-9 Planning Time During Testing**

#### **6.4 Non-instructional Duty**

- 6.4-1 Student Supervision Before and After Regular Contact Time**

#### **6.5 Faculty Meetings**

#### **6.6 Safe and Healthy Working Environment**

- 6.6-1 Safety Equipment**
- 6.6-2 Heating and Air Conditioning**
- 6.6-3 Parking Areas**
- 6.6-4 Custodial Service**

#### **6.7 School Based Committees**

- 6.7-1 Curriculum Committee**
- 6.7-2 Safety, Maintenance and Non-Instructional Duties Committee**

### 6.7-3 Student Concerns Committee

### 6.7-4 Placement Review Committee

### 6.7-5 Committee Meeting Schedule

## 6.8 Home School Sports Events

## 6.9 Lesson Plans

### Definitions:

- **Planning time** – Teacher self-directed time during the teacher workday set aside for teachers to plan to meet the educational needs of their assigned students.
- **Collaborative Planning** – Time spent with other faculty focused on designing effective instructional plans by grade level or subject area in collaboration to improve student learning, share best practices, develop assessments for learning, and other practices designed to meet the educational needs of their assigned students.
- **Professional Learning Community (PLC)** – An extended learning opportunity to foster collaborative learning among colleagues within a particular work environment or subject area designed to meet the educational needs of the school's students.
- **Instructional time** - Time spent conducting activities that meet lesson plan, curriculum, AIP's or IEP's is instructional time.
- **Non-instructional duty** - Time spent supervising students in which no curriculum, lesson plan, AIP or IEP goals are met.
- **Student Contact time** - Time during which a teacher has direct responsibility for students; may include both instructional and non-instructional time.
- **Special Programs** – Self-contained instructional classrooms for Exceptional Student Education and teachers assigned to any alternative education program or worksite.

**6.1 Teacher Responsibility:** The Board and the Association acknowledge that a teacher's primary responsibility is to teach, and that support personnel and volunteers shall be used to assist with and reduce teachers' non-instructional responsibilities. The Board and the Association agree that, in order to encourage the efficient use of time and to conserve paper, paperwork required of teachers should be kept to a minimum.

**6.1-1** As a part of teachers' professional responsibilities, they are expected to attend such after school activities as: parent-teacher meetings, open house, graduation. The parties recognize that teachers have obligations outside their professional responsibilities and agree that schedules for such activities shall be provided no later than the last day of teacher pre-planning of each school year and that flex time be provided to those participating teachers by mutual agreement of the principal and teachers.

**6.1-2** With the exception of the last grading period, grades will be due by the end of the duty day of the second working day following the end of the grading period. For the last grading period, middle and high school grades will be due at 8:00 a.m. on the first workday following the last student contact day. For teachers of graduating seniors, grades will be due one (1) day before the last official school day for seniors. Grades should be submitted no later than the end of the duty day for this group and the date will be determined during second semester. For elementary schools, grades will be due on the 172<sup>nd</sup> student

day. The exact due dates and time for grades will be published within the school calendar whenever possible.

**6.1-3** If a teacher is required to utilize a specific software program in the execution of their job, that program must be available to them in their classroom. If software is unavailable appropriate handwritten forms may be used.

**6.1-4** Substitute teachers shall be employed, when available, for all absent teachers. Employees shall be able to report an illness with one contact 24 hours per day whether through a phone call or through a computer to an automatic substitute placement system. In the instance of an employee who has been the subject of disciplinary action for absenteeism, a call to a school's administration can be required. This contact shall satisfy any requirements for scheduling a substitute, if required. When a substitute is not available, the unfilled job number from the substitute placement system must be provided to impacted staff upon request. Substitute teachers shall be expected to perform all of the teacher duties normally performed by the regular teacher as determined by the building principal. Except in emergencies, classroom teachers will leave adequate written teaching plans for the substitute teachers so that the normal classroom activities may be carried out.

**6.1-5** A teacher may be requested, but not required, to substitute during his/her planning time for another teacher.

**6.2 Teacher Workday:** The workday for all teachers shall be no more than  $7\frac{3}{4}$  hours. On non-student days teachers shall have a one (1) hour lunch break. On student days a teacher shall be scheduled for a maximum of 360 minutes per day of student contact, a duty-free lunch period of at least 30 consecutive minutes, excluding any transition time where a teacher is supervising students, and at least 45 minutes of uninterrupted planning time for a traditional schedule or an uninterrupted block of at least 90 minutes every other day for a block schedule. In establishing at least 30 consecutive minutes, excluding any transition time where a teacher is supervising students, school year 2025-2026 will be a planning year with implementation school year 2026-2027.

Remaining minutes of student contact time may be utilized for non-instructional duties and may be accumulated within the week to facilitate this required coverage within the teacher's duty day. The staff shall be involved in designing the non-instructional duty schedule.

**6.2-1** If the implementation of arrangements (e.g. re-assignment of paraeducators, changing of duty schedules, changing of teaching schedules of specialty teachers, etc.) for a duty-free lunch equivalent of at least 30 consecutive minutes, excluding any transition time where a teacher is supervising students is not acceptable to a majority of the school faculty as determined by secret ballot vote, then this provision shall not apply. In establishing at least 30 consecutive minutes, excluding any transition time where a teacher is supervising students, school year 2025-2026 will be a planning year with implementation school year 2026-2027. The determining secret ballot vote must occur at an announced time and place where ballots will be distributed, collected and counted publicly by the principal and teachers to include PEA representation, and, which allows for all teachers to attend. The vote must take place annually during the week of pre-planning.

**6.2-2** Teachers assigned to Traviss and Ridge Technical Colleges shall work a seven (7) hour day consisting of three hundred thirty (330) minutes per day of instructional contact time and three hundred (300) minutes per week of planning time. Those employees who are under a teacher contract but do not have 330 student contact minutes per day shall work the regular  $7\frac{3}{4}$  hour day.

**6.2-3** Teachers at the Area Technical Colleges in special programs (such as: State Licensure Programs, Less Than 5 Days, etc.) shall work no more than a 35-hour week with no more than 1950 minutes of student contact time per week and no less than 150 minutes of planning time per week. In certain situations, teachers in these programs may not have a duty-free lunch.

**6.2-4** Arrangements for classroom visits made during the prescribed teaching day shall be made by the teacher with the approval of the principal/immediate supervisor. Visits to a teacher's classroom by persons not connected with the Polk County school system shall be conducted only with the teacher's prior approval. Such access to public school classrooms shall not be unreasonably denied.

**6.2-5** Evaluative visits by School District office personnel shall be made with a two (2) workday notification to the teacher and principal/immediate supervisor, except in case of emergency. Teacher approval is not required for visits by the Education Practices Commission or for special open house visitation planned by the faculty and administration.

**6.2-6** Communication systems shall not be used for assessment purposes, nor shall they be used for monitoring classroom activities without the teacher's permission. School wide use of public address systems shall be kept to a minimum during student contact times. Morning and afternoon announcements shall be at predetermined times.

**6.2-7** When school is not in session, a teacher may be given access to his/her classroom by arranging such access through the principal.

**6.2-8** The principal or immediate supervisor shall have authority to grant a teacher's request for variation from the regular school day schedule when circumstances necessitate such a procedure. When granted, such variation shall not result in loss of pay or accumulated leave days to the teacher.

**6.2-9** Teacher Resource Specialist Trainers (TRST) hired before July 1, 2005, who work a 10 or 11 month contract, for 7.75 hours daily with a 30 minute lunch inclusive, will not receive the TRST supplement ([APPENDIX C – SUPPLEMENTAL SALARY SCHEDULE](#)) and will be designated as a TRST I. No TRST hired after July 1, 2005, will be eligible for the Level I designation. TRST I may elect to reclassify to the appropriate TRST II or TRST III position by notifying their supervisor in writing.

**6.2-10** Teacher Resource Specialist Trainers (TRST) hired after July 1, 2005 or those hired before July 1, 2005 who elect to be reclassified, will be designated as either a Level II TRST, working 10 or 11 month contract, for 8.5 hours daily with a 30 minute lunch inclusive and receiving the TRST supplement ([APPENDIX C – SUPPLEMENTAL SALARY SCHEDULE](#)), or, will be designated as a Level III TRST, working a 12 month contract, for 9 hours daily with a 1 hour lunch inclusive and receiving the TRST supplement ([APPENDIX C – SUPPLEMENTAL SALARY SCHEDULE](#)) and vacation days as outlined in school board policy.

**6.2-11 Lowest-Performing Elementary Schools.** Florida Statutes, require that each school district having one or more of the state designated lowest-performing elementary schools based on the state reading assessment have teachers or reading specialists, effective in teaching reading, provide an additional hour of intensive reading instruction each day of the school year at these schools. In order to comply with this mandate, teachers will work an eight (8) hour day with the additional time paid at their daily rate of pay. In the event that a teacher does not wish to work the eight (8) hour day, the principal shall have the authority to grant the request thus allowing the teacher to continue the traditional 7¾ hour day, as long as the additional hour of intensive reading instruction requirement can be met. All contractual rights including the amount of planning time as guaranteed in Article 6.3-1 will be honored.

**6.2-12** A reasonable amount of travel time of at least thirty (30) minutes shall be allowed each way during the regular duty day if teachers are required to attend partial day meetings at locations other than their regularly assigned schools. For full-day meetings, a reasonable amount of travel time of at least thirty (30) minutes shall be allowed each way.

**6.2-13** When scheduled by the District administration, teachers may have their start and end time adjusted by up to ninety (90) minutes when given at least a two (2) week notice for attending a partial or full day in-service/meeting.

**6.3 Planning Time:** All teachers are to be guaranteed an uninterrupted daily block of at least 45 minutes of planning for a traditional schedule or an uninterrupted block of at least 90 minutes every other day for a block schedule. Planning time shall be used primarily for lesson/program planning, parent conferences, student conferences, and conferring with other faculty members.

A good faith effort must be made by the principal or designee to ensure equitable scheduling among the faculty for teacher participation and involvement for any accommodation plan meeting (IEP (Individual Education Plan), 504, BIP (Behavior Intervention Plan), etc.) in which the teacher's planning time and instructional time are disrupted as little as possible.

a) The principal may have up to one (1) of these 45-minute blocks per week designated for Collaborative Planning, Professional Learning Community (PLC), or Faculty Meetings (one (1) per month) or other data gathering/planning intended to increase student achievement even on weeks shortened by a holiday. In-service points for PLC work will be loaded into the online District Professional Development System Scheduler for those who have earned them within thirty (30) days of the end of a semester.

b) Outside of the principal/admin directed planning each week, teacher planning time shall be used by the teacher solely for self-directed planning time. Recognizing that curriculum changes are inevitable throughout all areas of instruction, team/common planning may occur and is encouraged in order to meet the needs of the students. Teachers are responsible for the proper utilization of the self-directed portion of planning time.

c) Classroom teachers may volunteer to cover classes during their planning period. Teachers will be compensated at their regular hourly rate of pay for the equivalent of their school's scheduled planning period. Any non-classroom instructional staff who is directed to cover a classroom for the entire student contact day will be compensated at their regular hourly rate of pay for the equivalent of their school's scheduled planning period. Instructional staff will use the Special Activity Payroll reporting process.

**6.3-1** Elementary school teachers shall have an uninterrupted, continuous block of time of no fewer than forty-five (45) minutes per day of scheduled duty-free planning time during the student contact time. Should a continuous forty-five (45) minute block be unfeasible, the principal will schedule a continuous thirty (30) minute block during the student day and an additional fifteen (15) minute continuous block of time during the duty day for planning. Elementary teachers shall stay with their students when the students are participating in regularly scheduled special classes only when there is no certified instructor available.

**6.3-2** Middle school teachers shall have an uninterrupted, continuous block of forty-five (45) minutes per day for a traditional schedule or an uninterrupted block of at least 90 minutes every other day for a block schedule of scheduled duty-free planning time during the student contact time. Middle school schedules should include time for teacher planning time for such concepts as team planning, back-to-back planning periods, parent conferences, student conferences, etc. In middle schools that elect to participate

in a seven (7) or eight (8) period day, the normal teaching load will be six (6) out of seven (7) or seven (7) out of eight (8) periods. (Advisor/advisee instruction will count as a teaching period.) Teachers, excluding those teachers assigned to Special Programs, may be asked, but shall not be involuntarily assigned a teaching schedule requiring more than three (3) preparations. To indicate acceptance of a schedule with more than three (3) preparations, the teacher must be presented with the schedule in writing and indicate acceptance by attaching their signature.

**6.3-3** High school teachers shall have an uninterrupted, continuous block of forty-five (45) minutes per day for a traditional schedule or an uninterrupted block of at least 90 minutes every other day for a block schedule of duty-free planning time during the student contact time. A normal teaching load will be six (6) out of seven (7) periods. Instructional time will be arranged according to the school's approved schedule and in accordance with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) guidelines. Teachers, excluding those teachers assigned to Special Programs, may be asked, but shall not be involuntarily assigned a teaching schedule requiring more than three (3) preparations. To indicate acceptance of a schedule with more than three (3) preparations, the teacher must be presented with the schedule in writing and indicate acceptance by attaching their signature.

**6.3-4 Traviss and Ridge Technical College**-regular program and academic teachers shall have three hundred (300) minutes per week of planning time.

**6.3-5** Adult School (East and West Areas) teachers shall have at least 250 minutes per week of planning time.

**6.3-6** Teachers are required to make arrangements with the principal or immediate supervisor prior to leaving school grounds during this planning time. Arrangements shall not be unreasonably difficult so as to deny teachers the ability to leave.

**6.3-7** The Board shall structure a schedule for students that dismisses all students 150 minutes early to provide teachers 150 minutes of planning time in addition to the planning time described in Sections 6.3 through 6.3-5. There shall be at least ten (10) of these Student Early Dismissal Days distributed throughout the school year as mutually agreed upon.

**6.3-8 Planning Time During Testing:** When testing schedules are implemented the administrator will make all efforts to keep the teacher's normally scheduled day intact when possible. If not possible, teachers who lost planning time due to the testing schedule *must* still receive an average of 45 minutes each day of self-directed planning for each of the impacted testing weeks. The calculation of the weekly average self-directed planning time includes, but is not limited to, the self-directed planning time plus any minutes when a teacher is not assigned to non-instructional duties during that impacted testing week.

**6.4 Non-instructional Duty:** Representatives of the school staff shall be involved in developing the non-instructional duty schedule. All teachers shall be notified, and volunteers solicited to participate. All volunteers shall be allowed to participate. There shall be, insofar as possible, a fair and equitable distribution of non-instructional duties and responsibilities among all teachers and staff consistent with the law and School Board policies. No teacher will be required to work more than their contracted time. If a problem with planning or distribution of non-instructional duties and responsibilities becomes apparent that cannot be resolved by the staff, it shall be referred to the Safety, Maintenance and Non-Instructional Duties Committee.

**6.4-1** Except for regularly assigned duty, teachers shall not be responsible for students before or after regularly scheduled student contact hours.

**6.5 Faculty Meetings:** The principal shall specify a day for regular faculty meetings. Except in extenuating circumstances, the faculty meeting should be limited to the designated day. If a change is needed, teachers shall be given two (2) days' notice except in cases of emergency. Such meetings shall have an agenda and shall be as brief and well planned as practical. A copy of minutes shall be kept and maintained in a designated, accessible place. Faculty meetings shall be conducted during the teacher duty day except in extenuating circumstances. Sales representatives will not be allowed access to the faculty prior to or during the faculty meeting.

**6.6 Safe and Healthy Working Environment:** The Superintendent shall be responsible for determining unsafe and hazardous conditions under which teachers shall not be required to work. In the event of a bomb threat or fire, teachers shall evacuate the building with their students and shall not be required to return to the building until the building has been determined safe to use according to the provisions of the School Board adopted Polk County Public Schools Disaster and Emergency Preparedness Plan. A copy of this and the school's safety plan will be included in the school's Teacher Handbook and will be reviewed annually, before the start of classes, by the faculty and staff.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for determining that teachers are working in safe and non-health threatening environments. To that end the Board shall:

**6.6-1** The Board shall provide and require the use of necessary safety equipment to comply with the State Board of Education regulations concerning teachers assigned subject areas where the teacher is subjected to inordinate safety or health hazards. Provide each middle school and high school science teacher a copy of the most recent edition of the Polk County Schools Laboratory Safety Standards and Hygiene Plan.

**6.6-2** Maintain heating and air conditioning equipment, where available, to provide a comfortable and healthy environment when school is in session except in emergency situations.

**6.6-3** Provide parking areas and walkways, which are hazard free and appropriately lighted for nighttime activities. Where unsafe conditions exist the teacher(s) affected shall notify the school's Safety, Maintenance, and Non-Instructional Duties Committee so that corrective action may be taken.

**6.6-4** Provide custodial service to maintain classrooms and other learning areas in a clean and healthy condition. This determination shall be the responsibility of the principal or immediate supervisor. Bug spraying should be conducted after school hours. Teachers shall be informed at least two days in advance of such activity. (Bug spraying, painting, major maintenance projects, etc.). This provision shall not apply to emergency situations.

**6.7 School Based Committees:** In order to provide an efficient school operation and climate of collaboration certain school-based committees shall be established to include, but not limited to the following list of committees.

#### **6.7-1 Curriculum Committee**

**Duties:** **1)** Evaluate curriculum to ensure compliance with appropriate State Standards for that school level. **2)** Evaluate proposed changes to the curriculum to ensure the continued compliance with the State Standards and to meet specific learning needs (see Article 4.6-1). **3)** Participate in the determination of textbook budget allocation (see Article 4.6-1). Textbook purchase for ESE students will be provided through categorical textbook funding at each school. **4)** Where applicable, annually reviews the School's Curriculum guide and makes appropriate updates. **5)** Hear appeals (as indicated in 6.3) related to the

assignment of more than three (3) preparations. **6)** Work with the principal in determining the need for and the nature of any school based in-service programs, and make recommendations to the Administration regarding curriculum, school improvement and training. **7)** The grade/department/team will meet to make recommendations to the principal in determining grade/department/team chairpersons. Make recommendations on the expenditure of funds allocated for materials and supplies. **NOTE:** ESE materials money will be designated at each school as part of the school budget. ESE teachers at each school should have input as to the expenditure of these funds. Teachers from other departments or grade levels may appeal to the ESE department for a portion of those funds to be used for materials provided to ESE students in regular classrooms. Recommendations are submitted to the principal/director for approval.

#### **6.7-2 Safety, Maintenance and Non-Instructional Duties Committee**

**A. Duties:** **1)** Develop and recommend a school safety plan; **2)** Review and support the Polk County Public Schools disaster and Emergency Preparedness Plan. **3)** Annually survey the school facility, staff and faculty to identify maintenance needs. Provide regular input on the maintenance of buildings, grounds, parking areas and heating and air conditioning systems. Make recommendations to the principal. **4)** Survey non-instructional duty needs and make recommendations appropriate within the organizational framework and without adversely affecting the educational process and student control.

**B. Membership:** Consideration should be given to the inclusion of: the designated Health contact, the designated safety contact, a member of the school nutrition and custodial staff, a representative from the science department if a middle or high school and a school counselor as appropriate.

#### **6.7-3 Student Concerns Committee**

**Duties:** Discuss and make recommendations to the principal regarding new student orientation, student discipline, student attendance, and student recognitions. The orientation program for new/transfer students will be completed prior to entering the classroom. Instructional time shall not be interrupted for clerical duties except in cases where expediency is a necessity. New/transfer students will be admitted to the classroom with the least amount of disruption.

Committees will be appointed by the principal/supervisor and will include the following:

**Elementary School** – One teacher from each grade level, ESE and Specialty classes, principal or designee. (One committee member must be a PEA member.)

**Middle School** – One teacher per team, ESE and Specialty classes, principal or designee. (One committee member must be a PEA member.)

**High School** – One teacher per department (Academic Core, Electives, ESE, Specialty classes, vocational), principal or designee. (One committee member must be a PEA member.)

**6.7-4 Placement Review Committee: Reference Article 10.4-3** - A teacher has the authority to remove a student from the classroom pursuant to §1003.32, Florida Statutes.

**A. Duties:** To comply with *Section 1003.32(6), Florida Statutes*, each school shall establish a Placement Review Committee to determine placement of a student when a teacher withholds consent to the return of a student to the teacher's class. A school principal must notify each teacher about the availability, the procedures, and the criteria for the Placement Review Committee.

**B. Membership:** Placement Review Committee membership must include at least the following:

1. Two (2) teachers, one selected by the school's faculty and one selected by the teacher who has removed the student.
2. One (1) member from the school's staff who is selected by the principal.

The teacher who withheld consent to readmitting the student may not serve on the committee. The Placement Review Committee must render a decision within five (5) days after the removal of the student from the classroom. If the Placement Review Committee's decision is contrary to the decision of the teacher to withhold consent to the return of the removed student to the teacher's class, the teacher may appeal the committee's decision to the district school superintendent.

The staff member appointed by the principal and the teacher elected by the faculty must be in place on this committee by the *last student contact day in August*.

3. If the teacher is withholding consent to readmit a student with an accommodation plan (IEP, 504, BIP, etc.), a staff member with knowledge of that plan must be added to the Placement Review Committee.

- a. Removing Students with Accommodation Plans (IEP, 504, BIP, etc.):

- i. Whenever possible, the teacher withholding consent will provide documentation to the Placement Review Committee that demonstrates the establishment of reasonable classroom rules that treat all students equitably; orderly and disciplined classrooms with positive and effective learning environments that maximize learning and minimize disruption; previous work with parents/guardians and school personnel to solve discipline problems including requests for behavior support and/or plan meetings (IEP, 504, BIP, etc.).
- ii. If a teacher is withholding consent to readmitting a student with a plan the LEA, or a staff member with knowledge of the student and their plan, shall when available provide the Placement Review Committee with available pertinent information. Such information may include items such as cumulative file review, academic/behavioral data, communication log, etc. The summary for that student must be reviewed by the Placement Review Committee within five (5) days after the removal of the student from the classroom, as part of the decision-making process of the committee.

**6.7-5 Labor-Management Committee:** The District and the Association agree to work together for the mutual benefit of the faculty, staff, and students. Site Administrators and Association Building Representatives may establish a site-based, joint Labor Management Committee within the work site. This Committee will be composed of at least one (1) of the work site's elected Association Building Representatives, the Principal/Supervisor, and a balance of up to five (5) other employees, which should include paraeducators and ESPs, and site administrators. The Committee will meet quarterly or as often as needed to discuss issues, concerns, suggestions, and ideas related to the work site, the faculty, and the staff and promote a better understanding between the Association and the work site. This Committee will also advise site Principals/Supervisors on recruitment and retention issues. This Committee will have no authority to modify or interpret the Collective Bargaining Agreements, School Board Policy, or replace

the Grievance Procedure. A copy of the proposed resolution(s) will be submitted by the principal to the regional superintendent and the Association building representative to the PEA Office for review.

**6.7-6** The committees described in Article 6.7 must be in place by the last student contact day in August. Committees described in 6.7-1, 6.7-2, and 6.7-3 shall meet a minimum of four (4) times per year. Minutes shall be taken and made available to all staff members. All committee meeting agendas shall support the District's Strategic Plan and each respective School's Improvement Plan (SIP). Other parties may be invited to participate in meetings as needed.

The Placement Review Committee shall only meet when necessary per Florida Statutes, and minutes from this committee shall be maintained.

**6.8** Teachers may attend regular season sports events free of charge at their home schools. This provision does not apply to State sanctioned sports playoffs and tournaments.

**6.9 Lesson Plans:** The parties agree that instruction requires thoughtful preparation. The development of lesson plans by and for the teacher is a professional responsibility. However, a teacher's planning and preparation may be different based on personal style, professional needs, student needs and experience in the classroom. Plans are to be used as a guide to fulfill the state standards and District's instructional objectives for student achievement. Plans should include strategies and accommodations for students with disabilities, and English Language Learners, if needed. Remediation and enrichment and the type of progress monitoring should be included, if needed.

As such, administrators shall not require that lesson plans be in a particular format. Administrators also shall not require the posting or storage of lesson plans in a particular place or manner. A principal or principal's designee may request teachers to submit a copy of their lesson plans at the end of the teaching week *or* at the end of a particular unit. The teacher's plans are to be used as a guide in order to fulfill the county's instructional objectives and to assist the teacher in conducting a planned instructional program. Current lesson plans shall be available in the classroom for inspection at all times. Teachers shall not be routinely required to submit a copy of their lesson plans to the site administrator unless required by Article 6.9-2.

**6.9-1** In the event a teacher is absent, it shall be the teacher's responsibility to have lesson plans at the school prior to the start of the pupil day to cover the period of absence not to exceed the balance of the week in which the absence occurred.

**6.9-2** If the principal or their designee, through documented classroom observation, determines that a teacher is having difficulty with classroom instruction or is not meeting instructional objectives, the principal shall hold a conference with the teacher having difficulty. The principal may require lesson plans to be turned in at the start of each week if the teacher is in one of the following categories:

- a) Category I teacher as defined in Article 15: or
- b) The teacher is on an Instructional Assistance Conference (IAC) or on a Professional Development Plan (PDP); or

c) The teacher holds an average rating of Needs Improvement or Unsatisfactory on their last overall summative evaluation; or

d) Educational Emergency as outlined in Article XXXI – Board’s Rights per Section 1012.28(8), Florida Statutes.

## **ARTICLE VII – CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION**

**7.1** The Board and the Association recognize the importance of adequate teaching reference materials and adequate and appropriate instructional materials and equipment in maintaining a high level of professional performance in the educational process.

**7.1-1** The materials and services of a teacher reference library shall be available to all teachers in each school and/or in the District.

**7.1-2** The Board shall make every reasonable effort to maintain appropriate instructional materials (printed and AV), necessary equipment and supplies and suitable testing materials in all District schools. Every reasonable effort will be made to have basic educational supplies and materials available for the opening of school.

**7.1-3** Designated duplicating and/or copying facilities shall be available for direct use by instructional personnel. Mechanical failure shall not constitute violation of this provision. At no time shall students be allowed to handle test materials submitted for duplication.

**7.1-4** The Board shall provide a program of school library media services for all public school students in the District. Such libraries will provide reference materials and facilities to supplement and complement the required curriculum as long as the students are in attendance. However, the services of the media specialist shall be curtailed no more than five (5) days prior to the end of the student school year.

**7.1-5** Regularly scheduled classes, such as music, art, computer labs, physical education and guidance will be provided as long as students are in attendance, unless exceptional circumstances are approved by the Superintendent.

**7.1-6** The Board recognizes that some material and equipment may be damaged, broken or lost in the normal course of education. Employees may be charged the current depreciated value of the material or equipment only if gross negligence meaning reckless disregard can be proven. Employees will not be charged for wear and tear caused by normal use.

**7.2** Intra-school and inter-school visitation and observation are recognized as techniques for improving teacher effectiveness. A teacher must have the approval of his/her principal or immediate supervisor in order to participate.

**7.3** The Association shall have appropriate representation on the elementary, middle and high school curriculum Committees. (See Article V, Section 5.8)

## **ARTICLE VIII - STAFFING PLAN**

**8.1** The Board and the Association agree that optimum class size is an important aspect of the effective educational program. The Polk County School Staffing Plan shall be constructed each year according to the procedures set forth in Board Policy and, upon adoption, shall become Board Policy.

**8.1-1** The Board agrees that the Association may appoint four (4) members to the Superintendent's School Staffing Committee to include at least one (1) representative each from elementary, middle, and high school.

**8.1-2** Both PCPS and PEA recognize that class size overages are an issue that must be analyzed. Therefore, the issue of class size will be discussed through the existing District Staffing Committee to convene during the 2023-2024 school year. A resolution(s) from that committee will be brought forward to both District and PEA bargaining teams. The function of this is to serve as advisory in nature to the District and Association bargaining teams.

## **ARTICLE IX – TEACHERS ASSIGNED PARAEDUCATORS**

**9.2** Schedules of paraeducators assigned to teachers shall be worked out jointly by the teacher and principal, with the final decision made by the principal.

**9.3** A teacher who has a regularly assigned paraeducator shall direct the activities of the paraeducator within the written guidelines as described by the job description. That teacher shall be provided a copy of the duties of their assigned paraeducator as stated in the Paraeducator Collective Bargaining Agreement. Any dispute between a paraeducator and a teacher shall be resolved by the principal or assistant principal after listening to both sides.

**9.4** To avoid disruption to the learning environment, paraeducators shall not be pulled from regular duties except at the discretion of the principal. Teachers shall be notified as to the reason for the disruption to their classroom and lesson plan.

**9.5** Paraeducators regularly assigned to teachers may be reassigned to temporary duties in accordance with their collective bargaining agreement.

**9.6** The Paraeducator Collective Bargaining Agreement supersedes all other collective bargaining agreement language relating to paraeducators.

## **ARTICLE X—TEACHER AUTHORITY AND PROTECTION**

**10.1** The teacher shall observe all rules to maintain student discipline and shall have the right to take whatever action he/she feels necessary to maintain student discipline within the bounds of the Board policies, state statutes, and local school policies. The Board shall give support and/or assistance to any teacher acting in line of duty with respect to maintenance of control of discipline in the classroom or any other school activity.

**10.2** Whenever it appears to the classroom teacher that a student and/or students require the attention of special counselors, social workers, law enforcement personnel, physicians or other professional persons, notification shall be submitted in writing to the administration. The administration shall respond

in writing as to the disposition of the action taken, subject to the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

**10.2-1** A system will be developed and implemented so that whenever a teacher notifies the office of a classroom emergency, such as a student fight, severe illness, or major student insubordination, a school official with authority is available at all times to attend to the classroom emergency as soon as possible. Within one month of Board approval, this system shall be included as part of each school's Emergency Plan.

**10.3** A teacher may use such force as necessary in protection from attack or to prevent injury to students and/or school personnel.

**10.4** The Board and the Association agree that proper classroom decorum is essential to the learning process. Teachers, in the performance of their duties, shall not be expected to tolerate harassment, abusive language, upbraiding, insults or interference by a parent or any other person.

**10.4-1** When an offense, persistent misbehavior, or the disruptive effect of misbehavior makes the continued presence of a student(s) in the classroom **or other area** intolerable, the student(s) may be referred by the teacher or any other member of staff that witnesses such misbehavior to the principal or his/her designee for appropriate disciplinary action. In such case, an account of the problem or incident will be submitted in writing by the teacher or staff member to the principal or his/her designee. The principal or his/her designee shall respond to the referral, in writing, as to the disposition of the case.

**10.4-2** In cases when the disruptive effect of the student's behavior is so extreme as to preclude the instructional process, the teacher shall indicate on the referral the need to remove the child temporarily from the classroom until such time as the student, teacher and principal or other appropriate authority resolves the situation.

#### **10.4-2(a) Threshold for Temporary Removal**

A student may be temporarily removed from the classroom when credible evidence exists that the student has engaged in a Student Code of Conduct-defined severe misconduct that materially disrupts instruction or presents a reasonable concern for safety, including but not limited to:

1. Physical Aggression or Assault -Hitting, kicking, punching, slapping, biting, choking, or attempting to cause physical harm to another person. This excludes horseplay.
2. Use or Attempted Use of Dangerous Objects -Throwing, attempting to throw, or possessing any heavy, sharp, or potentially dangerous object in a manner that could reasonably cause injury.
3. Threats or Acts of Violence -Verbal, written, gestural, or electronic threats of bodily harm that conform with state school safety guidelines, Intimidation, stalking, or threatening behavior directed at students or staff.
4. Bodily Fluid Assault -Intentionally spitting, throwing, smearing, or otherwise dispersing bodily fluids.
5. Destruction of Property -Intentional damage or vandalism to District or employees personal property.

6. Abusive, Profane, or Threatening Language Toward Staff -Profanity, obscene language, or harassing conduct directed at staff that is severe, persistent, or threatening in nature

#### 10.4-2(b) Removal and Review Process

When such conduct occurs:

1. The employee shall document the conduct using a written referral identifying the specific behavior(s) observed and applicable Polk County Public Schools Code of Conduct provision(s).
2. The student shall be temporarily removed from the classroom pending administrative review.
3. The principal or designee shall review the referral, provide the student notice and an opportunity to respond, and determine appropriate corrective action consistent with the Polk County Public Schools Student Code of Conduct.
4. Students who engage in conduct listed in subsections (1) through (6) of 10.4-2(a) shall not be returned to the referring teacher's classroom for the remainder of the instructional day.

**10.4-3** A teacher has the authority to remove a student from the classroom pursuant to §1003.32, *Florida Statutes*.

**10.5** Individual records shall be maintained on student discipline in a separate file and shall be made available by the principal or his/her designee, to any teacher who has responsibility for that student and who requests such information.

**10.6** Any case of assault or threat upon a teacher in the proper performance of his/her duties shall be promptly reported to the principal or immediate supervisor. Appropriate administrative action shall be taken in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct, Polk County School Board Policy, and Florida Statutes.

**10.6-1** In such case, the Superintendent or designee shall secure appropriate legal assistance for the teacher. Teachers who may be involved in such cases shall not lose regular salary for any time lost from their duties when their presence is required before a judicial body. In case of disability, the Board agrees to continue the contractual salary until worker's compensation benefits begins.

**10.7** The Board agrees to follow the provisions of the §1012.63, *Florida Statutes*, in regard to illness in the line of duty leave.

**10.8** In the event of any complaint or suit filed against a teacher as a result of any action taken by the teacher while acting within the scope of his/her employment in accordance with State Statute and School Board Policy, the Board shall provide legal assistance.

**10.9** The Board shall make available its policies concerning student records and provide teachers with electronic access to the Code of Student Conduct no later than the first week that teachers report for duty.

**10.10** The teacher shall determine grades of students using the guidelines of Board-Policy. Teachers shall maintain documentation for each student's grades at all times. Changes in student's grades may be made by the principal to correct the grades only when the need for such change can be justified as a

result of an error in computation, transposing and/or recording of grades, or incomplete documentation. Teachers shall be notified of such changes.

## **ARTICLE XI - ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

**11.1** Teachers shall have all reasonable freedom within the limitations imposed by law, the State Board of Education Regulations, and the School Board policies and regulations, in the implementation of the curriculum that is approved by the District and based on course descriptions adopted by the State Board of Education. Teachers must follow the prescribed courses of study. If approved curriculum does not exist for a specific course, then teachers may develop curriculum that follows appropriate standards. Teachers shall employ best practices of instruction pursuant to § [1012.53](#) Florida Statute. Teachers may select useful and relevant materials to supplement District supplied materials to meet the appropriate standards. However, it is the right and obligation of the principal or supervisor to reasonably question, consult with the teacher about same, and direct, whenever necessary, within limitations imposed by law, State Board of Education Regulations, and School Board policies and regulations.

**11.2** Teachers shall be entitled to freedom of discussion without censorship within the classroom on all matters, which are relevant to the subject matter and level of the students and within their area of professional competence and assignment.

**11.3** Teachers shall notify the administration when they intend to inject or have had injected into units' subject matter which might reasonably be anticipated to be controversial, unless subject matter is required to be taught as per Florida Statute, state adopted standards, and/or course descriptions.

## **ARTICLE XII - POLITICAL ACTIVITY**

**12.1** All teachers shall have freedom of political action to work for the party and candidates of their choice during off-duty hours, provided such action is within the laws of the United States of America and the state of Florida.

**12.2** Political domination or coercion shall not be used to exact money or other things of value or required participation in political activity against the wishes of teachers under the threat that failure to do so shall affect their status as employees of the school system.

## **ARTICLE XIII - GENERAL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES**

**13.1** As the Board is a fair and equal opportunity employer, marital status, race, creed, religion, sex, age, national origin or number of years teaching experience shall not be made a condition of employment. The Board and the Superintendent shall continue to implement and review their Affirmative Action Program designed to prohibit discriminatory practices, provide encouragement for applications from minority groups and women, and maintain the principle of employing a competent staff member to fill each vacancy. The Association will be advised of any proposed changes in the Affirmative Action Program and through the personnel office may make suggestions for improving the plan.

**13.2** Teachers shall self-report within 48 hours to the Director of Labor and Employee Relations/Designee any arrest/charges involving the abuse of a child or the sale and/or possession of a controlled substance. Such notice shall not be considered an admission of guilt, nor shall such notice be admissible for any purpose in any proceeding, civil or criminal, administrative or judicial, investigatory or adjudicatory. In addition, teachers shall self-report any conviction, finding of guilt, withholding of adjudication, commitment to a pretrial diversion program, or entering of a plea of guilty or Nolo Contendere for any criminal offense other than a minor traffic violation within 48 hours after the final judgment. When handling sealed and expunged records disclosed under this rule, School Districts shall comply with the confidentiality provisions of Florida Statutes.

**13.3** Teachers holding a non-renewable Temporary Certificate issued by the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) will be placed on the Performance Salary Schedule pursuant to Article 22.2 of this agreement, if their targeted certification coverage is acceptable for their teaching assignment.

**13.4 Evening Adult School:** for evening adult school shall be made with preference given to fully qualified teachers. If all applicants are fully qualified in the subject area then the choice will be based on the following: seniority, educational qualifications, efficiency, and capacity to meet the educational needs of the program.

**13.5 Summer School:**

No summer employee positions in Polk County shall be filled by an employee not employed in the Polk County school system during the regular school year if there are enough qualified applicants for such positions who were employed by the Polk County public schools.

**13.5-1** Each year by April 15, employees who desire summer employment shall make written application for a position to the appropriate summer program supervisor. Such application shall refer to particular schools and shall include the following:

1. School and job title during the regular school year;
2. Areas of Certification;
3. Types of work previously performed;
4. Previous years of summer school employment;
5. An employee may list schools in order of preference on their application.

**13.5-2 PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION:**

The following criteria shall be considered by the administrator making the selection:

- a) Job title during the school year;
- b) Areas of Certification
- c) Type of work previously performed;
- d) Previous years of summer school employment;
- e) Seniority in the District;
- f) Most current, finalized, overall evaluation of at least effective with first year probationary contract teachers without a finalized, overall evaluation treated as effective;
- g) Late applicants.

When assigning teachers to the Exceptional Student Education Summer Extended School Year (ESY) program, priority will be given to those teachers who served these students during the preceding school year.

Summer school teachers shall be employed for no fewer than three (3) hours daily.

### **13.5-3 RATE OF PAY:**

Teacher Summer School Salary shall be set at their regular hourly rate of pay.

### **13.5-4 NOTICE OF HIRING:**

Teachers will be offered an assignment for the summer by May 15 or the earliest possible date. All applicants who were selected shall notify the appropriate summer program supervisor of their acceptance within ten (10) days after notification. Failure to do so will indicate that they do not desire a position for the summer.

### **13.5-5 NOTICE OF POSITION CUTS:**

Employees regularly assigned to the worksite hosting a summer program have first priority to maintain their position by worksite seniority in the event of enrollment reduction. District seniority will be utilized next in the event of enrollment reduction.

**13.6 Job Abandonment.** Any teacher willfully absent from duty without leave shall forfeit compensation for the time of such absence and be subject to discharge and forfeiture of tenure and other rights and privileges as provided by law. When an employee fails to obtain prior approval for absence from work or fails to notify his/her immediate supervisor of his/her need to be absent and is absent for three consecutive workdays, the employee shall be considered to have abandoned his/her position and resigned as an employee of the Board. Special consideration will be given in case of emergencies.

**13.7 Failure to Return from Leave:** If a teacher fails to return to duty at the end of a leave, his/her employment shall be subject to termination by the Board.

**13.8 Limited Employment Agreement.** Any teacher hired to take the place of a teacher on a Board-approved leave of absence shall be informed in writing, in person, by the principal that he/she has been hired only for the time until the teacher on leave returns. Said hired teacher shall sign the letter as a receipt.

**13.9** The Board will not contract or subcontract any teaching work for the purpose of laying off employees in the bargaining unit.

## **ARTICLE XIV - PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

### **14.0 Glossary**

**Fully Qualified:** Whenever the term “fully qualified” is used in this collective bargaining agreement, it describes the state of being certified, qualified, and/or highly qualified based upon the courses and students the teacher is assigned to teach in the master schedule.

**14.1** A Professional Service Contract shall be renewed each year unless the Superintendent, after receiving the recommendations required by s.1012.34, *Florida Statutes*, charges the employee with unsatisfactory performance as determined under the provisions of s.1012.34, *Florida Statutes*.

**14.2** An employee who meets the following criteria will be continued from year to year:

1. Does not have a Florida Department of Education (FDOE) teaching certificate;
2. Designated as “teacher” pursuant to Article I of the Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement. For the purposes of this provision, the term “teacher” may include, but not be limited to Network Manager, Nurse, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist and instructors in specific subject areas who are considered to be “experts in field,” such as dance, or any other person who by virtue of his or her position of employment is not required to be certified by the FDOE or the District pursuant to §1012.39, *Florida Statutes*;
3. Has completed one (1) year of continuous satisfactory employment and is reappointed.

**14.2-1** The status of these employees shall continue from year to year unless the District terminates the employee for reasons stated in this Agreement, or reduces the number of employees on a District-wide basis for financial reasons, or until a break in service occurs as a result of resignation, retirement, dismissal, or job abandonment, subject to all of the provisions of the Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**14.3** The Board shall hire for full-time positions only teachers eligible to receive a certificate based on a Bachelor's degree or higher; or for non-degreed vocational teachers, a certificate based on the equivalent of a Bachelor's degree or higher.

**14.4 Supplements:** Summer school, evening adult school and supplemental pay assignments shall be voluntary.

**14.4-1** Open supplemental positions as shown in Appendix C must be advertised for five (5) working days. Teachers interested in a supplemental position at their school/worksites will notify their principal/director of their interest on the intent to return letter for consideration of future vacancies.

Vacancies for supplemental positions must be advertised within the school where the vacancy occurs to all employees for five (5) working days.

If at the end of the five (5)-day school/worksites posting, the position is not filled it will be advertised externally on the District’s web page ([polkschoolsfl.com](http://polkschoolsfl.com)) for employees and non-school employees.

All persons who receive supplemental pay will be evaluated yearly concerning their duties in that position. Such evaluation will in no way impact or become a part of the District employee’s regular duty evaluation. Discipline of District employees related to supplemental positions will follow standard progressive discipline procedures. Dismissal from an annual supplemental position during the school year or if a sport, during that sport season will be for just cause. Removal of a District employee from a supplemental position could result in disciplinary action affecting the employee’s regular employment with the District.

**14.4-2** Recognizing that the welfare and needs of students have always been the priority in optimizing supplemental programs (Appendix C), principals or program directors shall determine assignments considering seniority (defined as experience in the supplemental area or related experience), efficiency, and capacity to meet the needs of the program for all qualified applicants.

**14.5 Extra period assignments** are instructional assignments. The Board and Association agree that classroom assignments for extra periods must be made with the welfare and needs of the students as priorities. Realizing that principals are responsible for delegating assignments, these assignments shall be made with preference given to fully qualified teachers. If there are more applicants than positions available, the principal shall determine assignments based on seniority, efficiency, and capacity to meet the needs of the program (this includes the needs of the students.) (As a note of explanation: A 1996 arbitration decision found that seniority carries a greater weight than *efficiency* or *capacity*, all things being equal. AAA 33-390-00050-95 Arbitrator W. Lambert.)

**14.6** Where the student population reflects the need for bilingual teachers, the Superintendent shall attempt to find and recommend, and the Board shall employ such teachers who are bilingual and trained to assist students in English and the primary language spoken by the student provided the teacher is fully qualified for the position.

**14.7** All teachers shall be given written notice of their tentative teaching assignment for the first semester of the following year at least two (2) weeks prior to the end of the school year. The tentative assignment should be stated based on the school's proposed master schedule for the upcoming school year identifying the course(s) and grade level. A teacher may not be assigned into an out-of-field assignment unless the teacher voluntarily signs an agreement for the same. A principal may change the tentative teaching assignment. If there is a change in the tentative teaching assignment, the teacher shall be notified as soon as possible. Teachers shall be given written notice of a change in assignment for the second semester no later than the last student contact day of the first semester, except in cases of emergency. The building principal/supervisor may provide, in writing, reasons for why the change in assignment is necessary to the functionality of the school or program, if requested. If the employee disagrees with the written assignment provided by the principal/supervisor, they must appeal within one (1) workday. Upon appeal and to avoid disruptions to student learning and program, the employee will not be reassigned until the regional superintendent can review the reassignment and render a decision within five (5) workdays.

**14.8** In order to maintain employment, instructional staff required to hold teacher certification issued by the Florida Bureau of Educator Certification or the District as a term of employment will be required to be certified, qualified and highly qualified (fully qualified) to teach core content courses or certified and qualified to teach non-core content courses.

**14.8-1** Teachers new to the system who are assigned to teach core content courses will be given ninety (90) days from their date of hire or until April 1<sup>st</sup> to document fully qualified status as prescribed by the District Conditional Offer of Employment in order to be considered for reappointment, and failure to provide the necessary documentation shall be grounds for termination.

**14.8-2** Teachers not new to the system may not be assigned to courses which will cause the teacher not to be fully qualified unless the teacher volunteers for the assignment and the principal has pre-approval

from the Director of Recruitment and Educator Quality. The duration of such assignments will be limited to one (1) year. In order for the teacher to continue in the assignment beyond the year, he/she must pass the appropriate Subject Area Examination and add the subject area to his/her certificate. Teachers who are assigned according to the aforementioned provision must pass at least one Subject Area Examination and add the area to their certificate each year until all state and federal required areas are added. The teacher will have until April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year to satisfy this requirement in order to be considered for reappointment for the following school year in that position. The District will provide reimbursement for test registration fees upon successfully passing and for the addition to the educator's teaching certificate (Title II funds).

**14.8-3** In special and unusual circumstances, the Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services may grant extensions to these deadlines.

**14.8-4** Any teacher who accepts an assignment for which he/she is not fully qualified must sign a written notice-acknowledgement (Agreement to Earn) that outlines all requirements to remain in that assignment and the notice-acknowledgement (Agreement to Earn) shall include the possible consequences of the teacher's failure to timely meet those requirements.

**14.8-5** A teacher voluntarily assigned for one (1) year or less into an authorized out-of-field assignment will be required to earn six (6) semester hours or 120 in-service points toward certification in the out-of-field assignment during the twelve (12) months following the date of initial assignment. Failure to do so would make the teacher ineligible to be placed in an out-of-field assignment in the future.

**14.8-6** Teachers who volunteer to teach in an authorized out-of-field assignment must remain qualified as prescribed by the written notice-acknowledgement (Agreement to Earn) and/or English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Plan of Study. In special and unusual circumstances, the Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services may grant extensions to these deadlines. Failure to provide the necessary compliance documentation in a timely manner may result in the teacher's displacement. Probationary or Annual Contract teachers who fail to provide the necessary compliance documentation in a timely manner may have their employment contract non-renewed following the provisions of Florida Statutes or, could be recommended for termination for failure to comply with the terms of their specific requirements.

**14.8-7** Teachers who are currently employed by the School Board and who obtain additional certification(s) will be given first consideration for placement prior to the hiring of new employees.

**14.8-8** A Probationary Contract teacher who volunteers to teach an authorized out-of-field assignment will not be placed on the displaced list nor will his/her Probationary Contract be renewed if he/she fails to provide the necessary documentation to demonstrate compliance with his/her notice-acknowledgement (Agreement to Earn) and/or ESOL Plan of Study.

**14.8-9** The ESOL Plan of Study may be frozen and/or adjusted for a teacher in the event of a break in service, or a change in assignment which places the teacher in a category for which the certification/training requirement is less stringent. It is the teacher's responsibility to notify the ESOL office of a qualifying event in order for the action to be initiated.

**14.9** A copy of all local school and District policies and regulations shall be available for each teacher new to Polk County Public Schools.

**14.9-1** The Professional Education Competence (PEC) Program shall be maintained as adopted by the School Board according to §1012.56, *Florida Statutes*.

**14.9-2** A teacher participating in the Professional Education Competence (PEC) Program shall be a member of the bargaining unit with the same rights as any other first year Probationary Contract teacher, and shall receive full pay, according to the District's adopted salary schedule.

**14.9-3** Evaluation/assessment for the beginning teacher shall be completed and records maintained in the District personnel file. The Professional Education Competence (PEC) required documentation shall be maintained in the designated online platform. The portfolio and its components are maintained by the school. Upon completion of the program, the beginning teacher will be sent an email indicating s/he has successfully completed the Professional Education Competence (PEC) requirement.

**14.10** In the Professional Education Competence Program, service as a mentor shall be voluntary.

**14.10-1** The mentoring teachers' qualifications and responsibilities are to be clearly enumerated. Mentoring teachers shall be expected to provide on-going support to assigned mentees over the course of the year and assist with specific requests by a mentee. Limited examples of on-going support may include assisting with identifying and following school and District policies, obtaining necessary material and equipment to complete assignments, and assisting with tracking various timelines to successfully meet required deadlines. Limited examples of specific requests may include meetings to complete the following tools; Planning Conversation Guide, Analyzing Student Learning, Post-observation Co-Analysis, and the Collaborative Assessment Log. Additionally, said mentoring teachers shall not be responsible for evaluation/assessment of any teacher.

**14.10-2** Mentoring teachers must document completion of enumerated duties and professional development qualifications prior to receiving payment. The supplement amount is listed in [Appendix C – Supplemental Salary Schedule](#).

**14.10-3** Mentoring teachers may mentor up to six (6) new teachers at a time. Mentor teachers will receive a supplement for each new teacher they are assigned to mentor. This supplement is subject to approval by Professional Development staff based on successful completion, uploading, review, and approval of the specific and minimum number of mentoring tools into the designated online platform. The District and the Association agree to develop guidelines and procedures for mentor training and assignments no later than December 31, 2022.

**14.10-4** All first year Probationary Contract teachers in the PEC Program will be assigned a mentor. Additional mentoring teachers may be assigned by the administration to teachers deemed to be in need of assistance. Teachers on a Professional Development Plan (PDP) will be assigned a mentor as part of their professional team.

**14.10-5** All teachers receiving mentoring services shall be anonymously surveyed annually. Such survey shall be for the purpose of measuring the effectiveness of the mentoring program. No information will be gathered that would identify either the mentee or the mentor.

**14.11 Teacher Recertification** – In order to assist teachers with state recertification requirements, the District offers many professional development opportunities that are free of charge. It is the responsibility of the teacher to register and attend an adequate number of trainings in a timely manner to have sufficient inservice points for recertification.

**14.11-1** Employees may access their inservice record of points and register for classes through the online District Professional Development System Scheduler.

**14.11-2** All professional development must include: Planning, Delivery, Follow-Up, and Evaluation on the Faculty level (individual), School Level, and District Level according to the Florida Professional Development Evaluation Protocol, §1012.98, *Florida Statutes*.

**14.11-3** The Individual Professional Growth Plan (IPGP) is directly related to specific student performance data for those areas to which the teacher is assigned.

**14.11-4** According to §1012.98, *Florida Statutes*, points may only be awarded upon evidence of follow-up activity completion.

## ARTICLE XV - INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL EVALUATION

### PREAMBLE

The parties acknowledge that the evaluation procedures for Instructional Personnel covered by this agreement that follow have been agreed upon by the parties hereto with reluctance, and that such agreement is made because of the requirements and mandates of applicable Florida law. Florida law requires the Instructional Personnel evaluation system be used as a requisite component to determine the wages, hours, and working conditions for Instructional Personnel and is therefore a mandatory subject of bargaining. Further, the parties agree that should at any time the Florida law applicable to such evaluation procedures be changed by the Florida Legislature or overturned by a court decision to which the Polk County School Board is subject, then in that event the parties agree to promptly renew collective bargaining negotiations for the purpose of modifying the procedures set forth herein and no human capital decisions will be made using this system until a new agreement is ratified through collective bargaining.

### DEFINITIONS:

**Approved Observation Instrument:** Only the approved observation instrument in the Instructional Evaluation System may be used to document the observation portion of a classroom teacher's evaluation which is based on multiple observations (walkthrough observations, informal observations, and formal observations) undertaken by the classroom teacher's supervisor.

**Category I Teachers** - Any classroom teacher that is new to the profession or new to the District regardless of the years of teaching experience and Florida Professional Educator Certification credentials, or any teacher that holds a Temporary Teaching Certificate.

**Category II Teachers** - Teachers with Florida Professional Educator Certification who have more than one year of teaching experience in the District.

**Classroom Teacher:** A teacher who provides direct instruction to students. This definition exists for the purposes of Article XV only and does not affect other Articles in this contract.

**Essential Performance Criteria (EPC):** Performance indicators under each Domain.

**Evaluator:** School Principal/Supervisor, Assistant Principal, and/or Superintendent's administrative designee trained and certified to conduct calibrated observations. Training and certification requirements are outlined in the evaluation manual.

**Instructional Assistance Conference (IAC):** An informal written plan of improvement. The process is intended to facilitate a professional conversation between an administrator and teacher to identify specific areas of concern coupled with suggested actions to be taken to assist the teacher with the improvement of professional practice. The IAC is not disciplinary in nature.

**Instructional Evaluation System (Evaluation manual):** The District's Instructional Personnel evaluation manual, which describes the evaluation systems to be implemented. Pursuant to Florida law, changes to the Evaluation manual that constitute a change in a mandatory subject of bargaining must be collectively bargained unless otherwise waived. The Union does not waive any collective bargaining rights with respect to evaluation.

**Instructional Evaluation System:** A collaborative system between teachers and administrators that focuses on increasing student learning by improving the quality of instructional services. The overall term for the processes applied for the performance evaluation of an instructional employee.

**Instructional Personnel:** For the purpose of this Article and the evaluation manual, Instructional Personnel shall include all instructional employees covered by this agreement as defined in Article I.

**Non-Classroom Instructional Personnel:** An instructional employee as defined in Article I who does not provide direct instruction to students.

**Professional Development Plan (PDP):** A formal written plan of improvement.

**Reliability:** The degree to which an assessment produces stable and consistent results.

**State Assessment:** Any standardized state determined assessment given to students for evaluative purposes for a given subject.

**State Value Added Model (State VAM):** A statistical calculation by which the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) estimates an instructional employee's relative impact on student achievement based upon student testing data.

**Student Achievement Objectives for Classroom Teachers (SAO-CT):** A measurable academic growth target that an instructional employee sets at the beginning of the course/term for all students or for subgroups of students to be achieved by the end of an established interval of time, employing baseline data gathered at the beginning of the course.

**Student Achievement Objectives for Non-Classroom Teachers (SAO-NCT):** A measurable growth target that a non-classroom instructional employee sets at the beginning of the course/term to be achieved by the end of an established interval of time, employing baseline data gathered at the beginning of the course/term.

**Teacher Evaluation Advisory Committee (TEAC):** A committee consisting of 20 members (10 appointed by the Superintendent and 10 appointed by the PEA President). The District's Chief Negotiator and PEA President serve as ex-officio members of the committee. The function of the committee is to serve as advisory in nature to the District and Association bargaining teams.

**Test Validity:** A determination of whether a test is satisfactory in evaluating the breadth and depth of the knowledge and skills students have developed with respect to the course standards.

**15.1** The Superintendent shall establish procedures for evaluating the performance of duties and responsibilities of all Instructional Personnel. The evaluation forms and procedures to be used will comply with all requirements as set forth in §. [1012.34](#), *Florida Statutes*. The evaluation process will comply with the Collective Bargaining Agreement and follow the evaluation manual. Only the materials contained in the evaluation manual may be used for Instructional Personnel evaluation. No one may develop additional supplemental materials for the evaluation of Instructional Personnel without approval through the bargaining process.

**15.1-1** As the Instructional Personnel evaluation system has undergone substantial change, the parties recognize that continued adjustments may need to be made as data becomes available. The parties commit to returning to the bargaining table to address concerns from either party. It is the intent of the parties to monitor this Instructional Personnel evaluation system to ensure it is a fair, valid, and reliable evaluation system and to make changes, as needed, to achieve this goal.

**15.1-2** Student performance data will be collected for each instructional employee as in the evaluation manual, Student Achievement Objectives (SAO) (see 15.15) or State VAM as per state statute will be used to determine the instructional employee's student performance rating. Starting in school year 2018-2019, SAOs are required for all personnel without a State VAM, and optional for all VAM teachers.

**15.1-3** We agree to use the Florida Department of Education's Roster Verification Tool (RVT) to enable Instructional Personnel to review their rosters of assigned students for accuracy. FLDOE provides two RVT review periods; one following Survey 2 FTE in the Fall and the other following Survey 3 FTE in the Spring. During these RVT periods, Instructional Personnel can recommend additions or deletions from the roster. Teachers with a state calculated VAM that have opted to use an SAO for student learning data will still be required to complete RVT to ensure accurate DOE records. Once Instructional Personnel complete the review and all corrections have been identified, the roster will be submitted to the District for processing. The district shall submit a teacher level Survey 2 and Survey 3 match using a process determined by DOE and submit such data for the calculation of State VAM rating.

**15.1-4** SAO Student Learning Data - For teachers of adult students, the data source will include only students assigned to the teacher for 60 or more course hours. SAO teachers identify their students during the planning, mid-year review and final summative SAO review. Students that have absences that meet the criteria in the attendance determinant must have their SAO targets reviewed and possibly adjusted at the mid-year review.

**15.1-5** Instructional Personnel shall receive an overall rating calculated as described in the evaluation manual One-third (1/3) of the rating shall be based upon student performance data listed on Appendix A - Florida VAM Course List, Student Achievement Objectives. The remainder of the overall rating shall be as described in the manual for various positions; Category A: Instructional Personnel with a State VAM rating, or Category B: Instructional Personnel. Non-classroom instructional employees are

also participants in establishing SAO to develop the student learning data portion of their evaluation. Non-Classroom Instructional Personnel will be assessed using the appropriate evaluation/procedure forms.

**15.2** Instructional Personnel will be evaluated annually according to the procedures in the evaluation manual. This evaluation will be completed by a designated and certified evaluator. Evaluation data will not be used for making Human Capital decisions until all evaluations are completed, including any appeals; with the understanding Probationary Contract employees may be released at any time as per [§1012.335\(1\)\(c\)](#), *Florida Statutes*.

**15.2-1** The evaluator shall be trained in the evaluation tool and shall be certified. The evaluator may be either the principal/immediate supervisor or an assistant principal designated by the principal. If an instructional employee so requests, he/she shall be evaluated by his/her principal. Should no administrator meet the criteria or in rare and unusual circumstances, the Superintendent shall designate a certified administrative evaluator who meets the criteria to perform the required observations and evaluations. Evaluative visits by the Superintendent's designee shall be made with prior notification of two (2) work days, to the instructional employee and principal/immediate supervisor, prior to any evaluative activity.

**15.2-2** Any concern/deficiency noted by an administrator must be shared with the instructional employee in a timely manner. Electronically finalizing an observation or sending a request for a time to hold a professional conversation within five (5) contract days is timely. All observable EPC (Essential Performance Criteria) ratings will be documented throughout the year on the forms provided, based on walkthrough observations, informal observations, and formal observations, though no evaluations shall be documented until the completion of the 5th student contact day. If observable or non-observable performance deficiencies are noted, the evaluator must provide the instructional employee with specific related feedback. The principal or approved designee must not electronically finalize another observation until five (5) working days have passed since the last finalized observation.

**15.2-3** To promote prompt, professional conversation, there is an Instructional Assistance Conference form, and guidelines for the school administration to use in conducting Instructional Assistance Conferences (IAC) with Instructional Personnel. This Conference may be used to bring focus to the instructional changes desired without requiring an instructional employee's evaluation to be marked down or the development of a formal written plan of improvement. The Instructional Assistance Conference does not replace the formal written plan of improvement and is not disciplinary in nature. It is intended to facilitate professional conversations.

**15.2-4** Videotaping shall not be used to record data for any instructional employee observation or evaluation. Videotaping, with the expressed written permission of the instructional employee, may be used for non-evaluative purposes, such as mentoring or for certification purposes. This section does not prohibit video or audio recording of students when required by any State or District student performance exams involving a performance component.

**15.2-5** It shall be considered a gross procedural error if an instructional employee receives an overall rating of *Needs Improvement* or *Unsatisfactory* and has not had the opportunity to complete an appropriate Instructional Assistance Conference (IAC) process or a Professional Development Plan (PDP).

**15.3** The process of evaluating Instructional Personnel will be ongoing during the school year. Instructional Personnel will be fully informed of the criteria and procedures associated with the

evaluation process as outlined in the evaluation manual. All procedures and timelines, as outlined in the evaluation manual, shall be followed. Instructional Personnel will be provided electronic access to the evaluation manual within their first 15 workdays. All Instructional Personnel new to the evaluation process shall be trained regarding the Instructional Personnel Evaluation processes and requirements within the first ten (10) contract days of employment.

**15.4** An electronic report of each evaluative observation conducted by the evaluator, including walkthroughs observations, informal observations, and formal observations will be available within five (5) contract days. The formal observation will include a pre-conference and a post conference for all Category I Instructional Personnel, and a post-conference for all Category II Instructional Personnel. A Pre-Conference will be held at the request of a Category II instructional employee.

**15.5 Required Instructional Personnel Evaluation Conferences:** Mileage to the former school/worksite shall be reimbursed if teachers are required to travel to receive their final evaluation.

**15.5-1** A Category I mid-year instructional employee conference is required for all Category I instructional employees. Each Category I instructional employee shall be given an overall mid-year evaluation rating based upon the EPCs and student learning data according to the evaluation manual. There shall be a full and complete discussion of each EPC rating with specific recommendations for any EPC rated as Needs Improvement/Developing or Unsatisfactory. At the completion of the conference the appropriate form will be signed by the administrator and the instructional employee documenting the administrative ratings.

**15.5-2** Final evaluations with an SAO shall occur prior to the end of the school year and shall include the administration's final ratings with supporting data for both observable and non-observable EPCs, and the final rating for completing the employee's self-evaluation and finalizing the SAO. At the completion of the conference the appropriate form will be signed by the administrator and the instructional employee documenting the final administrative ratings.

**15.5-3** Final evaluations with a VAM shall occur within a specified period of time near the beginning of the school year as mutually determined annually by the District and PEA, pending availability of State VAM. This timeline will take into account the report date to FLDOE. At the completion of the conference the appropriate form will be signed by the administrator and the employee documenting the overall rating, State VAM, and any adjustments agreed the prior year's EPC Administrative Ratings.

**15.6** In the event an instructional employee is not rated as *Effective* or *Highly Effective* in one or more of the EPCs, the evaluator will provide a recommendation for improvement based on a specific deficiency as defined by the appropriate EPC rating rubric.

**15.7** If performance concerns exist, the following steps shall be taken:

- 1.** The evaluator shall hold a professional conversation with the instructional employee to identify specific areas of concern coupled with suggested actions to be taken to assist the instructional employee with the improvement of professional practice. Monitoring will be ongoing.
- 2.** If the instructional employee continues to perform below the *Effective* level in an identified EPC, the evaluator shall meet with the instructional employee to discuss the concerns and develop a plan, such as an IAC or PDP, for improvement. Refer to the *Instructional Evaluation System*

manual.

#### 15.7-1 Outcome of the Final Evaluation

- a. All Category I and Category II Annual Contract instructional employees who receive an overall *Highly Effective* or *Effective* rating on their most current overall evaluation will be renewed if the instructional employee has not had Progressive Discipline beyond a Step 1 *Written Confirmation of a Verbal Warning* for the current school year.
- b. Professional Service Contract Instructional Personnel: The provisions in [§1012.34\(4\), Florida Statutes](#) – Notification of Unsatisfactory Performance will be followed.
- c. Category II Instructional Personnel will follow [§1012.34\(4\), Florida Statutes](#) concerning overall Unsatisfactory performance.
- d. Under the requirements of [§1012.335, Florida Statutes](#), an Annual Contract will not be awarded if an instructional employee receives two consecutive overall annual performance evaluation ratings of *Unsatisfactory*, two annual overall performance evaluation ratings of *Unsatisfactory* within a 3-year period, or three consecutive overall annual performance evaluation ratings of *Needs Improvement* or a combination of overall *Needs Improvement* and *Unsatisfactory*.

**15.8** The immediate supervisor of the instructional employee will forward the evaluation report to appropriate personnel.

**15.9 Itinerant and Hospital/Homebound** – All procedures as outlined in the evaluation manual, will apply to the instructional employees listed above with the following exceptions:

**15.9-1** There will NOT be a formal observation using the approved observation instrument to gather evaluation data related to appropriate Domain and Essential Performance Criteria (EPC). Rather, in lieu of the observation, the teachers will provide evidence to the supervisor related to the following expectations:

- Communication between teacher and student to equal no less than one correspondence per week. Communication may be initiated by either the teacher or the student.
- Representative samples of student work per term, with evidence of instructor feedback.
- Periodic evaluations between teacher and students as defined and documented through timely student progress checks.
- Phone log of teacher/student interaction as applicable.

Evidence may be provided in the format of checklists, log entries, student portfolio, etc.

While all EPCs in the Instructional Personnel Evaluation System are applicable, some of the specific sample indicators of performance may vary in nature from those identified in the evaluation manual. The supervisor and instructional employee will review the sample indicators and determine their applicability to the specific role of the instructional employee in their specific teaching environment.

**15.10 Evaluation Appeal Process** – Instructional employees may appeal using an expedited appeal procedure limited to 2 steps: Step 1 - Final Evaluation Appeal and Step 2 - Arbitration. The Arbitration step will be an expedited process with no submission of briefs and the arbitrator will issue a written decision.

Expedited Arbitration will include setting a panel of mutually agreed upon and available arbitrators to hear multiple cases in a day. Although we are using an expedited arbitration process, each side retains the right to use all remedies available to them under state and federal law. If a serious procedural violation or schedule change results in the removal of an annual evaluation, the evaluation rating will default to Not Evaluated and the employee will be considered to have an overall Effective rating or their last overall evaluation rating, whichever is higher, for the purpose of all Human Capital and salary decisions.

**15.10-1** While the Final Evaluation may be appealed, Final Evaluations where only overall ratings of *Needs Improvement* or *Unsatisfactory* or when Performance Pay is implemented, may be submitted for arbitration. Overall ratings that are *Developing* (in the first three years of employment) or *Effective* are only eligible to be processed through the appeal of the Final Evaluation (Step 1) and are not eligible for Arbitration (Step 2). An instructional employee may appeal any of the individual ratings governed by an EPC rubric Domain. Such appeal shall be based upon a procedural violation of the process, and/or a misinterpretation of a system rubric. If a rating is successfully appealed, the rating shall be corrected, and the evaluation recalculated.

**a. Step 1**

- (1) **Final Evaluation Appeal with an SAO** – No later than the 175<sup>th</sup> day of student contact, the instructional employee must file using the jointly approved method communicated to all employees with their principal and copy the principal’s supervisor, PEA, and the Senior Director of the Human Resource Services Division that a concern exists and they choose to appeal their Final Evaluation results. The parties will meet to discuss the concerns no later than 5 workdays (day 185) after the last student contact day. A decision will be issued in writing within three (3) workdays. The District and PEA may adjust the above timelines by mutual agreement if necessary.
- (2) **Final Evaluation Appeal with a VAM** –No later than the 175<sup>th</sup> day of student contact, the instructional employee must file using the jointly approved method communicated to all employees with their principal and copy the principal’s supervisor, PEA, and the Senior Director of the Human Resource Services Division that a concern exists and they choose to appeal their EPC results. The parties will meet to discuss the concerns no later than five (5) workdays (day 185) after the last student contact day. A decision will be issued in writing within three (3) workdays. The District and PEA may adjust the above timelines by mutual agreement if necessary. VAM ratings are calculated by the state and are not subject to recalculations. Final Evaluations will be completed prior to the FLDOE report date.

**b. Step 2**

- (1) **Expedited Arbitration** –The District’s and PEA’s intent is to mutually pre-select a panel of arbitrators and contact them to establish a potential calendar of arbitration dates into which employees with appeals may be scheduled. Further, the intent is to keep individual hearings to approximately four (4) hours maximum with the arbitrator requested to submit a decision within two (2) workdays. Expedited Arbitration will take place as timely as possible. Dates will be mutually agreed upon by the District and PEA.

### **Miscellaneous Provisions:**

1. The Board and the appellant shall not be permitted to assert in such arbitration proceeding, any ground or rely on any evidence not previously disclosed to the other party. Both parties agree that the award of the arbitrator shall be final and binding.
2. The Board and the Association shall share equally the fees and expenses of the arbitrator when the appeal is processed by the Association. Neither the bargaining agent nor the Board shall be responsible for the cost of an arbitration by a member of the bargaining unit when the appeal is not processed by the Association.
3. No reprisals of any kind shall be taken against any party participating in the appeal procedure.
4. Notwithstanding the expiration of this agreement, any appeal arising while the agreement was in effect may be processed through the appeal procedure until resolution.
5. Any teacher for whom an appeal is sustained shall be reimbursed in accordance with the award of the arbitrator.
6. Each party shall bear the full cost of its representation at all steps of the appeal procedure.
7. A teacher shall have the right to have an Association member representative present when an appeal is being discussed. In a case where no Association member representative is present to attend the informal procedure, the discussion may be postponed and the Association staff will have the right to appoint an Association member to attend the informal session.

**15.10-2** If for reasons as follows, but not limited to, the number of appeals is larger than the number of available times to hold appeals or the data is delayed from FLDOE, the District and PEA shall meet to discuss an extension of the timeline.

**15.11 Teacher Evaluation Advisory Committee (TEAC)** – The TEAC is created to develop, review, or change evaluation form(s) called for in Article XV and shall be advisory in nature to the District and Association bargaining teams. The committee shall consist of 20 members (10 appointed by the Superintendent and 10 appointed by the PEA president). The district’s negotiator and PEA president serve as ex-officio members of the committee. The committee shall include at a minimum, one representative from elementary, middle school, high school, and alternative education. The District and PEA bargaining teams will consider recommendations from the Teacher Evaluation Advisory Committee (TEAC) when determining the appropriate evaluation/procedure forms for a new job position or changes for an existing job position.

**15.12 Teacher Evaluation Advisory Committee (TEAC) Process** – The committee will meet, once in the first semester and once in the second semester. Additional meetings may be scheduled by mutual agreement of the parties. The TEAC will make recommendations to the Superintendent or as determined through collective bargaining processes and will make recommendations for system changes for the upcoming year by July 1 of each year. Any recommendations submitted after July 1 will be for the following school year. TEAC may make recommendations after July 1 for the current school year if changes to the statutory requirements occur after July 1. Every attempt will be made to meet the statutory guidelines in [§1012.34\(4\), Florida Statutes](#), including the provision to fully inform Instructional Personnel of the criteria, data sources, methodologies, and procedures associated with the evaluation process before the evaluation takes place.

**15.13** Certain adjustments in system processes may need to be made due to unknown factors related to the stability and reliability of student data. The Teacher Evaluation Advisory Committee may make related recommendations pertaining to system processes if that occurs. Any changes in the system processes during any year will be submitted to the Superintendent for review and approval, as appropriate.

**15.14** An Improvement Model for classroom teacher observations will consist of three observation processes: Walkthroughs, Informal and Formal. The ratings from each observation will be combined and averaged to provide the final rating for each observed EPC. The final EPC points calculated may not be decreased (rounded down) and may only be increased (rounded up) by the evaluator if a rationale supported by evidence is documented in Journey.

**15.14-1 Observation Timing Chart**

<b>Teacher Status</b>	<b>Formal Observations Full Class Period or 60 minutes whichever is less</b>	<b>Informal Observations No less than 20 Minutes</b>	<b>Walkthroughs No less than 10 Minutes</b>
<b>Category I</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Minimum per semester</li> <li>• Pre-/Post-Conference required within five (5) days of the scheduled observation</li> <li>• Additional optional</li> <li>• Conduct an Informal required prior to a Formal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Minimum per semester</li> <li>• Number varied based on need</li> <li>• Feedback Required within five (5) days of the scheduled observation</li> <li>• Completion of at least 2 walkthroughs prior to conducting an Informal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 minimum each 45 days for each of the first 3 quarters only.</li> <li>• Feedback desired if Highly Effective or Effective</li> <li>• Feedback required if Needs Improvement/Developing or Unsatisfactory</li> </ul>
<b>Category II</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Minimum annually</li> <li>• Additional optional</li> <li>• Pre-Conference optional within five (5) days of the scheduled observation</li> <li>• Post Conference required within five (5) days of the scheduled observation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Minimum annually</li> <li>• Number varied based on need</li> <li>• Feedback Required within five (5) days of the scheduled observation</li> <li>• Completion of at least 1 walkthroughs prior</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 minimum each 45 days for each of the first 3 quarters only.</li> <li>• Feedback desired if Highly Effective or Effective</li> <li>• Feedback required if Needs Improvement/Developing or Unsatisfactory</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting an Informal is required prior to a Formal</li> </ul>	to conducting an Informal	
<b>PDP Teacher</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Minimum each 90 days while engaged in PDP process</li> <li>• Pre-/Post-Conference required within five (5) days of the scheduled observation</li> <li>• Conduct an Informal required prior to a Formal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Minimum each 90 days while engaged in PDP process</li> <li>• Feedback Required within five (5) days of the scheduled observation</li> <li>• Completion of at least 2 walkthroughs prior to conducting an Informal</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Minimum each 90 days while engaged in PDP process</li> <li>• Feedback required</li> </ul>

**15.14-2** Additional informal or formal observations may occur only if the classroom teacher has had the opportunity to correct performance concerns as documented in an IAC or PDP. Additional informal and formal observations shall be scheduled as a part of the PDP process.

**15.14-3** Non-classroom Instructional Personnel will follow the appropriate procedures outlined in the evaluation manual. All non-classroom Instructional Personnel will be evaluated based on the Final Overall Rating Table which is included in the evaluation manual.

**15.14-4** Some instructional employees may be submitted to FLDOE as Not Evaluated due to unforeseen circumstances. Any instructional employee submitted to FLDOE as either Not Evaluated or Developing will be treated as Effective for all Human Capital and salary decisions.

**15.15** All Instructional Personnel teaching courses without a VAM score must establish an SAO by following the process outlined in the evaluation manual.

**15.15-1** Training and supporting resources which provide consistency in the implementation of SAOs will be developed by a joint committee appointed by the Superintendent and the PEA President. The committee will use the framework from the Center for Assessment as a foundation. The committee will identify the process to prepare trainers and deliver comprehensive training to all participants using a variety of methods. Participants on the committee may vary depending on the specific assigned tasks. Training must be ready for presentation prior to the employees' first contract day and the schedule for delivering training must begin within the first ten (10) instructional days.

**15.15-2** An instructional employee without a state calculated VAM must establish an SAO for the student learning data portion of their evaluation. Teachers with a state calculated VAM may elect to complete an SAO and use that data as their student learning data in their evaluation.

An employee establishing an SAO must complete the forms and follow the process in the evaluation manual. An employee may work collaboratively on their SAO with other employees but may not be required to do so. Journey is open on the first contract day to begin developing the SAO. The completed SAO template must be initially submitted to the principal/administrator no later than the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) student day following Data Day as established in the official Polk County Public School District Calendar.

**15.15-3** All SAOs must be based upon core/main course, or instructional standards for the selected student group and must follow the SMART protocol (Specific, Measurable, Appropriate, Realistic, and Time Limited) as appropriate to the course, grade level or position/assignment of the employee.

**15.15-4** Baseline student data must be established by the employee during the first nine (9) week period as established in the official Polk County Public School District Calendar. It may be based upon data collected at any time prior to the end of the first nine (9) week period as outlined in the approved SAO goal.

**15.15-5** The principal/administrator shall review the SAO using the Rubric for Rating the Quality of Student Achievement Objectives in the evaluation manual (the Rubric) within the initial approval submission window and provide feedback to the employee. Any SAO evaluated as Quality Needs Improvement or Insufficient Quality is not approved until changes are made to meet the requirements as outlined by the Rubric. Employees and principals/administrators are encouraged to collaborate in this process. If a dispute cannot be resolved, the employee may appeal their concern to the Regional Assistant Superintendent for resolution. To be implemented, the SAO must be approved no later than the end of the first nine (9) week period as established in the official Polk County Public School District Calendar. Both the employee and the principal/administrator shall sign and maintain a copy of the approved SAO goal.

**15.15-6** If a principal/administrator does not respond within the timeline in 15.15-5 above, the submitted SAO shall be considered approved.

**15.15-7** Instructional employees with a state calculated VAM, may abandon the SAO process without detriment at any time prior to approval as referenced in 15.15-5. They will then revert to the State VAM for the student learning data for that year.

**15.15-8** A mid-year meeting to review the SAO progress will be held during the first fifteen (15) student contact days of the second semester. This meeting is required for all Category I teachers and only necessary for Category II teachers if they wish to adjust the expected targets of the SAO. This meeting may occur for Category II classroom teachers along with the review of their Informal Observation and for Category I instructional employees at the time of their post-conference for their first Formal Observation. The instructional employee and the principal/administrator shall review using the mid-year Reflection Questions in the evaluation manual – Student Achievement Outcomes and make adjustments as needed to increase the likelihood of a positive goal outcome.

**15.15-9** Should a Category II employee or principal/administrator be concerned that the employee's SAO targets are not attainable, therefore making the expected outcomes unrealistic, a meeting will be held to review and assess the available data. This review must occur and any adjustments to the agreed upon targets made within the first fifteen student contact days of the second semester. The

principal/administrator must approve or deny the requested target adjustments. Should a dispute arise over an appropriate adjustment, the employee may appeal the principal's/administrator's decision, within five (5) student contact days, to the Regional Assistant Superintendent.

**15.15-10** Semester courses may set an SAO within fifteen (15) student contact days of the second semester only. The timelines for semester courses will be set and distributed by December 1, or when the timelines are announced, and the SAO window is opened to employees.

**15.15-11** The four (4) level Instructional Personnel Rating Rubric in the evaluation manual shall be used to determine whether the employee is rated *Highly Effective*, *Effective*, *Needs Improvement/Developing*, or *Unsatisfactory* for their goal. Employees may group students based upon student performance and vary the outcome for the established groups. All students should have a learning outcome by group, but an individual outcome for each student is not expected or required. The employee's Student Performance rating shall be determined by the number of students meeting or exceeding the goal as established by the Rating Rubric.

**15.16** Instructional employees completing the self-evaluation will receive the maximum points regardless of how they rate themselves. Instructional employees not completing the self-evaluation will receive the lowest points.

## **ARTICLE XVI - TEACHER DISMISSAL PROCEDURE**

**16.1 CONTINUING CONTRACT TEACHERS** The following procedure will be used to help continuing contract teachers correct deficiencies prior to the implementation of the formal NEAT Procedure.

**16.1-1 NOTICE** - written notice to the individual that deficiencies exist which, if not corrected, could lead to the implementation of the formal NEAT Procedure.

**16.1-2 EXPLANATION** - Full and complete explanation of deficiencies and suggested corrections.

**16.1-3 ASSISTANCE** - Administrative and supervisory assistance offered and provided.

**16.1-4 TIME** - Reasonable time provided for correction of deficiencies.

**16.2 DEFINITION OF INCOMPETENCY** - Incompetence is defined as the inability or lack of fitness to discharge the required duties as a result of inefficiency or incapacity.

**16.3** The formal **NEAT PROCEDURE** will be initiated only after consultation and suggestions for improvement by the immediate supervisor have failed to help the teacher improve.

**16.3-1 NOTICE AND EXPLANATION:** The principal will inform the teacher in writing that the evaluation and assistance procedure is being initiated. This letter will include the listing of the area or areas of weakness, which, if not improved, may result in dismissal. The immediate supervisor will send copies of this correspondence to the Superintendent, area Assistant Superintendent, chairman of the Board, and the Association.

**16.3-2 ASSISTANCE BY ADMINISTRATOR** and explanation:

A. The Superintendent will assign an administrator with knowledge in the subject area to develop a planned program of improvement for the teacher. This should be done as soon as practical after receiving the letter from the immediate supervisor.

B. The assigned administrator, in cooperation with the immediate supervisor and the teacher, will begin to develop a planned program for improvement as soon as practical after being notified of the assignment.

1) The administrator shall observe the teacher in the classroom not fewer than fifty-five (55) consecutive minutes or one full class period prior to the development of a planned program.

2) The administrator shall discuss the observation and the program for improvement with the teacher at the time it is presented to the teacher. The administrator and the teacher shall sign the report. Copies of this observation report and the plan for improvement shall also be submitted to the principal, the Superintendent, and Area Assistant Superintendent.

3) The administrator shall make a second classroom observation within thirty (30) workdays after the planned program was presented to the teacher. The report of this observation, including noted improvement in the areas of weakness listed by the principal, will be discussed with the teacher. The administrator and the teacher will sign the report. Copies of this report will be submitted to the teacher, principal, Area Assistant Superintendent, and Superintendent.

**16.3-3 ASSISTANCE BY EXPERTS:** The Superintendent shall also appoint three experts, who shall be experienced teachers in the same field as the teacher being evaluated, to observe the teacher and make suggestions for improvement. The three experts shall conduct their investigation within fourteen (14) workdays after their appointment and without contact with one another.

(A) Each expert will observe the teacher in the performance of his/her teaching duties for not less than two (2) class teaching periods or at least ninety (90) minutes.

(B) Each expert shall submit a written report of his/her individual observations with recommendations for improvement to the teacher with copies of the report to the administrator and the immediate supervisor.

(C) Each expert shall conduct a second observation of the teacher in the performance of his/her teaching duties of at least two (2) periods or ninety (90) minutes, and between twenty-five (25) and thirty-five (35) workdays after the first observation. The expert shall make a final written report of his/her observations, noting improvement or lack of improvement. Copies of this report will go to the teacher, immediate supervisor, and the administrator.

(D) After the experts have made their second observation, the administrator will make a third observation and report as to the teacher's improvement. The administrator will discuss this observation report with the teacher and the principal. This report will be signed by the administrator, teacher, and principal. Copies will be submitted to the teacher, principal, Area Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent.

(E) All observation reports shall become a part of the teacher's personnel file.

(F) Experts, serving as observers, shall be given adequate release time from their regular duties to conduct the observations of the teacher in the performance of his/her teaching duties.

**16.3-4 TIME FOR DECISION:** As soon as possible after sixty (60) workdays from the day the planned program was discussed with the teacher, but not later than ninety (90) workdays, a decision will be made.

(A) The immediate supervisor shall meet with the teacher and administrator to review and discuss all the observations and evaluations.

(B) The teacher may request anyone of his/her choice to be present at this meeting.

(C) Within fourteen (14) days following this meeting, the immediate supervisor shall make his/her written recommendations as to the competency or incompetence of the teacher. The teacher shall sign this recommendation and retain a copy. Copies of this recommendation shall be sent to the Area Assistant Superintendent, administrator, Superintendent and the Association.

## **16.4 PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT TEACHERS**

**16.4-1** A teacher holding a Professional Service Contract who is not performing his or her duties in a satisfactory manner based on the teacher's assessment instrument shall be notified by their evaluator in writing of such determination. The notice must describe such unsatisfactory performance and include the notice of the procedural requirements as listed in § [1012.34](#) of Florida Statutes.

**16.4-2** Upon delivery of a notice of unsatisfactory performance, the evaluator must confer with the employee, make recommendations with respect to specific areas of unsatisfactory performance in writing, and provide assistance in helping to correct deficiencies within a prescribed period of time.

**16.4-3** The employee shall be placed on performance probation and governed by the provision of Florida Statute § [1012.34](#) for ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of the notice of unsatisfactory performance to demonstrate corrective action. School holidays and school vacation periods are not counted when calculating the ninety (90) calendar day period. During the ninety (90) calendar days, the employee must be observed a minimum of three times and apprised of progress achieved in writing and must be provided assistance and in-service training opportunities to help correct the noted performance deficiencies.

**16.4-4** Within fourteen (14) days after the close of the ninety (90) calendar days, the evaluator must assess whether the performance deficiencies have been corrected and forward a recommendation to the Superintendent. Within 14 days after receiving the evaluator's recommendation, the Superintendent must notify the employee in writing whether the performance deficiencies have been satisfactorily corrected and whether the Superintendent will recommend that the school board continue or terminate his or her employment contract. If the employee wishes to contest the Superintendent's recommendation, the employee must, within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the Superintendent's recommendation, submit a written request for a hearing as provided in § [1012.34](#) of Florida Statutes.

## **16.5 MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

**16.5-1** When illness or other incapacity of the teacher or observer prevents the completion of the observation on schedule, the time limits shall be extended to such time as the teacher or observer can be present for the observation.

**16.5-2** This procedure does not prohibit immediate suspension and subsequent dismissal for just cause as outlined in § [1012.335](#) Florida Statutes or the use of the Florida Education Practices Commission procedures in § [1012.795](#), Florida Statutes.

**16.5-3** The immediate supervisor may drop this evaluative procedure at the conclusion of any step in the procedure if he/she determines that it is no longer necessary. The teacher will be notified in writing of this decision and any further recommendations.

**16.5-4** This procedure shall not be utilized in cases of physical or emotional incapacity to discharge the required duties of a teacher.

## **ARTICLE XVII - TRANSFERS AND CHANGES IN ASSIGNMENT**

**17.1** A transfer is a change in teaching position from one work location to another, excluding countywide assignments. A transfer is also any change which would cause a teacher to teach any part of the day at a different school from his/her initial school assignment, excluding countywide assignments. A change of assignment is from one subject area or department to another, or from one grade to another, within the same work location.

**17.1-1** A teacher who is required to change classrooms will have assistance moving boxes and furniture and will be provided appropriate equipment to do the job safely.

**17.1-2** If a teacher is given a change of assignment or classroom during the school year, the teacher will be provided one (1) student contact day without students or assignments for the purpose of moving classroom and personal items from one classroom to another and/or planning and preparing materials for students in preparation for student instruction or other assigned duties.

**17.1-3** If a teacher is transferred during the school year, the teacher will be provided two (2) student contact days without students or assignments for the purpose of moving professional and personal items from one school to another, setting up a classroom, and preparing materials.

**17.2** Principals shall keep their faculties informed as to vacant positions in their schools by posting such vacancies at the teacher sign-in location. Teachers who would like to change from grade and/or subject assignment within a school shall file a written statement of such desire with the principal. The principal shall consider all such requests and make a decision as to the change based on the teacher's qualification, certification, and educational program of the school. The principal will give written notification of his/her decision to each teacher who has filed a written request. The change in assignment will be subject to approval by the District Certification Compliance Department.

**17.3** All changes in assignment should be voluntary; however, the principal may make changes in teacher assignments at his/her own discretion when he/she deems it to be in the best interest of students, faculty, and educational program of the school. Such assignment changes may only be to areas for which the teacher is fully qualified and may not cause a teacher to work out-of-field. Principals shall strive to minimize the number of core academic subject area assignments. When such changes are made the reason(s) for the assignment shall be given in writing, if requested. Providing a reason will in no way limit the principal's discretion in making such assignments. Such reassignments shall not be used as a punitive measure. Any teacher being involuntarily reassigned shall not be deprived of his/her contractual salary for the remainder of the contract year.

**17.3-1** Should there be a reduction/loss in funding for a grant program, the teacher in such a grant funded position will be able to remain at the school/worksite at which he/she is assigned in a position for which he/she is fully qualified. If there are no vacant positions available, the school shall follow the procedure for "Loss of Units" in 17.6-1. This process shall retain the grant funded teacher as a part of the staff for any position for which the teacher is fully qualified.

**17.4 Request for Transfer (non-hardship transfers):** A request for transfer shall be provided to the Human Resource Services Division via the Staff Portal any time after the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> student week of school. These requests are for the following semester unless mutually agreed upon by supervising administrators. Such transfer requests shall remain active until seven (7) calendar days before the first teacher contract day. Transfers shall not occur in the middle of a semester unless the teacher meets the qualifications for a hardship transfer, is moving to a promoted position, or is being involuntarily transferred per the parameters of Article 17.6. An employee seeking a transfer must complete the online application (Applicant Registration System) and apply for posted vacancies. Any teacher who received an end of the year overall evaluation of *Needs Improvement* for the current and/or previous school year is not eligible for transfer. Also, any teacher who is under a Performance Development Plan is ineligible for transfer. A transfer will not be considered unless the teacher has taught in the District for one school year and is fully qualified and certified for the vacancy for which they are applying. It is the responsibility of the teacher to notify the principals where vacancies exist in order to be considered for the vacancy. The transfer will be subject to approval by the District Certification Compliance Department. All transfers shall be approved and signed by the receiving principal, with simultaneous electronic copies to the releasing principal (or immediate supervisor) and the Human Resource Services office. The receiving principal, when making his/her decision, shall consider each teacher requesting transfer as to his/her experience, general background and preparation, competence and commuting distance. The transfer of the teacher will be subject to Board approval.

**17.4-1 Hardship Transfer Requests during School Year:** Teachers that have completed their probationary period are allowed to submit a transfer request during the school year for purposes of “hardship”. A “hardship” transfer request is defined as:

- a. travels 20 miles or more one-way, by the most direct route within Polk County limits to the assigned work location; or
- b. has a serious medical problem which can be substantiated by a physician or acceptable written explanations as determined by the Superintendent. Employees meeting the criterion in this section, may apply for a medical problem transfer at any time and may be transferred after the start of the school year for students; or
- c. has a personal problem, conflict, and/or concern with an acceptable written explanation as determined by the Superintendent. Employees meeting the criterion in this section, may apply for a personal problem transfer at any time and may be transferred after the start of the school year for students.

Hardship transfers will be allowed during the school year only if the above conditions are met and must be approved by the Superintendent or the Associate Superintendent of Human Resource Services. A transfer will not be considered unless the teacher is fully qualified and certified for the vacancy for which they are applying. All transfers shall be approved and signed by the receiving and releasing principals, with simultaneous electronic copies sent to the releasing principal (or immediate supervisor) and the Human Resource Services Division. The receiving principal, when making his/her decision, shall consider each teacher requesting transfer as to his/her experience, general background and preparation, competence and commuting distance. Once the receiving principal has submitted the required copies to the releasing principal and the Human Resource Services Division, the releasing principal has up to twenty (20) workdays to post and potentially fill the vacancy. After no more than twenty (20) work days, the teacher will be released to the receiving principal.

A teacher who qualifies for the "hardship" transfer will be guaranteed an interview for a District-determined vacancy once per hardship transfer during the current school year in which the hardship request was approved. The request to be considered for an interview must be emailed to the Senior Director of Human Resource Services with the position number no less than five (5) days before the advertised vacancy is set to close.

**17.4-2 Request for Transfer Between School Years:** It is the responsibility of the teacher to notify the principals where vacancies exist in order to be considered for the vacancy. The transfer will be subject to approval by the District Certification Compliance Department. A principal will only be notified of an employee's intent to transfer ten (10) workdays after the teacher has filed the intent to transfer form.

**17.4-3** Probationary Contract teachers will be eligible to seek a transfer the semester immediately following the completion of his/her probationary period.

**17.5** A current list of vacant positions, including Polk Virtual School, will be maintained for all teachers to view on the District's website (polkschoolsfl.com). All vacancies will be advertised for a minimum of five workdays, except for the seven (7) calendar days prior to the first workday in order to meet the mandate for fully staffed schools. The website will indicate the subject area or grade level of the vacancy, the date the vacancy will occur, and the worksite at which the vacancy exists. A vacancy shall be deemed to exist when a full-time employee is sought to fill a full-time position, after worksite reassignments have been completed, if applicable.

**17.5-1** Candidates interviewed for positions will be notified in writing when the position has been filled.

**17.6 Involuntary Transfer:** The Board and the Association recognize that it may be necessary to transfer a teacher or teachers involuntarily. Such transfers will only be made for one or more of the following reasons:

- 1) Loss of units
- 2) Providing for a racially balanced school staff
- 3) Dividing a school faculty to form a new school
- 4) Phasing out a program or grade level
- 5) Changing a program
- 6) Closing a school
- 7) Providing for a comparability of schools for Federal program
- 8) Placing a teacher who has been teaching out of field of certification into his/her field of certification
- 9) Comply with a court order
- 10) Redistricting of schools
- 11) Comply with state and federal legislation

**17.6-1** In unusual and special circumstances the Superintendent may recommend to the Board that a teacher be transferred from one position to another specific position for good and sufficient reasons. Any teacher being transferred under this section may not be placed into an out-of-field assignment or a position for which the teacher is not fully qualified, and the teacher may request written reasons for the transfer. Such transfers are effective upon the Superintendent's recommendation. Subsequent approval is required on the next available School Board Meeting agenda.

Refusal by the teacher to accept such assignment shall release the Board from further obligation to that employee.

**17.6-2** Teachers placed on the involuntary transfer list are considered displaced and, it is their responsibility to provide the Human Resource Services Division with a current/temporary address and phone number. Continuing Contract and Professional Service Contract teachers will be guaranteed placement. Annual or Probationary Contract teachers will be guaranteed placement only during the term of their contract. If there are not enough positions for placement, the provisions of Article XIX Layoff shall be followed.

**17.6-3** When transfers become necessary, no new teacher will be placed to fill positions for which displaced teachers are fully qualified until the teachers have been offered these teaching positions.

**17.6-4** Involuntary transfers that are necessary because of complying with a court order or moving teachers into a position for which they are fully qualified will be done by the Board after a recommendation by the Superintendent. Any transfer (involuntary or voluntary) for the purpose of compliance with a legal mandate, or for the purpose of the racial balancing of a faculty to comply with court orders will take precedence over seniority when determining teachers to be transferred.

**17.6-5** When transfers become necessary as a result of reasons 1 through 11 in 17.6-1, the Superintendent or the designee shall notify the Association of the staffing allocation changes planned for each affected school. Human Resource Services shall provide the principal of each affected school a list of the school's teachers. The list will include each teacher's seniority date and list all certifications on file for which the teacher is fully qualified. Each teacher shall be provided his/her personal information. Before involuntary transfers are made, the principal will announce the position changes planned for the school to the entire staff. Volunteers for involuntary transfer shall be requested. Within the timeline provided by Human Resource Services, the principal shall meet with departments and/or individuals to discuss the impact of the required changes. A list of potential openings shall be maintained and available electronically for the teachers to review on the District's website ([polkschoolsfl.com](http://polkschoolsfl.com)). Teachers will be provided at least 24 hours to volunteer in order to allow review. If there are more volunteers than needed to reduce the units in that school, the volunteering teacher(s) with the most seniority in the District (as defined in 17.8) shall be submitted for placement on the District-wide displaced list.

**17.6-6** If there are not enough volunteers for displacement, then involuntary transfers shall be made based upon seniority as defined in 17.8. All teachers remaining at the school must be approved for their assignments by the Human Resource Services Certification Compliance Department and shall be fully qualified, or if not fully qualified, may be considered for an authorized out-of-field assignment. A list of teachers being involuntarily transferred shall be submitted to the District and be placed on the District-wide displaced list according to their seniority and contract status.

**17.6-7** When a group of teachers is involuntarily transferred as a result of reasons 1 thru 11 in 17.6, The Human Resource Services Division will make available to each transferring teacher and the Association a current list of vacancies. Teachers may apply and will be considered for any position for which they are fully qualified. If these teachers are not chosen for the position for which they applied, then the Superintendent will place them in a position for which they are fully qualified.

**17.7** Any Continuing Contract/Professional Service Contract teacher placed on the displaced list shall be assigned to a position for which he/she is fully qualified by the Associate Superintendent for Human Resource Services. Refusal by the teacher to accept such assignment shall release the Board from any further obligation to that teacher.

**17.7-1** The Superintendent shall submit the contract renewal recommendations for employment to the Board for action at least two weeks prior to the end of the school year. Any annual or probationary contract teacher not rehired may appeal this decision through the two levels of (1) Principal's current supervisor, (2) Superintendent or designee. Any annual or probationary contract teacher whose position is eliminated, who would have been recommended for reappointment by his/her immediate supervisor, if an opening existed, shall be placed on the Displacement list.

**17.7-2** Existing information regarding non-reappointment and displacement shall be provided electronically to the Association including the Displacement List and the current vacancy list.

**17.7-3** Principals/immediate supervisors shall notify the Business Services Division of vacancies immediately after they occur.

**17.7-4** In the event a vacancy occurs within a school from which an Annual Contract teacher has been displaced and after CC and PSC teachers in the District have been assigned and if the Annual Contract teacher is fully qualified, he/she shall be appointed to fill that vacancy unless the teacher has been placed in another position.

**17.7-5** Prior to the beginning of the school year teachers in out-of-field assignments will be given first consideration for in-field vacancies as they occur. It is the responsibility of the teacher to make application for any such vacancies as listed on the District's website ([polkschoolsfl.com](http://polkschoolsfl.com)).

**17.7-6** The Displacement list shall be distributed to all principals and persons thereon will be given first consideration for appointment to open positions for which they are fully qualified before new hires. The Human Resource Services Division will have ongoing contact with principals with open positions to encourage that the employees on this list be interviewed with the goal of re-hiring these employees as quickly as possible. The Human Resource Services Division will regularly provide the Association with updates regarding the progress of assisting the employees on this list. A final employee status update will be provided the Association regarding those employees who were rehired, those who were offered no position, those who were offered a position and chose not to return, and those who dropped out of the process for any reason.

**17.8** Seniority is defined as continuous service, which begins with the effective date of employment as a teacher in the District. If the employment dates as documented on the School Board's agenda are the same for more than one teacher, and it becomes necessary to determine the order of seniority among said teachers, then the date/time that each was nominated as a teacher candidate as documented on the automated recruitment and hiring system candidate report will be used to determine seniority. Approved leaves of absence will not be considered as a break in seniority.

## **ARTICLE XVIII – VACANCIES**

**18.1** It is recognized that the law charges the Superintendent with the full responsibility for recommending personnel for promotion, transfer and reassignment.

**18.2** The Board and the Superintendent shall continue to implement and review their plan of affirmative action for recruitment, selection, promotion, and retention of minority and women employees of the school system. The Association will be advised of any proposed changes in the affirmative action program and, through the Human Resource Services Division, may make suggestions for improving the plan.

**18.3** It is agreed that the Superintendent should find and the Board will employ the best-qualified persons for all positions by giving full consideration to all qualified persons.

**18.4** Promotion is defined as a change in job designation from a teacher to a non-classroom instructional (i.e. deans, district-wide coaches, school counselor, media, TRST) coordinative, administrative or supervisory position. A promotion is also defined as an advancement to a position that is classified at a higher salary grade, or in certain circumstances, an acknowledgment of significant greater responsibilities within the same grade.

**18.4-1** All promotions shall be approved and signed by the receiving and releasing principals/supervisors, with simultaneous electronic copies sent to the releasing principal (or immediate supervisor) and the Human Resource Services Division. The receiving principal/supervisor, when making his/her decision, shall consider each teacher requesting transfer as to his/her experience, general background preparation, and competence. Once the receiving principal/supervisor has submitted the required copies to the releasing principal/supervisor and the Human Resource Services Division, the releasing principal/supervisor has up to twenty (20) workdays to post and potentially fill the vacancy. After no more than twenty (20) workdays, the teacher will be released to the receiving principal/supervisor.

**18.5** The Board and the Association agree on the following procedures for vacancies:

**18.5-1** All teachers who wish to be considered for an advertised vacancy shall complete the online application process for the position in which they are interested and meet the qualifications.

**18.5-2** Teachers who wish to be considered for a school based administrative position must follow the process in the District's state approved leadership development plan.

**18.5-3** Preference will be given to qualified teachers in the Polk County school system, but this does not preclude qualified persons from outside the system from being considered and recommended.

## **ARTICLE XIX – LAYOFF**

**19.1** [§.1012.33](#) Florida Statute requires that within a program area facing reduction, the employee who has the lowest performance evaluation is to be the first to be released.

**19.1-1** A reduction in force (RIF) may be declared by the Board when it needs to reduce the number of teachers Districtwide because it does not have enough positions for teachers based upon their areas of certification. Prior to declaring a RIF the District will review all open positions to determine if assigning teachers into vacant positions may negate the need for a RIF.

**19.1-2** Prior to declaring a RIF the Superintendent or designee shall have a meeting with the Association to review the reason for the layoff and review any possible options which could alleviate the necessity for a RIF.

**19.1-3** The Association shall be provided a final list of employees identified for layoff including their SAP#, current assignment, certifications on record, and the total points received on their current Overall Evaluation Rating noting any additional tie breaker used to determine the potential layoff order. The Association will be provided an opportunity to review the list and request clarification prior to any employee being notified.

**19.1-4** Selection of employees for RIF shall be based on their areas of certification being in an area identified for RIF.

**19.2** Should the District prepare to declare a RIF, the District shall first choose among those employees with Probationary Contracts or with no Overall Evaluation Rating or an incomplete Overall Evaluation Rating following the criteria below.

**19.2-1** The Superintendent or designee will provide the Association a list of all teachers on Probationary Contracts or who have no Overall Evaluation Rating or an incomplete Overall Evaluation Rating because EPC(s) ratings or the Student Performance rating has not been completed. The list will include each teacher's current assignment and a list of each teacher's areas of certification currently on file with the District.

**19.2-2** Teachers with Probationary Contracts or with no Overall Evaluation Rating or an incomplete Overall Evaluation Rating and with a corrective action plan will be released first. When no employee on a corrective action plan remains in an appropriate area of certification, then selection will be made among those teachers in this group who have no Overall Evaluation Rating.

**19.2-3** Should the District's RIF necessitate identifying additional employees for layoff, the selection will fall to those teachers in this group with an incomplete Overall Evaluation Rating. These employees will be chosen for RIF based upon the fewest number of points earned. In case of a tie, the selection will be made by drawing lots.

**19.2-4** Should the District's RIF necessitate identifying additional employees for layoff, the selection will fall to those Probationary Contract teachers in this group, if any. These employees will be chosen for RIF based upon the fewest number of points earned for their annual evaluation. In case of a tie, the selection will be made by drawing lots.

**19.3** Should the District's RIF necessitate identifying additional employees for layoff, the District shall choose among those annual contract employees with a completed Overall Evaluation Rating according to the following criteria. The District will identify all annual contract teachers District-wide assigned to teach the course codes needing further reduction and identify their areas of certification currently on file. As required by Florida Statute 1012.33, the completed evaluations will be reviewed and the total points earned on the last evaluation for each employee will be identified. The District will identify the required number of employees for RIF based upon those annual contract employees who have earned the fewest points on their current Overall Evaluation Rating. Should two or more annual contract employees tie, the points earned on the previous year's Overall Evaluation Rating shall be used in like manner to determine the potential layoff order. Should previous Overall Evaluation Rating s be insufficient to break a tie, the selection will be made by drawing lots. The Association shall receive an initial list of potential annual contract employees to be laid off including their SAP#, current assignment, certifications on record, and the total points received on their current Overall Evaluation Rating noting any additional tie breaker used to determine the potential layoff order. If there is a probationary contract teacher in a position for which

the employee would be fully qualified, the Annual Contract teacher will be assigned into the position and the probationary contract employee will be reviewed under 19.2 for potential layoff.

**19.3-1** Each employee identified in 19.3 for potential layoff will have their Overall Evaluation Rating score compared with all other Overall Evaluation Rating scores for annual contract teachers assigned to positions for which the employee is highly qualified. The annual contract employee with the lowest Overall Evaluation Rating score will be identified for potential layoff. The process will be repeated until the employees with the lowest Overall Evaluation Rating scores have been identified. Should a tie score be identified throughout this process, the procedure in 19.3 to determine Layoff order shall be followed.

**19.4** Should the District's RIF necessitate identifying additional employees for layoff, the District shall choose among those remaining employees according to the following criteria. The District will identify all teachers Districtwide assigned to teach the course codes needing further reduction and identify their areas of certification currently on file. The District shall first select from among the Professional Service Contract (PSC) teachers, and, if not enough PSC teachers are available, Continuing Contract (CC) teachers. As required by Florida Statute 1012.33, the completed evaluations will be reviewed and the total points earned on the last evaluation for each employee will be identified. The District will identify the required number of employees for RIF from among the PSC teachers based upon those employees who have earned the fewest points on their current Overall Evaluation Rating. Should two or more employees tie, the points earned on the previous year's Overall Evaluation Rating shall be used in like manner to determine the potential layoff order. Should previous Overall Evaluation Rating s be insufficient to break a tie, the selection will be made by drawing lots. The Association shall receive an initial list of potential employees to be laid off including their SAP#, current assignment, certifications on record, and the total points received on their current Overall Evaluation Rating noting any additional tie breaker used to determine the potential layoff order. The same process will be used if it is necessary to identify any CC teacher for a RIF. If there is an annual contract or probationary contract teacher in a position for which the employee would be fully qualified, the PSC or CC teacher will be assigned into the position and the annual contract or probationary contract employee will be reviewed under 19.3 for potential layoff.

**19.4-1** Each employee identified in 19.4 for potential layoff will have their Overall Evaluation Rating score compared with all other Overall Evaluation Rating scores for teachers assigned to positions for which the employee is highly qualified. The employee with the lowest Overall Evaluation Rating score will be identified for potential layoff. The process will be repeated until the employees with the lowest Overall Evaluation Rating scores have been identified. Should a tie score be identified throughout this process, the procedure in 19.3 to determine Layoff order shall be followed.

**19.5** A teacher whose job is being eliminated as part of a reduction in force shall be notified in writing concurrent with declaration by the District of impending layoff.

**19.6** No new teachers shall be hired to fill positions for which teachers on layoff are certified and qualified until laid off teachers have been offered teaching positions for which they are certified and/or qualified.

**19.7** Any teacher who has been laid off shall be recalled in inverse order (most senior), within the term of his/her contract, to the first vacancy in the District for which said teacher is qualified and/or certified to teach. Any Annual Contract teacher on layoff will be maintained on the recall list until a period of one year has elapsed.

**19.8** Within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of a certified letter of recall, a teacher shall notify the Human Resource Services Division in writing as to whether he/she will accept reemployment. Failure to respond to the letter of recall within the time required terminates the teacher's right of recall.

**19.9** Any teacher who would have qualified for regular retirement during the reduction year shall be permitted to teach that year so as to acquire needed service for regular retirement. After that year of teaching, he/she shall be subject to all procedures of personnel reduction.

**19.10** Upon reemployment of the teacher, all rights related to salary, fringe benefits and seniority shall be restored.

**19.11** Laid-off teachers may pay, on a monthly basis, the premiums for group life and hospitalization for a period up to one year. This benefit may be extended as defined by COBRA (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act) legislation.

## **ARTICLE XX - PAID LEAVES**

**20.1 Sick Leave.** Teachers who are employed on a full-time basis and who are unable to perform their duties because of their own illness, or because of the illness or death of father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, child or other close relative (including in-laws) or member of their own household, shall be entitled to sick leave. Sick leave shall be credited as follows:

Each member of the instructional staff employed on a full-time basis shall be entitled to four (4) days of sick leave as of the first day of employment of each contract year and shall thereafter earn one (1) day of sick leave for each month of employment, which shall be credited to the member at the end of that month and which shall not be used prior to the time it is earned and credited to the member. However, the member shall be entitled to earn no more than one (1) day of sick leave times the number of months of employment during the year of employment. The maximum number of sick leave days that can be earned is twelve (12). Such leave shall be taken only when necessary because of sickness as herein prescribed. Such sick leave shall be cumulative from year to year. There shall be no limit on the number of days of sick leave a member of the instructional staff may accrue, except that at least one-half of this cumulative leave must be established within the District granting such leave.

**20.1-1** In the instance of an employee who has been the subject of disciplinary action for absenteeism, the Superintendent may require a certificate of illness from a licensed physician or mid-level practitioner for any illness-related teacher absence.

**20.1-2** Sick leave for teachers working beyond regular 196-day contract, including summer school teachers, will be calculated to the nearest 1/2 day using a 19.6 divisor.

**20.1-3** Each teacher will be given written notice of his/her accrued sick leave with each paycheck.

**20.1-4** A teacher shall have the right to use sick leave in one-half (1/2) day units. Sick leave may be used in hourly increments per School Board Policy 3430.03. Any hour amount greater than 3 hours may result in a one-half (1/2) day or full day leave.

**20.1-5 Sick Leave Bank.** The Polk School Employee's Sick Leave Bank shall be maintained in accordance with the provisions established by the Sick Leave Bank Committee. The Association shall

appoint members to the Sick Leave Bank Committee in proportion to the percentage of its members in the Bank.

**20.1-6** A teacher working a 12-month schedule who has exhausted accrued sick leave may use accrued vacation leave without providing advanced notice for up to 40 hours (based on an eight (8) hour workday) per fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). An employee working four (4) hour days may use up to 20 hours per fiscal year. Written verification from a licensed physician is required for use of vacation leave in lieu of sick leave.

**20.1-7** A teacher working a 12-month schedule with accrued vacation leave may use no more than twenty (20) consecutive days of vacation leave, calculated at the teacher’s regularly scheduled daily work hours. Vacation leave requests in excess of twenty (20) consecutive days will not be approved. Employees who use twenty (20) consecutive eight (8) hour vacation leave days must return to work for a minimum of 45 calendar days before an additional leave request in excess of five (5) days will be considered. Nothing in this guideline should be interpreted in such a way as to interfere with an employee’s right to use sick leave, Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave, or Medical leave in accordance with law and Board Policy.

**20.1-8 Sick Leave Transfer/Donation:** Any employee who wishes to donate (authorize transfer of) sick leave to another employee shall be able to do so within School Board Policy. Should there be a change in Florida Statutes and/or School Board Policy, both parties agree to impact bargain those potential changes. The receiving employee must submit an Application for Sick Leave Donation.

**Donating Employee:**

- i. An employee may donate (i.e., authorize transfer of) any amount of their accrued sick leave to another Board employee. The authorizing employee must have at least ten (10) days of sick leave remaining after the donation is made.
- ii. Once approved, a donation cannot be retracted by the donor.
- iii. Any transferred sick leave that is not used as anticipated shall be returned to the authorizing employee upon the recipient’s return to work.
- iv. In the case of multiple donors, unused leave will be returned to each donor proportional to the amount donated to total amount donated. Donated sick leave will have no value for recipient’s terminal pay.

**Receiving Employee:**

- i. To be eligible to receive leave, the employee must:
  - a. Have exhausted all accrued and credited paid leave,
  - b. Complete and submit all required forms and supporting documentation to the Risk Management and Employee Benefits Leave Office, and

- ii. An Application for Sick Leave Donation must be submitted along with the physician's statement.
- iii. Employees may receive up to 200 donated hours within a 12-month period.

The Sick Leave Donation Committee shall be established to review applications for sick leave donation exceeding 200 hours per event within a 12-month period. This committee will consist of three (3) members appointed by the Superintendent, and three (3) appointed by the PEA president. The District's chief negotiator and PEA president serve as ex-officio members of the committee.

**20.2 Personal Leave Chargeable to Sick Leave.** Teachers shall be permitted to be absent six (6) days each school year for personal reasons and these days shall be charged against accrued sick leave when used. This leave shall be non-cumulative. A teacher planning to use a personal leave day or days shall notify his/her principal or immediate supervisor at least one day (24 hours) in advance. The teacher shall not be required to give reasons for such leave except on such days as specified in this article. Sick leave used for personal reasons may not be used during the first five (5) days or the last five (5) days in which the students are in attendance, or immediately before or after the scheduled holidays of Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Winter Break, Spring Break, Memorial Day, preceding or following recognized holidays provided students are in attendance, or on a Staff Development Day as designated in the District Calendar, except in case of emergency. The teacher shall be required to give reasons when claiming an emergency. Teachers shall not be required to use personal leave chargeable to sick leave to attend a conference when their attendance is required by the administration.

**20.3 Bereavement Leave.** An employee may be granted up to two (2) additional paid days of Bereavement Leave for the death of an immediate family member, which is defined as father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, child or member of their own household. Bereavement leave is also available for the following extended family members, which is defined as grandparent, grandchild, aunt, uncle, mother in-law, father in-law, brother in-law or sister in-law. Bereavement Leave is not transferrable or accruable and must be used within thirty (30) calendar days of the death. Application shall be made to the immediate supervisor in advance whenever possible. The employee will not be paid Bereavement Leave during non-scheduled workdays. Employees must provide a copy of the obituary, funeral notice, or other satisfactory document attached to the Employee Application for Leave Form. Details about the family member's relationship may be required.

**20.4 Illness in Line of Duty Leave.** Illness in the line of duty is granted up to a maximum of ten (10) days per year when any teacher is absent from his/her duties because of personal injury received in the discharge of his/her duty, or because of illness from any contagious or infectious diseases contracted in schoolwork. Any personal injury received while on duty will be considered as a qualifying injury under this policy, provided the injury is reported to the immediate supervisor within twenty-four hours or by the end of the next workday. Any employee who has claim for compensation while absent because of illness/injury incurred on the job shall file a claim within five (5) working days following his/her return from such absence. Contagious or infectious diseases refer to those normally related to children such as

measles, chicken pox, and mumps. Additional emergency sick leave may be granted out of local funds for such terms and under such conditions as the Board shall deem proper.

**20.5 Verification of Leave.** Upon return from leave the teacher will provide the necessary claim form for verification of absence to his/her principal/supervisor within five (5) workdays in accordance with §1012.61, *Florida Statutes*.

**20.6 Professional Summer School Leave.** Teachers who wish may apply for leave to attend summer school.

**20.6-1** Teachers who have not been reappointed to teach in Polk County the next school term will not be granted professional leave, and personnel who were not employed during the preceding year cannot be granted professional leave if they find it necessary to miss the opening of school or to be absent during pre-school because of college obligation.

**20.6-2** Five (5) days of professional summer school leave with pay may be granted to teachers attending colleges or workshops when the schedules are such that leave is necessary. The application for such leave must state the last day of registration or entry that can be made without penalty. Any leave exceeding five days must be personal leave. No summer school leave will be granted while the students are still in attendance. Teachers may appeal this decision to the personnel division for review and possible approval by the Superintendent.

**20.6-3** Professional summer school leave will only be granted to personnel to attend summer school as students receiving instruction and in no case will such leave be granted for those who accept positions as teachers or instructors for pay.

**20.7 Jury Duty.** Any teacher who is called for jury duty, subpoenaed as a witness in a case not involving personal litigation, subpoenaed by a court as a result of job related incidents, or as a witness on behalf of the Board shall be given leave and paid his/her full salary. The teacher must return to duty if he/she is dismissed from further duty by 11:00 a.m.

**20.8 National Guard and Reserve Training Leave.** Teachers who are members of a national military reserve unit or the National Guard ordered to active or inactive training duty during the regular school year shall be compensated up to 240 hours in any one (1) annual period to participate in required training exercises, without loss of accumulated leave. Supporting documentation may be required upon application for military training leave.

**20.9 Temporary Duty Assignment.** Teachers may request and may be granted temporary duty reassignment at the discretion of the Superintendent. Such temporary duty shall be considered equal to the regular duties of the individual, and teachers performing such assigned temporary duties shall not be considered to be on leave. Temporary duty reassignment may be granted upon request for attendance at state, regional or national academic area conferences. Special consideration shall be given for those persons who hold office in such organizations and/or have been invited to make a major presentation at said conference.

**20.10** Teachers who fail to notify their principal or immediate supervisor prior to taking a leave for which they wish to be paid may be charged with personal leave without pay, except in case of emergency.

**20.11** Upon notice to the principal/immediate supervisor, adoptive parents may use no more than five (5) days of accrued sick leave after exhausting personal leave chargeable to sick leave for adoption and/or

prior to receiving custody to fulfill verified requirements for adoption which require the teacher" absence from school.

**20.12 Administrative Leave.** The Superintendent has the authority to place an employee on administrative leave if the Superintendent believes that it is in the best interests of the students, staff, or community.

**20.12-1** If an administrative leave extends beyond ten (10) workdays, the employee and the Association will be notified by the Director of Labor and Employee Relations, or his/her designee, the reasons for the extension.

**20.12-2** The employee placed on administrative leave will continue to receive full pay. All rules for active employees will continue to apply.

**20.13 Military Leave.** Teachers who are service members of the National Guard or a reserve component of the Armed Forces of the United States shall be granted leave to perform active military service under the provisions of federal law and §115.14, *Florida Statutes*. The first thirty (30) days of any such leave shall be with full pay. Employees on military leave shall be paid the difference between their School Board salary and their military salary, if their military salary is less. Extended leave of absence for additional or longer periods of time for assignment to duty functions of a military character shall be without pay. Teachers on military leave may substitute accrued paid vacation for unpaid leave, as applicable. However, sick leave and vacation leave will not accrue for unpaid or partially paid military leave time.

The Board shall continue to provide Board-paid health insurance and basic group term life insurance as outlined in Article 23.

Life and Disability coverage can be continued for activated reservists, subject to continued payment of premiums for the longest leave period allowed under the current group policy.

Coverage for currently enrolled reservists' dependents can be continued with premium payment for as long as the reservist remains an employee. This coverage will end if the reservist does not return to work within 90 days after discharge or for any reason provided in the terms of the School Board's insurance policy.

When insurance for activated reservists and their dependents ends, both insured employees and their dependents may convert to individual policies.

Employees are responsible for any missed payroll deductions for dependent insurance or employee-paid supplemental (voluntary) benefits. Employees may also elect to change their benefits within 31 days of the effective date of the unpaid leave.

Upon completion of the tour of duty, teachers must make application for reemployment within six (6) months following the date of discharge or release from active duty. The District shall have a period not to exceed ninety (90) days to reassign the employee to duty in the District. In accordance with federal law, the teacher shall return to his/her former position, if available, or be offered a similar position for which he/she is fully qualified.

**20.15 Association Officer Leave:** The Board agrees to grant temporary duty leave to the president and one (1) other officer of the Association during his/her term of office.

Upon election, the president and one (1) other officer shall apply for Association leave for the term of their office in writing to the Superintendent. The President and one (1) other officer shall remain an active

employee and shall suffer no loss in benefits during his/her service. The President and one (1) other officer shall be compensated at his/her teacher salary for 196 days per year, shall receive credit toward annual salary increments, and shall be allowed to remain a part of the health plan and benefit programs to the extent allowed by law.

The Association shall reimburse the District within thirty (30) calendar days upon receipt of an invoice for any and all costs incurred during this period of full time temporary duty assignment, to include, but not limited to costs of salary, payroll taxes, retirement contribution, health plan contribution, workers' compensation, and other benefits and/or any other payments present or future incurred by the Board as a result of this arrangement.

Upon return from such leave, the teacher shall be placed in a teaching position in the District for which he/she is fully qualified.

**20.16 Association Leave Days:** The School Board will provide up to sixty (60) days to be used as Association Leave Days cumulatively for all Collective Bargaining Agreements covered by the association. The Polk Education Association agrees to reimburse the District for the cost of substitutes if a substitute fills the open job number.

## **ARTICLE XXI - UNPAID LEAVES**

**Refer to the specific leave of absence below for additional requirements and/or provisions.**

**21.1** Unless otherwise specifically provided by law, the granting of leave shall be at the discretion of the Board. When it is granted by the Board, it shall be allowed on the basis of policies designed to protect the operation of the schools and worksites against undue interruption because of the absence of personnel.

An employee's current position will be held for no more than 12 consecutive work weeks (60 contracted work days). After this time period the current position held prior to the start of the leave will be posted as a vacancy. Upon return the employee will be placed into a position for which fully qualified (See 21.7).

**21.2** Leave granted on the request of an employee shall be for particular purposes or causes which shall be set forth in a written application for leave. The Board reserves the right to determine that the leave is used for the purposes or causes set forth in the application and if not so used, the Board shall cancel such leave.

The employee shall notify Human Resource Services of the request for unpaid leave with at least a thirty (30) day notice, except in cases of emergency.

Should there be any combination of Medical Leave to Personal Leave or Personal Leave to Medical Leave within a school year, the position will only be held for the initial 12-week period of the first approved leave. This provision excludes any type of FMLA leave.

The employee may not return to work between approved consecutive unpaid leaves.

The thirty-day (30) notice before a return from leave will remain in place for a return from consecutive leaves.

**21.3** Leave shall be officially granted in advance and shall not be granted retroactively, provided that leave for illness or other emergencies may be deemed to be granted in advance if prompt report is made to the proper authority.

**21.4** If an employee fails to return to duty at the termination of a Board-approved leave, his/her employment shall be subject to review and possible cancellation by the Superintendent or the Board.

**21.5** When leave extends beyond a period of 18 months, employees with Annual Contracts, Professional Service Contracts or Continuing Contracts at the time leave was requested will be required to attend New Employee Orientation upon their return to the District.

**21.6** Any employee granted a leave of absence as provided in this article shall have the option to remain on active participation in all insurance and fringe benefit programs for the duration of the leave, provided that the premiums for insurance and fringe benefit programs be paid by the employee on a monthly basis in advance of the month due. During the period of the leave, the employee shall maintain the following at the same level as when leave commenced:

- 1) credit on the salary schedule
- 2) credit for seniority
- 3) credit for accumulated sick leave
- 4) maintenance of membership in the sick leave bank
- 5) Pursuant to Florida law, unpaid leaves are not eligible for salary credit applied toward the Florida Retirement System.

**21.6** Any employee granted a leave of absence as provided in this article shall have the option to remain on active participation in all insurance and fringe benefit programs for the duration of the leave, provided that the premiums for insurance and fringe benefit programs be paid by the employee on a monthly basis in advance of the month due. Employees on an unpaid leave must pay for all of their benefits, including the portion normally funded by the Board (paid health plan and group term life insurance). An employee may also make an active election within 31 days of the unpaid leave effective date to modify their benefits. Failure to make payment arrangements for employee benefits may result in cancellation.

Life insurance will be continued with premium payment during a leave of absence if continuation of employee's insurance under the Group Policy is required by a state-mandated family or medical leave act or law. Or during any other scheduled leave of absence approved by the Board in advance and in writing and lasting not more than 60 calendar days.

Disability insurance will be continued with premium payment during a leave of absence if continuation of employee's insurance under the Group Policy is required by a state-mandated family or medical leave act or law. Or during any other scheduled leave of absence approved by the Board in advance and in writing and lasting not more than 30 calendar days.

During the period of the leave, the employee shall maintain the following at the same level as when leave commenced:

- 1) credit on the salary schedule
- 2) credit for seniority
- 3) credit for accumulated sick leave
- 4) maintenance of membership in the sick leave bank
- 5) Pursuant to Florida law, unpaid leaves are not eligible for salary credit applied toward the Florida Retirement System.

**21.7 Return from Unpaid Leave:**

If employee's life and disability Insurance ends due to a federal or state-mandated family or medical leave of absence, and employee becomes a member again immediately following the period allowed, employee's insurance will be reinstated pursuant to the federal or state-mandated family or medical leave act or law.

If employee's life and/or disability insurance ends because the employee ceases to be a member, and if employee becomes a member again within 90 calendar days, employee's eligibility waiting period is waived. Employee can enroll in coverage as a newly eligible member.

The employee shall notify Human Resource Services of the intent to return date with at least a thirty (30) calendar day notice.

The employee shall be assigned by Human Resource Services within thirty (30) calendar days after notification of the intent to return date to the first available substantially similar position for which the employee is fully qualified.

The returning employee will be placed within a radius of no more than the current distance the employee drives to work or 25 miles, whichever is greater.

Should there be no vacant positions within a 25-mile radius, then the employee will be placed in the nearest, next available position for which fully qualified.

Refusal by the employee to accept a position shall release the Board from further obligation to that employee.

**Refer to the specific leave of absence below for additional requirements and/or provisions.**

**21.8 Charter School Leave of Absence.** An employee may apply for Charter School Leave for the school year and have it granted annually. Employees applying for this leave are not required to be on a continuing or professional service contract and shall not be subject to any years of service requirement. The initial request for Charter Leave must be submitted to the Human Resource Services Division no later than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the effective date of the leave.

Requests for renewal of Charter School Leave must be submitted by March 15 of each year if the employee wishes to renew this leave for the next school year. If Charter School Leave is not requested by March 15 annually, the employee shall be considered terminated from the District and so notified in writing.

**21.8-1 Return from Charter School Leave of Absence.** The teacher returning from Charter School leave shall notify the Human Resource Services Personnel Department no later than November 1 if they intend to return the second semester or by March 1 if they intend to return the first semester. District teachers who are currently working and those teachers returning from Medical Leave and Parental Leave shall be placed first.

**21.8-2** Teachers returning from Charter School Leave who begin the first day of the contract year will be eligible for insurance at the beginning of the month following their first contract day. Teachers who return from Charter School Leave following the first contract day will be eligible for insurance the first day of the month in which the 90<sup>th</sup> day of employment occurs.

**21.9 Domestic Violence Leave.** An employee who has provided advanced notice and who has been employed full time by the District for at least three (3) consecutive months shall be permitted to request

and, upon approval, take a maximum of three (3) working days of unpaid leave from work in the school year if the employee, or, a family or household member of an employee is the victim of domestic violence.

An employee seeking leave under this section must, before receiving the leave, exhaust all annual or vacation leave, personal leave, and sick leave. Should sick leave be the only available leave remaining, the Superintendent or designee may waive this requirement if the reason for the request does not fall within the requirements for the use of sick leave.

#### **21.9-1 The purposes of Domestic Violence Leave include:**

- a. To seek an injunction for protection against domestic violence or an injunction for protection in cases of repeat violence, dating violence, or sexual violence;
- b. To obtain medical care or mental health counseling, or both, for the employee or a family or household member to address physical or psychological injuries resulting from the act of domestic violence;
- c. To obtain services from a victim-services organization, including, but not limited to, a domestic violence shelter or program or a rape crisis center as a result of the act of domestic violence;
- d. To make the employee's home secure from the perpetrator of the domestic violence or to seek new housing to escape the perpetrator; or
- e. To seek legal assistance in addressing issues arising from the act of domestic violence or to attend and prepare for court related proceedings arising from the act of domestic violence.

#### **21.9-2 Procedures and Definitions.**

a. "Family or household member" is as defined in §. [741.28\(3\)](#), FLORIDA STATUTE. "Family or household member" means spouses, former spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are presently residing together as if a family or who have resided together in the past as if a family, and persons who are parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have been married. With the exception of persons who have a child in common, the family or household members must be currently residing or have in the past resided together in the same single dwelling unit.

b. "Domestic violence" is as defined in §. [741.28\(2\)](#), FLORIDA STATUTE or §. [741.313\(1\)\(a\)](#), FLORIDA STATUTE. "Domestic violence" means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member. s. [741.28\(2\)](#), FLORIDA STATUTE.

"Domestic violence" means domestic violence, as defined in §. [714.28](#), or any crime the underlying factual basis of which has been found by a court to include an act of domestic violence. §. [741.313\(1\)\(a\)](#), FLORIDA STATUTE.

c. The employee requesting Domestic Violence Leave must notify the principal/supervisor at least two (2) school days in advance of the anticipated absence except in cases of imminent danger to the health or safety of the employee, or to the health or safety of a family or household member.

d. The Superintendent's Office must keep information relating to the employee's leave under this section confidential and exempt from disclosure pursuant to §. [119](#), Florida Statutes.

**21.10 Educational Leave.** Up to one year of unpaid Educational Leave may be granted one time only to employees who have worked for the District continuously for at least one year in this bargaining unit. This leave is for the purpose of engaging in full-time activities as a student, which will result in his/her professional benefit or advancement. Documentation from the educational institution is required.

Application for such leave shall be submitted to the Superintendent with at least a 30-day notice to allow the immediate supervisor to secure a qualified replacement.

**21.10-1 Educational Internships:** For active employees approved to complete a documented unpaid internship within the District, upon return to active status by the approved return date, the employee will return to the same position held prior to the leave.

**21.10-2 Health Insurance During Educational Internships:** For employees approved to complete a documented unpaid internship within the District, non-charter, The Board will continue to pay the employee's Board contribution to the employee's health insurance.

Employees who have their Board contribution for health insurance paid during their internship must commit to a year of employment within the District, non-charter, immediately following the return from their internship. If the employee does not fulfill a year of employment with the District, non-charter, the employee will repay a prorated amount based on the student school year of 180 days to the District for Board contribution health insurance coverage during their internship.

**21.11 Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) Leave.** Employees who have been employed for at least twelve (12) months (may be non-consecutive), and who have worked for at least 1,250 hours over the twelve (12) months prior to the leave request, may apply for a leave of absence for eligible reasons for up to twelve (12) work weeks under the Family and Medical Leave Act and within the provisions of Board Policy.

a) Caregivers for related military personnel may be eligible for up to twenty-six (26) work weeks of Military Caregiver Leave under the FMLA.

b) Employees granted this leave who receive employee health insurance under Article XXIII shall maintain this coverage for the duration of the leave, paid for as it was prior to initiating leave (Board-paid health insurance and group term life insurance). Employees may also elect within 31 days of the leave effective date to modify benefits that are paid through payroll deduction.

c) The employee will have the option to use accrued paid leave (sick, personal chargeable to sick, and/or vacation) concurrently with FMLA leave.

d) The School Board shall require medical certification from employees requesting and returning from FMLA Leave, and employees will be restored to the same position held prior to the start of leave if available (due to reasons in Article 17.6), or a nearly identical equivalent position, in accordance with federal law.

**21.12 Medical Leave.** Non-Probationary Contract employees may be granted up to one (1) year of medical leave due to illness of themselves or members of their household.

A statement of medical justification from a licensed physician or licensed medical provider as approved by Risk Management and Employee Benefits must accompany the application for leave, and a licensed physician's or licensed medical provider's statement may be required for reinstatement from leave. In

cases involving the health of the employee, a licensed physician's or licensed medical provider's statement is required for reinstatement from leave.

**21.12-1 Return from Medical Leave.** Employees returning from Medical Leave within one (1) year shall be guaranteed a position for which the employee is fully qualified, provided that Annual Contract employees must have been recommended, or would have been recommended, for reemployment by their principals. The returning employee shall notify the Risk Management and Employee Benefits Department. Should more than one (1) employee provide notice, the employee who gave such notice at the earliest date shall be assigned to the position in question.

**21.13 Parental Leave.** A parental leave of absence may be granted to an employee for the purpose of child rearing to commence at the birth of a child or the date of the adoption of a child and may continue for up to twelve (12) months.

**21.13-1 Return from Parental Leave.** Employees returning from Parental leave within one (1) year shall be guaranteed a position for which the employee is fully qualified, provided that Annual Contract employees must have been recommended, or would have been recommended, for re-employment by their principals.

**21.14 Personal Leave.** With at least a 30-day advanced notice, up to year of unpaid Personal Leave may be granted one time only for employees who have worked for the District continuously for at least seven (7) consecutive years in this bargaining unit inclusive of all approved leaves except leave for Public Service and Charter leaves. All requests for extended unpaid Personal Leave without pay must be approved by the immediate supervisor before being submitted to the Superintendent. Upon return from such leave, the employee shall be guaranteed a position in the School District for which fully qualified.

**21.15 Public Service Leave.** A non-probationary contract employee, upon annual application, may be granted a leave of absence without pay for the duration of the elected term(s) to serve in public office. Upon return from such leave, the employee shall be offered a position in the District for which he/she is certified and qualified.

**21.15-1 Civic Board:** Any non-probationary contract employee who is appointed to a civic board shall be granted personal leave without pay to attend meetings, not to exceed ten (10) days per school year. Employees duly elected to City or County Commissions will be granted personal leave without pay to attend all authorized meetings. All such leaves shall be taken in full day increments only.

## **ARTICLE XXII - PROFESSIONAL COMPENSATION**

**22.1** All full-time teachers, with the exception of JROTC instructors, school psychologists, college and career specialists, school counselors, mental health counselors, mental health facilitators, social workers, and speech language pathologists will be paid for 196 days according to the salary schedule as shown in APPENDIX B – TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE.

**22.1-1 Employees on a 216-day calendar.**

**a. School Psychologist Flexible Contract:** The standard year of employment for psychologists is 216 days, however flexible length contracts of 196 days or 247 days may be made available at the discretion of the Superintendent. Requests for the flexible contracts are voluntary and positions will be filled according to seniority as defined in Article 17.8. A balance of flexible contracts will be maintained. Psychologists may be permitted to change to a flexible contract before each new school year through the Superintendent.

**Saturday Assessments:** School psychologists performing psychological assessments of students on Saturday will be paid [at their regular hourly rate of pay](#). If a student does not report the School Psychologist shall remain at the worksite for two (2) paid hours. Should there be more psychologists requesting these assignments than available referrals, assignments will be given according to District-wide teacher seniority.

**b. Mental Health Counselors, Mental Health Facilitators, School Counselors, Social Workers, Speech Language Pathologist Flexible Contract:**

i. The standard year of employment for social workers, speech language pathologists, mental health counselors, and school counselors is 216 days; however, flexible length contracts of 196 days or an extended 20 days over regular 216-day contract may be available at the discretion of the Associate Superintendent of the Human Resource Services Division. Any employee listed in 22.1-1 section b may be permitted to request a change to a flexible contract of 196 days before each new school year if submitted to the Associate Superintendent of the Human Resource Services Division annually by July 1<sup>st</sup>, or the employee will work the standard 216-day contract for the upcoming school year.

**c. School-based Employees:**

If an employee elects to request flex to a 196-day contract for the school year, a 20-day extension will become available for another employee in the same position. Any employee at the same school in the same position as the employee approved to flex down to a 196-day contract may volunteer to extend their contract for 20 days. In the event there are more volunteers than 20-day extensions, the 20-day extended contract may be extended according to teacher seniority as defined in Article 17.8 for the specific worksite.

**d. District-wide Employees:**

If an employee elects to request flex to a 196-day contract for the school year, a 20-day extension will become available for another employee in the same position. Any employee in the same position as the employee approved to flex down to a 196-day contract may volunteer to extend their contract for 20 days. In the event there are more volunteers than 20-day extensions, the 20-day extended contract may be extended according to seniority as defined in Article 17.8.

e. Any 20-day contract extensions will be voluntary and subject to approval on an annual basis.

f. Any employee approved to flex from a 216-day contract to a 196-day contract will see a twenty (20) day prorated salary.

g. College and Career Specialists will be paid for 216 days according to the salary schedule as shown in [APPENDIX B – TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE](#).

h. Deans (administrative assistants) will be paid for 196 days according to the salary schedule as shown in [APPENDIX B – TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE](#). However, extended contracts of up to 40 days may be available at the discretion of the Associate Superintendent of Human Resource Services Division.

i. School psychologists, school counselors, mental health counselors, mental health facilitators, social workers, and speech language pathologists will be paid on the Student Services Pay Schedule as shown in [APPENDIX B – TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE](#).

**22.1-2 JROTC Instructors:** JROTC instructors shall be given the option at the beginning of the school year of being paid based on the teacher salary schedule in [APPENDIX B – TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE](#) or being paid on the basis of the Board's agreements with the applicable branches of the armed services for Military Instructor Pay.

**22.1-3 Polk Virtual School:** All teachers employed in the Polk Virtual School program shall observe the school calendar. All full-time Polk Virtual School instructional personnel shall be paid according to the salary schedules in [APPENDIX B – TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE](#).

**22.2 Experience Credit for Salary Purposes:** Teachers hired for the first time in Polk County will be placed on the appropriate salary level of the Teacher Performance salary schedule ([APPENDIX B – TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE](#)) based upon verified out-of-county experience provided the out-of-county experience is verified in writing within 90 days of the date of hire.

**22.2-1 Military Experience Credit:** Upon written request credit will be allowed for time spent on active-duty military service in the armed forces of the United States up to four (4) years; a minimum of one (1) full calendar year of active service is required, up to fifteen (15) years of salary experience credit will be allowed for JROTC instructors.

**22.2-2 Peace Corps:** Up to one (1) year of service in the Peace Corps will be credited for salary purposes.

However, no more than fifteen (15) total years will be allowed for out-of-county experience including military service in the armed forces of the United States and Peace Corps service.

**22.2-3 Florida Public School Teaching Experience:** Per §1012.33, FL Statutes, full credit on the salary schedule will be given for Florida public school teaching experience. A year of experience on the salary schedule will be allowed when a teacher works one (1) day more than one-half the days of a full teacher contract year. When experience credit has been earned by current district teachers but not granted for the prior year, newly hired teachers shall also have the credit withheld for that year until current district teachers and newly hired teachers are granted the credit simultaneously.

**22.2-4 Paraeducator Work Experience:** Teachers who were previously classroom paraeducators in Polk County will be credited for one (1) year on the teacher salary schedule for each two (2) years of service credited as a classroom paraeducator. Request for credit shall be submitted in writing to the personnel office no later than ninety (90) calendar days after the first working day of the school year.

**22.2-5 Professional-Technical Work Experience:** Teachers who were previously employed as full-time Polk County School Board non-union professional/technical personnel will be awarded one (1) year of experience credit on the teacher salary schedule for every one (1) year of related service. Verification of experience credit must be received by the Human Resource Services Division Personnel Department within (90) calendar days from date of hire to be paid retroactively to date of hire. Experience verification received more than 90 calendar days from date of hire will be effective on the date received by the Human Resource Services Division Personnel Department.

A year of experience on the salary schedule is defined as working one (1) day more than one-half the contracted days of the professional/technical position. Up to fifteen (15) total years will be allowed for related out-of-district experience in addition to all years of related in-county experience.

**22.2-6 Accredited Public or Private School Teaching Experience:** Teachers who were previously employed full-time by a regionally accredited public or private school (K-12 or college/university level) will be awarded one (1) year of credit on the teacher salary schedule for every one (1) year of service. Verification of experience credit must be received by the Human Resource Services Division Personnel Department within ninety (90) calendar days from date of hire to be paid retroactively to date of hire. Experience verification received more than ninety (90) calendar days from date of hire will be effective on the date received by the Human Resource Services Division Personnel Department. A year of experience on the salary schedule is defined as working one (1) day more than one-half the contracted days of the position.

**22.2-7 Non-Accredited Public or Private School Teaching Experience:** Teachers who were previously employed full-time by a non-regionally accredited public or private school (K-12 or college/university level) will be awarded one (1) year of credit on the teacher salary schedule for every two (2) years of service. Verification of experience credit must be received by the Human Resource Services Division Personnel Department within (90) calendar days from date of hire to be paid retroactively to date of hire. Experience verification received more than 90 calendar days from date of hire will be effective on the date received by the Human Resource Services Division Personnel Department. A year of experience on the salary schedule is defined as working one (1) day more than one-half the contracted days of the position.

**22.3 Advanced Degree Compensation:** In order to be compensated for advanced degrees, all requirements must be completed and officially verified by the Human Resource Services Personnel Department. Salary adjustments will be reflected retroactively to the date that the official transcript was received by Human Resource Services.

**22.4** Teachers hired to work on supplemented assignments extending beyond the regular school workday will be paid for their duties in accordance with the supplementary salary schedule as set forth in [APPENDIX C – SUPPLEMENTAL SALARY SCHEDULE](#) and all other provisions of this agreement.

**22.5 Extended Contract:** Teachers whose regularly assigned service is required beyond 196 days will be paid at the rate of 1/196 of their annual contracted salary for each day of service. The principal/immediate supervisor may recommend a supplemental contract for the number of days for which their services are required.

**22.5-1** Agriculture, home economics, vocational teachers and media specialists shall be notified by April 1, others as soon as practicable as to the number of days beyond the 196 days for which their services will be required. The Superintendent will assign teachers to work beyond the 196 days as

equitably as practicable among all the qualified teachers in the same classification who regularly perform such assignments. Assignment schedules beyond the 196 days shall not be made arbitrarily and shall be made only to meet program needs of the District and/or to meet FLDOE standards.

**22.5-2** The employee shall be given his/her work assignment no later than the last student contact day for the new contract year beginning July 1.

**22.5-3** When Technical College state licensure programs require additional hours beyond the contractual workday, the administration shall meet with the affected instructors to discuss the best manner in which to meet said requirements within the confines of the contract. After meeting with the affected employees, the administration shall determine whether extended contracts or additional pay as referenced in 22.11 best addresses the scheduling needs for the following school year. The administrator shall also notify said employees at least two (2) weeks prior to the end of the school year.

**22.6** Summer school offerings at the Technical Colleges will be based on student needs. If enrollment requirements are met, instructors will be placed on an extended contract and paid their regular hourly rate of pay.

**22.7 Hourly Salary Schedule:** The hourly salary schedule for adult education, extended learning, summer school and teachers of career education part-time classes will be paid their regular hourly rate of pay. Teachers who work the Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Summer Extended School Year (ESY) will be paid at their regular hourly rate of pay.

**22.8 High School:** At the request of the Superintendent, a high school teacher may volunteer on a semester basis to teach all the student contact time and be paid one sixth (1/6) of his/her salary for the semester. This section shall not be used to circumvent the hiring of additional full-time teachers.

**22.9 Middle School:** At the request of the Superintendent, a middle school teacher may volunteer on a semester basis to teach all the student contact time and be paid one-sixth (1/6) of his/her salary for the semester. This section shall not be used to circumvent the hiring of additional full-time teachers.

**22.10 Elementary School:** At the request of the Superintendent, elementary school teachers that teach all the student contact time on a daily basis will be paid for an additional hour at an hourly rate based upon their contractual daily rate of pay for a maximum of 180 days. Teachers will not be required to spend additional time beyond their regular day. All scheduling options must have been exhausted before an administrator will receive permission for this variance. The appeal process for this variance is defined in the Staffing Plan.

**22.11 Technical College:** Teachers at the area Technical Colleges who exceed the provisions in sections 6.2-2 and 2 6.2-3 shall be paid at an hourly rate based upon their contractual daily rate of pay. This provision does not apply to part-time evening adult teachers.

**22.11-1 Alternative Education Programs:** Teachers in alternative education programs for “at risk” students including Bill Duncan Opportunity Center, Don Woods Opportunity Center, the Teen Parent Program, South County Center, New Horizon Learning Center, and the Florida Sheriffs Youth Villa, shall work a seven (7) hour day consisting of no more than 330 minutes per day of instructional contact time and 300 minutes per week of planning time. Teachers in such programs who have 270 minutes or less of instructional contact time per day shall be assigned to no more than seven and three-quarter (7 ¾) hours per day.

**22.12 Terminal Pay for Sick Leave:** The Board shall provide terminal pay for accumulated sick leave to any employee who has worked for the Board at least one (1) year or to the employee's beneficiary without regard to length of service if service is terminated by death. Such terminal pay shall be in the amount determined by the daily rate of pay of the employee at the time of termination and the number of years of service with the Polk County School District.

Calculations shall be made as follows:

- (a) During the first three years of service, the daily rate of pay multiplied by 35% times the number of days of accumulated sick leave;
- (b) During the fourth, fifth and sixth years of service, the daily rate of pay multiplied by 40% times the number of days of accumulated sick leave;
- (c) During the seventh, eighth, and ninth years of service, the daily rate of pay multiplied by 45% times the number of days of accumulated sick leave;
- (d) During the tenth, eleventh and twelfth years of service with the Board, the daily rate of pay multiplied by 50% times the number of days of accumulated sick leave;
- (e) During and after the 13<sup>th</sup> year of service, the daily rate of pay multiplied by 100% times the number of days of accumulated sick leave.

Exception: Payment for sick leave earned prior to July 1, 1985 with the Polk County School District, shall be paid at 100% of the daily rate of pay at the time of conclusion of service with the Polk County School Board.

**22.12-1 Defer Terminal Sick Leave Payment:** Any employee shall have the option to request delay of payment for sick leave days as terminal pay by notifying the Payroll Department in writing prior to the last scheduled workday of employment. For employees not being offered employment for the following school year, such days shall remain available for transfer as per §. [1012.61](#), *Florida Statutes* with the employee being responsible to provide any required documentation prior to the first scheduled work day of the new school year. Terminal pay will be processed immediately if such notification is not received by the first scheduled workday of the new school year.

**22.13** Upon appropriate written authorization by the teacher, the Board shall deduct for annuities, credit union, United Way, insurance or other plans or programs jointly approved by the Association and Board. The Board agrees to promptly disburse said sums.

**22.14** Deductions for personnel during the regular school terms for daily absences not covered by the provisions of the agreement shall be made at the rate of 1/196 of the annual contractual salary per day.

**22.15** Teachers working in July will be paid at the end of July for time worked in July. These employees will receive one check for holdback for the previous school year (issued one day before the end of the month) and one check for work in July issued on the last workday in July.

**22.16** Employees separating from service after completing their contract with the Board shall notify the Payroll Department in writing, no later than June 10, to request their final contract payout in the next full payroll cycle following their last day of employment. Employees separating from service during the term of their contract with the Board shall receive their final payout in the next full payroll cycle.

**22.17** Employees on a Board approved unpaid leave may notify the Payroll Department in writing, concurrently with the request for leave, to request that existing holdback funds (as applicable) be applied to receive a full paycheck until their holdback is exhausted.

**22.18** The parties agree to allow employees hired prior to July 1, 2020, an opportunity to switch payroll options from twelve (12) equal payments over twelve (12) months to the semi-monthly option of twenty-four (24) equal payments over twelve (12) months each spring starting on the first workday in April through the last workday in April. Once an employee opts into semi-monthly pay, they may not revert back to twelve (12) equal payments over twelve (12) months.

**22.19** Evening Adult School and Polk Virtual School checks shall be distributed to the teachers on the next scheduled pay date following the month during which the services were performed. Summer school checks shall be distributed on the next scheduled pay date following the month in which summer school is completed. Teachers will be provided at least a two month notice before this change is implemented.

**22.20** Teachers on an approved extended contract who provide student instruction beyond their regular contracted workday will be paid at the teacher's regular hourly rate of pay.

**22.21** Teachers required by the Board to participate in workshops or conferences on a day other than a regular contracted workday will be paid at the employee's regular hourly rate of pay.

**22.22 Overpayments:** Employees who were overpaid for any reason other than those specified in Section 22.20 shall receive written notice of the overpayment and the opportunity to discuss the matter with the Human Resource Services Division. The employee shall be notified in writing. The payment or recovery of payroll errors shall be limited to the sum overpaid during the current fiscal year and the previous fiscal year. In addition, payroll records will be corrected for all future wage and/or salary payments.

**22.22-1** The repayment of overpayments shall occur as soon as reasonably possible following notification. Repayment schedules shall be reduced to writing and show the total amount owed and the dollar amount of each installment with the end date. In the event that the employee will not agree to a repayment schedule, recovery of the overpaid sums shall not exceed three percent of the gross pay per pay period until the repayment plan is satisfied. In the event of a factual dispute regarding the reason for or amount of an overpayment, the sole remedy shall be a hearing before a hearing officer agreed upon by the Superintendent/designee, and the Association/employee from a mutually established list of three attorneys. The decision of the hearing officer shall be final and binding. The cost of the hearing shall be borne equally by each side.

**22.22-2** Should the number of annual pay periods be changed; the repayment schedule will be restructured accordingly.

**22.23** In the event an employee is paid for leave time, and/or time not worked, that is determined to be unearned, such overpayment may be withheld in full during the next pay period(s). In the event of an employee's termination for any reason, any and all sums due the School Board may be withheld in full from any sums otherwise due to the employee.

**22.24** In the event an employee believes an overpayment or underpayment has occurred, the employee must report the suspected overpayment or underpayment to the worksite payroll secretary who will begin researching and processing as appropriate.

**22.25 Underpayments**

Underpayments shall be calculated for the previous 24 months from the date the error is discovered or the date the employee notifies the District in writing, whichever is earlier. Underpayments shall be calculated and paid to the employee within the next two regularly scheduled payroll cycles regardless of the length of time an underpayment has been ongoing, payroll will be corrected for all future salary payments. Once an underpayment has been corrected, it may not be later rescinded as an overpayment.

Employees hired after July 1, 2020, or employees who have opted into semi-monthly pay of twenty-four (24) equal payments over twelve (12) months will not be eligible for off-cycle payments except in the event of an employer error.

An off-cycle payment will only be issued if the amount is equal to or greater than two (2) days of pay. In this case, the employee shall be made whole in the next available pay schedule option defined within the monthly payroll calendar defined on the PCPS website. The Chief of Staff in collaboration with the Association will evaluate options for providing any payments(s) outside of this schedule.

**22.26** Employees shall have access to the Staff Portal (<https://staff.mypolkschools.net/>) to view a complete salary detail to include job title, number of regular work hours for the pay period, base salary with the corresponding hourly rate, annual amount of each supplement for which the employee has qualified (as applicable) with the corresponding hourly rate, and total salary with the corresponding hourly rate.

**22.26-1** If an employee is eligible for a monthly recurring supplement payment, it will be reflected within the Staff Portal as part of the hourly rate or listed as a monthly recurring payment. End of year supplements, paid after completion of services relative to the supplement, will only be reflected in the Staff Portal during the pay period in which payment is received.

**22.26-2** This information shall be available within 30 days following the first workday of each fiscal year. If an employee disputes the Staff Portal information, he/she may discuss the matter with a representative of the Human Resource Services Division Personnel Department.

**22.27 Mileage Reimbursement:** Any teacher required by the Board to own or have continuing access to an automobile in order to properly perform their regular teaching duties shall be reimbursed for their school business travel at the per mile rate approved by the Board.

**22.28 Initial Paycheck:** Teachers hired for the first time in Polk County who would not be eligible for a paycheck in August will be given the option of having an advance against their initial paycheck.

**22.29** Two Salary Schedules as required by Florida Statutes have been developed in [APPENDIX B – TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE](#). The Teacher Salary Schedule (the required Grandfathered schedule) is for all teachers who hold a Professional Service Contract (PSC) or Continuing Contract (CC). The Teacher Salary Performance Schedule, as statutorily required, is for all teachers who hold a Probationary Contract, Annual Contract, or are hired on a Limited Employment Agreement, and also for those teachers who accept Annual Contract status and choose to participate in performance pay. No teacher may change from the Teacher Salary Performance Schedule to the Teacher Salary Schedule (Grandfathered Schedule).

**22.29-1 Initial Salary Schedule Placement:** All teachers will initially be placed upon these two salary schedules as statutorily required based upon their credited years of experience according to the Teacher Performance Salary Schedule Placement Matrix in [APPENDIX B – TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE](#). The Teacher Performance Salary Schedule Initial Placement Matrix based on years of experience in [APPENDIX B – TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE](#) will be used to place all new teachers.

**22.29-2** Level Movement on both Teacher Salary Schedules shall be bargained on an annual basis in addition to any changes to the Salary schedules.

**22.29-3** Teachers receiving an overall evaluation rating of Developing and teachers who did not have a completed overall evaluation rating submitted to the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) shall be treated the same as teachers having an overall evaluation rating of Effective when determining salary and benefit changes annually. Only employees new to teaching and within their first three (3) years are eligible to be Developing.

**22.29-4** Salary levels do not equate to years of experience as required by Florida Statutes.

**22.29-5** Pay levels or steps no longer equate to years of experience as required by Florida Statutes.

**22.30** In the event the Florida Legislature significantly changes the expected funding level received from Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP), including all of its components and at any time during the term of this agreement, the parties agree to discuss and review a concern raised by either party.

**22.30-1** In the event there becomes a reason to expect an excess of funding, the parties agree to determine the amount of such excess and discuss enhancing current employee compensation. The parties recognize that through mutual agreement and ratification by the parties, the current agreed upon compensation could be changed.

**22.30-2** In the event the District feels a need to declare “Financial Urgency” as outlined in §447.4095, *Florida Statutes*, the parties agree to follow the process as outlined in the statute.

**22.30-3** In the event there is a fluctuation in the total funding per student received from FEFP for Polk County Public Schools greater than or equal to 2% in either direction, positive or negative, or, if the assigned/unassigned general fund balance is projected to fall below 3% in accordance with state statute, the parties agree to renegotiate automatic salary advancement. This provision supersedes 22.27-2 regarding financial urgency above.

**22.31** Any teacher voluntarily relinquishing their Continuing Contract (CC) or Professional Service Contract (PSC) to permanently become an Annual Contract (AC) teacher in the state of Florida as required by Statute in order to move from their Salary Schedule (Grandfathered Schedule) to the Performance Salary Schedule shall be placed at the Salary Level on the Performance Salary Schedule equal to their current salary. Any CC or PSC teacher choosing to permanently relinquish their contract entitlement with its guaranteed due process rights for maintaining continuing employment beginning the following school year shall submit a signed form as jointly developed by PEA and the District to Human Resource Services no later than June 30. The form shall fully outline the statutory differences among a Continuing Contract (CC), Professional Service Contract (PSC), and Annual Contract (AC).

## **22.32 Sign Language Interpreters: Rate of Pay**

### **22.32-1 Initial Placement for Sign Language Interpreters:**

Sign Language Interpreters who have earned a bachelor’s degree and have passed the EIPA Exam with a score of 3.5-5.0 with a passing score on the EIPA Knowledge Exam or national certification will be covered under the Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement. Upon verification of credentials by the Human Resource Services Division, Interpreters will be placed on the OT/PT/SLI Pay Schedule listed in

APPENDIX B – TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE based on years of experience that correspond with occupational and physical therapists currently on the OT/PT Pay Schedule.

**22.32-2** Lead Interpreter Supplement: The Lead Sign Language Interpreter will receive a supplement as listed in Appendix C for the extra duties and responsibilities needed to coordinate the workflow of all sign language interpreters. The Lead Sign Language Interpreter role is not supervisory.

**22.32-3** Sign Language Interpreters hired for Summer School and/or the Exceptional Student Education Summer Extended School Year (ESY) Program will be paid at their regular hourly rate of pay.

**22.32-4** Sign Language Interpreters will receive experience credit only for prior employment in their field given one year of credit for every year worked.

**22.32-5** Sign Language Interpreters who work outside of their duty day interpreting are paid at their regular hourly rate with a two (2)-hour minimum.

**22.32-6** Sign Language Interpreters who need workshops or in-service training hours for maintenance of license, credentials or certification shall be reimbursed the cost of such training up to a maximum of \$150.00 per year with prior approval. All requests shall be made to the employee's principal/supervisor and forwarded to the Director of Labor and Employee Relations for approval and reimbursement.

## ARTICLE XXIII – INSURANCE

**23.1** The parties shall begin negotiations on health insurance in January no later than five (5) workdays following the return from Winter Break. The Board agrees to provide one health insurance plan for all benefits eligible employees, without cost to the employee. Pursuant to Florida law, changes to the health insurance plan that constitute a change in a mandatory subject of bargaining must be collectively bargained unless otherwise waived.

**23.1-1** The Union does not waive any collective bargaining rights with respect to health insurance.

**23.2** Benefits eligible employees are employees who work a minimum of 30 hours per week. Employees hired prior to October 1, 2013, with continuous employment are grandfathered for the purposes of benefit eligibility if working at least 18.75 hours per week. An employee hired after September 30, 2013, must work a minimum of 30 hours per week to be benefits eligible.

**23.3** The Board agrees to provide group term life in the amount of \$20,000 and accidental death and dismemberment insurance in the amount of \$10,000. The Board agrees to pay the premiums for this group term life insurance for all benefits eligible employees. Employees must make an active election within 60 days of hire to waive these Board paid benefits (See 23.8 below).

**23.4** The Board agrees to provide employee health clinic(s) for all employees. All Board employees are eligible to participate in the Polk County School Board Employee Health Clinic(s) as of their date of hire (*appointment date*).

Eligible dependents must be enrolled under the School Board Health Plan to participate in the School Board Employee Health Clinic(s).

**23.5** The Board agrees to make available supplemental group term life insurance, group disability, dental and vision insurance for employees, and health, dental and vision insurance coverage for employee dependents, with all premiums to be paid by the employee. Where evidence of insurability is required (life or disability), employees are responsible for submitting all required documentation. Employees are also required to submit dependent documentation, including social security numbers, marriage license, birth certificate(s), and tax documentation required to prove current dependent eligibility. Failure to submit documentation will result in benefits not being approved.

**23.6** The effective date of health plan insurance for newly hired employees shall be the first day of the month following 60 days of employment.

**23.7** Once the benefits eligibility waiting period has been met, each employee covered under this Collective Bargaining Agreement shall be enrolled in the Polk County School Board (PCSB) Health Plan with the applicable monthly employee contribution based on the coverage tier elected (e.g. Employee only, Employee+Spouse, Employee+one child). Failure to waive the PCSB Health Plan will result in automatic enrollment in the “Employee Only” coverage tier.

**23.8** The PCSB Health Plan is considered Section 125 of the IRS code which allows employees to use pre-tax dollars to pay the premiums. Benefit elections, including automatic enrollment must remain in effect until the next Annual Open Enrollment Period unless a qualifying event is experienced. Examples of qualifying events include but are not limited to marriage, divorce, birth, death, adoption, gain or loss of coverage.

**23.9** The Insurance Committee shall be established by the Superintendent to study and make recommendations concerning health, life, dental and vision insurance coverage. The Association may appoint up to six individuals to serve on the committee. Those six being the total number appointed by the Association for all bargaining units represented by the Association.

The committee shall meet at a minimum four (4) times a year at the end of each quarter to review health insurance plan utilization data.

The committee will make its recommendations to the Superintendent with copies to the Board at a date established by the Business Services Division’s Risk Management and Employee Benefits Department, but no later than sixty (60) days prior to the bid date, or thirty (30) days prior to expiration of the current policy, if no bids are to be taken. The District and Association bargaining teams *may* consider recommendations from the Superintendent’s Insurance Committee.

## **ARTICLE XXIV - EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSING**

**24.1** If as determined by the Superintendent, circumstances of weather, energy crisis, power failure, lack of water or heat, work stoppage, epidemic or other civil or natural emergencies, including threats or acts of violence, make it impossible or unsafe to open the schools or to keep open a school or schools, then the

Superintendent shall act in such emergency situations to preserve and protect the lives and property of pupils and staff personnel. Such absence(s) shall not result in loss of pay or accumulated leave days to the teacher.

**24.2** When an emergency confronts the schools of Polk County, notification of the closing of the schools shall be released for broadcast over appropriate public media as soon as possible.

## **ARTICLE XXV -- SCHOOL COMMUNITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**25.1** The council of members shall be appointed as provided by the School Community Professional Development Act, §1012.98. Any interested teacher may submit to the Council his or her name for nomination. The Council shall also accept nominations from the Association as well as other interested groups or individuals. Prospective members of the Council shall be recommended to the Superintendent by the Council for his recommendation to the School Board.

**25.2** The five (5) year District master in-service plan shall have been reviewed by the Council prior to submission to the Superintendent, and their comments attached thereto for presentation to the Board.

## **ARTICLE XXVI - INTERN PLACEMENT**

**26.1** In the interest of providing optimum professional training, teachers supervising interns shall be certified in their assignments and shall be on continuing contract/professional services contract or have three (3) years successful teaching experience. Florida Statutes require teachers supervising interns to show "evidence of clinical educator training" and demonstration of "effective classroom management strategies that consistently result in improved student performance."

Only teachers who volunteer to accept intern supervision assignments will be selected to serve as supervising/directing/cooperating teachers. A survey will be conducted in October and February each year to identify eligible, qualified volunteers.

**26.2** A supervising teacher shall not be assigned more than one intern during any regular school year.

**26.3** Upon request of the supervising teacher, interns will be required to arrange an interview with the supervising teacher at least two weeks prior to the beginning of the internship. Final placement will be made on the joint approval of the supervising teacher and the principal.

## **ARTICLE XXVII - EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMS**

**27.1** The acceptance or rejection, planning, budgeting, implementing and evaluating of all experimental educational programs in Polk County schools shall include the active involvement of all teachers to be affected on the school level. On programs designated as experimental by the Board, the Association will be involved.

**27.2** The School Board and the Association recognize that arrangements in which employees share responsibility for decision making such as site-based decision making and innovations related to District

Strategic Plan can foster the collegial exchange of ideas and information that can enhance effective professional practice and improve the educational process.

**27.3** The Association and the School Board reserve all collective bargaining rights under the law or existing collective bargaining agreements.

**27.4 Introduction** In an effort to improve instruction and student performance in a school that earns a grade of “D” for two (2) or more consecutive years, or a school grade of “F,” the School Board and the Association agree to implement Section 27.6.

When a school having two (2) or more consecutive grades of “D,” or a designation of “F” Priority meets the District’s exit criteria, Section 27.6 and all subsections shall cease to be applied unless specifically stated otherwise. Schools designated as having two (2) or more consecutive grades of “D,” or a designation of “F” Priority, will not be required to receive displaced teachers.

It is important to note that though the first year is designated as a planning year that does not mean that interventions will not be implemented prior to the completion of the first year. Such interventions will be in keeping with the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**27.4-1 Planning Year** Following the initial designation of a school as having two (2) or more consecutive grades of “D,” or a designation of “F” Priority, a planning year will occur. During this planning year, the District and school will complete a rigorous evaluation of the existing leadership team, coaches, staff, curriculum, support/interventions and resource allocation. The Superintendent or Deputy Superintendent will meet at least monthly with the PEA President and share the results of the evaluation and the developing plan for turning around the students’ performance and the school grade. Before any documentation or template is submitted to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) regarding the District’s Turnaround Plan, it will be shared with the PEA President who will be provided an opportunity for input with regard to contractual and legal concerns.

As part of a regularly held faculty meeting, the principal will, on a monthly basis, update the staff regarding the planning process and opportunities will be given for staff to share feedback. It is also agreed that it is in the best interest of both the students, staff, District and Association that the staff also be kept fully informed of the documentation or templates being submitted to FDOE.

The District shall ensure that the Teacher Evaluation System outlined in Article XV is implemented with fidelity each year following the school receiving two (2) or more consecutive grades of “D,” or a designation of “F” Priority. Observations will be performed as outlined and will be conducted over the designated time periods to allow for professional growth. Specific and actionable feedback shall be given as appropriate for each Essential Performance Criterion (EPC) marked less than *Effective* as outlined in Section 15.7.

If a teacher continues to perform below the *Effective* level in an identified EPC, the evaluator shall meet with the teacher to discuss the concerns and develop a plan for improvement utilizing the processes in the Collective Bargaining Agreement up to, and including, implementation of a Professional Development Plan (PDP). However, prior to the implementation of a Professional Development Plan (PDP), the use of the Instructional Assistance Conference (IAC) form for the purpose of guiding a professional conversation is strongly encouraged.

**27.4-2 Subsequent Years** For subsequent years (after the initial first year), until such time as the school meets the District’s exit criteria for schools having two (2) or more consecutive grades of “D,” or an “F” Priority School:

Teachers with an overall *Effective* or *Highly Effective* evaluation for the previous year may apply, transfer, or be assigned to schools having two (2) or more consecutive grades of “D,” or an “F” Priority school.

Those teachers with less than an overall *Effective* evaluation for the previous year who have been given notice of performance concerns and ample opportunity to improve, as per Teacher CBA Article 15 and the Instructional Evaluation System manual may volunteer to be displaced, be involuntarily transferred or terminated according to the appropriate provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

**27.4-3 Early Return:** Any school with two (2) or more consecutive “D” grades, or a grade of “F” Priority, will be identified as an Early Return School that will return up to four (4) days prior to the first contracted workday of school year 2017-2018. Should there be insufficient funds available to finance all Early Return Schools, “F” schools shall have first priority. The traditional pre-planning week continues as contractually outlined. All teachers throughout the District shall receive a reminder notification of this contract provision with their May paychecks explaining conditions that require returning early, the number of days and dates, and the methods by which affected teachers at Early Return Schools will be notified.

**27.4-4 Eligible Teachers:** In the identified schools, all teachers, including media specialists, school counselors, and school-based academic coaches, will participate in Early Return activities. Regardless of the subject taught, all teachers will be providing support in the areas of Reading, Math, and Science, as appropriate.

- 1. Professional Development:** Early Return participants shall participate in both school-based and District-based Professional Development. School-based Professional Development shall include grade level and departmental collaborative planning, review of student learning growth data, job-embedded Professional Development on lesson study, and other instructional strategies. District-based Professional Development shall include training in Common Core Standards and content specific areas in support of increased learning.
- 2. Compensation:** Eligible teachers will be paid their daily rate of pay for school based Professional Development and planning.

## **ARTICLE XXVIII - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

### **28.1 Purposes:**

- A. To set forth an orderly method for processing grievances to a resolution.
- B. To secure, at the lowest level possible, solutions to complaints or grievances.

### **28.2 Definitions:**

- A. A grievance is defined as (1) a claim by a grievant that there has been a violation, misinterpretation, misapplication, or inequitable application of the terms of this agreement;

B. A grievant may be a teacher, a group of teachers, or the Association. Class action grievances shall be initiated by the Association at Step II.

C. The employer is the School Board of Polk County, Florida, or those in the role of management for The School Board of Polk County, Florida.

D. Days mean working days excluding Saturday, Sunday, and holidays.

E. Immediate supervisor is that individual in the role of management for the Board. Each teacher shall have only one immediate supervisor at a particular school or department.

F. Association shall mean the employee organization and its agents certified as the exclusive bargaining agent pursuant to Florida Statutes.

### **28.3 Procedures:**

- A. It is important that grievances be handled as rapidly as possible. The number of days indicated at each level should be considered as maximum and every effort should be made to expedite the process. If the grievant fails to initiate a grievance or submit to the next step within the time limits as provided, the problem will be deemed to have been resolved. If the immediate supervisor fails to respond to the grievance within the time limits as provided, the grievance may be carried to the next step immediately. However, time limits may be extended by either party upon one day's written notice to the other party. Such extension shall not exceed ten (10) working days, except in cases of emergency.
- B. When grievance meetings and conferences are held during school hours, all employees whose presence is required by either party to provide information with regard to the grievance shall be excused from their regular duties without loss of pay. All meetings shall be by mutual agreement.
- C. When illness or other incapacity of the grievant or managerial representative of the Board prevents his/her presence at a grievance meeting, the time limits shall be extended to such time that the grievant or representative of the Board can be present.
- D. All documents, communications and records dealing with the processing of a grievance shall be filed separately from personnel files of the participants, and this information shall not be transmitted outside the District, except in court cases or subpoenas.
- E. In the case of a grievance in which the Association is involved, the Association and administration shall mutually agree on the date and time of all proposed grievance meetings, and the Association shall be advised in writing of the adjustments and proposed resolutions beyond the informal procedure. In grievance cases where the Association is not involved in representing the grievant, the Association shall be advised in writing of all proposed grievance meetings, adjustments, and proposed resolutions beyond the informal procedure. The Association shall have the right to send an observer to all grievance meetings.

- F. In the event a grievance is filed on or after June 1, time limits for the informal procedure, Steps I and II shall consist of a total of seven (7) days so that the grievance may be resolved before June 30. If the grievance is continued to Step III, the Board shall consider this grievance within fifteen (15) days following the conclusion of Step II.
- G. During the informal procedure, if there are administrators present in addition to the principal and a member of his/her managerial staff, the teacher shall be entitled to have additional representatives of the Association, including staff.
- H. When the Association is made aware of a problem, it shall try to settle the problem informally with the principal. If, as a result of the discussion, a problem still exists, the Association shall, within ten (10) days, submit to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resource Services or designee a completed copy of the grievance form. ([APPENDIX A – OFFICIAL GRIEVANCE FORM](#)).
- I. At Steps I, II, III and IV, Association staff may be involved.
- J. The District shall ensure all prospective employee participants are present at the meetings, unless attendance impacts student instruction. The parties shall mutually agree to the required meeting participants.

#### **28.4 Resolution Procedure:**

**Informal Procedure:** If a member of the bargaining unit believes he/she has a grievance, he/she shall first discuss the matter in good faith with his/her immediate supervisor in an effort to resolve the problem informally. This action shall take place within fifteen (15) days after the grievant knew or could reasonably have been expected to know of the event giving rise to the grievance.

At the informal procedure, the grievant may be accompanied by an Association member representative or an association staff representative. The immediate supervisor or principal may have a member of his/her managerial staff, or if none exists, an assistant principal from another school at the meeting in the event that the Association member representative is present. In this informal action, the grievant shall advise his/her supervisor of the particular section of the agreement alleged to have been violated. No record shall be maintained except for a dated and signed statement verifying the fact that an informal discussion has been held. The immediate supervisor will respond to the grievance within two (2) days after the informal meeting.

**Step I:** If as a result of the informal discussion with the immediate supervisor a grievance still exists, the grievant shall, within ten (10) days after the informal discussion, submit to the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resource Services, or designee, a completed copy of the grievance form ([APPENDIX A – OFFICIAL GRIEVANCE FORM](#)). This time limit shall not apply in cases where the nature of the grievance is continuous, or when the resolution agreed to at the informal level has not been or cannot be implemented. Within ten (10) days after the receipt of the written grievance, the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resource Services, or designee, shall arrange and meet with the grievant and/or the Association in an effort to resolve the grievance. The Assistant Superintendent of Human Resource Services, or designee, shall indicate his/her proposed resolution of the grievance in writing at the appropriate place on

the grievance form within five (5) days after such meeting and send copies thereof to the grievant and the Association.

**Step II:** If the grievant is not satisfied with the proposed resolution of the grievance at Step I, such grievant may appeal by filing a form, as contained in the appendices to this contract, with the Superintendent or designee, within fifteen (15) days after the receipt of the decision at Step I. The Superintendent or designee shall arrange and meet with the grievant and/or Association within ten (10) days after the receipt of the grievance in an effort to resolve the problem. At least one day prior to the meeting each party shall give to the other a list of prospective participants. The District shall ensure all prospective employee participants are present at the meetings, unless attendance impacts student instruction. The parties shall mutually agree to the required meeting participants. The Superintendent or designee shall indicate his/her proposed resolution of the grievance in writing within five (5) days after the meeting and shall furnish a copy thereof to the Association, the grievant and the immediate supervisor.

**Step III:** In the event the Association is not satisfied with the proposed resolution of the grievance made at Step II, or if no proposed resolution has been made within five (5) days of such meeting, then within ten (10) days thereafter, the grievance shall be emailed to the Board by filing a copy with the Chairperson of the Board. The Board shall within thirty (30) days meet publicly for the purpose of discussing with the grievant and/or Association and the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee the grieved issue(s) and proposed resolution.

The proposed resolution by the Board shall be made and announced within three (3) days of the public hearing. A copy of such proposed resolution shall be furnished to the Association, the grievant, the immediate supervisor, and the Superintendent.

**Step IV:** In the event the Association is not satisfied with the proposed resolution of the grievance by the Board, the grievance may be submitted to arbitration before an impartial arbitrator. Notice of such submission shall be given in writing to the Superintendent and Superintendent's designee within five (5) days after the Association has received a written disposition from the Board. The arbitrator shall be selected from the American Arbitration Association or Federal Mediation Conciliation Service (FMCS) in accord with its rules, which likewise govern the arbitration proceedings. If one of the parties chooses to arbitrate through the American Arbitration Association, said party will pay the difference of the costs associated with the more expensive agency.

#### **PROVISIONS:**

1. The arbitrator shall have no power to alter, add to, or subtract from the terms of this agreement.
2. The Board and the grievant shall not be permitted to assert in such arbitration proceeding any ground or rely on any evidence not previously disclosed to the other party. Both parties agree that the award of the arbitrator shall be final and binding.
3. The Board and the Association shall share equally the fees and expenses of the arbitrator when the grievance is processed by the Association. Neither the bargaining agent nor the Board shall be responsible for the cost of grievance arbitration by a member of the bargaining unit when the grievance is not processed by the Association.

4. If the Board refuses to arbitrate a grievance arising under this agreement, the arbitrator appointed according to the above grievance procedure shall proceed on an ex parte basis. However, the Board shall continue to share the cost of the arbitration.
5. Adjustment of any grievance as described herein shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this agreement.
6. No reprisals of any kind shall be taken against any party in interest participating in the grievance procedure.
7. Notwithstanding the expiration of this agreement, any grievance arising while the agreement was in effect may be processed through the grievance procedure until resolution.
8. Any teacher for whom a grievance is sustained shall be reimbursed in accordance with the award of the arbitrator.
9. The Association reserves the right to insure the proper use of the grievance procedure for the bargaining unit. If the Association has declined to process or further process any grievance presented to it, and if any employee or group of employees' desire to process it or further process their own grievance through this procedure, the bargaining agent shall be sent copies of all written communications sent by the employer or the employee(s) involved. Further, nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent any public employees from presenting, at any time, their own grievance in person or by legal counsel to the employer and having such grievance(s) adjusted without the intervention of the bargaining agent, provided however, that the adjustment is not inconsistent with the terms of the collective bargaining agreement then in effect and provided further that the bargaining agent has been given notice and reasonable opportunity to be present at any meeting called for the resolution of such grievance.
10. Should either party request a transcript of the proceedings at Step IV, then the party shall bear the full costs of the transcript. If each party requests a transcript, the cost of the two transcripts will be divided equally between the parties.
11. Each party shall bear the full cost of its representation at all steps of the grievance procedure.
12. A teacher shall have the right to have an Association member representative present when a grievance is being discussed. In a case where no Association member representative is present to attend the informal procedure, the discussion may be postponed, and the Association staff will have the right to appoint an Association member to attend the informal session.
13. The grievant may, after the informal procedure, present the grievance in writing to the Association who will provide an opportunity for a meeting with the grievant to decide the merits of the case within five (5) days after receipt of the grievance by the Association.

## ARTICLE XXIX - MAINTENANCE OF STANDARDS

**29.1** Should any provision of this agreement be declared illegal by a court of competent jurisdiction or as a result of state or federal legislation, said provision shall be bargained by mutual agreement of the parties to the extent that it violates the law. In accordance with Florida law, in the event of a conflict created by a statute or rule enacted subsequent to this contract's existence, the terms of this contract will remain in full effect until the parties negotiate to resolve any conflicts created by such imposed acts. When such a conflict arises, the parties shall meet in negotiations to resolve any conflicts created by such imposed acts within a period of ten business days to begin negotiations. The remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect for the duration of this agreement if not affected by the modified provision. The Association does not waive its right to avail itself of all legal remedies.

**29.2** No teacher employed within the bargaining unit shall, as a result of omission through oversight in the negotiation of this agreement, suffer a reduction in pay, loss of economic fringe benefits, or loss of experience credit previously granted.

**29.3** This agreement shall supersede any rules, regulations, or practices of the Board, which shall be contrary to or inconsistent with the terms of this agreement.

## ARTICLE XXX - NO STRIKE

The Association shall not authorize, sanction, condone, engage in or acquiesce in any strike as defined in Florida Statutes §. [447.203\(6\)](#), §. [447.501\(2\)\(e\)](#), and §. [447.505](#). "Strike" means the concerted failure to report for duty, the concerted absence of employees from their positions, the concerted stoppage of work, the concerted submission of resignations, the concerted abstinence in whole or in part by any group of employees from the full and faithful performance of the duties of employment with a public employer for the purpose of inducing, influencing, condoning or coercing a change in the terms and conditions of employment or participating in a deliberate and concerted course of conduct which adversely affects the services of the public employer, the concerted failure to report for work after the expiration of collective bargaining agreement, and picketing in furtherance of a work stoppage.

## ARTICLE XXXI – BOARD'S RIGHTS

**31.1** The Board has the right to determine the purpose of its constituent agencies, set standards of service to be offered to the public, and exercise control and discretion over its organization and operations.

**31.2** The Board may direct its employees, take disciplinary action for just cause, and relieve its employees from duty because of lack of work, or other legitimate reasons, provided, however, that the exercise of such rights shall not preclude employees or their Association from raising grievances, should decisions on the above matters have the practical consequences of violating the terms and conditions of any collective bargaining agreement in force.

**31.3 Fitness for Duty:** The Superintendent or designee may require a physical and/or psychiatric examination by a physician and/or psychiatrist licensed in Florida when, in its judgment, such an examination is relevant to their work performance or employment status. The selection of the physician

and/or psychiatrist shall be made by the employee involved from a current list of no fewer than three (3) practicing physicians and/or psychiatrists who are not employees of the Employee Health Clinic(s), named by the District and the District shall pay all costs incurred in the examination. Physical examination forms shall be available from the Human Resource Services Division.

### **31.3-1 Drug-Free Workplace:**

The Board commits to creating and maintaining a drug-free workplace. The use of illegal drugs, abuse of prescription medication, or the abuse of alcohol shall not be tolerated in accordance with Drug-Free Workplace requirements.

Employees are subject to drug screening as a result of any workplace injury or report of being under the influence. Under these conditions, the employee shall be administered a urine test that will indicate the presence of illegal substances.

In the event an employee tests positive for a substance(s) that could have a prescription, the employee will then be asked to provide any current prescription(s) to the employer within 24 hours.

If the employee presents a prescription(s), then the employee shall also be remanded for a blood draw.

If the employee tests positive for a substance(s) and cannot provide or refuses to provide a prescription(s), then the employer may issue discipline up to, and including, termination.

If the blood draw results in a blood level at or above 5 nanograms, the employee shall be considered “under the influence” and subject to discipline up to and including termination, regardless of their prescription status. Refusal of either the urine or blood test constitutes an act of insubordination and willful neglect of duty.

If the employee tests positive on the initial urine screening, but provides a current valid state of FL prescription from a licensed medical provider, and has blood test results below the 5 nanogram threshold, they shall not be subject to discipline or corrective action.

**31.4 Educational Emergency:** Section 1001.42(21), *Florida Statutes*, provides for negotiation of special provisions to free schools with a school grade of “D” or “F” from contract restrictions that limit the school’s ability to implement programs and strategies needed to improve student performance. The negotiations shall result in a memorandum of understanding that addresses the selection, placement, and expectations of instructional personnel and provides principals with the autonomy described in s. [1012.28](#)(8). For purposes of this subsection, an educational emergency exists in a school district if one or more schools in the district have a school grade of “D” or “F.”

## **ARTICLE XXXII – CHARTER SCHOOLS**

### **A. Notification to Polk Education Association**

1. When the Polk County School Board receives an application for a charter school, the PEA will:  
Receive a copy of the application within ten (10) working days, or a mutually agreed upon

extended time frame, and notify the Polk County School Board's bargaining agent of any possible impact of the proposed charter school on wages, hours, and the terms and conditions of employment of the bargaining unit members it represents.

B. Voting Procedures for Conversion of an Existing School

1. Pursuant to §. [1002.33\(3\)\(b\)](#) Florida Statute, an application to convert an existing public school to a charter school must demonstrate the support of at least 50 percent of the teachers employed at the school. To the extent allowed by law, balloting to demonstrate such support shall be done by secret ballot, provide for adequate notification (no less than 24 hours) to all eligible teachers, provide a process which is clearly explained prior to the actual vote, and provide for votes to be counted by an impartial committee whose make-up shall be disclosed to the School Board as part of the application review process.
2. Pursuant to §. [1002.33\(3\)\(b\)](#) Florida Statute, an application to convert an existing public school to a charter school must also demonstrate the support of at least 50 percent of the parents voting whose children are enrolled at the school, provided that a majority of the parents eligible to vote participate in the ballot process. To the extent allowed by law, balloting to demonstrate such support shall be done by secret ballot, provide for adequate notification of all eligible parents, provide a process which is clearly explained prior to the actual vote, and provide for votes to be counted by an impartial committee whose make-up shall be disclosed to the School Board as part of the application review process.

**ARTICLE XXXIII - CONTRACT TERM**

The terms and conditions of this contract shall become effective immediately upon ratification of the Board subsequent to the ratification of the Bargaining Unit. Any and all grievances, which may be filed during the term of this contract, will be settled on the basis of the procedure and remedies as set forth in this Collective Bargaining Agreement.

This Collective Bargaining Agreement shall remain in full force and effect through June 30, 2026, unless agreement is reached before that date. The parties agree that negotiations will continue on an ongoing basis in a collaborative, interest-based approach to resolve problems, with salaries negotiated as agreed upon.

The Board and the Association agree to comply with the PERC notification requirements annually.

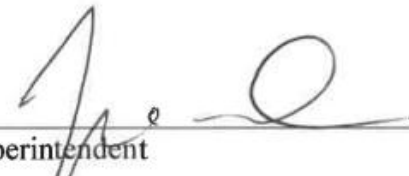
This Agreement shall not be extended orally.

POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY, FL

By:   
PEA President

By:   
School Board Chair

By:   
Superintendent

By:   
Chief Negotiator  
Associate Superintendent of Human Resources

Date Rec/vd/Association		No:	
Date Filed/Association		Step:	
Rec'vd By:		Filed By:	

**APPENDIX A – OFFICIAL GRIEVANCE FORM**

Name		School	
Address		Assignment	
Home Phone		School Phone	
Date of Incident			
	Relevant Article(s) Of Contract – Policy		
	Statement of Grievance		
	Relief Sought:		
	Signature of Grievant		
	Date		
	Disposition:		
	Signature of Supervisor		
	Date		
	OFFICE USE ONLY		
	Date Received	By	
	Date Received	By	
	Copies to: Grievant – Association – Supervisor		

## APPENDIX B – TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE

Florida Statute §. [1012.22\(1\)](#) requires two salary schedules for paying teachers beginning in 2015-2016. Teachers who hold and choose to retain their Continuing Contract (CC) or their Professional Service Contract (PSC) (both CC and PSC contracts statutorily require due process for a teacher prior to termination) are required to be placed on a “Grandfathered Salary Schedule” and are denied access to “merit pay.”

All other teachers, regardless of their date of hire, are statutorily required to be placed on a “Performance Salary Schedule” which includes “merit pay.” Florida statutes allow any teacher on the “Performance Salary Schedule” to have their employment terminated for no reason at the end of any year. CC and PSC teachers who choose to be paid on the “Performance Salary Schedule” are required to permanently relinquish their due process rights to continuing employment and become Annual Contract teachers.

### Teacher Grandfathered Salary Schedule (196 days)

(Statutorily mandated for teachers with a Professional Service or Continuing Contract)

2025-2026 Grandfathered (GF) Salary				
Pay Level	Bachelor's Degree Base Salary 196 Days	Master's Degree Add \$3162 to Bachelor's	Specialist Degree Add \$4517 to Bachelor's	Doctorate Degree Add \$6776 to Bachelor's
AAD GF	\$ 48,450	\$ 51,612	\$ 52,967	\$ 55,226
AAD GF 00	\$ 49,822	\$ 52,984	\$ 54,339	\$ 56,598
AAE GF 01	\$ 50,141	\$ 53,303	\$ 54,658	\$ 56,917
AAE GF 02	\$ 50,460	\$ 53,622	\$ 54,977	\$ 57,236
AAE GF 03	\$ 50,780	\$ 53,942	\$ 55,297	\$ 57,556
AAF GF 04	\$ 51,099	\$ 54,261	\$ 55,616	\$ 57,875
AAF GF 05	\$ 51,418	\$ 54,580	\$ 55,935	\$ 58,194
AAG GF 06	\$ 51,738	\$ 54,900	\$ 56,255	\$ 58,514
AAG GF 07	\$ 52,058	\$ 55,220	\$ 56,575	\$ 58,834
AAH GF 08	\$ 52,377	\$ 55,539	\$ 56,894	\$ 59,153
AAH GF 09	\$ 52,696	\$ 55,858	\$ 57,213	\$ 59,472
AAI GF 10	\$ 53,016	\$ 56,178	\$ 57,533	\$ 59,792
AAI GF 11	\$ 53,335	\$ 56,497	\$ 57,852	\$ 60,111
AAJ GF 12	\$ 53,654	\$ 56,816	\$ 58,171	\$ 60,430
AAJ GF 13	\$ 53,974	\$ 57,136	\$ 58,491	\$ 60,750
AAK GF	\$ 54,294	\$ 57,456	\$ 58,811	\$ 61,070
AAL GF	\$ 54,613	\$ 57,775	\$ 59,130	\$ 61,389
AAM GF	\$ 54,932	\$ 58,094	\$ 59,449	\$ 61,708
AAN GF	\$ 55,251	\$ 58,413	\$ 59,768	\$ 62,027
AAO GF	\$ 55,571	\$ 58,733	\$ 60,088	\$ 62,347
AAP GF	\$ 55,890	\$ 59,052	\$ 60,407	\$ 62,666
AAQ GF	\$ 56,210	\$ 59,372	\$ 60,727	\$ 62,986
AAR GF	\$ 56,529	\$ 59,691	\$ 61,046	\$ 63,305
AAS GF	\$ 56,849	\$ 60,011	\$ 61,366	\$ 63,625
AAT GF	\$ 57,168	\$ 60,330	\$ 61,685	\$ 63,944
AAU GF	\$ 57,487	\$ 60,649	\$ 62,004	\$ 64,263
AAV GF	\$ 57,806	\$ 60,968	\$ 62,323	\$ 64,582
AAW GF	\$ 58,126	\$ 61,288	\$ 62,643	\$ 64,902
AAX GF	\$ 58,446	\$ 61,608	\$ 62,963	\$ 65,222
AAZ GF	\$ 58,765	\$ 61,927	\$ 63,282	\$ 65,541
AAZ GF	\$ 59,085	\$ 62,247	\$ 63,602	\$ 65,861

2025-2026 Grandfathered (GF) Salary				
Pay Level	Bachelor's Degree Base Salary 196 Days	Master's Degree Add \$3162 to Bachelor's	Specialist Degree Add \$4517 to Bachelor's	Doctorate Degree Add \$6776 to Bachelor's
ABA GF	\$ 59,404	\$ 62,566	\$ 63,921	\$ 66,180
ABB GF	\$ 59,723	\$ 62,885	\$ 64,240	\$ 66,499
ABC GF	\$ 60,042	\$ 63,204	\$ 64,559	\$ 66,818
ABD GF	\$ 60,362	\$ 63,524	\$ 64,879	\$ 67,138
ABE GF	\$ 60,682	\$ 63,844	\$ 65,199	\$ 67,458
ABF GF	\$ 61,001	\$ 64,163	\$ 65,518	\$ 67,777
ABG GF	\$ 61,320	\$ 64,482	\$ 65,837	\$ 68,096
ABH GF	\$ 61,640	\$ 64,802	\$ 66,157	\$ 68,416
ABI GF	\$ 61,959	\$ 65,121	\$ 66,476	\$ 68,735
ABJ GF	\$ 62,278	\$ 65,440	\$ 66,795	\$ 69,054
ABK GF	\$ 62,597	\$ 65,759	\$ 67,114	\$ 69,373
ABL GF	\$ 62,917	\$ 66,079	\$ 67,434	\$ 69,693
ABM GF	\$ 63,237	\$ 66,399	\$ 67,754	\$ 70,013
ABN GF	\$ 63,556	\$ 66,718	\$ 68,073	\$ 70,332
ABO GF	\$ 63,875	\$ 67,037	\$ 68,392	\$ 70,651
ABP GF	\$ 64,195	\$ 67,357	\$ 68,712	\$ 70,971
ABQ GF	\$ 64,514	\$ 67,676	\$ 69,031	\$ 71,290
ABR GF	\$ 64,833	\$ 67,995	\$ 69,350	\$ 71,609
ABS GF	\$ 65,153	\$ 68,315	\$ 69,670	\$ 71,929
ABT GF	\$ 65,473	\$ 68,635	\$ 69,990	\$ 72,249
ABU GF	\$ 65,792	\$ 68,954	\$ 70,309	\$ 72,568
ABV GF	\$ 66,111	\$ 69,273	\$ 70,628	\$ 72,887
ABW GF	\$ 66,431	\$ 69,593	\$ 70,948	\$ 73,207
ABX GF	\$ 66,750	\$ 69,912	\$ 71,267	\$ 73,526
ABY GF	\$ 67,069	\$ 70,231	\$ 71,586	\$ 73,845
ABZ GF	\$ 67,388	\$ 70,550	\$ 71,905	\$ 74,164
ACA GF	\$ 67,709	\$ 70,871	\$ 72,226	\$ 74,485
ACB GF	\$ 68,028	\$ 71,190	\$ 72,545	\$ 74,804
ACC GF	\$ 68,347	\$ 71,509	\$ 72,864	\$ 75,123
ACD GF	\$ 68,666	\$ 71,828	\$ 73,183	\$ 75,442
ACE GF	\$ 68,986	\$ 72,148	\$ 73,503	\$ 75,762

2025-2026 Grandfathered (GF) Salary				
Pay Level	Bachelor's Degree Base Salary 196 Days	Master's Degree Add \$3162 to Bachelor's	Specialist Degree Add \$4517 to Bachelor's	Doctorate Degree Add \$6776 to Bachelor's
ACF GF	\$ 69,305	\$ 72,467	\$ 73,822	\$ 76,081
ACG GF	\$ 69,624	\$ 72,786	\$ 74,141	\$ 76,400
ACH GF	\$ 69,944	\$ 73,106	\$ 74,461	\$ 76,720
ACI GF	\$ 70,264	\$ 73,426	\$ 74,781	\$ 77,040
ACJ GF	\$ 70,583	\$ 73,745	\$ 75,100	\$ 77,359
ACK GF	\$ 70,902	\$ 74,064	\$ 75,419	\$ 77,678
ACL GF	\$ 71,222	\$ 74,384	\$ 75,739	\$ 77,998
ACM GF	\$ 71,541	\$ 74,703	\$ 76,058	\$ 78,317
ACN GF	\$ 71,860	\$ 75,022	\$ 76,377	\$ 78,636
ACO GF	\$ 72,180	\$ 75,342	\$ 76,697	\$ 78,956
ACP GF	\$ 72,500	\$ 75,662	\$ 77,017	\$ 79,276
ACQ GF	\$ 72,819	\$ 75,981	\$ 77,336	\$ 79,595
ACR GF	\$ 73,138	\$ 76,300	\$ 77,655	\$ 79,914
ACS GF	\$ 73,457	\$ 76,619	\$ 77,974	\$ 80,233
ACT GF	\$ 73,777	\$ 76,939	\$ 78,294	\$ 80,553
ACU GF	\$ 74,096	\$ 77,258	\$ 78,613	\$ 80,872
ACV GF	\$ 74,416	\$ 77,578	\$ 78,933	\$ 81,192
ACW GF	\$ 74,735	\$ 77,897	\$ 79,252	\$ 81,511
ACX GF	\$ 75,055	\$ 78,217	\$ 79,572	\$ 81,831
ACY GF	\$ 75,374	\$ 78,536	\$ 79,891	\$ 82,150
ACZ GF	\$ 75,693	\$ 78,855	\$ 80,210	\$ 82,469
ADA GF	\$ 76,012	\$ 79,174	\$ 80,529	\$ 82,788
ADB GF	\$ 76,332	\$ 79,494	\$ 80,849	\$ 83,108
ADC GF	\$ 76,652	\$ 79,814	\$ 81,169	\$ 83,428

**Dean (Administrative Assistant) Grandfathered Pay Schedule:**

This pay schedule includes \$2500 added into the teacher base salary to account for the \$2500 supplement historically paid from Teacher Appendix C which is being moved to the base salary (changed Fall 2023).

2025-2026 Dean Grandfathered (GF) Salary				
Pay Level	Bachelor's Degree Base Salary 196 Days w/ \$2500	Master's Degree Add \$3162 to Bachelor's	Specialist Degree Add \$4517 to Bachelor's	Doctorate Degree Add \$6776 to Bachelor's
DN AAD GF	\$ 51,000	\$ 54,162	\$ 55,517	\$ 57,776
DN AAD GF 00	\$ 52,372	\$ 55,534	\$ 56,889	\$ 59,148
DN AAE GF 01	\$ 52,691	\$ 55,853	\$ 57,208	\$ 59,467
DN AAE GF 02	\$ 53,010	\$ 56,172	\$ 57,527	\$ 59,786
DN AAE GF 03	\$ 53,330	\$ 56,492	\$ 57,847	\$ 60,106
DN AAF GF 04	\$ 53,649	\$ 56,811	\$ 58,166	\$ 60,425
DN AAF GF 05	\$ 53,968	\$ 57,130	\$ 58,485	\$ 60,744
DN AAG GF 06	\$ 54,288	\$ 57,450	\$ 58,805	\$ 61,064
DN AAG GF 07	\$ 54,608	\$ 57,770	\$ 59,125	\$ 61,384
DN AAH GF 08	\$ 54,927	\$ 58,089	\$ 59,444	\$ 61,703
DN AAH GF 09	\$ 55,246	\$ 58,408	\$ 59,763	\$ 62,022
DN AAI GF 10	\$ 55,566	\$ 58,728	\$ 60,083	\$ 62,342
DN AAI GF 11	\$ 55,885	\$ 59,047	\$ 60,402	\$ 62,661
DN AAJ GF 12	\$ 56,204	\$ 59,366	\$ 60,721	\$ 62,980
DN AAJ GF 13	\$ 56,524	\$ 59,686	\$ 61,041	\$ 63,300
DN AAK GF	\$ 56,844	\$ 60,006	\$ 61,361	\$ 63,620

2025-2026 Dean Grandfathered (GF) Salary				
Pay Level	Bachelor's Degree Base Salary 196 Days w/ \$2500	Master's Degree Add \$3162 to Bachelor's	Specialist Degree Add \$4517 to Bachelor's	Doctorate Degree Add \$6776 to Bachelor's
DN AAL GF	\$ 57,163	\$ 60,325	\$ 61,680	\$ 63,939
DN AAM GF	\$ 57,482	\$ 60,644	\$ 61,999	\$ 64,258
DN AAN GF	\$ 57,801	\$ 60,963	\$ 62,318	\$ 64,577
DN AAO GF	\$ 58,121	\$ 61,283	\$ 62,638	\$ 64,897
DN AAP GF	\$ 58,440	\$ 61,602	\$ 62,957	\$ 65,216
DN AAQ GF	\$ 58,760	\$ 61,922	\$ 63,277	\$ 65,536
DN AAR GF	\$ 59,079	\$ 62,241	\$ 63,596	\$ 65,855
DN AAS GF	\$ 59,399	\$ 62,561	\$ 63,916	\$ 66,175
DN AAT GF	\$ 59,718	\$ 62,880	\$ 64,235	\$ 66,494
DN AAU GF	\$ 60,037	\$ 63,199	\$ 64,554	\$ 66,813
DN AAV GF	\$ 60,356	\$ 63,518	\$ 64,873	\$ 67,132
DN AAW GF	\$ 60,676	\$ 63,838	\$ 65,193	\$ 67,452
DN AAX GF	\$ 60,996	\$ 64,158	\$ 65,513	\$ 67,772
DN AAY GF	\$ 61,315	\$ 64,477	\$ 65,832	\$ 68,091
DN AAZ GF	\$ 61,635	\$ 64,797	\$ 66,152	\$ 68,411

2025-2026 Dean Grandfathered (GF) Salary				
Pay Level	Bachelor's Degree Base Salary 196 Days w/ \$2500	Master's Degree Add \$3162 to Bachelor's	Specialist Degree Add \$4517 to Bachelor's	Doctorate Degree Add \$6776 to Bachelor's
DN ABA GF	\$ 61,954	\$ 65,116	\$ 66,471	\$ 68,730
DN ABB GF	\$ 62,273	\$ 65,435	\$ 66,790	\$ 69,049
DN ABC GF	\$ 62,592	\$ 65,754	\$ 67,109	\$ 69,368
DN ABD GF	\$ 62,912	\$ 66,074	\$ 67,429	\$ 69,688
DN ABE GF	\$ 63,232	\$ 66,394	\$ 67,749	\$ 70,008
DN ABF GF	\$ 63,551	\$ 66,713	\$ 68,068	\$ 70,327
DN ABG GF	\$ 63,870	\$ 67,032	\$ 68,387	\$ 70,646
DN ABH GF	\$ 64,190	\$ 67,352	\$ 68,707	\$ 70,966
DN ABI GF	\$ 64,509	\$ 67,671	\$ 69,026	\$ 71,285
DN ABJ GF	\$ 64,828	\$ 67,990	\$ 69,345	\$ 71,604
DN ABK GF	\$ 65,147	\$ 68,309	\$ 69,664	\$ 71,923
DN ABL GF	\$ 65,467	\$ 68,629	\$ 69,984	\$ 72,243
DN ABM GF	\$ 65,787	\$ 68,949	\$ 70,304	\$ 72,563
DN ABN GF	\$ 66,106	\$ 69,268	\$ 70,623	\$ 72,882
DN ABO GF	\$ 66,425	\$ 69,587	\$ 70,942	\$ 73,201
DN ABP GF	\$ 66,745	\$ 69,907	\$ 71,262	\$ 73,521
DN ABQ GF	\$ 67,064	\$ 70,226	\$ 71,581	\$ 73,840
DN ABR GF	\$ 67,383	\$ 70,545	\$ 71,900	\$ 74,159
DN ABS GF	\$ 67,703	\$ 70,865	\$ 72,220	\$ 74,479
DN ABT GF	\$ 68,023	\$ 71,185	\$ 72,540	\$ 74,799
DN ABU GF	\$ 68,342	\$ 71,504	\$ 72,859	\$ 75,118
DN ABV GF	\$ 68,661	\$ 71,823	\$ 73,178	\$ 75,437
DN ABW GF	\$ 68,981	\$ 72,143	\$ 73,498	\$ 75,757
DN ABX GF	\$ 69,300	\$ 72,462	\$ 73,817	\$ 76,076
DN ABY GF	\$ 69,619	\$ 72,781	\$ 74,136	\$ 76,395
DN ABZ GF	\$ 69,938	\$ 73,100	\$ 74,455	\$ 76,714
DN ACA GF	\$ 70,259	\$ 73,421	\$ 74,776	\$ 77,035
DN ACB GF	\$ 70,578	\$ 73,740	\$ 75,095	\$ 77,354
DN ACC GF	\$ 70,897	\$ 74,059	\$ 75,414	\$ 77,673
DN ACD GF	\$ 71,216	\$ 74,378	\$ 75,733	\$ 77,992
DN ACE GF	\$ 71,536	\$ 74,698	\$ 76,053	\$ 78,312
DN ACF GF	\$ 71,855	\$ 75,017	\$ 76,372	\$ 78,631
DN ACG GF	\$ 72,174	\$ 75,336	\$ 76,691	\$ 78,950
DN ACH GF	\$ 72,494	\$ 75,656	\$ 77,011	\$ 79,270
DN ACI GF	\$ 72,814	\$ 75,976	\$ 77,331	\$ 79,590
DN ACJ GF	\$ 73,133	\$ 76,295	\$ 77,650	\$ 79,909
DN ACK GF	\$ 73,452	\$ 76,614	\$ 77,969	\$ 80,228
DN ACL GF	\$ 73,772	\$ 76,934	\$ 78,289	\$ 80,548
DN ACM GF	\$ 74,091	\$ 77,253	\$ 78,608	\$ 80,867
DN ACN GF	\$ 74,410	\$ 77,572	\$ 78,927	\$ 81,186
DN ACO GF	\$ 74,730	\$ 77,892	\$ 79,247	\$ 81,506
DN ACP GF	\$ 75,050	\$ 78,212	\$ 79,567	\$ 81,826
DN ACQ GF	\$ 75,369	\$ 78,531	\$ 79,886	\$ 82,145
DN ACR GF	\$ 75,688	\$ 78,850	\$ 80,205	\$ 82,464
DN ACS GF	\$ 76,007	\$ 79,169	\$ 80,524	\$ 82,783
DN ACT GF	\$ 76,327	\$ 79,489	\$ 80,844	\$ 83,103
DN ACU GF	\$ 76,646	\$ 79,808	\$ 81,163	\$ 83,422
DN ACV GF	\$ 76,966	\$ 80,128	\$ 81,483	\$ 83,742
DN ACW GF	\$ 77,285	\$ 80,447	\$ 81,802	\$ 84,061
DN ACX GF	\$ 77,605	\$ 80,767	\$ 82,122	\$ 84,381
DN ACY GF	\$ 77,924	\$ 81,086	\$ 82,441	\$ 84,700
DN ACZ GF	\$ 78,243	\$ 81,405	\$ 82,760	\$ 85,019
DN ADA GF	\$ 78,562	\$ 81,724	\$ 83,079	\$ 85,338
DN ADB GF	\$ 78,882	\$ 82,044	\$ 83,399	\$ 85,658
DN ADC GF	\$ 79,202	\$ 82,364	\$ 83,719	\$ 85,978

**Teacher Performance Salary Schedule Initial Placement Matrix** This Matrix is only for the initial placement of teachers based upon their credited years of experience on the Teacher Performance Salary Schedule below.

Initial Placement for Teacher Pay for Performance Schedule for Teachers Hired/Rehired on and after July 1, 2025.

**Initial Placement for New Hire Teacher Pay for Performance Salary Schedule**

<b>Initial Placement for New Hires based on Years of Verified Experience</b>	<b>Pay Level</b>
0-1	AAD
2	AAD 00
3	AAE 01
4	AAE 02
5	AAE 03
6	AAF 04
7	AAF 05
8	AAG 06
9	AAG 07
10	AAH 08
11	AAH 09
12	AAI 10
13	AAI 11
14	AAJ 12
15	AAJ 13
16	AAM
17	AAO
18	AAQ
19	AAS
20	AAU
21	AAW
22	AAY
23	ABA
24	ABC
25	ABE
26	ABG
27	ABI
28	ABK
29	ABM
30	ABO
31	ABQ
32	ABS
33	ABU
34	ABW
35	ABY
36	ACA
37+	ACC

**Teacher Performance Salary Schedule (196 days):**

**Annual Contract Teacher Pay for Performance Salary Schedule**

2025-2026 Annual Contract (PFP) Salary	
Pay Level	Bachelor's Degree Base Salary 196 Days
AAD PFP	\$ 48,450
AAD PFP 00	\$ 49,822
AAE PFP 01	\$ 50,141
AAE PFP 02	\$ 50,460
AAE PFP 03	\$ 50,780
AAF PFP 04	\$ 51,099
AAF PFP 05	\$ 51,418
AAG PFP 06	\$ 51,738
AAG PFP 07	\$ 52,058
AAH PFP 08	\$ 52,377
AAH PFP 09	\$ 52,696
AAI PFP 10	\$ 53,016
AAI PFP 11	\$ 53,335
AAJ PFP 12	\$ 53,654
AAJ PFP 13	\$ 53,974
AAK PFP	\$ 54,294
AAL PFP	\$ 54,613
AAM PFP	\$ 54,932
AAN PFP	\$ 55,251
AAO PFP	\$ 55,571
AAP PFP	\$ 55,890
AAQ PFP	\$ 56,210
AAR PFP	\$ 56,529
AAS PFP	\$ 56,849
AAT PFP	\$ 57,168
AAU PFP	\$ 57,487
AAV PFP	\$ 57,806
AAW PFP	\$ 58,126
AAX PFP	\$ 58,446
AAZ PFP	\$ 58,765
AAZ PFP	\$ 59,085
ABA PFP	\$ 59,404
ABB PFP	\$ 59,723
ABC PFP	\$ 60,042
ABD PFP	\$ 60,362
ABE PFP	\$ 60,682
ABF PFP	\$ 61,001
ABG PFP	\$ 61,320
ABH PFP	\$ 61,640
ABI PFP	\$ 61,959
ABJ PFP	\$ 62,278
ABK PFP	\$ 62,597

2025-2026 Annual Contract (PFP) Salary	
Pay Level	Bachelor's Degree Base Salary 196 Days
ABL PFP	\$ 62,917
ABM PFP	\$ 63,237
ABN PFP	\$ 63,556
ABO PFP	\$ 63,875
ABP PFP	\$ 64,195
ABQ PFP	\$ 64,514
ABR PFP	\$ 64,833
ABS PFP	\$ 65,153
ABT PFP	\$ 65,473
ABU PFP	\$ 65,792
ABV PFP	\$ 66,111
ABW PFP	\$ 66,431
ABX PFP	\$ 66,750
ABY PFP	\$ 67,069
ABZ PFP	\$ 67,388
ACA PFP	\$ 67,709
ACB PFP	\$ 68,028
ACC PFP	\$ 68,347
ACD PFP	\$ 68,666
ACE PFP	\$ 68,986
ACF PFP	\$ 69,305
ACG PFP	\$ 69,624
ACH PFP	\$ 69,944
ACI PFP	\$ 70,264
ACJ PFP	\$ 70,583
ACK PFP	\$ 70,902
ACL PFP	\$ 71,222
ACM PFP	\$ 71,541
ACN PFP	\$ 71,860
ACO PFP	\$ 72,180
ACP PFP	\$ 72,500
ACQ PFP	\$ 72,819
ACR PFP	\$ 73,138
ACS PFP	\$ 73,457
ACT PFP	\$ 73,777
ACU PFP	\$ 74,096
ACV PFP	\$ 74,416
ACW PFP	\$ 74,735
ACX PFP	\$ 75,055
ACY PFP	\$ 75,374
ACZ PFP	\$ 75,693
ADA PFP	\$ 76,012
ADB PFP	\$ 76,332
ADC PFP	\$ 76,652

**Dean (Administrative Assistant) PFP Pay Schedule:**

This pay schedule includes \$2500 added into the teacher base salary to account for the \$2500 supplement historically paid from Teacher Appendix C which is being moved to the base salary (changed Fall 2023).

2025-2026 Dean	Annual Contract (PFP) Salary
Pay Level	Bachelor's Degree Base Salary 196 Days w/ \$2500
DN AAD PFP	\$ 51,000
DN AAD PFP 00	\$ 52,372
DN AAE PFP 01	\$ 52,691
DN AAE PFP 02	\$ 53,010
DN AAE PFP 03	\$ 53,330
DN AAF PFP 04	\$ 53,649
DN AAF PFP 05	\$ 53,968
DN AAG PFP 06	\$ 54,288
DN AAG PFP 07	\$ 54,608
DN AAH PFP 08	\$ 54,927
DN AAH PFP 09	\$ 55,246
DN AAI PFP 10	\$ 55,566
DN AAI PFP 11	\$ 55,885
DN AAJ PFP 12	\$ 56,204
DN AAJ PFP 13	\$ 56,524
DN AAK PFP	\$ 56,844
DN AAL PFP	\$ 57,163
DN AAM PFP	\$ 57,482
DN AAN PFP	\$ 57,801
DN AAO PFP	\$ 58,121
DN AAP PFP	\$ 58,440
DN AAQ PFP	\$ 58,760
DN AAR PFP	\$ 59,079
DN AAS PFP	\$ 59,399
DN AAT PFP	\$ 59,718
DN AAU PFP	\$ 60,037
DN AAV PFP	\$ 60,356
DN AAW PFP	\$ 60,676
DN AAX PFP	\$ 60,996
DN AAY PFP	\$ 61,315
DN AAZ PFP	\$ 61,635
DN ABA PFP	\$ 61,954
DN ABB PFP	\$ 62,273
DN ABC PFP	\$ 62,592
DN ABD PFP	\$ 62,912
DN ABE PFP	\$ 63,232
DN ABF PFP	\$ 63,551
DN ABG PFP	\$ 63,870
DN ABH PFP	\$ 64,190
DN ABI PFP	\$ 64,509
DN ABJ PFP	\$ 64,828
DN ABK PFP	\$ 65,147
DN ABL PFP	\$ 65,467
DN ABM PFP	\$ 65,787
DN ABN PFP	\$ 66,106
DN ABO PFP	\$ 66,425
DN ABP PFP	\$ 66,745
DN ABQ PFP	\$ 67,064
DN ABR PFP	\$ 67,383
DN ABS PFP	\$ 67,703

2025-2026 Dean	Annual Contract (PFP) Salary
Pay Level	Bachelor's Degree Base Salary 196 Days w/ \$2500
DN ABT PFP	\$ 68,023
DN ABU PFP	\$ 68,342
DN ABV PFP	\$ 68,661
DN ABW PFP	\$ 68,981
DN ABX PFP	\$ 69,300
DN ABY PFP	\$ 69,619
DN ABZ PFP	\$ 69,938
DN ACA PFP	\$ 70,259
DN ACB PFP	\$ 70,578
DN ACC PFP	\$ 70,897
DN ACD PFP	\$ 71,216
DN ACE PFP	\$ 71,536
DN ACF PFP	\$ 71,855
DN ACG PFP	\$ 72,174
DN ACH PFP	\$ 72,494
DN ACI PFP	\$ 72,814
DN ACJ PFP	\$ 73,133
DN ACK PFP	\$ 73,452
DN ACL PFP	\$ 73,772
DN ACM PFP	\$ 74,091
DN ACN PFP	\$ 74,410
DN ACO PFP	\$ 74,730
DN ACP PFP	\$ 75,050
DN ACQ PFP	\$ 75,369
DN ACR PFP	\$ 75,688
DN ACS PFP	\$ 76,007
DN ACT PFP	\$ 76,327
DN ACU PFP	\$ 76,646
DN ACV PFP	\$ 76,966
DN ACW PFP	\$ 77,285
DN ACX PFP	\$ 77,605
DN ACY PFP	\$ 77,924
DN ACZ PFP	\$ 78,243
DN ADA PFP	\$ 78,562
DN ADB PFP	\$ 78,882
DN ADC PFP	\$ 79,202

**STUDENT SERVICES GRANDFATHERED SALARY SCHEDULE (216-day Work Schedule)**

(Statutorily mandated for Psychologists, school counselors, mental health counselors, mental health facilitators, social workers, and speech language pathologists with a Professional Services or Continuing Contract)

Pay levels on the Student Services Grandfathered Salary Schedule are based on the corresponding Teacher Grandfathered Salary Schedule pay levels, with Master’s Degree and on a 216-day work schedule.

Per Article 22, employees on Student Services can flex down to a 196-day contract, so the 196-day flex down schedule has been added for clarification. The base salaries for both Student Services GF and PFP include the \$3162 Master’s Supplement.

*Note: The Student Services Grandfathered and Annual Contract Pay for Performance (PFP) have \$2500 and the Master’s Supplement of \$3162 built into the base salary schedules as of July 1, 2025.*

Pay Level	2025-2026 Student Services Grandfathered (GF) Salary					
	216-Days with Master's \$3162 Base Annual Salary	216- Specialist Degree Add \$4517 to Base Master's	216- Doctorate Degree Add \$6776 to Base Master's	196-Days with Master's \$3162 Base Annual Salary	196- Specialist Degree Add \$4517 to Base Master's	196- Doctorate Degree Add \$6776 to Base Master's
SS AAD GF	\$ 59,758	\$ 64,275	\$ 66,534	\$ 54,225	\$ 58,742	\$ 61,001
SS AAD GF 00	\$ 61,270	\$ 65,787	\$ 68,046	\$ 55,597	\$ 60,114	\$ 62,373
SS AAE GF 01	\$ 61,622	\$ 66,139	\$ 68,398	\$ 55,916	\$ 60,433	\$ 62,692
SS AAE GF 02	\$ 61,974	\$ 66,491	\$ 68,750	\$ 56,236	\$ 60,753	\$ 63,012
SS AAE GF 03	\$ 62,326	\$ 66,843	\$ 69,102	\$ 56,555	\$ 61,072	\$ 63,331
SS AAF GF 04	\$ 62,678	\$ 67,195	\$ 69,454	\$ 56,874	\$ 61,391	\$ 63,650
SS AAF GF 05	\$ 63,030	\$ 67,547	\$ 69,806	\$ 57,193	\$ 61,710	\$ 63,969
SS AAG GF 06	\$ 63,382	\$ 67,899	\$ 70,158	\$ 57,514	\$ 62,031	\$ 64,290
SS AAG GF 07	\$ 63,734	\$ 68,251	\$ 70,510	\$ 57,833	\$ 62,350	\$ 64,609
SS AAH GF 08	\$ 64,086	\$ 68,603	\$ 70,862	\$ 58,152	\$ 62,669	\$ 64,928
SS AAH GF 09	\$ 64,438	\$ 68,955	\$ 71,214	\$ 58,472	\$ 62,989	\$ 65,248
SS AAI GF 10	\$ 64,790	\$ 69,307	\$ 71,566	\$ 58,791	\$ 63,308	\$ 65,567
SS AAI GF 11	\$ 65,142	\$ 69,659	\$ 71,918	\$ 59,110	\$ 63,627	\$ 65,886
SS AAJ GF 12	\$ 65,493	\$ 70,010	\$ 72,269	\$ 59,429	\$ 63,946	\$ 66,205
SS AAJ GF 13	\$ 65,846	\$ 70,363	\$ 72,622	\$ 59,750	\$ 64,267	\$ 66,526
SS AAK GF	\$ 66,198	\$ 70,715	\$ 72,974	\$ 60,069	\$ 64,586	\$ 66,845
SS AAL GF	\$ 66,550	\$ 71,067	\$ 73,326	\$ 60,388	\$ 64,905	\$ 67,164
SS AAM GF	\$ 66,902	\$ 71,419	\$ 73,678	\$ 60,707	\$ 65,224	\$ 67,483
SS AAN GF	\$ 67,254	\$ 71,771	\$ 74,030	\$ 61,027	\$ 65,544	\$ 67,803
SS AAO GF	\$ 67,606	\$ 72,123	\$ 74,382	\$ 61,346	\$ 65,863	\$ 68,122
SS AAP GF	\$ 67,957	\$ 72,474	\$ 74,733	\$ 61,665	\$ 66,182	\$ 68,441
SS AAQ GF	\$ 68,310	\$ 72,827	\$ 75,086	\$ 61,985	\$ 66,502	\$ 68,761
SS AAR GF	\$ 68,662	\$ 73,179	\$ 75,438	\$ 62,305	\$ 66,822	\$ 69,081
SS AAS GF	\$ 69,014	\$ 73,531	\$ 75,790	\$ 62,624	\$ 67,141	\$ 69,400
SS AAT GF	\$ 69,366	\$ 73,883	\$ 76,142	\$ 62,943	\$ 67,460	\$ 69,719
SS AAU GF	\$ 69,718	\$ 74,235	\$ 76,494	\$ 63,262	\$ 67,779	\$ 70,038
SS AAV GF	\$ 70,070	\$ 74,587	\$ 76,846	\$ 63,582	\$ 68,099	\$ 70,358
SS AAW GF	\$ 70,421	\$ 74,938	\$ 77,197	\$ 63,901	\$ 68,418	\$ 70,677
SS AAX GF	\$ 70,774	\$ 75,291	\$ 77,550	\$ 64,221	\$ 68,738	\$ 70,997
SS AAY GF	\$ 71,126	\$ 75,643	\$ 77,902	\$ 64,541	\$ 69,058	\$ 71,317
SS AAZ GF	\$ 71,478	\$ 75,995	\$ 78,254	\$ 64,860	\$ 69,377	\$ 71,636

	2025-2026 Student Services Grandfathered (GF) Salary					
Pay Level	216-Days with Master's \$3162 Base Annual Salary	216- Specialist Degree Add \$4517 to Base Master's	216- Doctorate Degree Add \$6776 to Base Master's	196-Days with Master's \$3162 Base Annual Salary	196- Specialist Degree Add \$4517 to Base Master's	196- Doctorate Degree Add \$6776 to Base Master's
SS ABA GF	\$ 71,830	\$ 76,347	\$ 78,606	\$ 65,179	\$ 69,696	\$ 71,955
SS ABB GF	\$ 72,182	\$ 76,699	\$ 78,958	\$ 65,498	\$ 70,015	\$ 72,274
SS ABC GF	\$ 72,534	\$ 77,051	\$ 79,310	\$ 65,818	\$ 70,335	\$ 72,594
SS ABD GF	\$ 72,885	\$ 77,402	\$ 79,661	\$ 66,137	\$ 70,654	\$ 72,913
SS ABE GF	\$ 73,238	\$ 77,755	\$ 80,014	\$ 66,457	\$ 70,974	\$ 73,233
SS ABF GF	\$ 73,590	\$ 78,107	\$ 80,366	\$ 66,776	\$ 71,293	\$ 73,552
SS ABG GF	\$ 73,942	\$ 78,459	\$ 80,718	\$ 67,096	\$ 71,613	\$ 73,872
SS ABH GF	\$ 74,294	\$ 78,811	\$ 81,070	\$ 67,415	\$ 71,932	\$ 74,191
SS ABI GF	\$ 74,646	\$ 79,163	\$ 81,422	\$ 67,734	\$ 72,251	\$ 74,510
SS ABJ GF	\$ 74,998	\$ 79,515	\$ 81,774	\$ 68,053	\$ 72,570	\$ 74,829
SS ABK GF	\$ 75,349	\$ 79,866	\$ 82,125	\$ 68,373	\$ 72,890	\$ 75,149
SS ABL GF	\$ 75,701	\$ 80,218	\$ 82,477	\$ 68,692	\$ 73,209	\$ 75,468
SS ABM GF	\$ 76,054	\$ 80,571	\$ 82,830	\$ 69,012	\$ 73,529	\$ 75,788
SS ABN GF	\$ 76,406	\$ 80,923	\$ 83,182	\$ 69,331	\$ 73,848	\$ 76,107
SS ABO GF	\$ 76,758	\$ 81,275	\$ 83,534	\$ 69,651	\$ 74,168	\$ 76,427
SS ABP GF	\$ 77,110	\$ 81,627	\$ 83,886	\$ 69,970	\$ 74,487	\$ 76,746
SS ABQ GF	\$ 77,462	\$ 81,979	\$ 84,238	\$ 70,289	\$ 74,806	\$ 77,065
SS ABR GF	\$ 77,813	\$ 82,330	\$ 84,589	\$ 70,608	\$ 75,125	\$ 77,384
SS ABS GF	\$ 78,165	\$ 82,682	\$ 84,941	\$ 70,928	\$ 75,445	\$ 77,704
SS ABT GF	\$ 78,518	\$ 83,035	\$ 85,294	\$ 71,248	\$ 75,765	\$ 78,024
SS ABU GF	\$ 78,870	\$ 83,387	\$ 85,646	\$ 71,567	\$ 76,084	\$ 78,343
SS ABV GF	\$ 79,222	\$ 83,739	\$ 85,998	\$ 71,887	\$ 76,404	\$ 78,663
SS ABW GF	\$ 79,574	\$ 84,091	\$ 86,350	\$ 72,206	\$ 76,723	\$ 78,982
SS ABX GF	\$ 79,926	\$ 84,443	\$ 86,702	\$ 72,525	\$ 77,042	\$ 79,301
SS ABY GF	\$ 80,277	\$ 84,794	\$ 87,053	\$ 72,844	\$ 77,361	\$ 79,620
SS ABZ GF	\$ 80,629	\$ 85,146	\$ 87,405	\$ 73,164	\$ 77,681	\$ 79,940
SS ACA GF	\$ 80,982	\$ 85,499	\$ 87,758	\$ 73,484	\$ 78,001	\$ 80,260
SS ACB GF	\$ 81,334	\$ 85,851	\$ 88,110	\$ 73,803	\$ 78,320	\$ 80,579
SS ACC GF	\$ 81,686	\$ 86,203	\$ 88,462	\$ 74,122	\$ 78,639	\$ 80,898
SS ACD GF	\$ 82,038	\$ 86,555	\$ 88,814	\$ 74,442	\$ 78,959	\$ 81,218
SS ACE GF	\$ 82,390	\$ 86,907	\$ 89,166	\$ 74,761	\$ 79,278	\$ 81,537
SS ACF GF	\$ 82,741	\$ 87,258	\$ 89,517	\$ 75,080	\$ 79,597	\$ 81,856
SS ACG GF	\$ 83,093	\$ 87,610	\$ 89,869	\$ 75,399	\$ 79,916	\$ 82,175
SS ACH GF	\$ 83,446	\$ 87,963	\$ 90,222	\$ 75,720	\$ 80,237	\$ 82,496
SS ACI GF	\$ 83,798	\$ 88,315	\$ 90,574	\$ 76,039	\$ 80,556	\$ 82,815
SS ACJ GF	\$ 84,150	\$ 88,667	\$ 90,926	\$ 76,358	\$ 80,875	\$ 83,134
SS ACK GF	\$ 84,502	\$ 89,019	\$ 91,278	\$ 76,677	\$ 81,194	\$ 83,453
SS ACL GF	\$ 84,854	\$ 89,371	\$ 91,630	\$ 76,997	\$ 81,514	\$ 83,773
SS ACM GF	\$ 85,205	\$ 89,722	\$ 91,981	\$ 77,316	\$ 81,833	\$ 84,092
SS ACN GF	\$ 85,557	\$ 90,074	\$ 92,333	\$ 77,635	\$ 82,152	\$ 84,411
SS ACO GF	\$ 85,910	\$ 90,427	\$ 92,686	\$ 77,956	\$ 82,473	\$ 84,732
SS ACP GF	\$ 86,262	\$ 90,779	\$ 93,038	\$ 78,275	\$ 82,792	\$ 85,051
SS ACQ GF	\$ 86,614	\$ 91,131	\$ 93,390	\$ 78,594	\$ 83,111	\$ 85,370
SS ACR GF	\$ 86,966	\$ 91,483	\$ 93,742	\$ 78,913	\$ 83,430	\$ 85,689
SS ACS GF	\$ 87,318	\$ 91,835	\$ 94,094	\$ 79,233	\$ 83,750	\$ 86,009
SS ACT GF	\$ 87,669	\$ 92,186	\$ 94,445	\$ 79,552	\$ 84,069	\$ 86,328
SS ACU GF	\$ 88,021	\$ 92,538	\$ 94,797	\$ 79,871	\$ 84,388	\$ 86,647
SS ACV GF	\$ 88,374	\$ 92,891	\$ 95,150	\$ 80,191	\$ 84,708	\$ 86,967
SS ACW GF	\$ 88,726	\$ 93,243	\$ 95,502	\$ 80,511	\$ 85,028	\$ 87,287
SS ACX GF	\$ 89,078	\$ 93,595	\$ 95,854	\$ 80,830	\$ 85,347	\$ 87,606
SS ACY GF	\$ 89,430	\$ 93,947	\$ 96,206	\$ 81,149	\$ 85,666	\$ 87,925
SS ACZ GF	\$ 89,782	\$ 94,299	\$ 96,558	\$ 81,468	\$ 85,985	\$ 88,244
SS ADA GF	\$ 90,133	\$ 94,650	\$ 96,909	\$ 81,788	\$ 86,305	\$ 88,564
SS ADB GF	\$ 90,485	\$ 95,002	\$ 97,261	\$ 82,107	\$ 86,624	\$ 88,883
SS ADC GF	\$ 90,838	\$ 95,355	\$ 97,614	\$ 82,427	\$ 86,944	\$ 89,203

### Student Services Performance Salary Schedule Initial Placement Matrix

This Matrix is only for the initial placement of newly hired psychologists, school counselors, mental health counselors, mental health facilitators, social workers, and speech language pathologists on the Student Services Salary Performance Schedule below.

<b>Initial Placement for New Hires based on Years of Verified Experience</b>	<b>Pay Level</b>
0-1	AAD
2	AAD 00
3	AAE 01
4	AAE 02
5	AAE 03
6	AAF 04
7	AAF 05
8	AAG 06
9	AAG 07
10	AAH 08
11	AAH 09
12	AAI 10
13	AAI 11
14	AAJ 12
15	AAJ 13
16	AAM
17	AAO
18	AAQ
19	AAS
20	AAU
21	AAW
22	AAZ
23	ABA
24	ABC
25	ABE
26	ABG
27	ABI
28	ABK
29	ABM
30	ABO
31	ABQ
32	ABS
33	ABU
34	ABW
35	ABY
36	ACA
37+	ACC

## Student Services Performance Salary Schedule (216 days):

(Statutorily mandated for Psychologists, school counselors, mental health counselors, mental health facilitators, social workers, and speech language pathologists holding or accepting Annual Contracts, or Probationary Contracts)

First pay level on the Student Services Performance Salary Schedule is based on the Teacher Performance Salary Schedule pay level, with Master's Degree and on a 216-day work schedule.

*Note: The Student Services Grandfathered and Annual Contract Pay for Performance (PFP) have \$2500 and the Master's Supplement of \$3162 built into the base salary schedules as of July 1, 2025.*

2025-2026 Student Services Annual Contract (PFP) Salary		
Pay Level	216-Days with Master's \$3162 Base Annual Salary	196-Days with Master's \$3162 Base Annual Salary
SS AAD PFP	\$ 59,758	\$ 54,225
SS AAD PFP 00	\$ 61,270	\$ 55,597
SS AAE PFP 01	\$ 61,622	\$ 55,916
SS AAE PFP 02	\$ 61,974	\$ 56,236
SS AAE PFP 03	\$ 62,326	\$ 56,555
SS AAF PFP 04	\$ 62,678	\$ 56,874
SS AAF PFP 05	\$ 63,030	\$ 57,193
SS AAG PFP 06	\$ 63,382	\$ 57,514
SS AAG PFP 07	\$ 63,734	\$ 57,833
SS AAH PFP 08	\$ 64,086	\$ 58,152
SS AAH PFP 09	\$ 64,438	\$ 58,472
SS AAI PFP 10	\$ 64,790	\$ 58,791
SS AAI PFP 11	\$ 65,142	\$ 59,110
SS AAJ PFP 12	\$ 65,493	\$ 59,429
SS AAJ PFP 13	\$ 65,846	\$ 59,750
SS AAK PFP	\$ 66,198	\$ 60,069
SS AAL PFP	\$ 66,550	\$ 60,388
SS AAM PFP	\$ 66,902	\$ 60,707
SS AAN PFP	\$ 67,254	\$ 61,027
SS AAO PFP	\$ 67,606	\$ 61,346
SS AAP PFP	\$ 67,957	\$ 61,665
SS AAQ PFP	\$ 68,310	\$ 61,985
SS AAR PFP	\$ 68,662	\$ 62,305
SS AAS PFP	\$ 69,014	\$ 62,624
SS AAT PFP	\$ 69,366	\$ 62,943
SS AAU PFP	\$ 69,718	\$ 63,262
SS AAV PFP	\$ 70,070	\$ 63,582
SS AAW PFP	\$ 70,421	\$ 63,901
SS AAX PFP	\$ 70,774	\$ 64,221
SS AAY PFP	\$ 71,126	\$ 64,541
SS AAZ PFP	\$ 71,478	\$ 64,860
SS ABA PFP	\$ 71,830	\$ 65,179
SS ABB PFP	\$ 72,182	\$ 65,498
SS ABC PFP	\$ 72,534	\$ 65,818
SS ABD PFP	\$ 72,885	\$ 66,137
SS ABE PFP	\$ 73,238	\$ 66,457
SS ABF PFP	\$ 73,590	\$ 66,776
SS ABG PFP	\$ 73,942	\$ 67,096
SS ABH PFP	\$ 74,294	\$ 67,415

2025-2026 Student Services Annual Contract (PFP) Salary		
Pay Level	216-Days with Master's \$3162 Base Annual Salary	196-Days with Master's \$3162 Base Annual Salary
SS ABI PFP	\$ 74,646	\$ 67,734
SS ABJ PFP	\$ 74,998	\$ 68,053
SS ABK PFP	\$ 75,349	\$ 68,373
SS ABL PFP	\$ 75,701	\$ 68,692
SS ABM PFP	\$ 76,054	\$ 69,012
SS ABN PFP	\$ 76,406	\$ 69,331
SS ABO PFP	\$ 76,758	\$ 69,651
SS ABP PFP	\$ 77,110	\$ 69,970
SS ABQ PFP	\$ 77,462	\$ 70,289
SS ABR PFP	\$ 77,813	\$ 70,608
SS ABS PFP	\$ 78,165	\$ 70,928
SS ABT PFP	\$ 78,518	\$ 71,248
SS ABU PFP	\$ 78,870	\$ 71,567
SS ABV PFP	\$ 79,222	\$ 71,887
SS ABW PFP	\$ 79,574	\$ 72,206
SS ABX PFP	\$ 79,926	\$ 72,525
SS ABY PFP	\$ 80,277	\$ 72,844
SS ABZ PFP	\$ 80,629	\$ 73,164
SS ACA PFP	\$ 80,982	\$ 73,484
SS ACB PFP	\$ 81,334	\$ 73,803
SS ACC PFP	\$ 81,686	\$ 74,122
SS ACD PFP	\$ 82,038	\$ 74,442
SS ACE PFP	\$ 82,390	\$ 74,761
SS ACF PFP	\$ 82,741	\$ 75,080
SS ACG PFP	\$ 83,093	\$ 75,399
SS ACH PFP	\$ 83,446	\$ 75,720
SS ACI PFP	\$ 83,798	\$ 76,039
SS ACJ PFP	\$ 84,150	\$ 76,358
SS ACK PFP	\$ 84,502	\$ 76,677
SS ACL PFP	\$ 84,854	\$ 76,997
SS ACM PFP	\$ 85,205	\$ 77,316
SS ACN PFP	\$ 85,557	\$ 77,635
SS ACO PFP	\$ 85,910	\$ 77,956
SS ACP PFP	\$ 86,262	\$ 78,275
SS ACQ PFP	\$ 86,614	\$ 78,594
SS ACR PFP	\$ 86,966	\$ 78,913
SS ACS PFP	\$ 87,318	\$ 79,233
SS ACT PFP	\$ 87,669	\$ 79,552
SS ACU PFP	\$ 88,021	\$ 79,871

2025-2026 Student Services Annual Contract (PFP) Salary		
Pay Level	216-Days with Master's \$3162 Base Annual Salary	196-Days with Master's \$3162 Base Annual Salary
SS ACV PFP	\$ 88,374	\$ 80,191
SS ACW PFP	\$ 88,726	\$ 80,511
SS ACX PFP	\$ 89,078	\$ 80,830
SS ACY PFP	\$ 89,430	\$ 81,149
SS ACZ PFP	\$ 89,782	\$ 81,468
SS ADA PFP	\$ 90,133	\$ 81,788
SS ADB PFP	\$ 90,485	\$ 82,107
SS ADC PFP	\$ 90,838	\$ 82,427

**OCCUPATIONAL & PHYSICAL THERAPIST & SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER  
SALARY SCHEDULE (196-day Work Schedule)**

2025-2026	OT/PT/SLI
Pay Level	Salary
BA OPT	\$ 52,879
BB OPT	\$ 53,836
BC OPT	\$ 54,793
BD OPT	\$ 55,751
BE OPT	\$ 56,708
BF OPT	\$ 57,666
BG OPT	\$ 58,623
BH OPT	\$ 59,580
BI OPT	\$ 60,538
BJ OPT	\$ 61,495
BK OPT	\$ 62,454
BL OPT	\$ 63,410
BM OPT	\$ 64,367
BN OPT	\$ 65,325
BO OPT	\$ 66,283
BP OPT	\$ 67,240
BQ OPT	\$ 68,197
BR OPT	\$ 69,154
BS OPT	\$ 70,113
BT OPT	\$ 71,070
BU OPT	\$ 72,027
BV OPT	\$ 72,984
BW OPT	\$ 73,942
BX OPT	\$ 74,900
BY OPT	\$ 75,856
BZ OPT	\$ 76,814
CA OPT	\$ 77,771
CB OPT	\$ 78,728
CC OPT	\$ 79,685
CD OPT	\$ 80,642
CE OPT	\$ 81,600
CF OPT	\$ 82,557
CG OPT	\$ 83,514

## **ADVANCED DEGREES**

For employees paid on the Teacher Salary Schedules, the compensation for a credited Advanced Degree shall be added to their assigned pay level and be a part of their permanent base pay unless earned after June 30, 2011. For all advanced degrees earned after June 30, 2011, and for employees hired after June 30, 2011, the additional compensation for a credited advanced degree will be paid as a supplement. Advanced degree pay is part of an employee's daily rate of pay calculation when employees are contracted for additional days or hours.

### **Advanced Degree Supplements-**

On July 1, 2022, advanced degrees will improve to the following:

- Masters: \$3162
- Specialist: \$4517
- Doctorate: \$6776

## **NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION**

Teachers with National Board Certification will be guaranteed a supplement from the State. If the State funding of this supplement falls below \$1,000.00 the Board will make up the difference up to a \$1,000.00 maximum. If the State funding is unexpectedly withdrawn or withheld, the parties agree to reopen discussion on this issue.

## **TEACHER OF THE YEAR**

\$15,750.00 will be set aside to reward the Area Finalists, Overall Runner-Up, and the Winner of the Teacher of the Year for their performance.

### **Speech/Language Pathologist Supplement**

Bachelor of Arts (grandfathered) Bachelor Level SLP with permanent FLDOE certification  
\$1,045

Master of Arts 262

Master of Arts w/Certificate of Clinical Competency 5,227

Speech/Language Pathologists with a Certificate of Clinical Competency are given a supplement from IDEA funds. If IDEA funds are not available for this purpose, the Polk County School Board will make up the difference up to \$1,000 maximum.

## **EXTENDED CONTRACTS**

Employees with extended contracts shall receive 1/196 additional salary for all additional days based on the appropriate 196-day Teacher Salary Schedule.

## TEACHER APPENDIX C – SUPPLEMENTAL SALARY SCHEDULE

Supplements will be paid only after all services relative to the supplement are completed. In instances where a checklist is required, supplements will be paid only after satisfactory completion of the checklist items.

**The District will publish a supplement pay schedule annually by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Any new supplements agreed upon after this date will be added to the schedule within sixty (60) calendar days.**

Any school using someone other than a teacher to fill any position listed in this Appendix, shall receive only an amount equal to the listed supplements in the Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement. If additional funding is needed to comply with the federal wage and hour guidelines, the amount will be paid from the school's internal accounts.

All supplements are payment for duties performed beyond the regular workday, except in the case of In-School Suspension Monitors.

In-school suspension teacher/monitor \$1,766.

No more than three (3) supplements for student extracurricular activities will be paid except by special permission of the Chief of High Schools.

### **Athletic Supplements:**

No person shall be assigned to two (2) or more coaching positions that would require their service during the same season. The only exceptions being an employee assigned to coach the following boys' and girls' sports during the same season: bowling, cross country, golf, swimming, and tennis.

Any athletic activity that does not meet the required number of games/matches or participants the supplement will be adjusted by the District Senior Director of Athletics.

An athletic supplement is for the period of time between the first official day of practice and the time that a coach's team is eliminated in the FHSAA state championship series.

### **Teacher Mentors (See Teacher Article XIV – Professional Qualifications and Assignments):**

Teachers assigned by the principal/supervisor as the designated Professional Education Competence (PEC) mentor for new hires will be paid a total supplement not to exceed \$500 per assigned mentee teacher, subject to successful completion, upload, review, and approval by Professional Development staff of a minimum of four (4), but not to exceed seven (7) mentoring tools per assigned mentee.

Completion of less than four (4) and less than seven (7) mentoring tools will result in a prorated supplement of \$71.43 per reviewed and approved mentoring tool. PEC mentors will be paid only once per reviewed and approved tool.

**Note: Additional teachers mentoring teachers deemed to be in need of assistance will be paid their regular hourly rate of pay for the number of hours agreed upon in advance between the principal and the mentoring teacher. See Article 14.**

<b>HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC COACHING SUPPLEMENTS</b>	<b>Supplements</b>
Athletic Director (All Class) (paid in prorated monthly installments) <i>See Note (1)</i>	\$5000
Business Manager (paid in prorated monthly installments)	\$2000
<b>HEAD COACHES</b>	<b>Supplements</b>
Head Football (85/15 Payment)	\$4500
Head Assistant Football (85/15 Payment)	\$3100
Head Basketball (Boys/Girls)	\$3000
Head Baseball	\$3000
Head Flag Football (Girls) Spring	\$2000
Head Softball	\$3000
Head Lacrosse (Boys/Girls)	\$2600
Head Track (Boys/Girls)	\$2600
Head Beach Volleyball (Girls)	\$2000
Head Volleyball (Boys/Girls)	\$2600
Head Soccer (Boys/Girls)	\$2600
Head Wrestling (Boys/Girls)	\$2600
Head Swimming (Boys/Girls)	\$2000
Head Competitive Cheerleading <i>See Note (6)</i>	\$1000
Head Spirit Cheerleading – Fall	\$1800
Head Spirit Cheerleading – Winter	\$1800
Head Bowling (Boys/Girls)	\$1800
Head Golf (Boys/Girls)	\$1800
Head Tennis (Boys/Girls)	\$1800
Head Cross Country (Boys/Girls)	\$1800
Head Weightlifting (Boys/Girls)	\$1800
<b>ASSISTANT HEAD COACHES</b>	<b>Supplements</b>
Assistant Flag Football (Girls) Spring	\$1,600
Assistant Football (85/15 Payment)	\$2700
Assistant Basketball (Boys/Girls)	\$2600
Assistant Track (Boys/Girls)	\$2000
Assistant Baseball	\$2000
Assistant Softball	\$2000
Assistant Beach Volleyball (Girls)	\$1,600
Assistant Volleyball (Boys/Girls)	\$2000
Assistant Wrestling (Boys/Girls)	\$2000
Assistant Spirit Cheerleading - Fall/Winter	\$1300
Assistant Lacrosse (Boys/Girls)	\$1800
Assistant Soccer (Boys/Girls)	\$1800
Assistant Weightlifting (Boys/Girls) <i>See Note 7</i>	\$1300
<b>JUNIOR VARSITY COACHES</b>	<b>Supplements</b>
J.V. Basketball (Boys/Girls)	\$1800
J.V. Baseball	\$1800

J.V. Softball	\$1800
J.V. Soccer (Boys/Girls)	\$1800
J.V. Spirit Cheerleading - Fall/Winter	\$1300
J.V. Volleyball (Boys/Girls)	\$1800
J.V. Wrestling (Boys/Girls)	\$1800
J.V. Flag Football (Girls) Spring	\$1200
<b>OTHER HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC SUPPLEMENTS</b>	
	<b>Supplements</b>
First Responder/Certified Trainer (Fall, Winter, Spring)	\$1800
Weight Training	\$2000
Intramurals (No Sports)	\$1200
Business Manager	\$2000
Gym Coordinator	\$800
ESports (Co-Ed) Fall Season	\$1800
ESports (Co-Ed) Spring Season	\$1800

**Supplement Notes:**

**(1) Athletic Director** - In order for a school to have an Athletic Director, the school must field a minimum of four (4) sports teams each sports season. The Athletic Director may not receive an additional supplement for being head football coach. A person who assumes both the position of Athletic Director and Business Manager may not coach a sport in any capacity. The principal may request permission from the District Senior Director of Athletics to employ one of the above listed head coaches, with the exception of the head football coach, on a year-to-year basis. The District Senior Director of Athletics will evaluate the job performance of both positions before approving for another year.

**(2)** All high schools shall receive seven (7) assistant football coaches (Includes Head Assistant Coach).

**(3)** All fall varsity head coaches, authorized assistant coaches, band directors and authorized associate/assistant band directors reporting for duty or the first authorized practice shall receive **\$51.00 per day provided students are in attendance, for pre-school duty to be included with their supplement payment. This is defined as being before the first day teachers on a 196-day contract return as established in the school calendar.**

**(4) Orchestra Director** - Directors of both Middle and Senior high school programs to receive senior high supplement plus \$218 for middle school because of the two being concurrent. Director of two high school programs to receive current high school supplement plus \$442.

**(5) Choral Director** - Choral directors serving both Middle and Senior High Schools and completing the responsibilities for performance-oriented activities should receive the senior high supplement plus \$218 since they are concurrent. Choral directors serving two high school programs should receive the high school supplement plus \$442.

**(6) Competitive Cheerleading Head Coach** - Competitive Cheerleading Head Coaches must compete in a minimum of four (4) competitions in addition to the FHSAA state series events.

**(7) Assistant Weightlifting Coaches** – Must have 15 or more official rostered student-athletes to be eligible for the supplement. Rosters to be verified by the Senior Director of Athletics.

**(8)** Teachers at multi-grade level schools (e.g., K-8 and 6-12 combination schools) will be paid the higher of the two supplements as applicable. For example, a middle-senior high teacher would receive the senior high supplement for which deemed eligible.

**Athletic Coaching Supplements:**

1. Extramural Coordinator:
  - a. School offers 5 or more sports 1.0 (Full Supplement)
  - b. School offers 4 or less sports .50 (Half Supplement)
  - c. Assistant Principals cannot receive a supplement
2. Fall Season

Sport	Team	Units
Girls Basketball	Varsity	1.0 (Full Supplement)
	JV	1.0 (Full Supplement)
	one (1) coach both teams	1.5 (Full Supplement plus a half)
Cross Country	Varsity Girls	1.0 (Full Supplement)
	Varsity Boys	1.0 (Full Supplement)
	one (1) coach both teams	1.5 (Full Supplement plus a half)
Esports	High School	1.0 (Full Supplement)

**If documentation is provided that teams practiced separately at different times, both Varsity and JV supplements will be awarded.**

3. Winter 1 Season

Sport	Team	Units
Boys Basketball	Varsity	1.0 (Full Supplement)
	JV	1.0 (Full Supplement)
	one (1) coach both teams	1.5 (Full Supplement plus a half)
Girls/Boys Volleyball	Varsity	1.0 (Full Supplement)
	JV	1.0 (Full Supplement)
	one (1) coach both teams	1.5 (Full Supplement plus a half)

**If documentation is provided that teams practiced separately at different times, both Varsity and JV supplements will be awarded.**

4. Winter 2 Season

Sport	Team	Units
Boys Soccer	Varsity	1.0 (Full Supplement)
	JV	1.0 (Full Supplement)
	one (1) coach both teams	1.5 (Full Supplement plus a half)
Girls Soccer	Varsity	1.0 (Full Supplement)

	JV	1.0 (Full Supplement)
	one (1) coach both teams	1.5 (Full Supplement plus a half)

If documentation is provided that teams practiced separately at different times, both Varsity and JV supplements will be awarded.

**5. Spring Season**

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Units</b>
Boys Track and Field	Varsity	1.0 (Full Supplement)
Girls Track and Field	Varsity	1.0 (Full Supplement)
	one (1) coach both teams	1.5 (Full Supplement plus a half)
Boys Tennis	Varsity	1.0 (Full Supplement)
Girls Tennis	Varsity	1.0 (Full Supplement)
	one (1) coach both teams	1.5 (Full Supplement plus a half)
Boys Golf	Varsity	1.0 (Full Supplement)
Girls Golf	Varsity	1.0 (Full Supplement)
	one (1) coach both teams	1.5 (Full Supplement plus a half)
Boys Wrestling	Varsity	1.0 (Full Supplement)
Girls Wrestling	Varsity	1.0 (Full Supplement)
Esports (Co-ed)	High School	1.0 (Full Supplement)

If documentation is provided that teams practiced separately at different times, both Varsity and JV supplements will be awarded.

<b>SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL SUPPLEMENTS</b>	<b>Supplements</b>
School Counselors (paid in prorated monthly installments over 10 months) This supplement is in place for 24-25 school year but will be added into the student services salary schedules starting July 1, 2025 with the removal of the supplement.	\$2500
Testing Coordinators (paid in prorated monthly installments over 10 months)	\$2500
Teachers of Dual Enrollment (designated in FOCUS and paid following completion of each semester in two prorated installments)	\$2500
Band Directors – Marching <i>See Note (4)</i>	\$3000
Band Directors – Concert	\$1800
Band Directors-Non-Marching Harrison	\$2500
Associate Band Director - Marching	\$2100
Associate Band Director - Concert	\$1000

Assistant Band Directors - Marching	\$1600
Assistant Band Directors - Concert	\$1200
Orchestra Director <i>See Note (4) above</i>	\$2800
Girls Drill Team Sponsor (3) Fall	\$1200
Girls Drill Team Sponsor (3) Winter	\$1200

Yearbook Sponsor	\$1200
Newspaper	\$1000
Drama Director (One act play, requires playbill 1 per year)	\$1000
Drama Director (Main stage production or full musical production requires playbill, one per year)	\$2000
Class Coordinator (11-12 grade)	\$1000
Choral Directors <i>See Note (5)</i>	\$2000
Student Council Sponsors	\$1200
Academic "A" Team Coach (1 per school)	\$2000
Assistant Academic "A" Team Coach (1 per school)	\$1500
National Honor Society	\$1500
Community Service Coordinator	\$1000
Chairpersons - Grade 9 thru 12 and Vocational Schools (Administration will designate departments throughout the school to be based on 4 or more full time teaching units which will include a chairperson for each department)	\$1500
District Wide Student Council Sponsor	\$1200
Regional Science & Engineering Fair Coordinator (B.S. Degree - Maximum of 120 hours)	\$2500
Regional Science & Engineering Fair Assistant Coordinator (Maximum of 50 hours)	\$1200
Regional Science & Engineering Fair Assistant Coordinator (Maximum of 40 hours)	\$1000
School Coordinator for District Science Fair	\$800
School Coordinator for District History Fair	\$800
Head Teacher (away from campus - Alt. Ed, etc.)	\$1000
Scholastic Chess Team Coach	\$800
School Wide Shows	\$500
ESE Learning Center Special Olympics Coach	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants One Supplement for Fall and One Supplement for Spring</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-10</li> </ul>	\$400
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11-20</li> </ul>	\$500
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21 or more</li> </ul>	\$600
Peer Teachers	\$1500
Televised Instruction Facilitator	\$1200
Federal and District Wide Specialist (Teacher Resource Specialist Trainer/TRST)	\$1200
Safe & Drug Free Schools Contact Person	\$500
Science Labs	\$1000

<b>MIDDLE SCHOOL SUPPLEMENTS</b>	<b>Supplements</b>
<b>MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES</b>	
Middle School Extramural Coordinator	\$1500
Basketball (Boys/Girls)	\$1000
Cross County (Boys/Girls)	\$1000

Golf (Boys/Girls)	\$1000
Soccer (Boys/Girls)	\$1000
Tennis (Boys/Girls)	\$1000
Track (Boys/Girls)	\$1000
Volleyball (Boys/Girls)	\$1000
Wrestling (Boys/Girls)	\$1000
<b>MIDDLE SCHOOL SUPPLEMENTS</b>	
School Counselor (paid in prorated monthly installments over 10 months) This supplement is in place for 24-25 school year but will be added into the student services salary schedules starting July 1, 2025 with the removal of the supplement.	\$2500
Middle School Team Leader	\$1500
Band Director (thru Grade 8)	\$2100
Choral Directors <i>See Note (5)</i>	\$1500
Orchestra Directors <i>See Note (4)</i>	\$1600
Yearbook Sponsor	\$1000
Academic "A" Team Coach (1 supplement per grade/per School for grades 6 thru 8)	\$1500
Middle School Honor Society (Grades 6 - 8)	\$1200
Drama (One act play, requires playbill, one per year)	\$1000
Drama (Main stage production or full musical production, requires playbill)	\$2000
Math Count (Grades 6, 7 or 8)	\$1500
School Coordinator for District Science Fair	\$800
School Coordinator for District History Fair	\$800
Scholastic Chess Team Coach	\$800
School Wide Shows	\$500

<b>ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SUPPLEMENTS</b>	<b>Supplements</b>
School Counselor (paid in prorated monthly installments over 10 months) This supplement is in place for 24-25 school year but will be added into the student services salary schedules starting July 1, 2025 with the removal of the supplement.	\$2500
Elementary Grade Level Chairperson - Grades PreK - 5 (grade 6 if Elementary) in elementary schools with 4 or more full time units including chairperson), include ESE, (Support Personnel)	\$1500
Academic "A" Team Coach (1 supplement per grade/per school for grades 5 and 6 if Elementary)	\$1500
School Coordinator for District Science Fair	\$800
Scholastic Chess Team Coach	\$800
School Wide Shows	\$500
Elementary Honor Society	\$800
Elementary Instructional TV	\$800

<b>HARRISON SCHOOL OF THE ARTS</b>	<b>Supplements</b>
Theatre - Producer/Coordinator	\$3000
Theatre - Acting Coach	\$3000
Theatre - Technical Theatre Coach	\$3000
Faculty Chairperson	\$800
Musical Theatre Teacher, Fall	\$1200
Musical Theatre Teacher, Spring	\$1200
Dance Coach (2)	\$3000
Chamber Music Coordinator/Staff Accompanist	\$1600
Art Gallery Coordinator	\$1600
<b>FINE ARTS SCHOOL SUPPLEMENTS (K-8 Fine Arts Schools)</b>	<b>Supplements</b>
As grades 6, 7, and 8 are added to Fine Arts Schools, supplements will be paid in a proportionate manner.	
Band Director	\$2100
Choral Director	\$1600
Strings/Orchestra Director	\$1600
Rock 'n Roll Band Director	\$1600
Dance Instructors Coach (2)	\$1500
Staff Accompanist/Music Coordinator	\$1500
Theatre Coach - Acting (Main stage production of full musical production, one per year, requires playbill)	\$2000
Theatre Coach - Technical (Main stage production of full musical production, one per year, requires playbill)	\$2000
Theatre Coach (2) One time, one act play, requires playbill	\$1000
<b>CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TEACHER SUPPLEMENTS</b>	<b>Supplements</b>

Land Laboratory and FFA	\$3600
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Fire Academy - Bartow Senior (1 - Serves as Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Course Teacher, Career & Technical Student Organization sponsor, and performs summer equipment maintenance)	\$2600
Future Builders of America (FBA) Sponsor	\$1500
<b>Career and Technical Student Organization Sponsors</b> CECF, DECA, FBLA, FCCLA (Family, Career & Community Leaders of America - Consumer Sciences), FFEA, HOSA, TSA, VICA (Vocational Industrial Clubs of America/ SkillsUSA), FPSA (Florida Public Service Association)	\$1500
National Vocational-Technical Honor Society/National Adult Education Honor Society	\$1500
<b>SENIOR HIGH JROTC SUPPLEMENTS</b>	<b>Supplements</b>
Drill Team	\$2600
Rifle Team	\$2600
RAIDERS Team	\$2600

<b>OTHER NON-EXTRA CURRICULAR SUPPLEMENTS</b>	<b>Supplements</b>
<b>Health Contact (Completed training required to receive supplement)</b>  <b>Designated Health Contact Annual Supplement</b> (For up to two (2) eligible positions across the ESP, Paraeducator, and Teacher contracts who complete mandatory training requirements (excludes Paraeducator, LPN Clinic Nurse). The eligible designated contacts must be actively employed as of May 1 <sup>st</sup> and will be determined by District-wide seniority among the three agreements.) Responsibilities are defined in Article 6.7-2.	\$200
<b>Title I School Annual Supplement</b> (employees covered under Teacher CBA working at a designated Title 1 School as of May 1 <sup>st</sup> )	\$500
<b>Teaching in a Critical Shortage Subject Area Annual Supplement:</b> paid end of year based on FTE Survey 3 (mid-February, (reviewed annually as identified by the Florida Department of Education also known as high demand teacher needs)	\$500
<b>Highly Effective Grandfathered Salary Schedule Teachers</b> (based on prior year's overall evaluation rating- paid end of October)	\$500

<b>Lead Sign Language Interpreter</b> (One supplement Districtwide paid in prorated monthly installments over ten months)	\$4000
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<p><b>Translation Services:</b></p> <p>Staff who provide either verbal or written translation services, outside of their normal job duties, instructional time, or during self-directed planning time on behalf of PCPS will receive \$20 per hour rounded up to the nearest quarter hour. Translation services must be requested by an administrator to be eligible for the supplement. A volunteer list of skilled translators must be maintained, and translators rotated equitably as appropriate. This section does not apply to sign language interpreting services within the applicable job description and as outlined in Paraeducator Article 9 and Teacher Article 22.</p>	\$20/hour
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**APPENDIX D - ACTIVITY PAY FOR DUTIES NOT RELATED TO REGULAR POSITION OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR DUTY DAY**

**TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE**

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Hourly Rate</b>
Doctorate/Specialist	\$21.00
Master's	19.42
Bachelor's	18.09

## **APPENDIX E- GROUND RULES**

1. Bargaining proposals, amendments or counter proposals pertaining to the Agreement which the Association or the Board desire to be negotiated shall be submitted in writing by each party.
2. The Superintendent or his representative, and the bargaining agent, or its representative, shall meet at reasonable times for the purpose of negotiating and seeking agreement. All sessions shall commence at the agreed upon time.
3. The most recent Collective Bargaining Agreement, as amended, will be used by both parties as a point of reference for deletions, amendments and all other changes.
4. Throughout negotiations, all tentative agreements shall be signed by a representative designated by each party. By mutual agreement a tentative agreement may be reopened for negotiation.
5. Only members of the respective teams are allowed to speak during the sessions. An exception shall occur only when the Board and/or the Association informs the other party prior to the meeting in which their consultant shall speak. The expense of such consultants shall be borne by the party requesting them.
6. Questions from observers shall be allowed only at the end of each session. Neither party will tolerate any harassment from observers during sessions.
7. Bargaining meetings shall be scheduled as frequently as necessary to expedite arriving at total agreement on items under consideration. The representatives of both parties shall conduct negotiations professionally and in good faith. Both parties agree to submit to mediation prior to declaring impasse.
8. The Association and the Superintendent will determine the formula and method to be used in costing out salary and supplementary salary schedules.
9. The negotiations team has a responsibility to look at the interpretation of data and apply it appropriately. The Board shall provide release time for the Association's negotiators when both parties agree that it is necessary to conduct sessions during scheduled hours of work.
10. When the negotiating teams reach tentative agreement on all items under negotiations, the proposed and tentative agreement shall be written and submitted to the Board and the Association for ratification with a favorable recommendation from the negotiating teams. Upon receipt of notice of ratification by the Association, the Board shall take action on ratification at their next meeting. If both parties ratify the agreement, then the parties shall sign two (2) copies of the final decision (one copy for the Board and one copy for the Association). If either party shall refuse to ratify the agreement reached by the negotiating teams, the party shall make a written statement to the other party as to their reasons. Said notification shall result in prompt resumption of negotiations, which lead to settlement or impasse procedures.
11. Proposals remain on the action item agenda to be addressed at the next bargaining session until tentatively agreed upon or mutually dropped.
12. All three teams will meet together to discuss salary and insurance issues.

13. The opportunity for all to speak freely and honestly about any issue; to ask questions freely and openly; to make a conscious effort to be employee and system-oriented, directed toward constancy of purpose; to encourage each other; using effective criticism and offering praise for the courage to try; to keep a positive outlook, maintaining high expectations; and to provide patience and consideration to each team member.
14. All decisions on bargaining agenda items will be decided upon only in bargaining team meetings.

#### **APPENDIX F- SICK LEAVE BUY BACK**

Any teacher with thirty (30) or more sick leave days accrued at the end of the 2009-2010 school year and who notifies the District in writing by May 1, 2010 on the appropriate form may cash in any or all sick days over a minimum accrual of four (4) days earned but not used during the 2009-2010 school year. For example, a teacher who is eligible and has a balance of ten (10) sick days at the end of the 2009-2010 school year may choose to cash in one or more of the six (6) days over the four (4) day minimum accrual. Payment will be made at the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year and will be calculated on a daily rate pursuant to section 22.12 of this collective bargaining agreement. This provision is for the 2009-2010 school year only.

## **APPENDIX G– JROTC (JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS) INSTRUCTORS**

### **Eligibility for JROTC District Certification**

Teachers in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) have demonstrated competency through previous military training and are exempt from professional preparation coursework. Certification for JROTC instructors will be voluntary. The District application and fee must be submitted to the District Human Resource Services Certification Compliance Department in order to determine eligibility for a District Certificate.

### **Requirements for a District Professional Certificate in JROTC**

1. Completion of an application for District Certification to include a fee for processing.
2. Submit a copy of the DD214 Form to Human Resource Services reflecting a service separation date.
3. The criteria established in statute for employment of instructor of Junior Reserve Officer Training, 1012.55(4) will assure the instructor possesses the appropriate skills in pedagogical knowledge and subject matter competence.
4. New JROTC instructors will be required to demonstrate Professional Education Competencies to assure an acceptable level of professional performance.
5. One (1) year of successful teaching in an JROTC program.

Note: JROTC Teachers not meeting the requirements for a District Professional Certificate can be issued a three (3)-year non-renewable District Temporary Certificate. A Statement of Eligibility listing the requirements to earn a five (5)-year District Professional Certificate will be issued along with the certificate.

### **Renewal**

To renew the five-year District Professional Certificate, a total of six (6) semester hours or 120 in-service points earned during the validity period of the certificate to be renewed will be required. The renewal will require completion of an application and fee.

### **Experience Credit for the Salary Schedule *(11/11/13 MOU Language)***

1. The District shall give to currently employed JROTC instructors credit on the salary schedule for previous teaching experience, regardless of whether the instructor held a Bachelor's degree during the prior teaching experience, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement. The teaching experience credit shall be in addition to experience credit for military service for which the employee is eligible in Article 22.

### **Evaluation of JROTC Instructors *(2/8/16 MOU language)***

1. Following completion of one (1) year of successful teaching in a JROTC program, a Category I JROTC teacher will become a Category II teacher for purposes of the annual evaluation, regardless of whether or not he/she holds Florida Professional Educator Certification.

## APPENDIX H- OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS AND PHYSICAL THERAPISTS

Occupational Therapists (OTs) and Physical Therapists (PTs) have some unique circumstances which differ from other members of the bargaining unit. This Appendix addresses these unique circumstances for OTs and PTs only. All sections of this Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) apply to OTs and PTs unless in conflict and specifically addressed in this Appendix.

1. Sick leave used for personal reasons may be used immediately before or after a holiday.
2. Sick leave may be used in increments of one-hour units.
3. The work week for OTs and PTs is forty (40) hours per week. OTs and PTs will develop their own schedules to best meet the needs of their assigned caseload. Time and attendance will be documented through their time sheets. Flexible scheduling of time with no split shifts shall be allowed. Flexible scheduling may be utilized to accommodate meetings and medical appointments. If a conflict or discrepancy occurs with a student or school schedule, the principal or designee, in collaboration with all parties involved, will meet and resolve the issue.
4. The District will maintain access for OTs and PTs to receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs) without charge. Appropriate training for OTs and PTs who need workshops or in-service training hours for maintenance of their license shall be sufficient in quantity for renewal. The District shall provide such training by becoming an approved Florida provider of continuing education for OTs and PTs, or, shall partner with an approved continuing education provider which shall offer appropriate content to OTs and PTs without cost, or, shall reimburse OTs and PTs for the cost of such training, or, some combination thereof. OTs/PTs shall be allowed to attend the Working with Experts trainings at the closest location with no limitation on the number who can attend. If a student has a specific need, alternative coverage will be found.
5. **Summer Employment Selection** – When OT and/or PT services are offered to students during ESE summer Extended School Year (ESY), current District employees shall have the right of first refusal. All Polk County District OTs and PTs shall be notified and have five contract days to notify the District of their interest. Only if all District OTs and PTs refuse the additional work may the District use contract employees. If more District OTs or PTs are interested than there are position available, the available positions will be filled by a lottery drawing. The lottery shall eliminate the PT or OT that filled the positions the previous summer, unless there are not enough internal OTs or PTs to fill the existing positions. The lottery will be witness by the PREA president or designee.
6. **Summer Employment Compensation** – An employee selected for ESE summer ESY shall receive their hourly rate of pay.
7. **Evaluation Process** –OTs and PTs will be evaluated using the forms and processes approved by the FLDOE in April 2014. These forms and processes would remain in place until a new evaluation system is jointly developed with PEA.

8. **Initial Placement on Salary Schedule** – Current OTs and PTs initial placement on the salary schedule at the beginning of the 2014-2015 school year will be at the step that is equal to their current salary. If the current salary does not match a step, the employee will be placed at the next highest step. Any raises negotiated for the 2014-2015 shall be in addition to this initial placement.
  - a. Any employee who is earning more than the highest step on the salary schedule shall be an outlier and maintain his/her current salary. Any raises negotiated for any years while being an outlier shall be determined separately with a goal of increasing pay while allowing the employee to move closer to being on the salary schedule. The District shall provide a list of all outlier to the Association annually. A mechanism for the placement of employees deemed to be outliers will be discussed as a regular part of the collective bargaining process annually.
9. Licensed OTs and PTs will be placed on their unique salary schedule shared with Sign Language Interpreters with the commensurate advanced degree supplement as applicable. Advanced degrees for OT/PTs will be paid following the ratified language in Appendix B. Salary adjustments will be reflected retroactively to the date that the official transcript was received by Human Resource Services.
10. **Experience Credit for new employees** – Newly hired employees may receive credit for up to twenty (20) years of documented work experience as a licensed OT or PT. The newly hired employee shall be moved one (1) step on the salary schedule for each two (2) years of documented full time experience. Credit shall be granted retroactively to the newly hire employees initial employment date if documentation is provided to the Personnel Department within the first 90 contract days.

## **APPENDIX I– INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANCE CONFERENCE GUIDELINES**

1. The Instructional Assistance Conference Form process and form is used by the administrator and teacher in a professional conversation to identify specific areas of concern coupled with suggested action to be taken to assist the teacher in helping students achieve learning gains. The Instructional Assistance Conference is not disciplinary in nature and does not take the place of a Professional Development Plan (PDP) Process.
2. The conference should produce collaborative ideas for suggested actions to assist the teachers who demonstrate satisfactory performance, but who may need assistance in targeted areas. This procedure should not be used with teachers demonstrating unsatisfactory performance.
3. Monitoring is informal; however, an initial meeting and an exit meeting are required.
4. Once strategies are defined, the teacher is provided support personnel who are available to assist in the successful completion of the strategies. One action step will be to name person(s) designated to assist the teacher as needed with items noted on the Instructional Assistance Conference Form.
5. An IAC must be open for a minimum of 30 work days, but no more than 90 work days. If after 90 days the principal chooses to continue the IAC process they must generate a new form.

**Polk County School District- Instructional Assistance Conference Form**

<b>Name</b>		<b>School</b>	
<b>SAP</b>		<b>School Year</b>	
<b>Date began</b>		<b>Date to close</b>	
<b>Principal's Signature</b>		<b>Teacher's Signature</b>	
<b>Specific Area(s) of Concern (limit 3 EPCs)</b>		<b>Recommended Action(s) (initial and date when completed)</b>	

**Resource Person(s):**

<b>NAME</b>		<b>TITLE</b>	
<b>NAME</b>		<b>TITLE</b>	
<b>NAME</b>		<b>TITLE</b>	
<b>NAME</b>		<b>TITLE</b>	
<b>NAME</b>		<b>TITLE</b>	
<b>Exit Meeting Date:</b>			
<b>Principal's Signature</b>		<b>Teacher's Signature</b>	

# MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDINGS



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA AND THE POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.

### PART-TIME FIREFIGHTER INSTRUCTOR HOURLY RATES RIDGE TECHNICAL COLLEGE FIRE ACADEMY

The **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA** (D/B/A Polk County Public Schools) (**the District**) and the **POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.** (PEA) as evidenced by the respective signatures below, are parties hereto and agree to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as more specifically set forth herein to establish new hourly rates for part-time firefighter instructors.

**WHEREAS** the PEA is the certified bargaining agent for the District, and the District is the employer and a party to the Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA); and,

**WHEREAS** the firefighter academy provides experienced career firefighter instructors of coherent and rigorous content aligned with challenging academic standards and relevant technical knowledge and skills needed to prepare for employment as firefighters. The program content includes orientation to fire service, fire alarms and communication, vehicles, apparatus and equipment, fire behavior, portable extinguishers, fire streams, fundamentals of extinguishment, ladders, hoses, tools and equipment, forcible entry, salvage, overhaul, ventilation, rescue, protective breathing equipment, first responder emergency medical techniques, water supplies, principles of in-service inspections, safety, controlled burning and employability skills. Additionally, this instructional program prepares students to provide initial care to sick or injured persons.

#### Teacher Contract Recital

**6.2-3** Teachers at the Area Technical Colleges in special programs (such as: State Licensure Programs, Less Than 5 Days, etc.) shall work no more than a 35-hour week with no more than 1950 minutes of student contact time per week and no less than 150 minutes of planning time per week. In certain situations, teachers in these programs may not have a duty-free lunch.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the parties agree to compensate eligible part-time Ridge Technical College firefighter instructors of Course #FFP0010(A) - Firefighter I, FFP0020(B) - Firefighter II, #P430217-Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician,

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
FIREFIGHTER INSTRUCTOR HOURLY RATES  
RIDGE TECHNICAL COLLEGE FIRE ACADEMY**

Continuing Workforce Education classes, and Recon Physical Assessment Test instructors as outlined below:

**I. Compensation for Part-time Ridge Fire Academy Instructors**

**A. Program Coordinator (one) \$55 per hour**

Duties: Coordinates all course curriculum budgetary expenditures for high school and post-secondary Fire and Emergency Management System programs. Ensures State Fire College and FL Department of Health (FDOH) learning objectives are met. Collaborates with local agencies and private companies in order to improve the quality of students.

**B. Assistant Coordinator (one) \$50 per hour**

Duties: Oversees all course training schedules for Post-Secondary Adult Vocational (PSAV), Continuing Workforce Education (CWE) and high school programs. Ensures State Fire College and FDOH learning objectives are met. Ensure student grades are properly reported to the Florida State Fire College. Oversee National Testing Network Candidate Physical Abilities Test (NTN/CPAT) program. Ensures invoices are properly prepared and tracked.

**C. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinator (one) \$45 per hour**

Duties: Oversees all course training schedules for both the post-secondary and high school EMS programs. Ensures FDOH learning objectives are met. Ensure student's grades are properly recorded to the FDOH. Ensures hospital and ambulance affiliation agreements are current and criteria are met.

**D. Minimum Standards Coordinator (one) \$45 per hour**

Duties: Oversees all course training schedules for the Firefighter program. Ensures State Fire College's learning objectives are met. Ensures student grades are properly reported to the State Fire College. Ensures students and instructors operate in a safe manner during live fire evolutions, ladder evolutions, and any other high liability evolution performed.

**E. Adjunct Instructors \$35 per hour**

Kelly Educational Services substitutes and Provisional Substitutes are not eligible for any hourly rate under this Agreement.



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
FIREFIGHTER INSTRUCTOR HOURLY RATES  
RIDGE TECHNICAL COLLEGE FIRE ACADEMY**

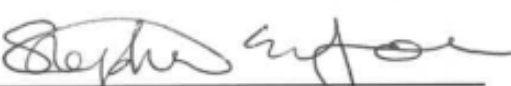
**II. Duration**

The hourly rates outlined in this agreement will be effective the date immediately following execution by both parties. This MOU will remain in effect until subsequent teacher collective bargaining agreement salary negotiations when the hourly rates may be proposed for addition to *Teacher Appendix B – Salary Schedule*, then duly ratified by the bargaining unit and approved by the School Board.

**III. Retroactive Pay**

From February 2024 to the time this MOU is signed, staff will be paid retroactively the difference of the hourly rate of pay by position of \$55, 50, 45, 35 minus \$27 for each hour recorded as worked. Work hours include 4 hours of preparation for each 8 hours of instructional time. Actual work time hours and preparation occurred simultaneously with instructors receiving pay for 12 hours. From time of signing this MOU, staff will be paid hourly as defined herein and only for actual hours worked.

**POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.      POLK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

By:   
**Stephanie Yocum  
President  
Polk Education Association**

By:   
**Frederick R. Heid  
Superintendent  
Polk County Public Schools**

4/26/24  
**Date**

4/29/24  
**Date**

- c: Jason Pitts, Deputy Superintendent, Chief of Staff
- Joseph McNaughton, III, Associate Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer
- Steven T. Cochran, Senior Director, Workforce Education & Multiple Pathways (Contact)
- Business Services Finance and Payroll Departments
- Human Resource Services



**POLK COUNTY**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
STUDENTS FIRST



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
AND  
THE POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**2025-2026**

**DISTRICT MANAGED IMPROVEMENT SCHOOLS- COLLABORATIVE  
PLANNING – INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF IN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT  
SCHOOLS WILL BE ALLOWED UP TO 2 HOURS OF PLANNING  
OUTSIDE OF INSTRUCTIONAL TIME IN RETURN FOR  
PARTICIPATING IN ONE ADDITIONAL 45-MINUTE ADMINISTRATOR  
DIRECTED PLANNING PERIOD.**

The **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA** (D/B/A Polk County Public Schools) (**PCPS/District**) and the **POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC. (PEA)** as evidenced by the respective signatures below, are parties hereto and agree to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as more specifically set forth herein.

**WHEREAS** the PEA is the certified bargaining agent for the District; and, the District is the employer and party to the Teacher and Paraeducator Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) with the PEA; and,

**WHEREAS** PCPS is actively working to enhance the quality of PLC and Planning meetings, and the introduction of minimum standards aims to create a more effective and focused academic environment for students and educators alike. The additional school-lead PLC and Planning opportunities would assist in analyzing student data and increasing student achievement.

**WHEREAS 6A-1.099811 School Improvement State System of Support for Deficient and Failing Schools.** The purpose of this rule is to set forth the School Improvement (SI) State System of Support for Deficient and Failing Schools pursuant to Section 1008.33, F.S., by establishing differentiated intervention and support strategies for traditional public schools, delineating the responsibilities of the school, district and Department of Education (Department), setting timelines for intervention and support strategies, prescribing reporting requirements to review and monitor progress of schools, and setting forth submission and approval criteria for Turnaround Option Plans.

**WHEREAS**, Polk County School District will submit to the Department a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) required by Section 1001.42(21).

**NOW, THEREFORE**, with the mutual goal of increasing student achievement, the parties agree to the additional time for a school led PLC or Planning. This additional time will allow schools to conduct an extra school-led PLC or Planning session per week. Any planning time worked as outlined below would be paid if implemented prior to grant approval.

*1 of 3*

## 1. Teacher Duties and Stipend Compensation

The additional one (1)-45-minute admin-directed planning period is mandatory for instructional staff at School Improvement schools. In return, instructional staff will be compensated at their regular hourly rate of pay for (2) hours per week of self-directed or collaborative planning outside their contractual time. The extra Planning or PLC is in addition to the (1)-45-minute admin directed planning period that is scheduled currently with teachers, administratively led. This grant-funded admin-directed planning period will not follow the shortened week provision for one (1)-45-minute regular admin-directed planning in the Teacher CBA. Every week the administration will conduct (1)-45-minute planning period of planning regardless of an abbreviated work week. The (2) hours per week are to be documented on a Special Activity Payroll Log to be processed for the following end of month pay period.

## 2. Educational Support Personnel

Should the additional payroll recordkeeping duties and responsibilities associated with processing the extra teacher and paraeducator paid planning time, the secretary responsible will log hours worked according to ESP Article 5.13, "Overtime: "Overtime" shall be defined as hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours during the basic work week."

3. **List of District Managed Schools-** The following list of schools may be modified after PM3 Data is analyzed but before May 30, 2025, to give notice to schools who may fall under District Managed Improvement Schools. The following schools are under District Management Improvement in the 2024-2025 school year, and they currently listed in this Agreement unless their PM3 data shows they would be removed.

**Auburndale High School**  
**Kathleen High School**  
**McLaughlin Academy of Excellence**  
**Crystal Lake Middle School**  
**Stambaugh Middle School**  
**Crystal Lake Elementary School**  
**North Lakeland Elementary School**



**This Memorandum of Understanding will expire on June 30, 2026.**

**POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC. POLK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

By: *Steph Yocum*  
Stephanie Yocum  
President  
Polk Education Association

By: *F.R. Heid*  
Frederick R. Heid  
Superintendent  
Polk County Public Schools

Date: 5/22/25

Date: 5/27/25

- c: Jason Pitts, Deputy Superintendent, Chief of Staff
- Brian Warren, Associate Superintendent, Human Resource Services
- Nicole Bennett, Regional Assistant Superintendent, Transformation
- Andrew Baldwin, Senior Director, Federal Programs
- Tara McDowell, Senior Director, Payroll Department, Business Services
- Dr. Curtis Williams, Senior Director, Human Resource Services
- Alyson Dort, Director, Title I, Federal Programs

3 of 3



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
AND  
THE POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**2025-2026**

**DISTRICT MANAGED IMPROVEMENT SCHOOLS- RESPONSE TO DATA TEACHER  
OPPORTUNITIES TO ASSIST STUDENTS WITH CURRICULUM STANDARDS**

The **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA** (D/B/A Polk County Public Schools) (**PCPS/District**) and the **POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC. (PEA)** as evidenced by the respective signatures below, are parties hereto and agree to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as more specifically set forth herein.

**WHEREAS** the PEA is the certified bargaining agent for the District; and, the District is the employer and party to the Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) and Educational Support Personnel CBA with the PEA; and,

**WHEREAS** Response to Data (RTD) is a District collaboration between school leadership teams to create actionable steps to increase student achievement in focused areas. Identified students receive additional support with District-created lessons. Data is collected to measure effectiveness of the intervention and measure growth towards the target.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, with the mutual goal of increasing student achievement, the parties agree to implement RTD as a strategy to move students toward mastery in ELA, Math and Science. Select students will be pulled from elective courses twice per week to work with teachers and paraeducators who volunteer to assist with identified curriculum standards.

**1. Teacher Duties and Stipend Compensation**

Teachers who volunteer will be compensated by receiving their hourly rate (subject to applicable IRS tax rate) for no more than three (3) hours per week, including two (2) hours for student tutoring and one (1) hour for planning time. The three hours per week are to be documented on a Special Activities Time Log to be processed for the following month's pay period.

**2. Substitutes and/or Paraeducator (Non-Exempt Employee)**

Paraeducators and Kelly Educational Services substitutes are not eligible for compensation under this agreement.

### 3. Educational Support Personnel

Should the additional payroll recordkeeping duties and responsibilities associated with processing the extra teacher and paraeducator paid planning time, the secretary responsible will log hours worked according to ESP Article 5.13, "Overtime: "Overtime" shall be defined as hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours during the basic work week."

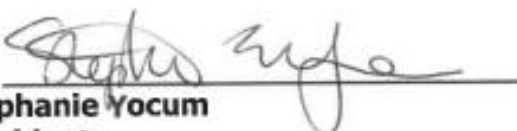
**4. List of District Managed Schools-** The following list of schools may be modified after PM3 Data is analyzed but before May 30, 2025, to give notice to schools who may fall under District Managed Improvement Schools. The following schools are under District Management Improvement in the 2024-2025 school year, and they currently listed in this Agreement unless their PM3 data shows they would be removed.

**Auburndale High School**  
**Kathleen High School**  
**McLaughlin Academy of Excellence**  
**Crystal Lake Middle School**  
**Stambaugh Middle School**  
**Crystal Lake Elementary School**  
**North Lakeland Elementary School**

**This Memorandum of Understanding will expire on June 30, 2026.**

**POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**POLK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

By:   
**Stephanie Yocum**  
**President**  
**Polk Education Association**

By:   
**Frederick R. Heid**  
**Superintendent**  
**Polk County Public Schools**

5/22/25  
Date

5/27/25  
Date

- c: Jason Pitts, Deputy Superintendent, Chief of Staff
- Brian Warren, Associate Superintendent, Human Resource Services
- Nicole Bennett, Regional Assistant Superintendent, Transformation
- Andrew Baldwin, Senior Director, Federal Programs
- Tara McDowell, Senior Director, Payroll Department, Business Services
- Dr. Curtis Williams, Senior Director, Human Resource Services
- Alyson Dort, Director, Title I, Federal Programs



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
AND  
THE POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**2025-2026 TEACHER PRE-PLANNING DAYS  
WITH STUDENT ORIENTATION GUIDELINES**

**This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) memorializes the parties’ agreement to amend the teacher workday and staff development day structure during the six (6) Teacher Pre-planning days (Staff Development and Teacher Workdays) and set consistent parameters for student orientation schedules.**

The **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA** (D/B/A Polk County Public Schools) (**District**) and the **POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC. (PEA)** as evidenced by the respective signatures below, are parties hereto and agree to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as more specifically set forth herein.

**WHEREAS** the PEA is the certified bargaining agent for the District, and the District is the employer and a party to the PEA Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) governing teachers, paraeducators and educational support (clerical) personnel; and,

**WHEREAS** the Polk County School District and PEA mutually agree that new parameters for designated teacher workdays and teacher staff development days should be agreed upon for Teacher Pre-planning days; and

**WHEREAS** the Polk County School District and PEA mutually agree that consistent guidelines for student orientation days should be set during Teacher Pre-planning week.

**CONTRACT RECITALS**

**TEACHER ARTICLE III - SCHOOL CALENDAR**

**3.3** Non-student contact days for teachers shall be designated as six (6) Work Days and four (4) Staff Development Days. Workdays shall be available for teachers to use as Teacher Self-Directed Planning (Article 6.3) except that the principal may schedule and hold one (1) Faculty Meeting (Article 6.5) of not more than 60 consecutive minutes during the day. Staff Development Days may be used as described in Article 6.5 Faculty Meetings.

**TEACHER ARTICLE VI – TEACHING CONDITIONS**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
2023-2024 AND 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDARS  
PRE-PLANNING DAYS WITH ORIENTATION GUIDELINES**

**6.1-1** As a part of teachers' professional responsibilities, they are expected to attend such after school activities as: parent-teacher meetings, open house, graduation. The parties recognize that teachers have obligations outside their professional responsibilities and agree that schedules for such activities shall be provided no later than the last day of teacher pre-planning of each school year and that flex time be provided to those participating teachers by mutual agreement of the principal and teachers.

**6.1-2** With the exception of the last grading period, grades will be due by the end of the duty day of the second working day following the end of the grading period. For the last grading period, middle and high school grades will be due at 8:00 a.m. on the first workday following the last student contact day. For teachers of graduating seniors, grades will be due one (1) day before the last official school day for seniors. Grades should be submitted no later than the end of the duty day for this group and the date will be determined during second semester. For elementary schools, grades will be due on the 172nd student day. The exact due dates and time for grades will be published within the school calendar whenever possible.

**6.2 Teacher Workday:** The workday for all teachers shall be no more than 7¾ hours. On non-student days teachers shall have a one (1) hour lunch break.

**PARAEDUCATOR ARTICLE II – DEFINITIONS**

**2.8 REGULAR STRAIGHT TIME HOURLY RATE:** The "regular straight time hourly rate" means an employee's straight hourly base rate and applicable supplements and longevity if any.

**2.9 OVERTIME:** "Overtime" shall be defined as hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours during the basic work week.

**PARAEDUCATOR ARTICLE IX - SALARIES**

**19.3** Regularly recurring duties beyond the contracted duty day will be paid at the employees' regular rate of pay in accordance with the federal wage and hour guidelines. All work contracted and performed beyond a 40-hour work week will be paid at "time and a half" of the employee's hourly rate of pay. (Example: Asst. Volleyball Coach \$1,340 divided by \$12.00 (\$8.00 + \$4.00) = 111.66 hours.)

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
2023-2024 AND 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDARS  
PRE-PLANNING DAYS WITH ORIENTATION GUIDELINES**

**ESP ARTICLE IV - COMPENSATION**

**15.9 Pay for Overtime:** One and one-half (1 1/2) times the regular straight time hourly rate of pay shall be paid for hours worked in excess of forty during the basic work week. Personnel whose normal work week is 37 1/2 hours shall be paid their regular rate of pay up to 40 hours, overtime will be paid after 40 hours of work has been performed. Payment of overtime shall not be duplicated for the same hours worked.

**15.9-1** Regularly recurring duties beyond the contracted duty day will be paid at the employees' regular rate of pay in accordance with the federal wage and hour guidelines. All work contracted and performed beyond a 40-hour work week will be paid at "time and a half" of the employee's hourly rate of pay.

**NOW, THEREFORE, PEA and the District agree as follows:**

**I. 2025-2026 DATES**

The following are the 2025-2026 six (6) Teacher Workdays reserved for self-directed teacher planning time and four (4) Staff development Days designated to Administration.

- a. On non-student days, all employees covered under PEA CBAs shall have a one (1) hour lunch break.
- b. On full 7.75-hour Teacher Workdays (planning time) the principal may schedule and hold one (1) Faculty Meeting of up to sixty (60) consecutive minutes during the day.
- c. Split Days: The 7.75-hour teacher contract day is divided between administration-directed staff development (half-day morning) and self-directed teacher planning time (half-day afternoon).  
[7.75 hours minus 1 hour lunch=6.75 hours/2=3.375 hours (3 hours and 22 minutes = half day)]
- d. Full 7.75-hour Teacher Workdays will follow the language in Teacher CBA.

1. **Friday, August 1, 2025 *Split Day***
2. **Monday, August 4, 2025 *Split Day***
3. **Tuesday, August 5, 2025 *Secondary/K-8 Orientation Full Teacher Workday***  
Orientation scheduling guidelines are outlined below.
4. **Wednesday, August 6, 2025 *District Contact Day- Full Staff Development Day***

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
2023-2024 AND 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDARS  
PRE-PLANNING DAYS WITH ORIENTATION GUIDELINES**

5. **Thursday, August 7, 2025 Elementary Orientation *Full Teacher Workday***  
Orientation scheduling guidelines are outlined below.
6. **Friday, August 8, 2025 *Split Day***
7. **Monday, October 13, 2025 *Split Day***
8. **Monday, January 5, 2026 *Full Teacher Workday***
9. **Tuesday, January 6, 2026 *Staff Development Day***
10. **Friday, May 29, 2026 *Full Teacher Workday***

**II. Student Orientation Dates and Guidelines**

**A. 2025-2026**

<b>Tuesday, August 5, 2025</b>	K-8, Middle and High School Student Orientation
<b>Thursday, August 7, 2025</b>	Elementary Student Orientation  First Paraeducator Workday of 186-Day Contract

1. School Orientations will be held during the hours of 12pm-7pm on the dates listed above, not to exceed 7:00pm. with no more than 2 orientation sessions scheduled for a school.
2. Orientation duties for any staff covered under the PEA Collective Bargaining Agreements are limited to up to three (3) hours during the designated Student Orientation Day set forth in the School Board approved 2025-2026 School Calendar. An up to 60 consecutive minute faculty meeting during a full teacher workday will not occur on the school's designated orientation day.
3. Up to three (3) hours of teacher flexible (flex) time will be mutually agreed to by the supervisor and the teacher to use during the Pre-planning week.
4. The up to three (3) hours of teacher flexible (flex) time will be mutually agreed to by the supervisor and the teacher to use during the Pre-planning week.
5. **Paraeducators and ESP Clerical Staff Working Outside Their Contractual Hours-** Paraeducators and ESPs may be directed to perform duties during Orientation Times for their specific worksite during their contracted workdays. Should Paraeducator or ESP attendance be deemed necessary by mutual agreement

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
2023-2024 AND 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDARS  
PRE-PLANNING DAYS WITH ORIENTATION GUIDELINES**

of the principal and the employee to work during an Orientation Time outside of their contractual workday, the Paraeducator or ESP must be paid at their regular hourly rate of pay.

6. Secondary or K-8 school Paraeducators and ESPs agreeing to work during Orientation prior to their regular contracted work schedule on Thursday, August 7, 2025, must be paid their regular hourly rate of pay for Orientation duties for no more than two (2) hours.
7. Orientation schedules must be provided to staff no later than two weeks prior to the first official workday for teachers. For staff hired after this deadline, the orientation date and schedule must be provided at the time of position acceptance.

- III. Elementary School Grades Due Date:** The grades due date in Teacher Article 6.1-2 will be amended from the 172<sup>nd</sup> student day to the 176<sup>th</sup> student day. The parties agree to include this revision with the next ratification process.


**6.1-2** With the exception of the last grading period, grades will be due by the end of the duty day of the second working day following the end of the grading period. For the last grading period, middle and high school grades will be due at 8:00 a.m. on the first workday following the last student contact day. For teachers of graduating seniors, grades will be due one (1) day before the last official school day for seniors. Grades should be submitted no later than the end of the duty day for this group and the date will be determined during second semester. For elementary schools, grades will be due on the 176<sup>th</sup> student day. The exact due dates and time for grades will be published within the school calendar whenever possible.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
2023-2024 AND 2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDARS  
PRE-PLANNING DAYS WITH ORIENTATION GUIDELINES**

This agreement will expire June 30, 2026.

**POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**POLK COUNTY SCHOOL  
DISTRICT**

By:   
Stephanie Yocum  
President  
Polk Education Association

By:   
Frederick R. Heid  
Superintendent  
Polk County Public Schools

5/22/25  
Date

5/27/25  
Date

- c: Jason Pitts, Chief of Staff, Deputy Superintendent
- Wayne Green, Deputy Superintendent
- Joseph McNaughton, III, Associate Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer
- Tammy Williams, Assistant Superintendent, Learning Support
- Business Services Finance and Payroll Departments
- Human Resource Services



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENTIATED  
ACCOUNTABILITY (DA) and TURNAROUND OPTION PLAN (TOP)  
SCHOOLS STAFF EXPECTATIONS AND MANDATORY JULY  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA AND  
THE POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**2025-2026  
DISTRICT MANAGED SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SCHOOLS**

The **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA** (D/B/A Polk County Public Schools) (**PCPS/District**) and the **POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC. (PEA)** as evidenced by the respective signatures below, are parties hereto and agree to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as more specifically set forth herein.

**WHEREAS** the PEA is the certified bargaining agent for the District; and, the District is the employer and party to the Teacher, Paraeducator, and Educational Support Personnel Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) with the PEA; and,

**WHEREAS**, [Section 1008.33, Florida Statutes \(2023\)](#), authorizes the State Board of Education to apply intensive intervention and support strategies tailored to the needs of schools earning consecutive grades of "D" or a grade of "F." PCPS must immediately implement intervention and support strategies prescribed in rule and by September 1 provide the FDOE with the memorandum of understanding negotiated pursuant to [s. 1001.42\(21\)](#); and,

**WHEREAS** [Section 1001.42\(21\), F.S. \(2023\)](#), provides that an educational emergency exists when one or more schools in the District have a school grade of "D" or "F," and PCPS must implement intervention programs and support strategies to improve student performance, and provide the FDOE with a negotiated memorandum of understanding regarding the selection, placement, and expectations of instructional personnel in these schools.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, with the mutual goal of increasing student achievement the parties agree to additional expectations and requirements for school-based staff for the 2025-2026 school year.

**1. Mandatory July 2025 Professional Development**

In addition to the Teacher Staff Development Days defined in the School Calendar, all school-based instructional personnel, to include paraeducators and classroom and non-classroom instructional staff, must participate in four (4) days of early return professional development (PD) July 28, 2025-July 31, 2025. Itinerant teachers who are scheduled to work at any of these schools may choose to participate.

- a. List of District Managed Schools-** The following list of schools may be modified after

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENTIATED  
ACCOUNTABILITY (DA) and TURNAROUND OPTION PLAN (TOP)  
SCHOOLS STAFF EXPECTATIONS AND MANDATORY JULY  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

PM3 Data is analyzed but before May 30, 2025, to give notice to schools who may fall under District Managed Improvement Schools. The following schools are under District Management Improvement in the 2024-2025 school year, and they currently listed in this Agreement unless their PM3 data shows they would be removed.

**Auburndale High School**  
**Kathleen High School**  
**McLaughlin Academy of Excellence**  
**Crystal Lake Middle School**  
**Stambaugh Middle School**  
**Crystal Lake Elementary School**  
**North Lakeland Elementary School**

- b. Affected staff at listed school(s) will be informed of the mandatory professional development and reporting hours immediately upon signature of both parties.
- c. Staff at schools initially not listed but subsequently added to the list by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) following the anticipated July release of school grades, will be promptly notified of this possibility as soon as the district receives the updated list of potentially included schools. If a school is added to this list after May 30, 2025, this July professional development will be voluntary for staff at added schools.
- d. Should an employee have a conflict regarding mandatory participation, the employee must request a later training opportunity outside of the regular duty day to be considered for approval on a case-by-case basis.
- e. Compensation: The summer workday will be the same as the regular school year (7.75 daily hours). Instructional employees will be paid their regular hourly rate of pay, including a one (1)-hour paid lunch. Paraeducators will work the same 7.75-hour day as teachers and be compensated at their regular hourly rate.

Additional voluntary PD opportunities may be offered by the FDOE at listed school (s) throughout the summer, as available.

## **2. Teacher Retention at School Improvement Schools**

The expectation is for all teachers at the identified school to embrace the terms of this agreement and sign the attached Employee Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year.

Prior to the start of the school year should an existing employee at any school not agree to the expectations, the Article 17.4 and 14.4-2 voluntary intent to transfer and application process will be followed: "17.4-2 Request for Transfer Between School Years: It is the responsibility of the teacher to notify the principals where vacancies exist in order to be considered for the vacancy. The transfer will be subject to approval by the District Certification Compliance Department. A principal will only be notified of an employee's intent to transfer ten (10) workdays after the teacher has filed the intent to transfer form."

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENTIATED  
ACCOUNTABILITY (DA) and TURNAROUND OPTION PLAN (TOP)  
SCHOOLS STAFF EXPECTATIONS AND MANDATORY JULY  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The expectation is for all teachers at the listed school to embrace the terms of this agreement for the 2025-2026 school year.

**3. Improvement/Movement of Teachers throughout the School Year**

All Essential Performance Criteria, as documented in Journey, will be monitored by the administration for performance. Any pattern of less than *Effective* on any Essential Performance Criteria, observable and non-observable, will result in intervention by administration and development of a plan for improvement.

When student progress monitoring shows early data indicators in need of improvement there will be a meeting with the teacher to discuss the Essential Performance Criteria and develop a plan for improvement as defined in the Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement. The plan will be monitored and failure to show improvement could result in the teacher being involuntarily transferred out of the school.

Teachers in need of improvement will only be transferred out if an *Effective* or *Highly Effective* teacher (based on 2024-2025 overall evaluation) is available to fill the position. The decision to reassign a teacher will be made in conjunction with the Superintendent's designee as applicable. Prior to removing teachers from the school, the Human Resource Services Division will work with school administration and the PEA to ensure alternate placement of identified instructional personnel in accordance with Teacher Article 17.6-1:

"In unusual and special circumstances, the Superintendent may recommend to the Board that a teacher be transferred from one position to another specific position for good and sufficient reasons. Any teacher being transferred under this section may not be placed into an out-of-field assignment or a position for which the teacher is not fully qualified, and the teacher may request written reasons for the transfer. Such transfers are effective upon the Superintendent's recommendation. Subsequent approval is required on the next available School Board Meeting agenda. Refusal by the teacher to accept such assignment shall release the Board from further obligation to that employee."

**4. Lesson Plans**

In addition to the provisions in Teacher Article 6.9, lesson plans will be provided in SharePoint one (1) week in advance for administrator review.

**5. Teacher Effectiveness**

Intensive effort will be made to find instructional staff that meets the demonstrated mastery to ensure appropriate staffing levels are met in the school.

- a. Other instructional staff, including but not limited to ESE and ESOL, that generate a

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENTIATED  
ACCOUNTABILITY (DA) and TURNAROUND OPTION PLAN (TOP)  
SCHOOLS STAFF EXPECTATIONS AND MANDATORY JULY  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

prior year (2024-2025) state VAM rating will also be considered a core teacher.

- b. Non-VAM evaluated teachers such as science and social studies must demonstrate an overall prior year (2024-2025) PCPS Student Achievement Objective (SAO) Evaluation rating of *Highly Effective* or *Effective* to be retained.
- c. Teachers within their first year of teaching, and/or new to the District, and without an evaluation or student learning data source, will be considered *Effective* for purposes of this agreement.

**6. School-based Coaches and Interventionists**

Academic Coaches and Interventionists will be held to the same criteria as core teachers. To ensure that the teachers develop a high degree of comfort when working with the Academic Coaches and Interventionists, the parties acknowledge that these invaluable resource persons are not administrative or supervisory, but rather act as partners and mentors in furthering the goal of improving academic results.

- a. All current content-specific support staff (coaches/interventionists) will be reevaluated for the placement of candidates.
- b. Coaches/interventionists will be held to the same expectations as classroom teachers at the school.
- c. Coaches/interventionists must demonstrate an overall prior year (2024-2025) PCPS Student Achievement Objective (SAO) Evaluation rating of *Highly Effective* or *Effective* to be retained at the school.
- d. Coaches/interventionists may be subject to an involuntary transfer to a position for which they are certified and qualified at a non-DA school if the coach/interventionist has an overall evaluation rating of less than *Effective* for the 2024-2025 school year.

**7. Professional Development**

Professional development will be job embedded and data driven. In addition to the Teacher Staff Development Days defined in the Board-approved School Calendar, additional days of staff development beyond the duty day may also be required throughout the school year. Every reasonable effort will be made to notice training dates at least two (2) weeks in advance. PEA will be notified of any mandatory staff development beyond the duty day before school-based staff are noticed.

- a. Should there be a need, school administration will notify affected teachers regarding any mandatory staff development dates and specific work hours by email, phone calls

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENTIATED  
ACCOUNTABILITY (DA) and TURNAROUND OPTION PLAN (TOP)  
SCHOOLS STAFF EXPECTATIONS AND MANDATORY JULY  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

and social media outlets.

- b. Should a current teacher have a conflict regarding mandatory attendance, a request for a later training opportunity outside of the regular duty day will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- c. Teachers newly hired/transferred to the school after any mandatory training dates will be offered comparable staff development outside of the regular duty day at a future date.
- d. Any mandatory staff development during the school year that is held beyond the regular duty day will be remunerated at the employee's regular hourly rate of pay.

**8. Funding**


Should additional funds become available while this MOU is in effect, the District and PEA will discuss any appropriate amendments and distribution of such funds.

**This Memorandum of Understanding will expire June 30, 2026.**

**POLK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

By:   
Frederick R. Heid  
Superintendent  
Polk County Public Schools

By:   
Stephanie Yocum  
President  
Polk Education Association, Inc.

Date

5/22/25

Date

5/22/25

**Attachment: 2025-2026 Employee Agreement**

- c: Wayne Green, Deputy Superintendent  
Jason Pitts, Chief of Staff, Deputy Superintendent  
Joseph McNaughton, III, Associate Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer  
Nicole Bennett, Regional Assistant Superintendent, Transformation/SI (Contact)  
Andrew Baldwin, Senior Director, Federal Programs & Grant Management  
Business Services Finance and Payroll Departments  
Human Resource Services

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENTIATED  
ACCOUNTABILITY (DA) and TURNAROUND OPTION PLAN (TOP)  
SCHOOLS STAFF EXPECTATIONS AND MANDATORY JULY  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**2025-2026 EMPLOYEE AGREEMENT**

This Agreement is entered into this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, by and between the  
Polk County Public Schools (PCPS), and Employee,  
\_\_\_\_\_  
[print full name] a  
\_\_\_\_\_  
[job title] at  
\_\_\_\_\_, a Turnaround Option Plan (TOP) school. The PCPS and the  
Polk Education Association, Inc. (PEA), the certified bargaining agent representing instructional and  
non-instructional employees reached the attached Memorandum of Understanding with provisions  
regarding the selection, placement and expectations for the 2025-2026 school year.

Employee agrees to comply with all provisions outlined in the attached Memorandum  
of Understanding.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Initials*

All instructional staff shall be eligible to receive School Recognition Funds and  
compensation to the same extent staff in other schools are eligible.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Initials*

**Attachment:** PCPS and PEA Memorandum of Understanding for Staff Selection, Placement and  
Expectations

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<b>Employee Signature</b>	<b>PCPS Personnel ID#</b>	<b>Date Signed</b>
---------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------

Original: PCPS Personnel File (Human Resource Services, Route E)  
Copies: Employee and Principal



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
AND  
THE POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**2025-2026  
SCHOOL SITE MANAGED SCHOOLS- RESPONSE TO DATA TEACHER  
OPPORTUNITIES TO ASSIST STUDENTS WITH CURRICULUM STANDARDS**

The **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA** (D/B/A Polk County Public Schools) (**PCPS/District**) and the **POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC. (PEA)** as evidenced by the respective signatures below, are parties hereto and agree to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as more specifically set forth herein.

**WHEREAS** the PEA is the certified bargaining agent for the District; and, the District is the employer and party to the Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) and Educational Support Personnel CBA with the PEA; and,

**WHEREAS** Response to Data (RTD) is a District collaboration between school leadership teams to create actionable steps to increase student achievement in focused areas. Identified students receive additional support with District-created lessons. Data is collected to measure effectiveness of the intervention and measure growth towards the target.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, with the mutual goal of increasing student achievement, the parties agree to implement RTD as a strategy to move students toward mastery in ELA, Math and Science. Select students will be pulled from elective courses twice per week to work with teachers and paraeducators who volunteer to assist with identified curriculum standards.

**1. Teacher Duties and Stipend Compensation**

Teachers who volunteer will be compensated by receiving their hourly rate (subject to applicable IRS tax rate) for no more than three (3) hours per week, including two (2) hours for student tutoring and one (1) hour for planning time. The three hours per week are to be documented on a Special Activities Time Log to be processed for the following month's pay period.

**2. Substitutes and/or Paraeducator (Non-Exempt Employee)**

Paraeducators and Kelly Educational Services substitutes are not eligible for compensation under this agreement.



**3. Educational Support Personnel**

Should the additional payroll recordkeeping duties and responsibilities associated with processing the extra teacher and paraeducator paid planning time, the secretary responsible will log hours worked according to ESP Article 5.13, "Overtime: "Overtime" shall be defined as hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours during the basic work week."

**4. Eligible Schools**

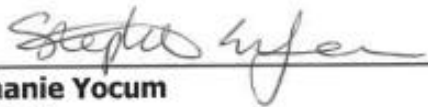
All PCPS schools except for the seven State Graded D schools, which are addressed in the District Managed Improvement Schools RTD MOU are eligible if the school is utilizing Grant or Title Funding to support the RTD program. The seven schools included in that MOU are: Auburndale High School, Crystal Lake Elementary School, Crystal Lake Middle School, Kathleen High School, McLaughlin Academy of Excellence, North Lakeland Elementary School, and Stambaugh Middle School.

Schools that decide to offer RTD with local Grant or Title funding must notify their Regional Superintendent and Associate Superintendent of Human Resource Services BEFORE implementing RTD at the school site. A list of locally participating RTD schools will be provided to the Association by Human Resource Services before the school implements RTD.

**This Memorandum of Understanding will expire on June 30, 2026.**

**POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**POLK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

By:   
**Stephanie Yocum**  
**President**  
**Polk Education Association**

By:   
**Frederick R. Heid**  
**Superintendent**  
**Polk County Public Schools**

5/22/25  
**Date**

5/27/25  
**Date**

- c: Jason Pitts, Deputy Superintendent, Chief of Staff
- Brian Warren, Associate Superintendent, Human Resource Services
- Nicole Bennett, Regional Assistant Superintendent, Transformation
- Andrew Baldwin, Senior Director, Federal Programs
- Tara McDowell, Senior Director, Payroll Department, Business Services
- Dr. Curtis Williams, Senior Director, Human Resource Services
- Alyson Dort, Director, Title I, Federal Programs



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
AND  
THE POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**PARAEDUCATOR-TEACHER APPRENTICE PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Polk Education Association, Inc. (PEA) is the certified bargaining agent for the School District of Polk County, Florida (D/B/A Polk County Public Schools) (PCPS); and the PCPS is the employer and party to the Paraeducator Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with PEA; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Paraeducator-Teacher Apprenticeship Program is a teacher pipeline pilot program that will prepare selected Paraeducators to satisfy a competency-based education bachelor's degree through a partnership between PCPS and Polk State University.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the parties agree to the program as follows:

- 1. Paraeducator Selection:** Paraeducators will be selected from the pool of qualified candidates. District representatives from Office of Acceleration & Innovation and Teacher Engagement as well as representatives from Polk State College will select participants. Selection is based on strength of application including supervisor recommendation, Personal Objective Statement, and video submission expressing interest in participating in the program.
- 2. Duties and Expectations:** This position exists to provide on the job training as a pathway to earning a bachelor's degree in education. The Paraeducator-Teacher Apprenticeship provides direct instruction alongside a mentor teacher. All college coursework is completed through competency-based assessments and online and face-to-face learning while performing essential responsibilities. Note: Duration of this position is two (2) years to complete the Teacher Apprenticeship program, not to exceed three (3) years. It may be extended to three (3) years if the apprenticeship changes schools or districts.

The Human Resource Services Division and the Polk Education Association will review any other requests for extension due to extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis. The decision of the Chief of Human Resource Services Division shall be final and binding, and the decision shall not be subject to the grievance procedure.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
PARAEDUCATOR-TEACHER APPRENTICE PROGRAM**

Paraeducator-Teacher Apprentices will follow the same work schedule as their mentor teacher with the same 7.75-hour workday, 196-day work calendar with 6 paid holidays, duty-free lunch, and all planning time provisions in Teacher Articles 3 and 6. Paraeducator-Teacher Apprentices cannot be used to sub or cover another position on campus. If the mentor teacher is absent, a substitute teacher must be secured for the mentor teacher's absence. The Paraeducator-Teacher Apprentice cannot be listed as a "teacher of record."

- 3. Pay Schedule:** The Paraeducator-Teacher Apprentice Program is different than a regular paraeducator paygrade as this program is not meant to exceed three (3) years while the apprentice fulfills the requirements of a competency-based bachelor's degree in education. Therefore, the apprentice pay schedule levels are based on completion of program benchmarks.

Level A: Entry Level into the Apprenticeship Program

196 days/year, 1,519 hours/year, 7.75 hours/day

\$21.40 per hour \$32,506 annually

Level B: After completion of Semester 1 \$1,500 bonus

Level C: After completion of Semester 2 \$2,000 bonus

Level D: After completion of Semester 3 \$3,000 bonus

Level E: After completion of Semester 4 \$4,000 bonus

After Human Resources confirms successful completion of a semester, the Paraeducator-Teacher Apprentice will move to the next pay level with the associated one-time bonus to top out at Level E. The bonus will not be prorated. After completion of the entire apprenticeship program with certification requirements, the Paraeducator will be eligible to apply for an instructional position covered under Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement.

- 4. Teacher Mentors** (See Teacher Article XIV – Professional Qualifications and Assignments): Teachers assigned by the principal/supervisor as the designated Professional Education Competence (PEC) mentor for new hires will be paid a total supplement not to exceed \$500 per assigned mentee teacher, subject to successful completion, upload, review, and approval by Professional Development staff of a minimum of four (4), but not to exceed seven (7) mentoring tools per assigned

~

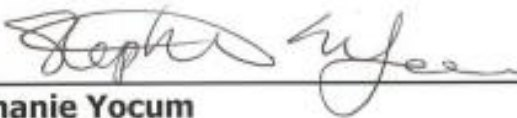
**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
PARAEDUCATOR-TEACHER APPRENTICE PROGRAM**


mentee. Completion of less than four (4) and less than seven (7) mentoring tools will result in a prorated supplement of \$71.43 per reviewed and approved mentoring tool. PEC mentors will be paid only once per reviewed and approved tool.

**This Memorandum of Understanding will expire June 30, 2028.**

**POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**POLK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

By:   
**Stephanie Yocum**  
**President**  
**Polk Education Association**

By:   
**Frederick R. Heid**  
**Superintendent**  
**Polk County Public Schools**

7/17/25  
**Date**

7/22/25  
**Date**

- c: Jason Pitts, Deputy Superintendent, Chief of Staff
- Joseph McNaughton, III, Associate Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer
- Brian Warren, Associate Superintendent, Human Resource Services
- Andrew Baldwin, Senior Director, Federal Programs
- Tara McDowell, Senior Director, Payroll Department, Business Services
- Dr. Curtis Williams, Senior Director, Human Resource Services
- Alyson Dort, Director, Title I, Federal Programs
- Kellie Jarrett, Senior Coordinator, Federal Programs

Cost Center: 93901000000  
Fund: 42041725  
Funded Program: G42041725-23  
Functional Area: 6400  
IIQ Ticket: 217119



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
AND  
THE POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**2025-2026  
Instructional Technology Liaison Stipend  
INSTRUCTIONAL & BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY**

**WHEREAS** the Polk Education Association, Inc. (PEA) is the certified bargaining agent for the School District of Polk County, Florida (District), and the District is the employer and party to the Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with PEA; and,

**WHEREAS** technology Liaison teachers at each school assist with communicating information regarding instructional technology to their respective school's instructional staff.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** the parties agree to recognize the additional post-pandemic related duties to maintain the continuity of instruction for students as follows:

**A. Technology Liaison Selection and Duties**

Each school-based Technology Liaison (TL) will be selected by the building principal. The duties of this role are to: attend the ten one-hour after-hours meetings, communicate all technology updates as well as the rationale to the staff at their school, serve as the school contact to whom staff asks questions concerning those changes/updates, relay technology concerns and questions to IST leadership and in turn respond back to the staff, attend an after-hours train-the-trainer session for SAP, and train school staff on that content. If any meetings are missed, it will be the TL's responsibility to review the meeting minutes and complete the follow-up survey (exit ticket) to stay informed.

**B. Performance and Retention Stipend 2025-2026**

Technology Liaisons at each school that fulfill the Duties above, including facilitation of SAP training, will be paid a one-time stipend of \$1000, subject to the applicable IRS tax rate. Technology Liaisons that serve less than a full school year, attend at least half of the scheduled events, and provide training to the building regarding the SAP Upgrade will receive \$500.

Eligible recipients must be actively employed as of the payment date. Kelly Educational Services employees are not eligible for the stipend.



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
Instructional Technology Liaison Stipend**

**C. Stipend Pay Date**

The one-time annual stipend will be paid to eligible teachers by June 30, 2026.

**D. Additional Funding:**

Should additional funds be allocated during the term of this Agreement, the District and PEA will discuss any appropriate amendments and distribution of such funds.

**This agreement will expire June 30, 2026.**

**POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**POLK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

By: [Signature]  
**Stephanie Yocum**  
**President**  
**Polk Education Association, Inc.**

By: [Signature]  
**Frederick R. Heid**  
**Superintendent**  
**Polk County Public Schools**

7/23/25  
**Date**

7/28/25  
**Date**

- c: Jason Pitts, Deputy Superintendent, Chief of Staff
- Brian Warren, Associate Superintendent, Human Resource Services
- Anne Pasco, Assistant Superintendent, Information Systems & Technology
- Laura Sawyer, Director, Instructional Technology (Contact)
- Business Services Finance and Payroll Departments

Cost Center: 9801000000  
Fund: 10021500  
Functional Area: 6500  
Funded Program:



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
AND  
THE POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**2025-2026**

**DISTRICT MANAGED IMPROVEMENT SCHOOLS- COLLABORATIVE  
PLANNING – INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF IN SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT  
SCHOOLS WILL BE ALLOWED UP TO 2 HOURS OF PLANNING  
OUTSIDE OF INSTRUCTIONAL TIME IN RETURN FOR  
PARTICIPATING IN ONE ADDITIONAL 45-MINUTE ADMINISTRATOR  
DIRECTED PLANNING PERIOD.**

The **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA** (D/B/A Polk County Public Schools) (**PCPS/District**) and the **POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC. (PEA)** as evidenced by the respective signatures below, are parties hereto and agree to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as more specifically set forth herein.

**WHEREAS** the PEA is the certified bargaining agent for the District; and, the District is the employer and party to the Teacher and Paraeducator Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) with the PEA; and,

**WHEREAS** PCPS is actively working to enhance the quality of PLC and Planning meetings, and the introduction of minimum standards aims to create a more effective and focused academic environment for students and educators alike. The additional school-lead PLC and Planning opportunities would assist in analyzing student data and increasing student achievement.

**WHEREAS 6A-1.099811 School Improvement State System of Support for Deficient and Failing Schools.** The purpose of this rule is to set forth the School Improvement (SI) State System of Support for Deficient and Failing Schools pursuant to Section 1008.33, F.S., by establishing differentiated intervention and support strategies for traditional public schools, delineating the responsibilities of the school, district and Department of Education (Department), setting timelines for intervention and support strategies, prescribing reporting requirements to review and monitor progress of schools, and setting forth submission and approval criteria for Turnaround Option Plans.

**WHEREAS,** Polk County School District will submit to the Department a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) required by Section 1001.42(21).

**NOW, THEREFORE,** with the mutual goal of increasing student achievement, the parties agree to the additional time for a school led PLC or Planning. This additional time will allow schools to conduct an extra school-led PLC or Planning session per week. Any planning time worked as outlined below would be paid if implemented prior to grant approval.

### **1. Teacher Duties and Stipend Compensation**

The additional one (1)-45-minute admin-directed planning period is mandatory for instructional staff at School Improvement schools. In return, instructional staff will be compensated at their regular hourly rate of pay for (2) hours per week of self-directed or collaborative planning outside their contractual time. The extra Planning or PLC is in addition to the (1)-45-minute admin directed planning period that is scheduled currently with teachers, administratively led. This grant-funded admin-directed planning period will not follow the shortened week provision for one (1)-45-minute regular admin-directed planning in the Teacher CBA. Every week administration will conduct (1)-45-minute planning period of planning regardless of an abbreviated work week. The (2) hours per week are to be documented on a Special Activity Payroll Log to be processed for the following end of month pay period.

### **2. Educational Support Personnel**

Should the additional payroll recordkeeping duties and responsibilities associated with processing the extra teacher and paraeducator paid planning time, the secretary responsible will log hours worked according to ESP Article 5.13, "Overtime: "Overtime" shall be defined as hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours during the basic work week."

- 3. List of District Managed Schools-** The following list of schools may be modified after PM3 Data is analyzed but before May 30, 2025, to give notice to schools who may fall under District Managed Improvement Schools. The following schools are under District Management Improvement in the 2024-2025 school year, and they currently listed in this Agreement unless their PM3 data shows they would be removed.

**North Lakeland Elementary School**

**Dixieland Elementary School**

**Kathleen Middle School**

**Eagle Lake Elementary School**

**Auburndale High School**

**Kathleen High School**

**McLaughlin Academy of Excellence**


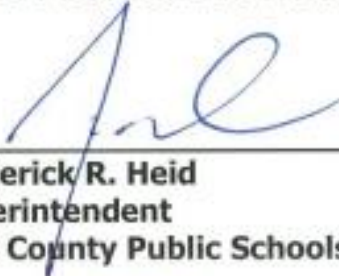
**Crystal Lake Middle School**

**Stambaugh Middle School**

**Crystal Lake Elementary School**

This Memorandum of Understanding will expire on June 30, 2026.

**POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC. POLK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

By:  By:   
Stephanie Yocum  
President  
Polk Education Association  
Frederick R. Heid  
Superintendent  
Polk County Public Schools

Date: 7/30/25 Date: 8/5/25

- c: Jason Pitts, Deputy Superintendent, Chief of Staff
- Brian Warren, Associate Superintendent, Human Resource Services
- Nicole Bennett, Regional Assistant Superintendent, Transformation
- Andrew Baldwin, Senior Director, Federal Programs
- Tara McDowell, Senior Director, Payroll Department, Business Services
- Dr. Curtis Williams, Senior Director, Human Resource Services
- Alyson Dort, Director, Title I, Federal Programs



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
AND  
THE POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**2025-2026**

**DISTRICT MANAGED IMPROVEMENT SCHOOLS- RESPONSE TO DATA TEACHER  
OPPORTUNITIES TO ASSIST STUDENTS WITH CURRICULUM STANDARDS**

The **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA** (D/B/A Polk County Public Schools) (**PCPS/District**) and the **POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC. (PEA)** as evidenced by the respective signatures below, are parties hereto and agree to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as more specifically set forth herein.

**WHEREAS** the PEA is the certified bargaining agent for the District; and, the District is the employer and party to the Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) and Educational Support Personnel CBA with the PEA; and,

**WHEREAS** Response to Data (RTD) is a District collaboration between school leadership teams to create actionable steps to increase student achievement in focused areas. Identified students receive additional support with District-created lessons. Data is collected to measure effectiveness of the intervention and measure growth towards the target.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, with the mutual goal of increasing student achievement, the parties agree to implement RTD as a strategy to move students toward mastery in ELA, Math and Science. Select students will be pulled from elective courses twice per week to work with teachers and paraeducators who volunteer to assist with identified curriculum standards.

**1. Teacher Duties and Stipend Compensation**

Teachers who volunteer will be compensated by receiving their hourly rate (subject to applicable IRS tax rate) for no more than three (3) hours per week, including two (2) hours for student tutoring and one (1) hour for planning time. The three hours per week are to be documented on a Special Activities Time Log to be processed for the following month's pay period.

**2. Substitutes and/or Paraeducator (Non-Exempt Employee)**

Paraeducators and Kelly Educational Services substitutes are not eligible for compensation under this agreement.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
RESPONSE TO DATA SCHOOLS  
TEACHER AND PARAEDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES**

**3. Educational Support Personnel**

Should the additional payroll recordkeeping duties and responsibilities associated with processing the extra teacher and paraeducator paid planning time, the secretary responsible will log hours worked according to ESP Article 5.13, "Overtime: "Overtime" shall be defined as hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours during the basic work week."

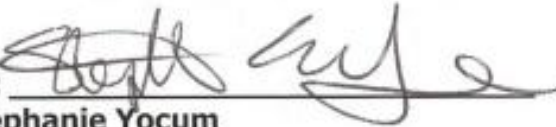
**4. List of District Managed Schools-** The following list of schools may be modified after PM3 Data is analyzed but before May 30, 2025, to give notice to schools who may fall under District Managed Improvement Schools. The following schools are under District Management Improvement in the 2024-2025 school year, and they currently listed in this Agreement unless their PM3 data shows they would be removed.


- Crystal Lake Middle School**
- North Lakeland Elementary School**
- Dixieland Elementary School**
- Kathleen Middle School**
- Eagle Lake Elementary School**
- Auburndale High School**
- Kathleen High School**
- McLaughlin Academy of Excellence**
- Stambaugh Middle School**
- Crystal Lake Elementary School**

**This Memorandum of Understanding will expire on June 30, 2026.**

**POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**POLK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

By:   
Stephanie Yocum  
President  
Polk Education Association

By:   
Frederick R. Heid  
Superintendent  
Polk County Public Schools

Date

7/30/25

Date

8/5/25



**POLK COUNTY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
STUDENTS FIRST



- c: Jason Pitts, Deputy Superintendent, Chief of Staff
- Brian Warren, Associate Superintendent, Human Resource Services
- Nicole Bennett, Regional Assistant Superintendent, Transformation
- Andrew Baldwin, Senior Director, Federal Programs
- Tara McDowell, Senior Director, Payroll Department, Business Services
- Dr. Curtis Williams, Senior Director, Human Resource Services
- Alyson Dort, Director, Title I, Federal Programs



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENTIATED  
ACCOUNTABILITY (DA) and TURNAROUND OPTION PLAN (TOP)  
SCHOOLS STAFF EXPECTATIONS AND MANDATORY JULY  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA AND  
THE POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**2025-2026  
DISTRICT MANAGED SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT SCHOOLS**

The **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA** (D/B/A Polk County Public Schools) (**PCPS/District**) and the **POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC. (PEA)** as evidenced by the respective signatures below, are parties hereto and agree to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as more specifically set forth herein.

**WHEREAS** the PEA is the certified bargaining agent for the District; and, the District is the employer and party to the Teacher, Paraeducator, and Educational Support Personnel Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) with the PEA; and,

**WHEREAS**, [Section 1008.33, Florida Statutes \(2023\)](#), authorizes the State Board of Education to apply intensive intervention and support strategies tailored to the needs of schools earning consecutive grades of "D" or a grade of "F." PCPS must immediately implement intervention and support strategies prescribed in rule and by September 1 provide the FDOE with the memorandum of understanding negotiated pursuant to [s. 1001.42\(21\)](#); and,

**WHEREAS** [Section 1001.42\(21\), F.S. \(2023\)](#), provides that an educational emergency exists when one or more schools in the District have a school grade of "D" or "F," and PCPS must implement intervention programs and support strategies to improve student performance, and provide the FDOE with a negotiated memorandum of understanding regarding the selection, placement, and expectations of instructional personnel in these schools.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, with the mutual goal of increasing student achievement the parties agree to additional expectations and requirements for school-based staff for the 2025-2026 school year.

**1. Mandatory July 2025 Professional Development**

In addition to the Teacher Staff Development Days defined in the School Calendar, all school-based instructional personnel, to include paraeducators and classroom and non-classroom instructional staff, must participate in four (4) days of early return professional development (PD) July 28, 2025-July 31, 2025. Itinerant teachers who are scheduled to work at any of these schools may choose to participate.

- a. List of District Managed Schools-** The following list of schools may be modified after

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENTIATED  
ACCOUNTABILITY (DA) and TURNAROUND OPTION PLAN (TOP)  
SCHOOLS STAFF EXPECTATIONS AND MANDATORY JULY  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

PM3 Data is analyzed but before May 30, 2025, to give notice to schools who may fall under District Managed Improvement Schools. The following schools are under District Management Improvement in the 2024-2025 school year, and they currently listed in this Agreement unless their PM3 data shows they would be removed.

**Crystal Lake Middle School**  
**North Lakeland Elementary School**  
**Auburndale High School**  
**Kathleen High School**  
**McLaughlin Academy of Excellence**  
**Stambaugh Middle School**  
**Crystal Lake Elementary School**

- b. Affected staff at listed school(s) will be informed of the mandatory professional development and reporting hours immediately upon signature of both parties.
- c. Staff at schools initially not listed but subsequently added to the list by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) following the anticipated July release of school grades, will be promptly notified of this possibility as soon as the district receives the updated list of potentially included schools. If a school is added to this list after May 30, 2025, this July professional development will be voluntary for staff at added schools.
- d. Should an employee have a conflict regarding mandatory participation, the employee must request a later training opportunity outside of the regular duty day to be considered for approval on a case-by-case basis.
- e. Compensation: The summer workday will be the same as the regular school year (7.75 daily hours). Instructional employees will be paid their regular hourly rate of pay, including a one (1)-hour paid lunch. Paraeducators will work the same 7.75-hour day as teachers and be compensated at their regular hourly rate.

Additional voluntary PD opportunities may be offered by the FDOE at listed school (s) throughout the summer, as available.

## **2. Teacher Retention at School Improvement Schools**

The expectation is for all teachers at the identified school to embrace the terms of this agreement and sign the attached Employee Agreement for the 2025-2026 school year.

Prior to the start of the school year should an existing employee at any school not agree to the expectations, the Article 17.4 and 14.4-2 voluntary intent to transfer and application process will be followed: "17.4-2 Request for Transfer Between School Years: It is the responsibility of the teacher to notify the principals where vacancies exist in order to be considered for the vacancy. The transfer will be subject to approval by the District Certification Compliance Department. A principal will only be notified of an employee's intent to transfer ten (10) workdays after the teacher has filed the intent to transfer form."

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENTIATED  
ACCOUNTABILITY (DA) and TURNAROUND OPTION PLAN (TOP)  
SCHOOLS STAFF EXPECTATIONS AND MANDATORY JULY  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The expectation is for all teachers at the listed school to embrace the terms of this agreement for the 2025-2026 school year.

**3. Improvement/Movement of Teachers throughout the School Year**

All Essential Performance Criteria, as documented in Journey, will be monitored by the administration for performance. Any pattern of less than *Effective* on any Essential Performance Criteria, observable and non-observable, will result in intervention by administration and development of a plan for improvement.

When student progress monitoring shows early data indicators in need of improvement there will be a meeting with the teacher to discuss the Essential Performance Criteria and develop a plan for improvement as defined in the Teacher Collective Bargaining Agreement. The plan will be monitored and failure to show improvement could result in the teacher being involuntarily transferred out of the school.

Teachers in need of improvement will only be transferred out if an *Effective* or *Highly Effective* teacher (based on 2024-2025 overall evaluation) is available to fill the position. The decision to reassign a teacher will be made in conjunction with the Superintendent's designee as applicable. Prior to removing teachers from the school, the Human Resource Services Division will work with school administration and the PEA to ensure alternate placement of identified instructional personnel in accordance with Teacher Article 17.6-1:

"In unusual and special circumstances, the Superintendent may recommend to the Board that a teacher be transferred from one position to another specific position for good and sufficient reasons. Any teacher being transferred under this section may not be placed into an out-of-field assignment or a position for which the teacher is not fully qualified, and the teacher may request written reasons for the transfer. Such transfers are effective upon the Superintendent's recommendation. Subsequent approval is required on the next available School Board Meeting agenda. Refusal by the teacher to accept such assignment shall release the Board from further obligation to that employee."

**4. Lesson Plans**

In addition to the provisions in Teacher Article 6.9, lesson plans will be provided in SharePoint one (1) week in advance for administrator review.

**5. Teacher Effectiveness**

Intensive effort will be made to find instructional staff that meets the demonstrated mastery to ensure appropriate staffing levels are met in the school.

- a. Other instructional staff, including but not limited to ESE and ESOL, that generate a

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENTIATED  
ACCOUNTABILITY (DA) and TURNAROUND OPTION PLAN (TOP)  
SCHOOLS STAFF EXPECTATIONS AND MANDATORY JULY  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

prior year (2024-2025) state VAM rating will also be considered a core teacher.

- b. Non-VAM evaluated teachers such as science and social studies must demonstrate an overall prior year (2024-2025) PCPS Student Achievement Objective (SAO) Evaluation rating of *Highly Effective* or *Effective* to be retained.
- c. Teachers within their first year of teaching, and/or new to the District, and without an evaluation or student learning data source, will be considered *Effective* for purposes of this agreement.

**6. School-based Coaches and Interventionists**

Academic Coaches and Interventionists will be held to the same criteria as core teachers. To ensure that the teachers develop a high degree of comfort when working with the Academic Coaches and Interventionists, the parties acknowledge that these invaluable resource persons are not administrative or supervisory, but rather act as partners and mentors in furthering the goal of improving academic results.

- a. All current content-specific support staff (coaches/interventionists) will be reevaluated for the placement of candidates.
- b. Coaches/interventionists will be held to the same expectations as classroom teachers at the school.
- c. Coaches/interventionists must demonstrate an overall prior year (2024-2025) PCPS Student Achievement Objective (SAO) Evaluation rating of *Highly Effective* or *Effective* to be retained at the school.
- d. Coaches/interventionists may be subject to an involuntary transfer to a position for which they are certified and qualified at a non-DA school if the coach/interventionist has an overall evaluation rating of less than *Effective* for the 2024-2025 school year.

**7. Professional Development**

Professional development will be job embedded and data driven. In addition to the Teacher Staff Development Days defined in the Board-approved School Calendar, additional days of staff development beyond the duty day may also be required throughout the school year. Every reasonable effort will be made to notice training dates at least two (2) weeks in advance. PEA will be notified of any mandatory staff development beyond the duty day before school-based staff are noticed.

- a. Should there be a need, school administration will notify affected teachers regarding any mandatory staff development dates and specific work hours by email, phone calls

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENTIATED  
ACCOUNTABILITY (DA) and TURNAROUND OPTION PLAN (TOP)  
SCHOOLS STAFF EXPECTATIONS AND MANDATORY JULY  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

and social media outlets.

- b. Should a current teacher have a conflict regarding mandatory attendance, a request for a later training opportunity outside of the regular duty day will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- c. Teachers newly hired/transferred to the school after any mandatory training dates will be offered comparable staff development outside of the regular duty day at a future date.
- d. Any mandatory staff development during the school year that is held beyond the regular duty day will be remunerated at the employee's regular hourly rate of pay.

**8. Funding**

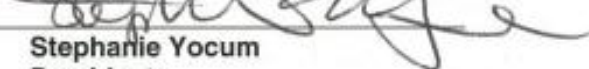
Should additional funds become available while this MOU is in effect, the District and PEA will discuss any appropriate amendments and distribution of such funds.

**This Memorandum of Understanding will expire June 30, 2026.**

**POLK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

By:   
Frederick R. Heid  
Superintendent  
Polk County Public Schools

By:   
Stephanie Yocum  
President  
Polk Education Association, Inc.

Date 8/5/25

Date 7/30/25

**Attachment: 2025-2026 Employee Agreement**

- c: Wayne Green, Deputy Superintendent  
Jason Pitts, Chief of Staff, Deputy Superintendent  
Joseph McNaughton, III, Associate Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer  
Nicole Bennett, Regional Assistant Superintendent, Transformation/SI (Contact)  
Andrew Baldwin, Senior Director, Federal Programs & Grant Management  
Business Services Finance and Payroll Departments  
Human Resource Services

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENTIATED  
ACCOUNTABILITY (DA) and TURNAROUND OPTION PLAN (TOP)  
SCHOOLS STAFF EXPECTATIONS AND MANDATORY JULY  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**2025-2026 EMPLOYEE AGREEMENT**

This Agreement is entered into this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2025, by and between the  
Polk County Public Schools (PCPS), and Employee,  
\_\_\_\_\_ [print full name] a  
\_\_\_\_\_ [job title] at  
\_\_\_\_\_, a Turnaround Option Plan (TOP) school. The PCPS and the  
Polk Education Association, Inc. (PEA), the certified bargaining agent representing instructional and  
non-instructional employees reached the attached Memorandum of Understanding with provisions  
regarding the selection, placement and expectations for the 2025-2026 school year.

Employee agrees to comply with all provisions outlined in the attached Memorandum  
of Understanding.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Initials*

All instructional staff shall be eligible to receive School Recognition Funds and  
compensation to the same extent staff in other schools are eligible.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Initials*

**Attachment:** PCPS and PEA Memorandum of Understanding for Staff Selection, Placement and  
Expectations

---

<b>Employee Signature</b>	<b>PCPS Personnel ID#</b>	<b>Date Signed</b>
---------------------------	---------------------------	--------------------

Original: PCPS Personnel File (Human Resource Services, Route E)  
Copies: Employee and Principal



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA  
AND  
THE POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**ESE VE SELF-CONTAINED TEACHER AND PARAEDUCATOR BEHAVIOR  
ACADEMIC CLUSTER UNIT  
2025-2026 EXPECTATIONS**

**This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines the expectations and stipend eligibility for instructional and paraeducator support Behavior Academic Cluster (BAC) units serving students with a consistent pattern of high frequency and/or high intensity documented behavior and placed in the Behavior Academic Cluster (BAC) units at the following schools:**

**Floral Avenue Elementary School  
Highlands Grove Elementary  
Lake Shipp Elementary School  
Loughman Oaks Elementary School  
Sleepy Hill Elementary School**

The **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA** (D/B/A Polk County Public Schools) (**PCPS/District**) and the **POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC. (PEA)** as evidenced by the respective signatures below, are parties hereto and agree to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as more specifically set forth herein.

**WHEREAS** the PEA is the certified bargaining agent for the District; and the District is the employer and party to the Teacher and Paraeducator Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) with the PEA; and,

**WHEREAS** each listed school above has been allocated additional ESE VE Self-Contained Teacher and Paraeducator positions to facilitate highly specialized positive behavior interventions that are explicit, intensive, accelerated and provide ample practice for students with challenging behaviors.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ELEMENTARY ESE TEACHER AND PARAEDUCATOR  
SELF-CONTAINED  
BEHAVIOR ACADEMIC CLUSTER UNIT EXPECTATIONS**

**NOW, THEREFORE**, with the mutual goal of serving students in the IMPACT Program, the parties agree to additional expectations for these school-based teachers for the 2024-2025 school year.

- 1. Teacher of ESE VE (Exceptional Student Education for Varying Exceptionalities) Qualifications for the Behavior Academic Cluster Unit**
  - a. Must be certified in Exceptional Student Education (ESE) and Elementary Education for Elementary sites. Secondary site teachers must be certified in Exceptional Student Education (ESE).
  - b. Hold an overall prior year instructional evaluation rating of *Highly Effective* or *Effective* to be considered.
  - c. Hold certification in Crisis Prevention Institute Nonviolent Crisis Intervention-Advanced Physical Skills (NCI-APS) and demonstrate competency in performing physical crisis interventions/techniques to provide for the safety of students, other team members, and the teacher.
  - d. Demonstrate an extensive knowledge and understanding of the concepts, principles, and methodologies for effective instruction and positive behavioral support that are beneficial for implementation with students with challenging and inappropriate behaviors.
  - e. Establish and maintain effective professional relationships with contracted vendor(s) providing behavior support.
  - f. Significant standing, walking, moving, climbing, carrying, bending, kneeling, crawling, reaching, handling, pushing, and pulling.
  - g. Preferred: A minimum of three years' experience teaching "at-risk" and/or "behaviorally challenged" students.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ELEMENTARY ESE TEACHER AND PARAEDUCATOR  
SELF-CONTAINED  
BEHAVIOR ACADEMIC CLUSTER UNIT EXPECTATIONS**

**2. Mandatory Professional Development**

- a. Teachers:** In addition to the Teacher Staff Development Days defined in the School Calendar, ESE BAC teachers must participate in three (3) days of early return professional development (PD): July 29, 30, and 31 2025. (Note: August 1<sup>st</sup> is the first 196-day teacher workday).
  - i. July 29: Behavior Coaching Initial Training Session
  - ii. July 30 and 31 Nonviolent Crisis Intervention-Advanced Physical Skills (NCI-APS)
- b. Paraeducators:** ESE BAC paraeducators must participate in three (3) days of early return professional development (PD): July 29, 30, 31, 2025.
  - i. July 29: Behavior Coaching Initial Training Session
  - ii. July 30 and 31: Nonviolent Crisis Intervention-Advanced Physical Skills (NCI-APS)
- c. Teacher Compensation:** The summer workday will be the same as the regular school year (7.75 daily paid hours) at each employee's regular hourly rate of pay, plus a one (1)-hour paid lunch.
- d. Paraeducator Compensation:** The summer workday will be the same as the regular school year (7.5 daily paid hours) at each employee's regular hourly rate of pay, plus a one (1)-hour paid lunch.
- e.** Participate in Behavior Coaching Program facilitated by the Learning Support Division team during the workday. Teachers will participate in five training sessions, instructor led, throughout the first semester. Following the instructor-led training sessions, teachers will have a minimum of six individual 1:1 sessions with District behavior support staff to provide teachers the opportunity to apply the components and strategies covered in training sessions.
- f.** Additional staff development beyond the duty day may also be required throughout the school year. Every reasonable effort will be made to notice training dates at least two (2) weeks in advance. PEA will be notified of any mandatory staff development beyond the duty day before school-based staff are noticed.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ELEMENTARY ESE TEACHER AND PARAEDUCATOR  
SELF-CONTAINED**

**BEHAVIOR ACADEMIC CLUSTER UNIT EXPECTATIONS**

g. Should a teacher have a conflict regarding mandatory participation, the teacher must request a later training opportunity outside of the regular duty day to be considered for approval on a case-by-case basis.

h. Teachers newly hired/transferred to the school after any mandatory training dates will be offered comparable staff development outside of the regular duty day at a future date.

i. Any mandatory staff development during the school year held beyond the regular duty day will be remunerated at the employee's regular hourly rate of pay.

**3. Teacher and Paraeducator Retention**

Due to the specialized instruction and professional development requirements, the expectation is for ESE BAC teachers and paraeducators at the listed schools to embrace the terms of this agreement and commit to remain at their school for the entire 2025- 2026 school year. Teachers may request Hardship Transfers as outlined in CBA Article 17.

**4. Compensation**

a. **Teacher:** Annual Stipend of \$5,000 subject to the appropriate tax rate, be paid after at the end of Semester 1 and Semester 2

b. **Paraeducator:** Annual Stipend of \$2000 subject to the appropriate tax rate, be paid after at the end of Semester 1 and Semester 2

c. In the event an employee transfers out of a school without an BAC Program and/or is no longer employed by the District, the stipend will be prorated through the last full month worked.

d. To receive payment, eligible teachers and paraeducators must be actively employed on the payment date, and not on an unpaid extended Board-approved leave of absence.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ELEMENTARY ESE TEACHER AND PARAEDUCATOR  
SELF-CONTAINED**

**BEHAVIOR ACADEMIC CLUSTER UNIT EXPECTATIONS**

- e. Provisional Substitutes and Kelly Educational Services substitutes are not eligible for the stipend.
  - f. Should additional schools receive ESE BAC teacher and/or paraeducator allocations during the term of this agreement, the parties agree to create an addendum.
5. Itinerant Teacher and Paraeducator Behavior Support Personnel
- a. Itinerant Teacher and Paraeducator Behavior Support personnel will be eligible to submit mileage reimbursement to their assigned schools. This mileage reimbursement will be calculated from the BAC school site closest to their physical address on file with Polk County Public Schools. Below is a current list of BAC sites:
    - i. Floral Avenue Elementary-Bartow
    - ii. Lake Shipp Elementary-Winter Haven
    - iii. Highlands Grove Elementary-Lakeland
    - iv. Sleepy Hill Elementary-North Lakeland
    - v. Loughman Oaks Elementary-Haines City
  - b. If an Itinerant Teacher or Paraeducator is assigned to a school other than a BAC site, mileage will be calculated to that work site from the BAC school site closest to their physical address on file with Polk County Public Schools. If an assignment to a school that is not a BAC site occurs after the employee has reported to a BAC site, the employee mileage would be calculated from that site.

This Memorandum of Understanding will expire June 30, 2026.

POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC. POLK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

By:   
Stephanie Yocum  
President  
Polk Education Association

By:   
Frederick R. Heid  
Superintendent  
Polk County Public Schools

Date: 8/26/25

Date: 9/3/25

- c: Jason Pitts, Chief of Staff, Deputy Superintendent
- Joseph McNaughton, III, Associate Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer
- Tammy Williams, Assistant Superintendent, Learning Support
- Denisse Santos, Director, Behavior and Mental Health Support (Contact)
- Business Services Finance and Payroll Departments
- Human Resource Services
- Cost Center: School Location
- Fund: School Location
- Functional Area: School Location
- Funded Program: School Location



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENTIATED  
ACCOUNTABILITY (DA) and TURNAROUND OPTION PLAN (TOP)  
RETENTION AND PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES FOR CRYSTAL  
LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND NORTH LAKELAND ELEMENTARY**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA AND  
THE POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.  
2025-2026  
CRYSTAL LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND NORTH LAKELAND  
ELEMENTARY**

The **SCHOOL DISTRICT OF POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA** (D/B/A Polk County Public Schools) (**PCPS/District**) and the **POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC. (PEA)** as evidenced by the respective signatures below, are parties hereto and agree to this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as more specifically set forth herein.

**WHEREAS** the PEA is the certified bargaining agent for the District; and, the District is the employer and party to the Teacher, Paraeducator, and Educational Support Personnel Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) with the PEA; and,

**WHEREAS**, [Section 1008.33, Florida Statutes \(2023\)](#), authorizes the State Board of Education to apply intensive intervention and support strategies tailored to the needs of schools earning consecutive grades of "D" or a grade of "F." PCPS must immediately implement intervention and support strategies prescribed in rule and by September 1 provide the FDOE with the memorandum of understanding negotiated pursuant to [s. 1001.42\(21\)](#); and,

**WHEREAS** [Section 1001.42\(21\), F.S. \(2023\)](#), provides that an educational emergency exists when one or more schools in the District have a school grade of "D" or "F," and PCPS must implement intervention programs and support strategies to improve student performance, and provide the FDOE with a negotiated memorandum of understanding regarding the selection, placement, and expectations of instructional personnel in these schools.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, with the mutual goal of increasing student achievement the parties agree to additional expectations and requirements for school-based staff for the 2025-2026 school year.

1. **Retention Incentive**-Teachers, Paraeducators and Educational Support Personnel who have worked at the school since the first contract day for that employee group or position will receive the following incentive. Employees must be active the entire quarter to receive this incentive. Employees will be paid with the Supplemental Pay App.
2. **Sign On Incentive**-Teachers, Paraeducators and Educational Support Personnel who transfer or are newly hired after the first contract day of the 25-26 SY will receive the full value of the retention incentive as though they were at the school from the first contract day. This provision defines the sign on incentive to assist in recruiting staff and will be paid with the Supplemental Pay App.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENTIATED  
ACCOUNTABILITY (DA) and TURNAROUND OPTION PLAN (TOP)  
RETENTION AND PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES FOR CRYSTAL  
LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND NORTH LAKELAND ELEMENTARY**

Teachers-

1 <sup>st</sup> quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	Total
\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$5,000

Paraeducator-

1 <sup>st</sup> quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	Total
\$625	\$625	\$625	\$625	\$2,500

Educational Support Personnel-

1 <sup>st</sup> quarter	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter	3 <sup>rd</sup> quarter	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter	Total
\$375	\$375	\$375	\$375	\$1,500

Employees are not eligible for the Retention/Sign On incentive while on an approved leave or Paid Administrative Leave (PAL). Should the allegation that placed the employee on PAL be found to be not sustained, the incentive will be provided to the employee retroactively with the Supplemental Pay App.

**3. School Performance Incentives**

Teachers of ELA and/or Math contents as well as other content areas (all teachers) will receive \$5,000 if the school receives a grade of "C" or higher. Employees will be paid with the Supplemental Pay App. The teacher must be active to receive the incentive. Otherwise, they would receive the incentive upon return to active status.

**4. Student Performance Incentives**

Consistent with Section 1012.22, F.S. (performance-based pay requirements) K-8 Teachers of ELA and/or Math, grades 4-8 ELA and/or Math with an effective or highly effective VAM or teachers with a growth metric set by the district from PM1-PM-3 from the state progress monitoring assessment (to be developed) will receive \$5,000. Employees will be paid with the Supplemental Pay App. The teacher must be active to receive the incentive. Otherwise, they would receive the incentive upon return to active status.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENTIATED  
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LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND NORTH LAKELAND ELEMENTARY**

**Summary of Incentives**

<b>Incentive</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Employee Group(s)</b>	<b>Payment Method</b>	<b>Payment Timeline</b>
<b>Retention</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>Current employees at school since first contract day of 25-26 SY.</b>	<b>All Teachers Paraeducator ESP</b>	<b>Supplemental Pay App</b>	<b>Pay period at the end of the month following each nine weeks.</b>
<b>Sign On</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>Transferred or newly hired employees after first contract day of 25-26 SY.</b>	<b>All Teachers Paraeducator ESP</b>	<b>Supplemental Pay App</b>	<b>Pay period at the end of the month following each nine weeks.</b>
<b>School Performance</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>School grade of "C" of higher.</b>	<b>All Teachers</b>	<b>Supplemental Pay App</b>	<b>Pay period at the end of the month following release of school grades.</b>
<b>Student Performance</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>K-8 Teachers of ELA and/or Math, grades 4-8 ELA and/or Math with an effective or highly effective VAM or teachers with a growth metric set by the district from PM1-PM-3 from the state progress monitoring</b>	<b>Teachers- ELA and/or Math Contents</b>	<b>Supplemental Pay App</b>	<b>Pay period at the end of the month following PM-3 or VAM scores as applicable.</b>

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENTIATED  
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RETENTION AND PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES FOR CRYSTAL  
LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND NORTH LAKELAND ELEMENTARY**

		assessment (to be developed)			
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**5. Teachers Reassigned from Central Office**

Teachers will be paid an incentive of \$250/week for temporary instructional reassignment during recruitment initiatives to fill instructional vacancies. Teachers will be paid with the Supplemental Pay App and receive appropriate mileage reimbursement. Mileage will be calculated from central office to school location and back daily. Mileage to North Lakeland Elementary will be \$120.54 and \$86.59 for Crystal Lake Middle School. Mileage will be paid through the Supplemental Pay App. Reassignment incentives will cease upon the first day a candidate is scheduled with students for the position the teacher is serving. Teachers reassigned under this provision are not eligible for the retention, sign on, school performance or student performance incentives.

**Additional Provisions**

- Application Process:
  - Staff interested in the incentive program must apply for a posted vacancy at one of the TOP Schools and notify the Recruitment and Engagement Office by September 19, 2025, at jobs@polk-fl.net.
- Verification:
  - Human Resources will verify eligibility, including certification, VAM rating, assignment, and employment status, consistent with §1012.34, Fla. Stat. and Article XV of the CBA
- Limitations:
  - This program applies exclusively to instructional personnel as defined in §1012.01(2), Fla. Stat.
  - Funding is limited to allocations provided to Differentiated Accountability/Turnaround schools with an approved Turnaround Option Plan under §1008.33, Fla. Stat.
  - Nothing in this MOU alters or supersedes contractual protections under Article XXII – Professional Compensation
  - Separation (termination, 90 probationary release, retirement, or resignation) from the school or PCPS invalidates eligibility.
  - Employees assigned by the district but support these schools-for example, ESE facilitators or itinerant staff are not eligible as they are not permanent staff members for these schools.
  - Contracted employees outside of PCPS are not eligible for these incentives.
- Notification:
  - Teachers selected to receive the bonus will be given official written notification from Human Resources.

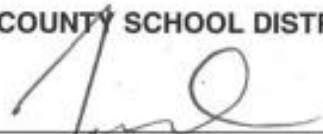
**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DIFFERENTIATED  
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**Duration**

This MOU is effective for the 2025–2026 school year only, unless extended by mutual agreement of the Board and the Association, consistent with Article II – Negotiations Procedure of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.


**This Memorandum of Understanding will expire June 30, 2026.**

**POLK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

By:   
Frederick R. Heid  
Superintendent  
Polk County Public Schools

Date 9/15/25

**POLK EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

By:   
Stephanie Yocum  
President  
Polk Education Association, Inc.

Date 9/16/25

- c: Tracy Collins, Chief of Schools
- Jason Pitts, Operations, Deputy Superintendent
- Joseph McNaughton, III, Associate Superintendent, Chief Academic Officer
- Telay Kendrick, Chief of Human Resource Services
- Brian Warren, Chief of Labor and Employee Relations
- Nicole Bennett, Regional Assistant Superintendent, Transformation/SI (Contact)
- Andrew Baldwin, Senior Director, Federal Programs & Grant Management
- Business Services Finance and Payroll Departments
- Human Resource Services