

# Employee Handbook

August 2022



The Employee Handbook may not be changed in any way without express written approval from the Board of Directors.

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## Welcome!

*We are thrilled to welcome you to Excel Academy Charter School! You are joining a team of dedicated, award winning educators and loyal, hard working support staff! As a school we seek to hire and retain high caliber individuals to meet our vision of extraordinary education.*

*We truly value our employees and have developed this Employee Handbook (handbook) to assist you with understanding our policies, procedures, and performance expectations. As the employee you are responsible for reading and understanding the handbook as well as any posted revisions. If you have any questions or need clarification please don't hesitate to reach out to our HR specialist Megan Anderson or designated HR or payroll staff. Our goal is that you take pride in your role at Excel Academy as you play an instrumental role in the life of a student and their family. We sincerely hope that you will find your employment here at Excel Academy Charter School to be one of enrichment, collaboration, and an overall professionally rewarding experience.*

*Best wishes for a wonderful school year!*

*The Excel Academy Leadership Team*

## Right to Revise

This handbook is the employee's guide to understanding the provisions of their employment with Excel Academy Charter Schools ("School"). Please be advised that written employment agreements between the School and individuals may replace some policies/procedures in this handbook. This handbook supersedes any and all prior published handbooks and any policy, memoranda, or benefits statements that are contrary to the policies that are outlined here.

The School reserves the right to revise, modify, delete, or add to any and all policies, procedures, work rules, or benefits stated in this handbook or in any other document, except for the policy of at-will employment. Any such changes must be in writing and must be signed by the CEO or designee.

Any written changes to this handbook will be distributed to all employees, so that employees will be aware of the new policies or procedures. No oral statements or representations can in any way alter the provisions of this handbook.

This handbook sets forth the policies and procedures applicable to employees of the School. Employees are expected to abide by all policies in this handbook. Nothing in this handbook or in any other personnel documents creates or is intended to create a promise or representation of continued employment for any employee. Nothing in this at-will statement is intended to interfere with an employee's rights to communicate or work with others toward altering the terms and conditions of their employment.

## At-Will Employment Status

School personnel are employed on an at-will basis. Employment at-will means that the employment relationship may be terminated, with or without cause and with or without advance notice at any time by the employee or the School. Nothing in this handbook shall limit the right to terminate at-will employment. No manager, supervisor, or employee of the School has any authority to enter into an agreement for employment for any specified period of time or to make an agreement for employment on other than at-will terms. Only the School has the authority to make any such agreement, which is binding only if it is in writing and approved by the Board of Directors.

Though many items surrounding employment may be changed or updated (such as the eligibility of benefits, promotion, or leaves) the status as an at-will employee does not change — the employment relationship may be terminated with or without cause and with or without advance notice, at any time by the employee or the School.



## Section I: Nondiscrimination Policies

### A. Equal Employment Opportunity

The School is an equal opportunity employer and makes employment decisions on the basis of merit. Selections for employment focus on the candidates whose training and experience most closely align with the position requirements, and fit with the School's mission, vision, and values. School policy prohibits unlawful discrimination based on actual or perceived race (including traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles such as braids, locks and twists), color, creed, actual or perceived gender (including gender identity and gender expression), religion (all aspects of religious beliefs, observance or practice, including religious dress or grooming practices), marital status, registered domestic partner status, status as a victim of domestic violence, assault or stalking, age (40 and over), ethnicity, national origin or ancestry (including language use restrictions), citizenship, physical, intellectual or mental disability (including HIV and AIDS), medical condition (including cancer or a record or history of cancer, and genetic characteristics), family or medical leave status, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding or a related medical condition), genetic information, sexual orientation, political affiliation, military and veteran status or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws. It also prohibits unlawful discrimination based on the perception that anyone has any of those characteristics, or is associated with a person who has or is perceived as having any of those characteristics.

Discrimination can also include failing to reasonably accommodate religious practices or qualified individuals with disabilities where the accommodation does not pose an undue hardship. The School's management is responsible for adherence to this policy; however, in the final analysis, attainment of this goal of equal employment opportunity and enrichment through diversity depends on the commitment and good faith effort of everyone.

The School will comply with all applicable equal employment and discrimination laws, including Title IX, the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and all other applicable laws. Additionally, Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities by recipients of federal financial assistance. The School does not discriminate in the educational program or any activities which it operates, including employment in such programs and activities.

The School will continually strive to recruit and retain highly qualified employees and remain a competitive public school employer, including examining employee evaluation

and compensation, and discipline/dismissal practices annually.

In accordance with the School's Equal Employment and Nondiscrimination Policies, the School designates the following position(s) as the Title IX Coordinator and Coordinator for Nondiscrimination in Employment:

**Megan Anderson**

Assistant Director of Human Resources

Excel Academy Charter Schools

1 Technology Drive I-811

Irvine, CA 92618

manderson@excelacademy.education

Any employee or job applicant who believes they have been or are being discriminated against or harassed in violation of School policy should, as appropriate, immediately contact their supervisor, the Title IX coordinator, or the CEO, or any person they feel comfortable going to who shall advise the employee or applicant about the School's procedures for filing, investigating, and resolving any such complaint.

Complaints regarding employment discrimination or harassment shall immediately be investigated in accordance with School policy and regulation. Individuals may use the School's Uniform Complaint Procedures to address complaints of discrimination and harassment, including sex discrimination under Title IX. Annual notice of such policies will be provided to all employees, and a copy of such policies and procedures are available by contacting the Title IX coordinator or Human Resources (HR).

Discrimination is considered a form of employee misconduct. Disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, will be taken against any employee engaging in this type of behavior. Any supervisor or manager who has knowledge of such behavior, yet takes no action to end it, is also subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

## **B. Disability Accommodation**

To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and all applicable laws ensuring equal employment opportunities to qualified individuals with a disability, the School will make reasonable accommodations for the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or an employee unless undue hardship would result.

Any applicant or employee who requires an accommodation in order to perform the essential functions of the job as outlined in the applicable job description should contact the HR department and discuss the need for an accommodation. The School will engage

in an interactive process with the employee to identify possible accommodations, if any, which will help the applicant or employee perform the job. The School will implement reasonable accommodations that do not impose undue hardship.

## C. Anti-Harassment

The School is committed to providing a work environment free of harassment, discrimination, retaliation and abusive conduct as that term may be defined by statute or regulation then in effect at the time of the conduct. School policy prohibits conduct that is disrespectful, unprofessional as well as harassment based on actual or perceived race (including traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles such as braids, locks and twists), color, creed, actual or perceived gender (including gender identity and gender expression), religion (all aspects of religious beliefs, observance or practice, including religious dress or grooming practices), marital status, registered domestic partner status, status as a victim of domestic violence, assault or stalking, age (40 and over), ethnicity, national origin or ancestry (including language use restrictions), citizenship, physical, intellectual or mental disability (including HIV and AIDS), medical condition (including cancer or a record or history of cancer, and genetic characteristics), family or medical leave status, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding or a related medical condition), genetic information, sexual orientation, political affiliation, military and veteran status or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state, or local laws. It also prohibits unlawful discrimination based on the perception that anyone has any of those characteristics, or is associated with a person who has or is perceived as having any of those characteristics.

All such conduct violates school policy. The School's anti-harassment policy applies to all persons involved in the operation of the School and prohibits harassment, disrespectful or unprofessional conduct by any employee of the School, including supervisors and managers, as well as vendors, community providers, customers, independent contractors, and any other persons. It also prohibits harassment, disrespectful or unprofessional conduct based on the perception that anyone has any of those characteristics, or is associated with a person who has or is perceived as having any of those characteristics.

Prohibited harassment, disrespectful or unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following behavior:

1. Verbal conduct such as epithets, derogatory jokes or comments, slurs or unwanted sexual advances, invitations or comments;
2. Visual displays such as derogatory and/or sexually-oriented posters, photography, cartoons, drawings or gestures;
3. Physical conduct including assault, unwanted touching, intentionally blocking normal movement or interfering with work because of sex, race or any other protected basis;
4. Threats and demands to submit to sexual requests as a condition of continued

- employment, or to avoid some other loss and offers of employment benefits in return for sexual favors;
5. Retaliation for reporting or threatening to report harassment; and
  6. Communication via electronic media of any type that includes any conduct that is prohibited by state and/or federal law, or by the School policy.

Sexual harassment does not need to be motivated by sexual desire to be unlawful or to violate this policy. For example, hostile acts toward an employee because of their gender can amount to sexual harassment, regardless of whether the treatment is motivated by any sexual desire.

Harassment is considered a form of employee misconduct. Disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal, will be taken against any employee engaging in this type of behavior, yet takes no action to end it, is also subject to disciplinary action.

It is the policy of the School that no one will be retaliated against for making a good faith complaint of harassment or for cooperating in the investigation of a complaint.

An employee who believes they have been harassed, discriminated against or retaliated against may initiate the reporting process by contacting their supervisor, or, if appropriate, the next level of management (see Reporting procedure, which follows), any team member they feel most comfortable reporting to, or the HR department. All discrimination, harassment and retaliation complaints will be promptly investigated and will be treated confidentially to the extent possible, and appropriate action taken where warranted. Complaints made in good faith are protected from retaliation of any kind.

### **1. Sexual Harassment**

The School is committed to providing a work environment that is free from sexual harassment and retaliation. Under no circumstances will sexual harassment be tolerated.

"Sexual harassment" means any unwelcome sexual advance, unwelcome requests for sexual favors, or other unwelcome verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made by someone from or in the educational or work setting, whether it occurs between individuals of the same sex or individuals of opposite sexes, under any of the following conditions:

1. Submission to the conduct is explicitly or implicitly made a term or a condition of an individual's academic status, employment, or progress.
2. Submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic or employment decisions affecting the individual.
3. The conduct has the purpose or effect of having a negative impact upon the individual's academic performance, work, or progress or has the purpose or effect

of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational or working environment. The conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent, pervasive or objectively offensive, so as to create a hostile or abusive educational or working environment or to limit the individual's ability to participate in or benefit from an education program or activity.

4. Submission to, or rejection of, the conduct by the individual is used as the basis for any decision affecting the individual regarding benefits and services, honors, programs, or activities available at or through the local agency.

"Verbal sexual harassment" includes, but is not limited to, unwelcome epithets, comments, or slurs of a sexual nature.

"Physical sexual harassment" includes, but is not limited to, assault, impeding or blocking movement, or any physical interference with work or school activities or movement when directed at an individual on the basis of sex.

"Visual sexual harassment" includes, but is not limited to, derogatory posters, cartoons, drawings, obscene gestures, or computer-generated images of a sexual nature.

"Educational environment" includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. The main administration offices of the local agency.
2. Properties controlled or owned by the local agency.
3. Off-campus, if such activity is sponsored by the local agency, or is conducted by organizations sponsored by or under the jurisdiction of the local agency.

Sexual harassment has no place in the work environment and is prohibited by the School. Specifically, it must in no way be exercised for purposes of an intimidating effect on employment decisions such as promotion, dismissal, hiring, training, wage and salary increases, transfer, or any other matter that affects the ability of an employee to perform job duties.

Any employee who engages or participates in sexual harassment, or who aids, abets, incites, compels or coerces another to commit sexual harassment or retaliates against another individual is in violation of this policy and subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

Managers and supervisors are to ensure that no such intimidation or harmful atmosphere of unwelcome sexual overtones exist in their workplaces. Every effort should be made to sensitize themselves and their employees to the differences between purely social overtones and those intended to affect working conditions. Also, employees are responsible for respecting the rights of their co-workers. Any employee who feels they have been harassed or retaliated against, or has knowledge of any incident of harassment or retaliation on any protected basis shall immediately report such incidents to their

immediate supervisor, HR, the CEO or the Title IX Coordinator and Coordinator for Nondiscrimination in Employment. If the supervisor is the harasser or has not responded to the complaint, or if not an employee, then the complainant should complain to any administrator without fear of reprisal. Employees may also report instances of sexual harassment through the School's Uniform Complaint Procedure without fear of reprisal.

## **2. Reporting**

The School has an affirmative duty to take reasonable steps to prevent and correct discrimination and harassment. Supervisors, co-workers, and third parties are prohibited from engaging in unlawful behavior under the Fair Employment and Housing Act or any other applicable law. Please see the list of protected categories as stated in the Equal Employment Opportunity and Anti-Harassment sections of the handbook.

The School encourages reporting of all perceived incidents of discrimination, harassment or retaliation, regardless of the offender's identity or position. Individuals who believe that they have been the victim of such conduct should discuss their concerns with their immediate Executive Director, supervisor, manager, HR, or person they feel most comfortable and may file a complaint. The Uniform Complaint Procedures may be used for this purpose. Employees are entitled to report harassment to someone other than their direct supervisor. Supervisors are required to report all complaints to HR. In addition, the School encourages individuals who believe they are being subjected to such conduct to promptly advise the offender that their behavior is unwelcome and request that it be discontinued. The School recognizes, however, that an individual may prefer to pursue the matter through informal or formal complaint procedures. Every effort will be made to keep such reports as confidential to the extent possible, although it is understood that an investigation will normally require the involvement of third parties. The School is serious about enforcing its policy against harassment, discrimination and retaliation. However, the School cannot resolve a harassment, discrimination or retaliation problem that it does not know about. Therefore, employees are responsible for bringing any such problems to the School's attention so it can take the necessary steps to correct the problem.

## **3. Investigation/Complaint Procedure**

All complaints of harassment, including sexual harassment, discrimination or retaliation may be addressed through the School's Uniform Complaint Procedures. A complaint will be followed by prompt and thorough investigation conducted by an impartial and qualified individual. If the investigation substantiates the accusations, the appropriate corrective action will be taken. This may include, but not be limited to, reprimand, suspension or dismissal, depending on the nature and severity of the offense.

Complaints will be documented and the School will designate a qualified individual to track the complaint process.

#### *a. Informal Procedure*

If for any reason an individual does not wish to address the offender directly, or if such action does not successfully end the offensive conduct, the individual should notify their immediate supervisor and/or the HR department who may, if the individual so requests, talk to the alleged offender on the individual's behalf. In addition, there may be instances in which an individual seeks only to discuss matters with one of the HR designated representatives, and such discussion is encouraged. An individual reporting harassment, discrimination or retaliation should be aware, though, that the School may decide it is necessary to take action to address such conduct beyond an informal discussion. This decision will be discussed with the individual. The best course of action in any case will depend on many factors and, therefore, the informal procedure will remain flexible. Moreover, the informal procedure is not a required first step for the reporting individual.

#### *b. Formal Procedure*

As noted above, individuals who believe they have been the victims of conduct prohibited by this policy statement or believe they have witnessed such conduct should discuss their concerns with their supervisor or the HR department. The School encourages the prompt reporting of complaints or concerns so that rapid and constructive action can be taken before relationships become irreparably strained. Therefore, while no fixed reporting period has been established, early reporting and intervention have proven to be the most effective method of resolving actual or perceived incidents of harassment. Any reported allegations of harassment, discrimination or retaliation will be investigated promptly and thoroughly. The investigation may include individual interviews with the parties involved and, where necessary, with individuals who may have observed the alleged conduct or may have other relevant knowledge. Confidentiality will be maintained throughout the investigation process to the extent consistent with adequate investigation and appropriate corrective action. Misconduct constituting harassment, discrimination or retaliation will be dealt with appropriately. Responsive action may include, training, referral to counseling and/or disciplinary action such as warning, reprimand, withholding of a promotion or pay increase, reassignment, temporary suspension without pay or termination, as the School believes appropriate under the circumstances.

### **4. Retaliation**

Employees will not be retaliated against for complaining or participating in an investigation. Retaliation against an individual for reporting harassment or discrimination or for participating in an investigation of a claim of harassment or discrimination is a serious violation of this policy and, like harassment or discrimination itself, will be subject to disciplinary action. Acts of retaliation should be reported immediately and will be promptly investigated and addressed.

### **5. Conclusion**

This policy was developed to ensure that all employees can work in an environment free from harassment, discrimination and retaliation. The School will make every reasonable effort to ensure that all concerned are familiar with these policies and aware that any complaint in violation of such policies will be investigated and resolved appropriately. Any employee who has any questions or concerns about these policies should talk with their supervisor or the HR department. Finally, these policies should not, and may not, be used as a basis for excluding or separating individuals of a particular gender, or any other protected characteristic, from participating in business or work-related social activities or discussions. In other words, no one should make the mistake of engaging in discrimination or exclusion in order to avoid allegations of harassment. The law and the policies of the School prohibit disparate treatment on the basis of sex or any other protected characteristic, with regard to terms, conditions, privileges and prerequisites of employment. The prohibitions against harassment, discrimination and retaliation are intended to complement and further those policies, not to form the basis of an exception to them.

None of the procedures listed are intended to preclude an employee from pursuing claims of discrimination and/or harassment in any other forum available to the employee, including making reports of discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation to the Department of Fair Employment and Housing and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

## D. Diversity Policy

The School is committed to fostering, cultivating and preserving a culture of diversity and inclusion.

Our staff is the most valuable asset we have. The collective sum of the individual differences, life experiences, knowledge, inventiveness, innovation, self-expression, unique capabilities and talent that our employees invest in their work represents a significant part of not only the School's culture, but its reputation and achievement as well.

We embrace and encourage our employees' differences in age, color, disability, ethnicity, family or marital status, gender identity or expression, language, national origin, physical and mental ability, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, veteran status, and other characteristics that make our employees unique.

The School's diversity initiatives are applicable—but not limited—to our practices and policies on recruitment and selection; compensation and benefits; professional development and training; promotions; terminations; and the ongoing development of a work environment built on the premise of gender and diversity equity that encourages and enforces:

- Respectful communication and cooperation between all employees.



- Teamwork and employee participation, permitting the representation of all groups and employee perspectives.
- Work/life balance through flexible work schedules to accommodate employees' varying needs.
- Employer and employee contributions to the communities we serve to promote a greater understanding and respect for diversity.

All employees of the School have a responsibility to treat others with dignity and respect at all times. All employees are expected to exhibit conduct that reflects inclusion during work, at work functions on or off the work site, and at all other school-sponsored and participative events.

Any employee found to have exhibited any inappropriate conduct or behavior against others may be subject to disciplinary action up to termination.

Employees who believe they have been subjected to any kind of discrimination that conflicts with the School's diversity policy and initiatives should seek assistance from an HR representative.

Initial\_\_\_\_\_

## Section II: Employment Requirements

### A. Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting

Any employee who knows or reasonably suspects a child has been the victim of child abuse shall report the instance to a child protective agency. School employees are mandated reporters and are required to report instances of child abuse when the employee has a "reasonable suspicion" that child abuse has occurred. Reasonable suspicion arises when the facts surrounding the incident or suspicion could cause another person in the same situation to suspect child abuse.

Child abuse should be reported immediately by phone to a child protective agency. Call the local Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) to report child abuse and neglect. If there is a life-threatening emergency to a child however, call 9-1-1. The phone call to the DFCS is to be followed by a written report within 36 hours of receiving the information concerning the incident. There is no duty for the reporter to contact the child's parents. In fact, if a child is released to a peace officer or a child protective agency agent, the reporter shall not notify the parent as required in other instances of removal.

Child abuse is broadly defined as "a physical injury that is inflicted by other than accidental means on a child by another person." Child abuse can take the following

several forms:

1. Sexual abuse: Sexual abuse means, in general, sexual assault or sexual exploitation. Sexual abuse does not include children who voluntarily engage in sexual activity with children of a similar age. Pregnancy of a minor does not, in and of itself, constitute suspicion of child abuse.
2. Neglect: Neglect occurs when a child's custodian has failed to provide adequate "food, clothing, shelter, medical care, or supervision" that may or may not have resulted in any physical injury.
3. Unlawful corporal punishment: Unlawful corporal punishment occurs when any person willfully harms or injures a child to such a degree that results in a traumatic condition.
4. Willful cruelty or unjustifiable punishment: Child abuse also includes the situation where any "person willfully causes or permits any child to suffer unjustifiable pain or mental suffering" or when any person endangers a child's health.

### **Confidentiality**

A mandated reporter is required to give their name. The identity of all persons who report shall be confidential. Violation of statutory confidentiality is a misdemeanor. DFCS may reveal the names of reporting parties only to other investigative agencies as specified by law. No person required to report abuse will bear criminal liability for reporting. No supervisor or administrator may impede or prohibit reporting.

All employees, prior to commencing employment, are required to acknowledge the provisions of Penal Code Section 11166 regarding mandated reporting and will comply with those provisions as outlined in the employment agreement. All employees will also be subject to annual training as required by law.

### **Failure to Report**

Failure to report suspected abuse is a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment/fine. Any person who fails to report an instance of child abuse or neglect as required by the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act is guilty of a misdemeanor with a punishment not to exceed six months in jail or \$1,000 or both.

## **B. Employee Access to Confidential Information**

Each employee is responsible for safeguarding confidential information obtained during employment. In the course of the employee's work, the employee may have access to confidential information regarding students, parents, suppliers, other customers, or perhaps even fellow employees without consent from that individual. The employee has

the responsibility of preventing the revealing or divulging of any such information unless it is necessary for the employee to do so in the performance of their duties and in accordance with law. Access to confidential information should be on a "need-to-know" basis and must be authorized by the CEO or designee. Any breach of this policy will not be tolerated and will lead to disciplinary action and possible legal action.

Please note the release of unauthorized confidential information may result in immediate dismissal and the filing of criminal charges. Confidentiality of student information is a requirement of the law and great care must be taken to ensure it is protected. No student information will be released without the specific authorization of the CEO or designee. Employee information may be released as part of a Public Records Act request, for the purpose of employment verification with prior written approval by the employee, or as required by law.

## C. Student Data/FERPA

All information contained in a student's records, including information contained in an electronic database, is confidential and maintained in accordance with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). These records are the property of the School, whose responsibility it is to secure the information against loss, defacement, tampering or use by unauthorized persons. Staff is prohibited from discussing students' academic or personal information outside the scope of performing the duties of one's position. No student's files are to be taken off premises unless granted permission by the CEO or designee. Only teachers, administrative, and office personnel are permitted to review student's files. When a file is requested from the School office, it must be signed out and returned the same day. No student files, records, forms, communication or reports may be copied without express authorization from the Executive Director. Under no circumstances may student information be used for an employees' personal use.

Employees may not remove any materials from any student's file. Files may not leave the office without specific written authorization from the CEO or designee. Employees who access student files are responsible to secure their contents and maintain confidentiality.

## D. Conflict of Interest

Employees have an obligation to conduct business within guidelines that prohibit actual or potential conflict of interest. Such a conflict occurs when an employee is in a position to influence a decision that may result in a personal gain for the employee or for a relative as a result of the School's business dealings.

### **1. Personal Financial Interest**

All such persons shall be neither personally nor financially interested in any contract made by them or by the school that employs them. For purposes of this policy,

(1) “Personally interested” shall mean any situation where private and/or personal interests conflict with official duties and shall include non-economic interests such as familial relationships.

(2) “Financially interested” shall mean any contract with an individual, entity, or company in which any such person related by blood, marriage or civil partner, any other person with a close personal relationship to any such person who has an ownership interest, an investment interest, or a familial interest, and encompasses any situation where any such person's official judgment may be influenced by personal consideration or expectation of financial gain or any compensation or consideration of any kind other than that officially provided to any such person by the School.

## **2. Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700)**

Board members and staff who make or influence governmental decisions or financial decisions of the organization are designated in the Conflict of Interest Code adopted by the Board. These individuals must complete and file a Statement of Economic Interest, Form 700. The Form 700 ensures transparency and accountability in alignment with the Political Reform Act.

It is the policy of this School that elected or appointed school governance body members, school administrative officers, and school employees shall not place themselves in any position where their private or personal interests may conflict with their official duties, or where they may directly or indirectly receive personal financial gain through direct or indirect personal influence.

## **3. Personal Relationship**

Personal or romantic involvement with a competitor, supplier or employee of the School may create an actual or potential conflict of interest. Management-subordinate romantic or personal relationships can lead to issues such as claims of discrimination or favoritism, issues with performance evaluation, possible claims of sexual harassment, and morale issues. It is the responsibility of the employees involved in romantic or personal relationships with subordinates, or other personal or romantic relationships that give rise to a conflict of interest, to disclose and discuss all relevant circumstances with the supervisor or HR and possibly request a change in assignment to avoid potential problems as appropriate. Failure to disclose such circumstances may cause the School to impose disciplinary action. Moreover, any romantic or personal relationships between employees must not harm the work environment in any way. Regardless of an employee’s relationship with another employee outside of work, employees are expected to remain professional at all times during work hours. The School will not discriminate on the basis of marital or relationship status, except that the School may reasonably regulate the working of spouses or relatives in the same department, division, or facility for reasons of supervision, safety, security, or morale in accordance with applicable law.

No “presumption of guilt” is created by the mere existence of a professional or personal

relationship with outside firms; however, if such employees have any influence on transactions involving purchases, contracts, or leases, it is imperative that such be disclosed so that safeguards can be established to protect all parties.

## E. Anti-Nepotism Policy

The School recognizes there may be situations in which spouses or other relatives may be employed by the School at the same time. The School permits the employment of qualified family members, domestic partners, significant others and/or similar personal relationships of employees as long as such employment does not create a conflict of interest. Relationships by family, marriage, domestic partnership and/or similar personal relationship shall constitute neither an advantage nor a disadvantage to selection, promotion, salary, or other conditions of employment. The School may consider a member of an employee's immediate family for employment if the applicant possesses the qualifications for employment for the position.

The School does not prohibit the employment of relatives in the same department. However, the School does prohibit any preferential treatment toward spouses or relatives or an improper influence impacting a spouse's or relative's terms or conditions of employment. The School recognizes that at times, employees and their family members, domestic partners, significant others and/or personal relationships may be assigned to positions that create a coworker or supervisor-subordinate relationship. The School will, in its discretion, exercise sound judgment with respect to the placement of employees in these situations in order to avoid the creation or appearance of a conflict of interest, avoid favoritism or the appearance of favoritism, and decrease the likelihood of harassment in the workplace.

Employees should neither initiate nor participate, directly or indirectly, in employment actions (initial employment or appointment, retention, evaluation, promotions, salary, work assignments, leave of absence, etc.) involving family members, domestic partners, significant others and/or similar personal relationships.

The School will make reasonable efforts to assign job duties to minimize the potential for creating conflicts of interest. Notwithstanding the above, the School retains the right where such placement has the potential for creating conflicts of interest, to refuse to place immediate family members in the same department. The School retains the right to reassign or transfer any person to eliminate the potential for creating conflicts of interest.

Any potential preferential treatment or improper influence should be reported immediately to HR.

## F. Employment Eligibility Verification Document

The School will only employ individuals who are authorized to work in the United States in compliance with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986.

All newly hired employees must complete, as a condition of employment, the Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9 and provide documentation establishing identity and proof of work eligibility and identification at time of hire, but no later than three (3) days of hire. If the employee is unable to produce the required documentation or a receipt/letter requesting appropriate documentation within three days, the employee will be dismissed from employment. If, after 90 days of hire, the employee has not submitted the original documents to replace the receipt/letter or, in the meantime, some other acceptable document(s), the employee will be dismissed from employment.

Former employees who are rehired must also complete the form if they have not completed an I-9 for the School within the past three years or if their previous I-9 is no longer retained or valid.

## G. Fingerprinting

Each employee will be fingerprinted in conformance with legal requirements and as a condition of employment. Fingerprints are submitted to the appropriate State and Federal agencies for screening to assure that no employee has been convicted of a crime that would preclude employment by the School.

## H. Criminal Background Checks

As a condition of employment, all employees are required to submit to a criminal history review through the Department of Justice. The review shall include fingerprint submission to the DOJ . The School follows the guidelines of the California Fair Chance Act, and will conduct an individualized assessment on all background check results. The School will make hiring determinations based on California law. Certain types of criminal background findings may prevent the employer from hiring the candidate or continuing employment with a current employee. The School will factor in the nature and gravity of the crime, when the crime occurred, rehabilitation and the nature of the position all in accordance with applicable law. All results will be discussed with the applicant and/or employee before making a hiring or dismissal decision. No person employed or otherwise associated with the School, including members of the Board of Directors, who have been convicted of or have pleaded nolo contendere to a crime related to misappropriation of funds or theft shall be engaged in direct processing of charter school funds.

## I. Employment Application/Data

The School relies upon the accuracy of the information presented during the application

process, as well as the accuracy of other data presented throughout the hiring process and employment relationship. As such, any omission or misstatement of material fact in any of this information may result in the School excluding the individual from further consideration for employment or, if already hired, termination of employment.

## J. Employment Verifications

The School will only respond to employment verification inquiries that are received in writing. All such inquiries, whether for current or former employees, must be directed to HR. Generally, responses will be limited to information concerning wages, employment dates, positions held, and eligibility for rehire. Release of any additional information will require that the employee execute a release. Letters of recommendation must be approved by HR to ensure the accuracy and appropriateness of the information being released.

## K. Certification and Licensing

Teachers are required to hold a current California Commission on Teacher Credentialing certificate, permit, or other commission approved document for the assignment held (“Certificated Employee”). In addition teachers must possess the proper EL authorization. It is the responsibility of each certificated employee to ensure that credentials and permits are renewed in a timely manner and remain current. The School highly encourages all certificated staff to keep their contact information current with the Commission on Teacher Credentialing in order to receive pertinent notifications. Upon renewal of credentials or certificates, proof is to be submitted to the HR department to be copied and filed in the employee's personnel file.

## L. Mandatory Tuberculosis Testing

In order to ensure the health and safety of all students and staff of the School, all newly hired employees must submit proof of a negative TB Risk Assessment or TB test by a licensed healthcare provider that has been administered within sixty (60) days prior to hire. A TB test may include an intradermal skin test or an X-ray of the lungs. An individual hired from another California School may request their prior school provide proof of the individual's TB Risk Assessment or TB test. TB Risk Assessments and TB tests are considered expired after four (4) years from the date they are administered and a proof of a new assessment or test must be submitted to HR in order to continue in employment. Pregnant employees are exempt from providing proof of a TB test for at least sixty (60) days from the end of their pregnancy.

The School will reimburse the cost of the tuberculosis risk assessment and/or the test for all current employees with proof of receipt.

[See also Board Policy 4013]

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## Section III: Standards of Conduct

The School expects all employees to comply with School rules, policies, and regulations as set forth in this handbook. Any employee who fails to do so will be subject to whatever disciplinary action at the School's sole discretion, which management deems appropriate under the circumstances. Such disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, oral and written warnings, mandatory training, or termination of employment. Any employee's receipt of, participation in or completion of School-required disciplinary action shall not, under any circumstances, limit or alter the School's at-will employment policy, which allows either the School or the employee to terminate the employment relationship at any time, with or without notice, and with or without cause.

### A. Freedom from Violence

The School expressly prohibits any acts or threats of violence by any School employee or former employee against any other individual. The School will also not condone any acts or threats of violence against school employees, students or affiliates while engaged in business with or on behalf of the School.

To ensure that the School's objective in this regard is attained, it is the commitment of the School:

1. To provide a safe and healthful work environment, in accordance with the School's safety and health policy.
2. To take prompt remedial action up to and including immediate termination, against any employee who engages in any threatening behavior or acts of violence or who uses any obscene, abusive, or threatening language or gestures.
3. To take appropriate action when dealing with customers, former employees, or visitors to school functions who engage in such behavior. Such action may include notifying the police or other law enforcement personnel and prosecuting violators of this policy to the maximum extent of the law.
4. To prohibit employees, former employees, students, and visitors from bringing unauthorized firearms or other weapons to school, work and non-work related gatherings, meetings and functions.
5. To establish viable security measures to ensure that school meetings and gatherings are safe and secure to the extent possible and to properly handle access to school facilities by the public, off-duty employees, and former employees.



The School will not tolerate any type of workplace violence committed by or against its employees. Employees who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including discharge. Prohibited conduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. Causing physical injury to another person.
2. Making threatening remarks.
3. Aggressive or hostile behavior that creates a reasonable fear of injury to another person or subjects another person to emotional distress.
4. Possession or threat of using a weapon on the premises and/or at work related events, meetings and gatherings.

Employees who display a tendency to engage in violent, abusive, or threatening behavior, as determined by the School, in its sole discretion, may be referred for counseling or other appropriate treatment.

In furtherance of this policy, employees have a “duty to warn” their supervisors or a HR representative of any suspicious workplace activity or situations or incidents that they observe or that they are aware of that involve other employees, former employees, customers, or visitors and that appear problematic. The welfare of all employees depends upon the alertness and sensitivity of every individual to potential security risks. Employee reports made pursuant to this policy will be held in confidence to the extent possible. The School will not condone any form of retaliation against any employee for making a report under this policy.

The School has developed guidelines to help maintain a secure workplace.

1. Every employee is directed to report any suspicious persons or activities to the Executive Director or designee:
  - a. Such as persons loitering for no apparent reason in parking areas, walkways, entrances and exits, and service areas.
  - b. Persons who make threats or acts of violence, aggressive behavior, offensive acts, discussion of bringing weapons into the workplace, threatening or offensive comments or remarks, and the like.
2. Employees should immediately notify the Executive Director or designee when other employees or outsiders express anger and make threats against the School or behave in a manner suggesting the possibility of violent activity.
3. Finally, those working in the School’s office must also ensure that doors are locked and alarms are activated when applicable.

## **B. Prohibited Conduct**

Employees are expected to conduct themselves in a manner to further the School's objectives.

The following conduct is prohibited and will not be tolerated by the School. This list of prohibited conduct is illustrative only; other types of conduct that threaten security, personal safety, employee welfare and School operations may also be prohibited and will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

1. Falsifying employment records, employment information, or other School records;
2. Inefficient or careless performance of job responsibilities or inability to perform job duties satisfactorily;
3. Falsifying any time card - Recording the work time of another employee or allowing any other employee to record another employee's work time, either one's own or another employee's;
4. Theft and deliberate or careless damage or destruction of any School property, or the property of any employee or customer;
5. Removing or borrowing School property without prior authorization;
6. Unauthorized use or misuse of School equipment, time, materials, or facilities;
7. Provoking a fight or fighting during working hours or on School property;
8. Participating in horseplay or practical jokes on School time or on School premises;
9. Carrying firearms or any other dangerous weapons on School premises at any time;
10. Engaging in criminal conduct whether or not related to job performance;
11. Causing, creating, or participating in a disruption of any kind during working hours on School property;
12. Insubordination, including but not limited to failure or refusal to obey the orders or instructions of a supervisor or member of management, or the use of abusive or threatening language toward a colleague;
13. Using abusive, threatening or intimidating language at any time on School premises;
14. Initiating or participating in gossip or slander of other employees, parents, or students;
15. Failing to notify a supervisor when unable to report to work;
16. Unreported absence of three (3) days;
17. Failing to obtain permission to leave work for any reason during normal working hours;
18. Failing to observe working schedules, including rest breaks and meal periods;
19. Failing to provide a physician's certificate when requested or required to do so;
20. Sleeping or malingering on the job;
21. Making or accepting personal phone calls, text or email messages during working hours to the extent that it interferes with the performance expectations of the assignment, except in cases of emergency or extreme circumstances;
22. Working overtime without authorization or refusing to work assigned overtime;
23. Violation of dress standards;

24. Violating any safety, health, security or School policy, rule, procedure or violation of the School's drug and alcohol policy;
25. Committing a fraudulent act or a breach of trust under any circumstances;
26. Committing or involvement in any act of unlawful harassment of another individual;
27. Failing to promptly report work-related injury or illness;
28. Any other action or behavior, which could harm the School's, parents', or students' interest.

This statement of prohibited conduct does not alter the School's policy of at-will employment. Either the employee or the School remains free to terminate the employment relationship at any time, with or without reason or advance notice.

## C. Physical Contact with Students and Other Staff Members

It is the policy of the School that no staff member will use corporal punishment against a student. This prohibition includes: spanking, slapping, pinching, hitting or the use of any other physical force as retaliation or correction for inappropriate behavior. While the use of appropriate touching is part of daily life and is important for student development, a teacher and staff member must ensure that they do not exceed appropriate behavior. If a child or other staff member specifically requests that the individual not be touched, then that request must be honored without question.

The following forms of touching are never appropriate:

1. Sexually motivated physical conduct or touching
2. Angry or violently motivated touching
3. Inappropriate or lengthy embraces
4. Kissing of any kind
5. Corporal punishment
6. Sitting student on one's lap
7. Touching buttocks, chests or genital areas
8. Pushing a person or another person's body part
9. Showing affection in isolated areas
10. Wrestling with students or other staff members
11. Bench-pressing another person
12. Tickling
13. Piggyback rides
14. Massages
15. Any form of unwanted affection
16. Any form of sexual contact
17. Poking fingers at another person that results in an offensive contact
18. Having a student in an employee's vehicle or transporting a student

19. Intentionally being alone with a student
20. Any touching that would lead a reasonable person to suspect inappropriate behavior.

For additional examples of unacceptable and acceptable Staff/Student Behaviors, see the School's Professional Boundaries Policy.

Restraining a child who is trying to engage in violent or inappropriate behavior may be permitted. Only such force as necessary to defend one's self or another or to protect property is legally allowed. Excessive force is prohibited. Violation of this policy could subject the teacher or staff member to discipline to include termination for cause. Additionally, the victim may choose to bring civil or criminal charges against the violator.

When interacting with younger children or children with a disability, an appropriate physical touch may sometimes be necessary. A touch for the purpose of redirecting or refocusing, assisting with physical care (i.e. cleaning up a small child after a bathroom accident) may be appropriate in limited circumstances although clearly inappropriate in more general circumstances.

It is impossible to define each and every instance when touching is inappropriate. Employees must use professional judgment and discretion related to physical touch.

This policy does not prevent appropriate forms of touching a student, including for the purpose of guiding them along a physical path, helping them up after a fall, engaging in a rescue or the application of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) or other emergency first-aid. Nor does it prohibit the use of reasonable force and touching in self-defense or in the defense of another.

## D. Off-duty Conduct

While the School does not seek to interfere with the off-duty and personal conduct of its employees, certain types of off-duty conduct may interfere with the School's legitimate business interests. For this reason, employees are expected to conduct their personal affairs in a manner that does not adversely affect the School's or their own integrity, reputation or credibility. Illegal or immoral off-duty conduct by an employee that adversely affects the School's legitimate business interests or the employee's ability to perform their job may result in disciplinary action and/or dismissal as allowed by law.

## E. Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace and Awareness Program

The School will comply with all federal and state regulations regarding drug and alcohol use while employees are on the job. This policy covers all School employees and violation of the School's policy related to drug use is grounds for immediate termination. The School is concerned about the use of alcohol, illegal drugs and controlled substances as it affects the workplace, the School community and students. Though marijuana is legal in many California cities, it is still considered an illegal substance under Federal law and therefore considered an illegal substance for this policy. Use of these substances whether on or off the job can adversely affect an employee's work performance, efficiency, safety, and health and therefore seriously impair the employee's value to the School and its students. In addition, the use or possession of these substances on the job constitutes a potential danger to the welfare and safety of other employees and students and exposes the School to the risks of property loss or damage or injury to other persons. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the workplace.

Conduct against this policy includes, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Driving a School vehicle, or a vehicle designated for school business, while under the influence of alcohol or an illegal or controlled substance;
2. Selling or purchasing an illegal or controlled substance, including while on the job, on school property, or in the presence of students;
3. Possessing or using alcohol or an illegal or controlled substance while on the job, on school property, or in the presence of students,
4. Under the influence of alcohol or an illegal or controlled substance while on the job, on school property, or in the presence of students.

The School will provide information to employees about:

1. The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
2. The policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
3. Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and assistance programs; and
4. The penalties that the School may impose upon them for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace.

Violation of these rules and standards of conduct will not be tolerated and may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. The School may also bring the matter to the attention of appropriate law enforcement authorities. The School may terminate an employee who is convicted of a controlled substance offense to the extent allowed by law. Alternatively, the School may, as required or allowed in accordance with applicable law, require the employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for these purposes by a Federal, State or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency.

As a condition of employment, employees are required to notify the School in writing of any conviction for a violation of a criminal drug statute. Such notification must be made

no more than five (5) calendar days after the conviction. The School may, as required by applicable law, notify federal or state agencies of any applicable employee convictions if such a report is required by law.

The School will provide a reasonable accommodation to an employee who voluntarily requests an accommodation or leave of absence to voluntarily participate in a drug or alcohol rehabilitation program. Please note that the request must be made before the employer learns of a violation of the Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace policy. Any employee who participates in a rehabilitation program would still be responsible for following all other School policies. Employees returning from a voluntary rehabilitation program will be required to comply with a return-to-work agreement addressing the terms and conditions of continued employment.

In order to enforce this policy, the School reserves the right to conduct legal searches of school property and to implement other measures, which are in accordance with law and necessary to deter and detect violation of this policy. As a condition of employment, the employee agrees to abide by the terms of this policy.

The School will abide by all relevant laws, including laws regarding employee disability and reasonable accommodations in implementing this policy.

## F. Tobacco Free Workplace

The School is a tobacco free workplace. No tobacco products are to be used in the workplace or at work functions. This includes all VAPE and e-cigarette products. Additionally, employees are required to adhere to any building and site policies regarding designated areas for smoking.

## G. Punctuality and Attendance

Employee punctuality and consistent attendance contributes to the positive operations of the School. As such, attendance and punctuality are performance expectations and are measured on the overall job performance. Employee tardiness or chronic absenteeism causes unnecessary problems for students and fellow employees. While an employee is absent, other employees may be burdened with performing additional duties in order to maintain operations. Further, employees are expected to report to the workplace and be prepared to begin work at their scheduled reporting times. To avoid conflict with the daily operations of the School, employees should schedule personal affairs outside of regular working hours.

If an employee is unable to report for work on any particular day, they must call their supervisor or HR at least one hour before the time they were scheduled to begin working on that day in order to obtain pre-approval for the absence. An employee may be excused

from this one hour notice requirement if extenuating circumstances prevented them from contacting the supervisor. In all cases of absence or tardiness, employees must provide the School with an honest reason or explanation.

Employees must inform HR or designee of the expected duration of any absence. Excessive absences, lateness or failure to give the supervisor advance notice for absence or lateness can result in disciplinary action or dismissal from employment. Excessive absenteeism or tardiness, whether excused or not, will not be tolerated.

If the employee fails to report for work without any notification to their supervisor or to HR, and the absence continues for a period of three days, the School will consider it a voluntary resignation unless a written medical excuse is provided by a physician to confirm that the employee has not abandoned their employment.

Employees with emergencies or situations that do not allow them to do their job, must inform their supervisor or HR within 24 hours. Failure to return phone calls or emails within 24 hours during workdays requires an explanation to the employee's supervisor. Failure to inform a supervisor of an expected absence, failure to return phone calls or emails for three (3) work days without notice, and missing required deadlines or meetings constitutes abandonment of employment.

Please refer to the policies related to leaves of absence and paid sick days in the handbook for more information.

## H. Professionalism

The success of the School depends upon the quality of the relationships between the School, its employees, students, parents and the general public. The public impression of the School and its interest will be formed, in part, by their interactions with employees. The more goodwill an employee promotes, the more employees, students, parents and the general public will respect and appreciate the employee, the School, and the Schools' services.

Employees are encouraged to help make a good impression of the School by:

1. Communicating regularly.
2. Acting competently and dealing with others in a courteous and respectful manner.
3. Communicating pleasantly and respectfully with others at all times.
4. Following up on requests and questions promptly, providing professional replies to inquiries and requests.
5. Responding to email and voicemail within 24 business hours, or within a

reasonable period of time depending on the assignment (employees should discuss this with their supervisor).

6. Taking pride in performing duties in an exceptional manner.

Employees may not bring their own children to school events (learning period meetings, assessments, school meetings, etc.) unless they are a student participant in the events or it is a general school event open to all students or employee families. The CEO or designee may grant an exception.

## I. Dress Code

Each employee is a representative of the School in the eyes of the public. Therefore, each employee must report to work properly groomed and dressed in professional attire in a manner consistent with the nature of the work performed. Employees who report to work inappropriately dressed may be asked to clock out and return in acceptable attire.

Violation of the dress code is determined by the CEO or designee. The CEO or designee may issue more specific dress code guidelines at any time, which shall be in accordance with law. The standards of grooming and hygiene outlined below set the minimum requirements to which all employees, contract workers, and temporary staff are required to adhere.

Employee dress is described as business casual, which includes:

- Slacks, dockers and other office style pants,
- Skirts and dresses to or below the knee,
- Button down shirts, blouses, and sweaters.
- All clothes are to appear clean, pressed and without stains or holes.

Inappropriate attire:

- Spaghetti straps or strapless tops,
- Overly baggy or tight so as to be revealing,
- Plunging necklines, midriff revealing tops, or any clothing that exposes the employee inappropriately,
- Clothing with offensive words or pictures,
- Any clothing that is overly casual (shorts, tank tops, athletic wear), appears dirty, wrinkled, or has stains or holes.

Overall grooming – Grooming standards for everyone includes the appearance of care and proper hygiene. Hair, makeup, and jewelry may not interfere with an employee's ability to perform the job duties or pose a safety issue. Facial piercings should be removed and tattoos should be covered during work hours. Excessive piercings or offensive tattoos may prohibit an individual from being considered for a customer facing assignment. The School reserves the right to ask any employee to cover inappropriate



tattoos or remove any piercings that are not reflective of the school culture.

Exceptions – The School recognizes some events as acceptable for casual dress. The majority of the same dress and grooming standards apply, however employees may wear jeans, seasonally appropriate clothing, and more casual shoes.

Requests for an exception to the dress code policy for religious beliefs or practices must be addressed to the CEO or designee or an HR representative. Each request will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Supervisors are expected to inform employees when they are violating the dress code. Employees in violation are expected to immediately correct the issue. This may include having to leave work to change clothes. Repeated violations or violations that have major repercussions may result in disciplinary action being taken up to and including termination.

## J. Gifts to Employees

It is the policy of the School that no employee may accept any gift from an outside party, client, contractor, vendor, community provider, business associate, parent or student that is of such nature that it could affect their impartiality with regard to decisions or actions affecting school operations. Gifts with a value of less than \$50 are excluded from this policy.

## K. Fee and Cash Collection

No staff member, other than specifically authorized individuals, is permitted to accept cash and/or checks. All school events, for which money is collected, must be approved by the Executive Director or designee who will supervise the collection of all fees and will be responsible for managing the receipts. Cash and/or checks should not be stored or locked in staff offices or desks. All financial transactions should be coordinated with the Executive Director or designee. Employees must obtain approval from the Executive Director prior to soliciting staff for donations or financial support for any outside event/activity.

## L. Building Security

Building security is the responsibility of all staff. The last employee, or a designated employee, who leaves the office at the end of the business day assumes the responsibility to ensure that the office is secure; for example, all doors are securely locked, the alarm system is armed, thermostats are set on appropriate evening and/or weekend setting, and all the appliances and lights are turned off with the exception of the lights normally left

on for security purposes. Employees are not allowed on properties or leased facilities after hours without prior authorization from the Executive Director, CEO or designee. All employees who are issued keys to the office are responsible for their safekeeping and will sign for receipt of such key.

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## Section IV: Personnel Policies and Procedures

The School will continually strive to recruit and retain highly qualified employees and remain a competitive public school employer, including examining employee evaluation, compensation, and discipline/dismissal practices.

### A. New Employee Orientation

Orientation is a formal welcoming process that is designed to make the new employee feel comfortable, informed about the School, and prepared for their position. New employee orientation, includes an explanation of the core values, vision, mission, goals, and objectives of the School. In addition, the new employee will be given an overview of benefits and complete any necessary paperwork through the HR department.

### B. Employee Status

Employees may include exempt, nonexempt, regular full-time, regular part-time, and seasonal persons employed with the School who are subject to the control and direction of the School in the performance of their duties.

- Exempt: Employees whose positions meet specific criteria established by the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and who are exempt from overtime pay requirements.
- Nonexempt: Employees whose positions do not meet FLSA criteria and who are paid one and one-half their regular rate of pay for hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week. Nonexempt employees are also subject to meal period and rest break regulations.
- Regular full-time: Employees who are regularly scheduled to work 30 or more hours per week. Generally, full time employees are eligible for the School benefit package, subject to the terms, conditions, and limitations of each benefit program. Full-time status will be evaluated on a monthly basis.
  - Teachers of Record (TOR) with rosters of a minimum of 22 students are considered full time. A full time TOR is expected to work at least six (6) hours per day, for 185 work days, for a minimum of 1,110 hours per year.

Employee Status	Exempt Certificated and Classified (FTE)	NonExempt Classified (Hours per Week)
Regular Full Time	.75+ FTE	30+ hours
Regular Part Time	.50 - .74 FTE	20-29 hours
Non-Regular	.49 FTE or less	19 hours or less

### **Student Counts**

The teacher may indicate their desired student count with the School as a request, however, the needs of the School will determine the number of students assigned to the teacher.

## **C. Job Duties**

The assigned supervisor will clarify the job duties and the expectations for behavior and job performance. The employee's job responsibilities and tasks are subject to change and update during employment as stated in the at-will employment agreement and job description and job description. On occasion, the employee may be asked to work on projects, or to help with other work necessary or important to the operation of their department or the School. The employee's cooperation and assistance in performing such additional work is expected. The School reserves the right, at any time, with or without notice, to alter or change job responsibilities, reassign or transfer any employee's job positions, or assign additional job responsibilities.

## **D. Nonexempt Employees**

### **1. Work Schedules**

Business hours of school sites and offices (if any) shall be established by the CEO or designee. The CEO or designee will assign the classified staff's individual work schedule to ensure staffing throughout the workday. Employees are expected to be at their desks or workstations at the start of their scheduled shifts, ready to work.

For the purposes of pay and leave accrual calculations, full-time for classified employees, is defined as 2,080 working hours. Work schedule exchanges will be reviewed on a case by case basis as long as the exchange does not interfere with normal operations or result in excessive overtime. Exchanging work schedules with other employees may be authorized by the supervisor or their designee when necessary.

The workweek begins at 12:01 a.m. Monday and ends at midnight on Sunday.

## **2. Rest Breaks and Meal Periods**

### *a. Rest Breaks*

Rest breaks are on the clock and duty-free. Employees are expected to return to work promptly at the end of any rest breaks.

### *b. Number of Rest Breaks*

Nonexempt employees are provided one (1) paid ten-minute rest break for every four (4) hours worked (or major fraction thereof, which is defined as any amount of time over two (2) hours). A rest break is not authorized for employees whose total daily work time is less than three and one half (3.5) hours.

If the employee works a shift from three and one-half (3.5) to six (6) hours in length, they will be entitled to one (1) paid ten-minute rest break. If they work more than six (6) hours and up to 10 hours, they will be entitled to two (2) paid ten-minute rest breaks. If the employee works more than 10 hours and up to 14 hours, they will be entitled to three (3) paid ten-minute rest breaks.

### *c. Timing of Rest Breaks*

The employee is authorized and permitted to take a rest break in the middle of each four-hour work period. There may be practical considerations that make this general timing infeasible and that require the School to deviate from this general rule. The employee will be informed if there are practical considerations that make this timing infeasible. In the event of these considerations, the immediate supervisor may need to schedule the rest breaks.

### *d. Meal Period*

All nonexempt employees will be provided an uninterrupted unpaid meal period of at least 30 minutes if working more than five (5) hours in a workday. The employee must clock out for the meal period and will be permitted a reasonable opportunity to take this meal period. During the meal period, the employee is relieved of all duty and is free to leave the premises. The employee is expected to return to work promptly at the end of the meal period.

If the total work period for the day is more than five (5) hours per day, but no more than six (6) hours, the meal period may be waived. This cannot be done without the mutual consent of the employee and HR. Any such waiver must be requested and approved with HR and supervisor in advance.

*e. Timing of Meal Period*

As with rest breaks, the employee is authorized and permitted to take a meal period.

The meal period will be provided no later than the end of the fifth hour of work. For example, if work begins at 8:00 a.m., the meal period must begin by 12:59 p.m. (which is four hours and 59 minutes into the shift).

There may be practical considerations that make this general timing infeasible and that require the School to deviate from this general rule. The immediate supervisor may need to schedule the timing of an employee's meal period to ensure efficient business operations.

*f. Second Meal Period*

If the employee works more than 10 hours in a day, they will be provided a second, unpaid meal period of at least 30 minutes. Again, the employee must clock out for the meal period and will be permitted a reasonable opportunity to take this meal period; the employee will be relieved of all duty. During the meal period, the employee is relieved of all duty and is free to leave the premises. The employee is expected to return to work promptly at the end of the meal period.

Depending on the circumstances, the employee may be able to waive the second meal period if the first meal period was taken and if the total hours worked for the day is no more than twelve hours. This cannot be done without the mutual consent of the employee and HR. Any such waiver must be requested and approved with HR and supervisor in advance.

*g. Timing of Second Meal Period*

As with rest breaks, the employee is authorized and permitted to take a meal period. A second meal period is required if the employee's hours exceed 10 hours in one workday.

This second meal period will be provided no later than the end of the 10th hour of work. For example, if work begins at 8:00 a.m., the employee must start the second meal period by 5:59 p.m. (which is 9 hours and 59 minutes into the shift).

There may be practical considerations that make this general timing infeasible and that require the School to deviate from this general rule. The immediate supervisor may need to schedule the timing of an employee's meal period to ensure business operations.

*h. Recording Meal Periods*

The employee must clock out for any meal period and record the start and end of the meal period. Employees are not allowed to work "off the clock." Work time must be accurately

reported on the time record.

*i. Missed Rest Breaks and Meal Periods*

If for any reason the employee is not provided a rest break or meal period in accordance with the policy, or if they are in any way discouraged or impeded from taking their rest break or meal period, or from taking the full amount of time allotted to them, the employee may be eligible for a missed rest break or meal period remedy and should immediately notify HR.

Anytime the employee misses a rest break or meal period that was provided to them (or they work any portion of a provided meal period), they will be required to report the time to HR and document the reason for the missed rest break and meal period.

Please also refer to the School's Timekeeping Policy.

**3. Timekeeping**

All nonexempt employees are required to record time worked for payroll purposes. Employees must record their own time at the start and at the end of each work period, including before and after the meal period. Altering with this procedure in any way is not permissible and is subject to disciplinary action. Time cards in the payroll system are to be approved by the employee and the supervisor prior to each payroll. Any errors on the time card should be reported immediately to HR. Employees with consistent patterns of not following time recording responsibilities are subject to disciplinary actions.

All communication between the nonexempt employee and management concerning work related issues is not permitted after hours. Once the nonexempt employee has recorded the end of a work period at the end of the day, that employee is no longer clocked in. All work related correspondence will resume the next work day except in the case of an emergency or at the direction of the supervisor. Nonexempt employees will be compensated at the appropriate rate of pay for any additional time worked outside of their work day.

**4. Pay for Mandatory Meetings/Training**

The School will pay nonexempt employees for attendance at meetings, lectures, and training programs when attendance is mandatory, and the meeting, course, or lecture is directly related to the job and is outside of the regular schedule. Unless otherwise noted, training and meetings are included as part of an exempt employee's regular pay.

**5. Overtime**

All overtime work must be requested in advance by the employee and authorized by the supervisor prior to the time to be worked. Nonexempt classified employees may be directed to work overtime as necessary. Only actual hours worked in a given workday or workweek can apply in calculating overtime. The School provides compensation for all overtime hours worked by nonexempt employees in accordance with state and federal law. All hours worked in excess of eight (8) hours in one workday or 40 hours in one workweek will be treated as overtime. A workday begins at 12:01 a.m. and ends at midnight 24 hours later. The work week begins at 12:01 a.m. Monday and ends at midnight on Sunday.

Compensation for hours in excess of 40 hours for the workweek, or in excess of eight (8) hours and not more than 12 hours for the workday, and for the first eight hours on the seventh consecutive day of work in one workweek, shall be paid at a rate of one-and-one-half times the employee's regular rate of pay. Compensation for hours in excess of 12 hours in one workday and in excess of eight (8) hours on the seventh consecutive workday in a workweek shall be paid at double the regular rate of pay.

## E. Exempt Employees

The School will pay exempt employees a salary rather than by the hour. Once an employee's sick days have been exhausted or are otherwise unavailable, the School will deduct pay from an exempt employee's salary under the following circumstances: (i) one or more full days absences for personal reasons; (ii) one or more full day absences for illness, injury, or sickness, (iii) one or more full work weeks disciplinary suspensions; and (iv) partial (for intermittent leave) or full day absences during an approved family or medical leave in accordance with law. Exempt employees who believe that the School made an incorrect or improper salary deduction should promptly report the deduction to their supervisor or the HR department. If the School incorrectly or improperly made a deduction from an exempt employee's salary, it will reimburse the employee for the deducted pay as soon as possible.

## F. Salary Overpayments

Because the School receives public funds, the School is obligated by law to seek reimbursement for any salary overpayment and cannot waive the recovery of the overpayment. Employees who receive excess pay as a result of a payroll error are required to return the funds to the School. The School will provide the employee with the correct salary calculation and the amount that is owed to the School. The employee may return the overpayment in full through a cashier's check or money order or allow the School to deduct the overpayment from the next paycheck. The School may arrange for a repayment plan that is mutually agreeable to both the School and the employee and does not exceed one calendar year from the date of the overpayment. Should an employee resign prior to completing the repayment, the full amount shall become due upon termination. A repayment plan may be offered to a terminated employee not to exceed

three (3) months in duration.

## G. Employee Evaluation

Supervisors will conduct performance reviews with all regular full-time and regular part-time employees annually. Supervisors may conduct informal performance reviews and goal setting sessions more often if they choose.

Performance reviews are designed for the supervisor and the employee to discuss their current job tasks, encourage and recognize attributes, and discuss positive, purposeful approaches for meeting work-related goals. Together, the employee and supervisor will discuss ways in which the employee can accomplish goals and/or learn new skills.

Performance review and goal setting sessions may or may not have a direct effect on any changes in salary compensation. For this reason, among others, it is important to prepare for these reviews carefully, and participate in them fully.

Additional details on employee evaluations will be provided by Human Resources upon hire.

## H. Corrective Action

All employees are expected to meet School standards of work performance. Work performance encompasses many factors, including attendance, punctuality, personal conduct, job proficiency and general compliance with School policies and procedures. If an employee does not meet these standards, the School may or may not, at its sole discretion, take corrective action, other than immediate dismissal. Employees have no entitlement to corrective action or progressive discipline prior to dismissal.

The intent of corrective action is to formally document problems while providing the employee with a reasonable time within which to improve performance. The School holds each of its employees to certain work rules and standards of conduct. When an employee deviates from these rules and standards, the employee may be terminated, or, at the School's discretion, be subject to corrective action by a supervisor.

Corrective actions may include, but are not required to include, an oral warning, a written warning, probation, suspension, and termination of employment. In deciding which initial corrective action would be appropriate, a supervisor may consider the seriousness of the infraction, the circumstances surrounding the matter, and the employee's previous record. As an at-will employer, the School may use all, some or none of the corrective actions described and will handle corrective action based on its own discretion.



Though the School will try to find paths for improvement whenever possible, the School considers certain rule infractions and violations of standards as grounds for immediate termination of employment. These include but are not limited to: theft in any form, insubordinate behavior, any misconduct concerning a child/student, vandalism or destruction of School property, trespassing, the use of School equipment without prior authorization, untruthfulness about personal work history, skills, or training, divulging proprietary information, and misrepresentations of the School to another employee, a prospective employee, or the general public.

Nothing in this section or any other section alters an employee's status as an at-will employee who may be terminated, with or without cause and with or without advance notice at any time by the School. Nothing in this section is intended to interfere with an employee's rights to communicate or voice concerns that are protected by Federal and State law.

## I. Procedure for Disciplinary Action

The corrective action process is designed to encourage development by providing employees with guidance in areas that need improvement such as poor work performance, attendance problems, personal conduct, general compliance with School policies and procedures and/or other disciplinary problems.

Corrective actions may be taken at the discretion of management and include any of the following:

1. Verbal counseling, which may be confirmed in writing by the supervisor
2. Written warning, which will be placed in the personnel file
3. Suspension, which will be confirmed in writing for the personnel file. Suspension is normally used to remove an employee from the organization premises during an investigation, or as a disciplinary action. This may be paid or unpaid. If the employee is suspended, it will be documented in the personnel file.
4. Discharge, which will be documented in the personnel file.

The corrective action process will not always commence with verbal counseling or include every step. The above options are not to be seen as a process in which one step always follows another. Some acts, particularly those that are intentional or serious, warrant more severe action on the first or subsequent offense. Consideration will be given to the seriousness of the offense, the intent and motivation to change the performance, and the environment in which the offense took place. As a reminder, employment remains at-will before, during, and after a disciplinary action.

## J. Terminations

There are two types of terminations that may affect employees. Voluntary termination results when an employee voluntarily resigns their employment. Involuntary terminations result when the School makes the decision to end the at-will employment agreement.

Regardless of the reason for termination, all school-owned property, including vehicles, keys, credit cards, student files, or school property in the possession of the employee must be returned to the School immediately upon termination from employment, within 72 hours from the final date of employment with the School. Employees are not to recruit students from the School to a new place of employment.

All wages owed will be paid out upon the date of termination for involuntary terminations or within 72 hours after an employee's resignation if the employee gave 72 hours or less notice.

## K. Personnel Records

Employees have a right to inspect certain documents in the personnel file as provided by law. The contents of personnel records will be available for inspection to the current or former employee, or their representative, at reasonable intervals and at reasonable times, but not later than thirty (30) calendar days from the date the School receives a written request. However, the employee, or their representative, and the School agree in writing to a date beyond thirty (30) calendar days to inspect the records, and the agreed-upon date does not exceed thirty-five (35) calendar days from receipt of the written request. Additionally, the School shall provide a copy of the personnel records, at a charge not to exceed the actual cost of reproduction, to a current or former employee, or their representative, no later than thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of the request, unless the current or former employee, or their representative, and the School agree in writing to a date beyond thirty (30) calendar days to produce a copy of the records, as long as the agreed-upon date does not exceed thirty-five (35) calendar days from the employer's receipt of the written request.

The employee may add comments to any disputed item in the file. Only HR, the CEO or designee is authorized to release information about current or former employees. Disclosure of personnel related information to agencies or individuals outside the School will be limited and in accordance with law; however, the School will cooperate with requests from authorized law enforcement or local, state or federal agencies conducting official investigations and as otherwise legally required.

The School is required by law to keep current all employees' names and addresses. Employees are responsible for notifying the School in the event of a name or address change.

## L. Destruction of Personal Information Records

In the course of the employee's duties at the School, they may encounter records which contain personal information (i.e., a person's name and Social Security Number, driver's license number, state identification number or any account number, credit or debit card number, access code or passwords that may permit access to an individual's financial account, payroll, or personal health information). The School expects all employees to take appropriate measures to maintain the confidentiality and integrity of such information and prevent unauthorized access. Employees must ensure hard copies of documents are stored securely, such as in a locked file cabinet, with access provided only to authorized individuals with a need to know. Electronic media must be encrypted or password protected. Passwords should never be included in any transmission that also contains the data. Employees should dispose of data no longer needed by shredding paper documents and properly erasing electronic media to ensure that the personal information cannot be read or reconstructed. Failure to follow proper storage and disposal procedures may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

## M. Employment Posters

The School maintains bulletin boards in School offices and on the HR information system that contain important information about employment. In addition to federal and state required notices, school-related information will also be available in these locations. All employees are encouraged to look at the bulletin board regularly and to read all of the information displayed in detail. Any questions about the information should be directed to the supervisor or HR. These bulletin boards are reserved for School use only; employees may not post or remove any information from them.

## N. Outside Employment

This policy is not intended to prohibit an employee from working an appropriate second job. Employees are permitted to engage in outside work or hold other jobs, subject to certain restrictions as outlined below.

(1) Activities and conduct away from the job must not compete, conflict with or compromise the school interests or adversely affect an employee's job performance and the ability to fulfill all responsibilities to the School. Employees are prohibited from performing any services for customers on non-working time that are normally performed by the School. This prohibition also extends to the unauthorized use of any school tools or equipment and the unauthorized use or application of any confidential information. In addition, employees are not to solicit or conduct any outside business during paid working time.

(2) Employees are cautioned to consider carefully the demands that additional work activity will create before accepting outside employment. Outside employment will not be considered an excuse for poor job performance, absenteeism, tardiness, leaving early, refusal to travel or refusal to work overtime or different hours. If outside work activity causes or contributes to job-related problems, it must be discontinued, and, if necessary, normal disciplinary procedures will be followed to deal with the specific problem.

(3) In evaluating outside work, the following guidelines will be considered to determine whether the proposed employment is allowed. Employees may not engage in outside employment that:

- 1) involves working for a competing or similar model School;
- 2) occurs during work hours without the use of appropriate leave;
- 3) actually or potentially results in a conflict of interest with or interfere with the employee's responsibilities to the School;
- 4) involves working for an organization that does business with the School, such as contractors, community providers, suppliers and customers;
- 5) may adversely affect the School's image.

(4) Employees who have accepted outside employment may not use paid sick leave to work on the outside job. Fraudulent use of sick leave will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

If it is determined that the outside employment constitutes a conflict of interest or disruption of the School's operation, the employee will be asked to limit or restrict the outside employment. Disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment may be taken for outside employment that is inconsistent with this policy unless otherwise approved.

## O. Whistleblower Policy

It is the policy of the School to encourage its employees and applicants for School employment to disclose improper governmental activities, based in part on California Education Code Section 44110 et. seq. and to address written complaints that allege acts or attempted acts of interference, reprisal, retaliation, threats, coercion or intimidation against employees or applicants who disclose improper governmental activities. School management has the responsibility to seek out and correct any and all abuses resulting from improper governmental activities, and to protect those who come forward to report improper governmental activities.

Concerns that may be raised include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 1) Reporting suspected violations of local, state, and federal law, including but not limited to federal laws and regulations;
- 2) Providing truthful information in connection with an inquiry or investigation by a court, agency, law enforcement, or other governmental body; and
- 3) Identifying potential violations of School policy, specifically the policies contained in the handbook with reference to employee safety or health, unsafe working conditions or work practices in the employee's employment or place of employment.

A whistleblower can also be an employee who refuses to participate in an activity that would result in a violation of a state or federal statute, or a violation of or non-compliance with a local, state or federal rule or regulation.

The School may not:

- 1) Make, adopt, or enforce any rule, regulation, or policy preventing an employee from being a whistleblower;
- 2) Retaliate against an employee who is a whistleblower;
- 3) Retaliate against an employee for refusing to participate in an activity that would result in a violation of a state or federal statute, or a violation or noncompliance with a state or federal rule or regulation; or
- 4) Retaliate against an employee for having exercised their rights as a whistleblower in any former employment.

## P. Complaint Procedure

The School encourages employees to resolve issues or concerns at the lowest level possible to ensure a positive and professional work environment. When issues cannot be successfully resolved or the issue is serious in nature against the supervisor, the employee should bring the matter to the attention of HR for assistance. The complaint procedure approved by the Board of Directors is as follows:

1. The complainant will bring the matter to the attention of the Human Resources manager as soon as possible after attempts to resolve the complaint with the immediate supervisor have failed or were not appropriate; and
2. The complainant will reduce their complaint to writing, indicating all known and relevant facts, in the School's Internal Complaint Form. The Human Resources manager or designee will then investigate the facts and provide a solution or explanation.
3. If the complaint is about the Human Resources manager, CEO, or Executive Director, the complainant may file their Internal Complaint Form with the President of the School's Board of Directors, who may then confer with the Board

and may conduct a fact-finding investigation or authorize a third party investigator on behalf of the Board. The Board President or investigator will report their findings to the Board for review and action, if necessary.

This policy cannot guarantee that every problem will be resolved to the employee's satisfaction. However, the School values each employee's ability to express concerns, and the need for resolution without fear of adverse consequences to employment.

1. Confidentiality: All complainants will be notified that information obtained from the complainants and thereafter gathered will be maintained in a manner as confidential as possible, but in some circumstances absolute confidentiality cannot be assured.
2. Non-Retaliation: All complainants will be advised that they will be protected against retaliation as a result of the filing of any complaint or participation in any complaint process.
3. Resolution: The School will investigate complaints appropriately under the circumstances and pursuant to the applicable procedures, and if necessary, take appropriate remedial measures to ensure effective resolution of any complaint.

## Q. Uniform Complaint Procedures

The School will provide annual notice to all employees of the Uniform Complaint Procedures that may be used to allege a violation of federal or state laws governing certain educational programs. Copies of the Uniform Complaint Procedures and additional information may be found in the board policy section on the School's website or by contacting HR.

## R. Arbitration Agreement

### **Agreement to Arbitrate Disputes and Claims**

The School and employee mutually agree to submit to binding arbitration any and all disputes or claims they could otherwise pursue in court arising from or relating to employee's recruitment to or employment with the School, or the termination of that employment, including claims against any current or former agent or employee of the School, whether the disputes or claims arise in tort, contract, or pursuant to a statute, regulation, or ordinance now in existence or which may in the future be enacted or recognized, including, but not limited to, the following:

- claims for fraud, misrepresentation, promissory estoppel, fraudulent inducement of contract or breach of contract, whether such alleged contract or obligation be oral, written, or express or implied;

- claims for wrongful termination of employment, violation of public policy and constructive discharge, infliction of emotional distress, interference with contract or prospective economic advantage, defamation, unfair business practices, invasion of privacy;
- claims for employment discrimination, retaliation or harassment
- claims for violation of local, state or federal wage and hour laws, such as non-payment or incorrect payment of wages, sick pay, commissions, bonuses, severance, employee fringe benefits, or stock options.

The School and employee understand and agree that the arbitration of the disputes and claims covered by this Agreement shall be the sole and exclusive mechanism for resolving any and all existing and future disputes or claims arising out of employee's recruitment to or employment with the School or the termination thereof, except as set forth below.

**Claims Not Covered by this Agreement**

The following claims are not subject to arbitration under this Agreement: (1) claims for workers' compensation benefits, state or federal disability benefits or state unemployment benefits; (2) administrative charges or claims filed with a federal, state or local government office or agency, such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") or any comparable state anti-discrimination agency, or the National Labor Relations Board ("NLRB"); (3) any claims that, as a matter of law, cannot legally be subject to arbitration; (4) claims under an employee benefit or pension plan that specifies a different arbitration procedure; (5) litigation pending in a state or federal court as of the date Employee signs this Agreement; or (6) claims brought pursuant to the California Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004.

**Waiver of Right to Trial**

The School and employee understand and agree that the arbitration of disputes and claims under this Agreement shall be instead of a trial before a judge or jury. The School and employee understand and agree that, by signing this Agreement, they are expressly waiving, to the fullest extent permitted by law, any and all rights to a trial before a judge or jury, regarding any disputes and claims they may have that are subject to arbitration under this Agreement.

**No Consolidation of Claims / Waiver of Class Claims**

The School and employee agree to individualized arbitration, with claims pertaining to different employees to be heard in separate proceedings. This means that no other person shall be entitled to join or consolidate in arbitration any claim by or against other current or former School employees. As such, except as set forth above, the School and employee agree that both the School and employee hereby waive any right to bring on behalf of other persons, or to otherwise participate in, a class, collective or representative

action (i.e. a type of lawsuit in which one or several persons sue on behalf of a larger group of persons).

### **Arbitration Procedures; Final and Binding Award**

The arbitration shall be conducted by a single neutral arbitrator in accordance with the then-current Employment Arbitration and Mediation Procedures of the American Arbitration Association (“AAA”), which can be viewed at <http://www.adr.org/employment>. The School will provide the employee with a copy of these rules upon request. The arbitration shall take place in the county of the state in which the employee is or was last employed by the School, unless the School and the employee mutually agree on a different location. All parties shall be entitled to engage in reasonable pre-hearing discovery to obtain information to prosecute or defend the asserted claims. Any disputes between the parties regarding the nature or scope of discovery shall be decided by the arbitrator. The arbitrator shall hear and issue a written ruling upon any motions brought by either party, including but not limited to, motions for summary judgment or summary adjudication of issues.

After the hearing, the arbitrator shall issue a written decision setting forth the award, if any, and explaining the basis therefore. The arbitrator shall have the power to award any type of relief that would be available in court. The arbitrator’s award shall be final and binding upon the parties and may be entered as a judgment in any court of competent jurisdiction. In the event of any conflict in the arbitration procedures set forth in this Agreement and the AAA rules specified above, the AAA rules shall control.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, and regardless of what is provided by AAA’s rules, the arbitrator will not have authority or jurisdiction to consolidate claims of different employees into one proceeding, nor shall the arbitrator have authority or jurisdiction to hear the arbitration as a class, collective or representative action.

### **Governing Law**

The School and employee understand and agree that any disputes and claims to be arbitrated under this Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the state in which the employee was employed at the time the arbitrable disputes or claims arose. This Agreement is governed by the Federal Arbitration Act. The School and employee intend that this Agreement be limited to those claims that may legally be subject to a pre-dispute arbitration agreement under applicable law. A court construing this Agreement may therefore modify or interpret it to render it enforceable.

### **Costs of Arbitration**

The School and employee agree that the School will bear the arbitrator’s fee and any other type of expenses or cost that the employee would not be required to bear if they were free to bring the disputes or claims in court. Otherwise, the School and employee shall each bear their own attorneys’ fees and costs incurred in connection with the arbitration. The arbitrator shall have the authority to award attorneys’ fees and costs as



required or permitted by applicable law. If there is a dispute as to whether the School or employee is the prevailing party in the arbitration, the arbitrator will decide the issue.

### **Severability**

The School and employee understand and agree that if any term or portion of this Agreement shall, for any reason, be held to be invalid or unenforceable or to be contrary to public policy or any law, then the remainder of this Agreement shall not be affected by such invalidity or unenforceability but shall remain in full force and effect, as if the invalid or unenforceable term or portion thereof had not existed within this Agreement.

### **Complete Agreement**

The School and employee understand and agree that this Agreement contains the complete agreement between the School and employee regarding the subjects covered in it; that it supersedes any and all contrary prior representations and agreements between the School and employee on these subjects, if any; and that it may be modified only in writing, expressly referencing this Agreement and employee by full name, and signed by an authorized representative of the School and the employee.

### **Knowing and Voluntary Agreement**

The employee has been advised to consult with an attorney of their own choosing before signing this Agreement. The employee agrees to read this Agreement carefully and understands that by signing it, they are waiving all rights to a trial or hearing before a judge or jury with respect to any and all disputes and claims regarding employee's employment with the School or the recruitment to or termination thereof that are subject to arbitration under this Agreement.

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## **Section V: Operational Considerations**

### **A. Employer Property**

Anything purchased with school funds such as computers and educational materials are considered School property and must be maintained according to School rules and regulations. School property is to be used only for work-related purposes. The School reserves the right to search and inspect all School property and any property used by employees in work related duties to ensure compliance with its rules and regulations, without notice to the employee and at any time, not necessarily in the employee's presence.

Employees may make or accept personal telephone calls, text messages, or emails within reason during working hours to perform important personal business. It is also

acceptable to use a computer to perform the same minimal personal tasks. Employees may not use the School's phone to make personal calls that would incur long distance fees.

The School may periodically need to assign and/or change passwords and personal codes for voicemail, email and computer. Except as provided herein, these communication technologies and related storage media and databases are to be used only for School business and they remain the property of the School. The School reserves the right to override any such password system at any time at its sole discretion, with or without cause.

Prior authorization must be obtained from the CEO or designee before any School property may be removed from the School premises, except in the course of normal movement of educational materials/computers by the employee. In this case, regular check-out/tracking procedures must be followed.

Terminated employees who work at a school site should remove any personal items at the time they leave the School. Personal items left in the workplace are subject to disposal if not claimed at the time of an employee's termination.

Employees must safeguard and not damage/destroy School property, including computer hardware or software, e-mails, internal files, notes and correspondence, student records, papers, recordings, pictures, screenshots, and any other items of any nature that belong to or concern the School. Upon separation of employment, employees must return all of the School's property and proprietary information as soon as possible, no later than 72 hours from the final date of employment, and not share, destroy, or retain any copies of such property and information.

Any employee who is found to have neglected or misused the School's property will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. If an employee's misuse of the School's property damages the property, the School reserves the right to require the employee to pay all or part of the cost to repair or replace the property. Misappropriation of the School's property is grounds for immediate termination and possible criminal action.

## **B. Use of Electronic Media**

The School uses various forms of electronic communication including, but not limited to computers, email, telephones and web sites. All electronic communications, including all software, databases, hardware, and digital files, remain the sole property of the School and are to be used only for School business and not for any personal use, except as allowed above.

Electronic communication and media may not be used in any manner that would be discriminatory, harassing or obscene, or for any other purpose that is illegal, against School policy or not in the best interest of the School.

Employees who misuse electronic communications and engage in defamation, copyright or trademark infringement, discrimination, harassment, or related actions will be subject to discipline up to dismissal. The School reserves the right to require authorization prior to installation of software on a School computer and/or mobile devices.

All electronic information created by any employee using any means of electronic communication is the property of the School and remains the property of the School. With School approval, employees may use personal passwords for purposes of security, but any employee's use of a personal password does not affect the School's ownership of the electronic information.

The School may at any time override all personal passwords for any reason.

The School reserves the right to access and review electronic files, messages, mail, and other digital archives, and to monitor the use of electronic communications as necessary to ensure that no misuse or violation of School policy or any law occurs.

Employees are not permitted to access the electronic communications of other employees or third parties unless directed to do so by school administration.

Access to the Internet, websites, and other types of School-paid computer access are to be used for School related business. Any information about the School, its products or services, or other types of information that will appear in the electronic media about the School must be approved by the CEO or designee before the information is placed on an electronic information resource that is accessible to others.

Questions about access to electronic communications or issues relating to security should be addressed to the CEO or designee.

## C. Social Media

Social media can serve as a powerful tool to enhance communication. This technology can provide many benefits for communication. This section addresses employees' use of publicly available social media networks including: personal Websites, Web logs (blogs), WIKIs, social networks, online forums, virtual worlds, and any other social media. The School takes no position on employees' decision to participate in the use of social media networks for personal use on personal time. However, use of social media for personal use during School time or on School equipment is prohibited. In addition, employees

must avoid posting any information or engaging in communications that violate state or federal laws or School policies.

### General Statement

The line between professional and personal relationships is blurred within a social media context. When employees choose to join or engage with students, families or fellow employees in a social media context that exists outside those approved by the School, they are advised to maintain their professionalism as School employees and have responsibility for addressing inappropriate behavior or activity on these networks, including requirements for mandated reporting. Employees must avoid posting any information or engaging in communications that violate state or federal laws or School policies.

Employees are expected to serve as positive ambassadors and to remember they are role models to students in the community. Because readers of social media networks may view the employee as a representative of the School, the School requires employees to observe the following rules when referring to the School, students, programs, activities, employees, volunteers and communities on any social media networks.

Employees must be respectful and professional in all communications (by word, image or other means). Employees shall not use obscene, profane or vulgar language on any social media network or engage in communications or conduct that is harassing, threatening, bullying, libelous, or that discusses or encourages any illegal activity or the inappropriate use of alcohol, use of illegal drugs, sexual behavior, sexual harassment, or bullying. Be sensitive about linking to content. Redirecting to another site may imply an endorsement of its content.

Employees must make clear that any views expressed are the employee's alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of the School. Employees may not act as a spokesperson for the School or post comments as a representative of the School, except as authorized by the CEO or designee. When authorized as a spokesperson for the School, employees must disclose their employment relationship with the School.

**Protect confidential information.** Employees may not disclose information on any social media network that is confidential or proprietary to the School, its students, or employees or that is protected by data privacy laws. Employees should be thoughtful about what they publish and must make sure they do not disclose or use confidential information. Students, parents, and colleagues should not be cited or obviously referenced without their approval. For example, ask permission before posting student's/co-worker's picture on a social network (student photos require parental consent) or publishing a conversation that was meant to be private.

It is acceptable to discuss general details about student projects, lessons, or school events

and to use non-identifying pseudonyms for an individual (e.g., teacher, students, parents) so long as the information provided does not make it easy for someone to identify the individual or violate any privacy laws. Public social networking sites are not the place to conduct School business with students or parents; please conduct these interactions using the School's network.

Employees may not post any private images of the School premises and property, such as workrooms, offices, including floor plans. Nothing in this policy is meant to prevent employees from posting information that is allowable by the National Labor Relations Act.

**Be transparent.** Honesty or dishonesty will be widely available on social media. If the employee is posting about their role at the School, the employee must use their real name and identify their employment relationship. The employee must be clear about their role; if they have a vested interest in something being discussed, to be the first to point it out.

**Perception can be reality.** In online networks, the lines between public and private, personal and professional are blurred. Employee's identification as a School employee, may create perceptions about expertise and about the School by community members, parents, students, and the general public. When posting online be sure that all content is consistent with employee work values and with the School's beliefs, core values and professional standards.

**Work/Personal Distinction.** Staff members are encouraged to maintain a clear distinction between their personal social media use and any School-related social media sites. The employee may consider setting up separate social media accounts for personal and professional use.

**Personal Social Networking & Media Accounts.** Before employees create or join an online social network, they should ask themselves whether they would be comfortable if a 'friend' decided to send the information to their students, the students' parents, or their supervisor. School employees must be mindful that any Internet information is ultimately accessible to the world.

**Social Interaction With Students.** Employees should not have online interactions with students on social networking sites outside of those forums dedicated to academic use. School employees' personal social networking profiles and blogs should not be linked to students' online profiles.

**Contacting Students Off-Hours.** Employees should only contact students for educational purposes and must never disclose confidential information possessed by the employee by virtue of their employment. Contacting students after hours must be kept to

a minimum and be strictly for the purpose of academic support or to relay general information to all students.

**Be a positive role model.** Educational employees have a responsibility to maintain appropriate employee-student relationships, whether on or off duty. Both case law and public expectations hold educational employees to a higher standard of conduct than the general public.

**School Logo.** The use of the School logo(s) on a social media site or elsewhere must be approved by the CEO or designee.

The School expects all who participate in social media to understand and follow these guidelines.

## D. Public Relations

Serving students and families requires a variety of professional skills. School employees are expected to demonstrate the following communication skills and abilities:

1. Ability to transmit passion for learning to students and families.
2. Flexibility and adaptability.
3. Well developed, clear communication and interpersonal skills that maintain a respectful, professional and courteous manner.
4. Conflict resolution skills.
5. Openness to differing views and objectives.
6. Ability to deliver information concerning curriculum, teaching, assessment, and learning to families.
7. Serve the student and parent's needs to the best of their ability without allowing their own convenience to interfere.

The success of the School depends upon the quality of the relationships between the School, its employees, students, parents and the general public. The public impression of the School and its interest will be formed, in part, by the employees; employees are ambassadors. The more goodwill an employee promotes, the more employees, students, parents and the general public will respect and appreciate the employee, the School, and the Schools' services.

Below are several things employees can do to help leave people with a good impression of the School. These are the building blocks for continued success.

1. Communicate regularly.
2. Act competently and deal with others in a courteous and respectful manner.

3. Communicate pleasantly and respectfully with other employees at all times.
4. Follow up on requests and questions promptly, provide businesslike replies to inquiries and requests, and perform all duties in an orderly manner.
5. Respond to email and voicemail within 24 hours during the workweek.
6. Take great pride in their work and enjoy doing their very best.
7. Be proactive and work to anticipate the needs of those being supported.

When an employee encounters an uncomfortable situation that the employee does not feel capable of handling, their supervisor should be contacted immediately.

If a problem develops or if a parent remains dissatisfied, the employee should contact their supervisor for assistance.

Employees should not speak to the media on the School's behalf without contacting the School's CEO or designee. All media inquiries should be directed to the CEO or designee.

## E. Solicitation & Distribution

In order to ensure smooth operations, the School has established the following guidelines to be respected while at work. As long as it is done during non-working hours for all employees involved (such as meal periods or rest breaks), employees are permitted to engage in solicitation (i.e., asking for contributions, selling merchandise) anywhere on School premises, as long as it is done in a non-disruptive and inoffensive manner. Employees may only engage in distribution (i.e., handing out pamphlets, literature, petitions) during non-working hours for all employees involved and in non-working areas (such as the lunch room). Solicitation or distribution is not allowed in areas open to the public. Employees are prohibited from posting notices on the School bulletin board or in any other office location and from removing any items without management approval. The School may, at its discretion, authorize certain fund-raisers and collections for employee gifts. Employees who want to organize such an event, must obtain prior approval from the supervisor. Solicitation and distribution by non-employees is prohibited at all times on School property.

## F. Inclement Weather/Emergency Closings

At times, emergencies such as severe weather, fires, or power failures can disrupt School operations. The decision to close the office will be made by the CEO or designee. When the decision is made to close the office, employees will receive official notification from their supervisors. Time off from scheduled work due to emergency closings will be unpaid for all nonexempt employees. However, employees eligible for vacation may elect to utilize their available vacation hours in order to remain in paid status.

Employees are encouraged to listen to local news and radio reports. In general, the School will follow the decisions of the local community. Days that the School is closed due to inclement weather or other emergency may create a need to extend the work year or shorten holiday breaks.

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## Section VI: Health and Safety

All employees are responsible for their own safety, as well as that of others in the workplace. To help maintain a safe workplace, everyone must be safety-conscious at all times. In compliance with California law, and to promote the concept of a safe workplace, the School maintains an Injury and Illness Prevention Program.

In compliance with Proposition 65, the School will inform employees of any known exposure to a chemical known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity. See the School's Safety Plan for more information.

### A. Telecommuting

The School may allow employees to telecommute if it benefits the interests of the School. A written proposal for such arrangements must be presented to HR and the supervisor for review and approval. Employees who telecommute may be required to attend in-person meetings at the office or other designated locations.

Telecommuting does not change the employee's work location and employees are still responsible for all costs associated with travel to and from the office as part of their reasonable commute, when they are required to report to their work location.

Employees are encouraged to speak with a tax professional as to any tax benefits or deductions for utilizing a home office. Employees are responsible for any tax liability should they claim such an expense and it is later disallowed by the Internal Revenue Service.

Employees who telecommute must maintain the security of all confidential and/or sensitive information and other proprietary information, as if they were working in the office. All security procedures apply, regardless of whether the employee is in the workplace or telecommuting. Certain confidential documents or information will not be taken home without authorization from the CEO or designee.

Employees who telecommute are responsible for following all safety rules.



Telecommuters will develop a written agreement with the CEO or designee concerning the type and amount of work the telecommuter will be expected to perform. The ability to telecommute does not change the level of performance expected from an employee. Nonexempt employees will track their time in the system and report work accomplished at a frequency agreed upon with the supervisor. Exempt employees must complete the duties as outlined in their job description and assigned by their supervisor.

Employees who are subject to overtime laws are required to adhere to their beginning and ending work times, rest break, and meal periods. Telecommuting employees must continue to maintain required time records. Work time must be recorded on the employee's time card.

The School retains the right to require a reapproval process and/or rescind any telecommuting agreement at any time and to require any telecommuter to report to the office or work location to work.

Violation of any telecommuting policies may result in the immediate termination of any telecommuting agreement. For additional information, please review the Remote Work Policy and contact Human Resources.

## B. Student Safety

The effective employee is concerned for the welfare of students and takes measures to insure their welfare. Nevertheless, it is important to be aware of the possible consequences of negligence. The employee is responsible to act in a reasonable and prudent manner at all times. Specifically, the employee must do the following:

1. Never leave students unsupervised and ensure that another responsible adult is present when leaving students.
2. Require students to conduct themselves in an orderly, safe manner and administer such disciplinary actions as are reasonable and proper in any situation involving student misconduct.
3. Report any unsafe conditions to the supervisor so that it may be corrected.
4. Strictly adhere to all stated policy of the district and of the School.

Failure by employees to meet their responsibilities may have severe consequences (e.g., revocation of their license, criminal charges, etc.). Additionally, teachers may be held legally liable for negligence in the performance of their duties.

## C. Employee Safety

The School is committed to providing the resources necessary to develop, implement, and administer a safety program for the protection of its employees. All administrative

personnel and employees are expected to meet their responsibilities to make the safety program effective and productive. Periodic reviews of the safety program will be conducted by administration to maintain its effectiveness.

All accidents, injuries, potential safety hazards, safety suggestions and health and safety related issues must be reported immediately to the supervisor, CEO, or HR. When reporting the injury, an employee should advise staff if emergency services should be involved, or if the injury requires medical attention. HR will help determine the best course of action. If an injury does not require medical attention, an Employer Report of Injury/Illness Form must still be completed in case medical treatment is later needed and to ensure that any existing safety hazards are corrected. The Employee's Claim for Worker's Compensation Benefits Form must be completed in all cases in which an injury requiring medical attention has occurred. The employer will immediately notify OSHA in the event the employee sustains a serious illness, injury, or exposure that results in hospitalization as per CalOSHA guidelines.

## D. Transporting Students

Employees are not permitted to transport students. In the event a student needs transportation for a school-related purpose, the School will arrange for transportation in coordination with the parent or guardian.

## E. Employee Driving Policy

EACS must ensure that risks to the School are minimized and ensure that only safe drivers are allowed to drive on School business. The Board requires that all employees who regularly drive as part of their job duties ("Driving Employees") meet minimum standards of safety and insurance, which must be verified by the School. Driving employees must obey all traffic laws and drive safely while on School business.

Positions requiring driving shall state such in the job description and staff will be required to maintain a valid driver's license and vehicle insurance in order to meet the minimum qualifications of the position and perform the essential duties of the role. This policy covers all school employees and violation of the School's policy is grounds for discipline up to and including termination.

### **Driver's License and Insurance Coverage**

1. In order to operate a personal vehicle when used to perform EACS business, Driving Employees must have a valid driver's license and automobile insurance meeting the minimum standards established in this policy at all times. Evidence of the Driving Employee's driver's license and automobile insurance certificate will be kept on file. The Driving Employee is responsible for providing an updated driver's license and automobile insurance certificate whenever it expires or upon request. The

Executive Director or designee must be notified immediately if the Driving Employee no longer has a valid driver's license or insurance certificate. Any Driving Employee whose driver's license or insurance certificate lapses or is canceled or revoked for any reason, and who cannot otherwise arrange for travel as required by their position, may be terminated or placed on inactive/unpaid status until the issue is remedied.

2. EACS requires that a Driving Employee carry the following insurance amounts and coverage:

Automobile Liability - \$100,000 per person; \$300,000 per occurrence

Property Damage - \$50,000 per occurrence

Medical Payments - \$5,000 per person

### **Notification of Traffic Violations Resulting in Criminal Convictions**

EACS receives notifications from the Department of Justice (DOJ) when an employee has been arrested and when there has been a conviction for a crime. Notification of a traffic violation resulting in a misdemeanor or felony charge will be discussed with the employee. Certain driving violations may be grounds for termination from a position that requires regular driving such as:

1. Attempting to evade a police officer
2. Driving with a revoked or suspended license
3. Hit and run
4. Speeding over one hundred (100) miles per hour
5. Reckless driving
6. Driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol

### **Responsibilities of Human Resources**

When recruiting for positions that require the employees to operate a vehicle the posting notice shall advise applicants that a current driver's license record and verification of automobile insurance will be required prior to a final job offer.

### **Employee Responsibility**

Employees are responsible for maintaining driver's licenses and special certificates required for the performance of job duties. Employees are also responsible for promptly notifying their supervisor of expiration, conviction, or other DMV actions against their driver's license or certificate by no more than five (5) business days from the occurrence.

### **Use of Electronic Devices While Operating a Vehicle**

EACS recognizes staff members may spend a considerable amount of time driving for business purposes. It is the intention of the School to ensure all staff members are safe while driving a vehicle. Although hands-free options are available, it is the policy of the School to discourage employees from utilizing a cell phone or other electronic devices while operating a vehicle.

Distracted driving can be described as any visual, cognitive or manual distraction which takes attention away from the task of safe driving.

Employees are expected to follow all federal and state distracted driving laws. Employees who are charged with traffic violations resulting from the use of an electronic device while driving will be solely responsible for all liabilities that result from such actions.

The School highly encourages employees to use their best judgment and reserve all conversations conducted on an electronic device for when they are not in operation of a vehicle. It is recommended that employees find a safe location and park their vehicle prior to placing or accepting a telephone call. Texting while driving is prohibited. Voice texting while driving is strongly discouraged. Safety must come before all other concerns.

### **Revocation of Driving Privilege**

1. The Human Resources Director or designee will monitor the subsequent arrest notifications from the DOJ. Any Driving Employee who is convicted of a DUI, loses their driver's license or driving privilege, or is deemed to be a "negligent operator" by the DMV, and fails to make suitable arrangements for alternative transportation to maintain meetings as an essential function of their position will immediately be placed on unpaid administrative leave.
2. Seatbelts are an essential element of the School's safety procedures. To emphasize seat belt awareness, one (1) seatbelt violation while on EACS business will equate to a moving violation and may lead to disciplinary action. Repeat seatbelt violations could lead to termination of the at-will employment agreement.

### **Alternative Transportation**

All employees must make suitable arrangements to ensure timely attendance at all appointments that are essential job functions. With the advance approval of the Executive Director or designee, the employee may be reimbursed the actual miles traveled using the Schools' current mileage reimbursement rate, for their travel using public transportation or rideshare service where a personal vehicle is not available or alternative transportation is not feasible. Driving Employees will not be reimbursed additional charges and expenses outside of the actual miles traveled for utilizing a rental car, taxi, or rideshare service in the event that the employee's personal vehicle is unavailable.

Nothing in this policy is intended to replace the employer's responsibility to engage in the interactive process with an employee who has requested accommodation due to an illness, injury, or disability. The HR manager or designee will ensure compliance in all matters pertaining to this policy.

## F. Contagious Illnesses in the Workplace

The School realizes that employees with contagious temporary illnesses such as influenza (including COVID-19, H1N1 or Swine Flu), colds, and other viruses, or other communicable diseases may wish to continue with normal life activities, including working. In deciding whether an employee with an apparently short-term contagious illness or communicable disease may continue to work, the School considers several factors. The employee must be able to perform normal job duties; meet regular performance standards; and, in the School's judgment, pose no potential risk to the health or safety of the employee or others. If the School determines that an employee is unable to perform normal job duties; meet regular performance standards; or represents a potential risk to the health or safety of the employee or others, the School reserves the right to send the employee home and require the use of any available sick or vacation time, and if none is available the time would be unpaid. If an employee disagrees with the School's determination that such a risk exists, the employee must submit a statement from their attending healthcare provider that the employee's continued presence at work poses no significant risk to the employee, other employees, or students before they are allowed to return to work.

The following are general health and hygiene practices recommended by the Centers for Disease Control:

1. Stay home when sick. An employee should not return to work until they have been free of a fever for at least 24 hours.
2. Use proper etiquette: cover the cough or sneeze with a tissue or cough or sneeze into the elbow.
3. Wash hands often, especially after sneezing, coughing, or having contact with others. Alternatively, use a hand gel disinfectant and rub hands until the gel is dry.
4. Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth.
5. Ensure that general use office machines, such as shared computers, faxes, and copiers, are wiped down with disinfectant.
6. Healthy lifestyles are encouraged, including good nutrition, exercise, and adequate rest.

Supervisors will encourage employees to utilize paid sick and vacation if available to cover absences due to contagious temporary illnesses. Please contact HR regarding any questions about the possible contagious nature of any illness in the workplace.

The School will comply with all applicable statutes and regulations that protect the privacy of persons who have a contagious or communicable disease.

In the case of a pandemic (such as COVID-19, H1N1 or Swine Flu) or illness, the School may implement specific procedures through its emergency communication action plan including utilizing employees in essential operation positions; implementing controls and

scheduling in the work environment; encouraging ill employees to stay home; modifying work schedules; implementing telecommuting; minimizing non-essential travel; social distancing (reducing frequency, proximity, and duration of contact between people); utilizing phone, email, and video-conferencing; personal protective equipment (PPE); and education and training on safe work practices, risk factors, and protective behaviors. Employees will be notified if the emergency communication action plan is implemented.

## G. Gun Violence Restraining Order

If an employee, parent, or student demonstrates a substantial likelihood of significant danger or harm to self or others, a gun violence restraining order petition may be filed. The petitioner may be an immediate family member, law enforcement officer, employer, co-workers with employer approval who regularly interact with the person, or an employee or teacher of a secondary or postsecondary school. A copy of the restraining order is to be submitted to human resources.

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## Section VII: Employee Wages and Benefits

### A. Wages

Several factors may influence the compensation for a position. Each position is defined by a broadly written job description that indicates the duties to be performed and the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities for the assignment. These factors are reviewed when determining the appropriate compensation. Some of the items the School considers are the nature and scope of the job duties, what other employers pay their employees for comparable jobs (external equity), what the School pays their employees in comparable positions (internal equity), and individual work as well as performance. Wages are also affected by legislative changes and the State's economy, and may be adjusted upward or downward as changes occur.

Initial step placement will be based on related prior experience. The Executive Director is given authority to offer a higher entry step placement in areas of shortage such as math, science, or special education in order to secure highly qualified candidates for positions. Step advances will be considered for employees who remain in paid status for at least 75% of the work year calendar. Consideration for step advancement will also be based upon the School's budget solvency, successful employee performance, and any other relevant factors.

The employee's performance review will usually be conducted on or about the end of the fiscal year. A positive performance review will not necessarily result in a change in

compensation.

## B. Stipends

Stipends may include supplies, cell phone/internet, and/or mileage. Stipends may also be issued for performing specific additional job duties. Stipends may be evenly distributed across the employee's pay periods or issued at the time the services are rendered. All stipends will be reviewed annually.

## C. Paydays

All salaried exempt employees are paid on the 26<sup>th</sup> of the month. In the event that a regularly scheduled payday falls on a weekend or holiday, employees will receive pay on the prior day of operation.

Hourly and salaried nonexempt employees are paid on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of each month. Hours worked from the 16<sup>th</sup> through the last day of each month will be paid on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month. Hours worked from the 1<sup>st</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month will be paid on or before the 26<sup>th</sup> of each month. For more information on pay periods, please contact HR.

Paychecks will not, under any circumstances, be given to any person other than the employee without written authorization. Employees will be paid through manual checks or through direct deposit of funds to savings or checking accounts at their bank of choice (providing the bank has direct deposit capability). To activate direct deposit, a Direct Deposit Authorization form may be obtained from HR. Due to banking requirements it may take several weeks for activation of the direct deposit.

Every effort is made to avoid errors in calculating and distributing paychecks. Employees should inform HR if they believe an error has been made or pay has not been received. HR will take steps to research the problem and endeavor to make any necessary corrections as soon as possible or at least by the next regular pay day.

## D. Payroll Withholdings

As required by law, the School shall withhold Federal Income Tax, State Income Tax, Social Security (FICA) for non-credentialed employees, CalSTRS for eligible Teachers/Administration and State Disability Insurance from each employee's pay as follows:

1. Federal Income Tax Withholding: The amount varies with the number of

- exemptions the employee claims and the gross pay amount.
2. State Income Tax Withholding: The same factors which apply to federal withholdings apply to state withholdings.
  3. For non-credentialed employees: Social Security (FICA) - The Federal Insurance Contribution Act requires that a certain percentage of employee earnings be deducted and forwarded to the federal government, together with an equal amount contributed by the School. The current tax rate is used in the calculation. Each party is responsible for contributing. Eligible credentialed employees participating in CalSTRS do not contribute to Social Security.
  4. State Disability Insurance (SDI): This state fund is used to provide benefits to those out of work because of illness or disability.
  5. For credentialed employees contributions will be deducted and remitted to California State Retirement System (CalSTRS). The CalSTRS is a special trust fund established by California law. Per the guidelines of CalSTRS, the school will abide by membership eligibility. A contribution withdrawal begins with the first pay period. This contribution is in lieu of Social Security withholding tax from the paycheck. Additionally, the School contributes into the CalSTRS fund. All employee and employer contributions are determined by CalSTRS. Further information regarding CalSTRS accounts can be found at [www.CalSTRS.com](http://www.CalSTRS.com).
  6. For all employees participating in employee benefits offerings such as health insurance, the employee contribution for benefits (the amount that exceeds the employer's contribution towards benefits) will be deducted from the employee's paycheck. The amount will be discussed and approved prior to the deduction being made. Please reference "Employee Cost Sharing" under "Employee Benefits" section of the Handbook for more information.

Every deduction from the paycheck is explained on the paystub, which will be available in the HR/Payroll Information System. If any deduction is unclear, contact HR.

All Federal, State, and Social Security taxes will be automatically deducted from paychecks. Federal and State Withholding Tax deduction is determined by the employee's W-4 (Federal) and DE-4 (State) forms. The W-4 and DE-4 forms are to be completed upon hire. The employee may change the number of withholding allowances they wish to claim for Federal Income Tax purposes at any time in the HR information system by updating their W-4 and DE-4 withholdings.

At the end of the calendar year, a "withholding statement" (W-2) will be prepared and provided to each employee for use in connection with preparation of income tax returns. The W-2 shows Social Security information, taxes withheld, and total wages.

While the School strives to process payroll correctly, an error may occur from time to time. If this happens, every effort will be made to correct the problem as quickly as possible and to avoid future errors of a similar nature. Employees will not be subjected to discrimination, harassment, or retaliation for coming forward with a complaint or



question about their paycheck.

## E. Wage Attachments and Garnishments

When an employee’s wages are garnished by court order, the School is legally bound to withhold the amount indicated in the garnishment order from the employee’s paycheck. The School will, however, honor the Federal Consumer Credit Protection Act, which places restrictions on the total amount that may be garnished from an employee’s paycheck.

## F. Employee Benefits

The School is committed to providing quality and cost effective benefit options (e.g. health, dental, vision, and life insurance) for eligible employees as part of the total employee compensation. Benefit eligibility may be dependent upon employee classification (full-time versus part-time, for example). Benefit eligibility requirements may also be imposed by the School and/or plans themselves. Policies, provisions and procedures that govern the organization's benefit program apply to all regular full-time and part-time employees, whether exempt or nonexempt status, unless otherwise noted in the employment agreement.

### 1. Employee Cost Sharing

Voluntary employment benefits, those benefits that are not mandated by state or federal law, are selected and controlled by the School. Decisions to provide and continue providing these benefits are based on such considerations as cost, composition of the workforce, operational efficiency, and desirability of benefit provisions. Where costs of discretionary insurance benefit plans exceed the School's interest, ability, or willingness to pay the full premium rate to maintain the current benefit level, employees may be required to share in the cost in order to continue the insurance plan coverage.

Exempt ( <i>FTE</i> )	Non-Exempt ( <i>Hours per Week</i> )	<i>Eligible employees will have the option to choose to enroll in benefits or elect a cash in lieu stipend with proof of alternate coverage.</i>	
		<b>*Tiered Benefit Stipends (for Health, Dental, and/or Vision)</b>	<b>*Cash In Lieu of Benefits</b>
.75+ FTE	30+ hours	\$1,300/month	\$200/month
.50 - .74 FTE	20-29 hours	\$780/month	\$100/month

.49 FTE or less	19 hours or less	not eligible	not eligible
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**2. Benefit Design and Modification**

The School reserves the right to design plan provisions and to add, eliminate, or in other ways modify any School provided benefits described in this handbook or elsewhere in plan documents, where and when it is deemed in the School's best interest to do so. These benefits are subject to change depending on management decisions and resources.

**3. Benefit Plan Documents**

Employees will be provided with summary plan descriptions upon eligibility and enrollment. The benefit programs are explicitly defined in legal documents, including insurance contracts, official plan texts, and trust agreements. In the event of a conflict between these documents and this policy, the plan documents will govern. All of these official documents are readily available from HR for review. Questions about this information should be directed to HR.

**4. Cash in Lieu of Health Benefits**

Eligible employees may opt out of health benefits provided by the School and elect to receive a “Cash in Lieu” (CIL) option. CIL is dependent upon employment status and full time equivalent, included but not limited to hours worked or number of students assigned per pay period. Please refer to the employment agreement for more information.

In order to be eligible for cash in lieu of health benefits, an employee must provide proof of enrollment in a qualifying group health plan, including their name and the effective date of coverage, on their spouse or parent's employer sponsored plan, State Medicaid, Medicare, or VA Benefits. Proof of enrollment must be provided at the time of benefit enrollment for new hires or during the open enrollment period in order for the cash in lieu of benefits to be paid. Individual Family Plans (IFP) and Covered California coverage plans are not eligible for cash in lieu of benefits. All eligible employees will automatically be enrolled in the employer provided life insurance plan. Payment of the appropriate CIL amount will occur on each pay period of the current school year.

If the employee should enroll part way through the plan year due to a Qualifying Life Event (QLE), or if hired after the start date for the position, the annual CIL will be adjusted at the next pay period.

**5. Right to Modify**

The School reserves the right to amend, modify or terminate, in whole or in part, any or all of the provisions of the benefit plans described herein, including any health benefits that may be extended to retirees and their dependents to the extent allowed by law. Notice of any such changes will be provided, as required by law. Further, the School reserves the exclusive right, power and authority to administer, apply and interpret the benefit plans described herein, and to decide all matters arising in connection with the

operation or administration of such plans, to the extent allowed by law. This section is subject to change in accordance with changes in the law.

## **6. Changes in Health Benefits**

Employees may make changes to their plans outside of open enrollment if they experience a Qualifying Life Event (QLE). Examples of such events include marriage, divorce, birth, adoption, loss of coverage, etc. An employee has 30 days from the date of the QLE to notify human resources and enroll in or make changes to their health plan.

For more complete information regarding any of the benefit programs, please contact HR.

## **7. COBRA Benefits**

The Federal Consolidated Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) gives employees and their qualified beneficiaries the opportunity to continue health insurance coverage under the health plan when a “qualifying event” would normally result in the loss of eligibility. Some common qualifying events are resignation, termination of employment, or death of an employee, a reduction in an employee’s hours, leave of absence, divorce or legal separation, and a dependent child no longer meets eligibility requirements.

Under COBRA, the employee or beneficiary pays the full cost of the coverage at the group rates plus an administration fee. The School or our carrier provides each eligible employee with a written notice describing rights granted under COBRA when the employee becomes eligible for coverage under the health insurance plan. The notice contains important information about the employee’s rights and obligations.

## **8. Look-back Measurement Method – Seasonal and Variable Hour Employees**

For seasonal employees as well as part time employees hired to work less than 20 hours per week the School will use a look-back measurement method to determine benefit eligibility status.

This method is used to determine the benefits eligibility status of an employee by looking back over a defined period of time (12 months) to determine if the employee averaged at least 20 hours per week during that period. The initial measurement period begins on the first day of the calendar month following a one month probationary period.

A stability period (designated period where coverage must be offered) of 12 months will be offered to all individuals identified as employees working at least 20 hours per week on average during the measurement period.

After a new variable-hour or seasonal employee has been employed for a standard measurement period, the employee is considered to be an ongoing employee and will have their hours measured from open enrollment or plan year.

## **G. Retirement Plan Offerings**

The School is committed to providing retirement benefits to the employees. Plan details may be obtained through HR.

#### **403(b)/457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan**

All employees can open a 403(b) and/or 457(b) account and make employee contributions through payroll deductions.

#### **Employer Contributions:**

The employer contribution towards a deferred benefit plan is based on an eligible employee's active contribution to a 403(b) or 457(b) account. Eligible employees must open a 457(b) account in order to receive the employer contribution. The employer contribution will be made to the employee's 457(b) account in an amount not to exceed a matching contribution up to 5% of the employee's base annual salary. Eligible employees are immediately vested in employer contributions. Seasonal employees are not eligible for employer contributions.

Classified Employees: To be eligible for an employer contribution, a classified employee must work at least 20 hours/week.

Certificated Employees: To be eligible for an employer contribution, a certificated employee must serve a minimum number of students, work at least 20 hours/week, or have an assignment at least 0.5 FTE.

Certificated staff participating in CalSTRS are not eligible for an employer contribution to a 457(b) plan.

#### **California State Teachers Retirement System (CalSTRS)**

The School may offer a defined benefit plan through CalSTRS. Eligible credentialed employees employed at a CalSTRS school will be mandatorily enrolled in CalSTRS, and have employer and employee contributions submitted to CalSTRS on a monthly basis. Benefit information on this program is available at the CalSTRS website at [www.calstrs.com](http://www.calstrs.com).

## **H. Expense Reimbursement Process**

### **1. Supplies**

Due to the virtual nature of this business, it may sometimes be most practical for employees to initiate purchases locally and be reimbursed for those expenses. Reasonable, actual business expenses incurred by employees for the purpose of conducting business on behalf of the School shall be reimbursed upon approval. Employees receiving a stipend for supplies may not exceed the stipend amount.

Pre-approval by a supervisor is required in the event the employee wishes to purchase an item that exceeds the amount of the stipend.

## **2. Travel**

The School will only reimburse actual and necessary expenditures for staff. Attendees shall be held accountable for good judgment regarding expenditure of tax dollars. All expenditures must have scanned copies of itemized original receipts, regardless of the amount. The School shall not reimburse personal travel expenses including, but not limited to, alcohol, entertainment, laundry, expenses of any family member who is accompanying the employee on school-related business, personal use of an automobile, and personal losses or traffic violation fees incurred while on school business. Factors such as variances in regional costs, travel duration and extenuating circumstances will be considered when approving travel reimbursement. In addition to those items listed below, associated travel fees such as parking fees, taxis/shuttles, and luggage handling are reimbursable expenses.

Employees are pre-approved to expense those costs associated with traveling for school-related purposes including testing and professional development. Scanned copies of original itemized receipts are required for reimbursement.

## **3. Mileage**

The mileage reimbursement rate is based on the rate established by the Internal Revenue Service. Employees must include verification of miles driven either using a platform adopted by the School, or by attaching a Mapquest/Google map or the like, with the request for reimbursement.

## **4. Hotel Rooms**

Lodging shall be for those days associated with attending the activity, including, if necessary, the night before. Good judgment shall be used to seek the most reasonable accommodations. Please see the Travel Manual for additional details.

## **5. Meals**

Employees who are required to work or participate in training away from the regular work location may be reimbursed the cost of meal(s). Meals provided in conjunction with conferences, workshops, seminars, meetings that exceed these amounts are excluded from these limitations. No meals will be reimbursed for meals provided at/during the conference/training. Please see the Travel Manual for additional details.

The reimbursement rates are:

\$20 for breakfast, \$25 for lunch, \$30 for dinner plus service gratuity maximum of 18%. The total amount reimbursed for meals per day will not exceed \$75. Alcohol is not

reimbursable and must be deducted from any reimbursement requests. If an employee exceeds the allotment for meal expenses, the balance above the daily allocation will be deducted from the total expense on the expense report. Please see the Travel Manual for additional details.

## **6. Postage**

Employees will be reimbursed for any postage related expense requested by the School. Employees must get pre approval from a supervisor for shipping expenses and must discuss the best shipping method with the supervisor.

For employees who receive a monthly supply stipend, only the portion of the expense that exceeds the stipend will be reimbursed.

## **7. Procedure for Expensing**

Employees must have pre-approval prior to making any purchases that will warrant reimbursement. Approval may be obtained by sending an email to the CEO or Executive Director with a short description of what will be purchased.

Expense reimbursements must be submitted within thirty (30) days of the charge. Expense reports submitted after this time may not be reimbursed within the current cycle and/or may be delayed and processed in the next cycle. Please see the Travel Manual for additional details.

Initial \_\_\_\_\_

# **Section VIII: Leaves, Vacation, and Holidays**

## **A. Healthy Workplaces/Healthy Family Act of 2014**

The School, in compliance with the Healthy Workplaces/Healthy Family Act of 2014 (AB 1522), allows all full time and part time employees who work at least 30 days within a year in California to accrue paid sick leave hours. Accrual begins on the first day of employment. The employee must work at least 30 days before taking any available accrued sick leave.

## **B. Paid Sick Leave**

Paid sick leave may be used for an employee's own illness, for preventative care or

diagnosis, care or treatment of an existing health condition, or time off to care for an ill or injured family member or dependents, which include children, parents, spouse, registered domestic partner, grandparents, grandchildren, siblings and those related to the employee by blood or affinity equivalent. Sick leave may also be used when an employee needs to manage matters surrounding domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking or when their worksite or their child's school or daycare closes due to public health emergencies. Except in the case of an illness or emergency, sick leave must be requested at least five (5) days in advance by submitting the request through the payroll system. Employees using extended sick leave (in excess of 5 days) must submit a request at least two weeks before the extended leave.

Employees requesting sick leave may be required to submit a health care provider's statement or, in cases of individuals with sincerely held religious beliefs in faith healing or comparable religious practices, a statement authorized under EEOC guidelines, stating the reason for absence and dates of illness. Employees absent more than five (5) days may be required to submit a health care provider's statement or note that the employee is fit for return to service.

Employees will be paid their regular compensation when using paid sick days. Sick leave hours will not be advanced ahead of the earned accrual.

Employees may use sick leave in thirty minute minimum increments, which will be deducted from the employee's accrual balance. Employees are not required to find a replacement for their work while taking protected sick time. Paid sick day balances are available for employee review through the payroll system and on pay stubs. For all hours submitted as sick leave, the time will be uninterrupted and the work day schedule will not need to be adjusted to accommodate the absence.

Any unused sick hours will roll over from year to year. Sick leave hours will not be advanced to an employee ahead of the earned accrual rate. Accrued, but unused sick days are not paid out by the School at the time of separation. However, employees who terminate employment and are rehired within one (1) year of termination (or 6 months for employees working in the city of San Diego) regain their previously unused accrued sick leave.

Any employee who continues to be absent after their sick leave accrual has been exhausted may have a payroll deduction equivalent to the number of hours absent. Salaried employees will only have full day absences deducted from their paycheck once their sick leave accrual is exhausted.

### **1. Paid Sick Leave - Full Time Employees**

The School provides sick pay for full time employees who regularly work a minimum of

30 hours per week. All full time classified, non-teaching certificated and special education certificated employees accrue one (1) sick day per month in paid status. Nonexempt employees are paid semi-monthly, and will accrue the equivalent of one half day per pay period. All employees who fall under this accrual method are guaranteed to accrue a minimum of 24 hours by the 120<sup>th</sup> day of employment and subsequent accrual years in accordance with State law.

<b>Certificated Sick Accrual</b> <i>Full Time Certificated Employees</i>					
<b>Sick Leave</b>	<b>Student Count or FTE</b>	<b>Hours Worked Per Week</b>	<b>Non-Exempt: Per Pay Period</b>	<b>Exempt: Per Pay Period</b>	<b>Total Sick Hours Accrued Monthly</b>
Tier 2	.75 to 1.0 FTE	30+ hours	4/4	8	8

<b>Classified Sick Accrual</b> <i>Full Time Classified Employees</i>					
<b>Sick Leave</b>	<b>FTE</b>	<b>Hours Worked Per Week</b>	<b>Non-Exempt: Per Pay Period</b>	<b>Exempt: Per Pay Period</b>	<b>Total Sick Hours Accrued Monthly</b>
Tier 2	.75 to 1.0	30+ hours	4/4	8	8

## **2. Paid Sick Leave – Part Time, Per Diem, Seasonal, and Temporary Employees**

The School provides all part-time, per diem, seasonal and temporary employees who work at least 30 days in California within a year with at least 24 hours (3 days) of paid sick leave in a 12 month period. Employees will be paid at their regular hourly rate when they take paid sick leave.

Employees start accruing hours on the first day of employment and must work for 30 days before they can take sick leave. Employees earn at least 1 hour of paid leave for every 30 hours worked. Employees may accrue more than 24 hours (3 days) of paid sick leave in a year. Sick leave accrual will be capped at 48 hours (6 days), in compliance with both state and city ordinances.

<b>Sick Accrual</b>
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<i>Part Time, Per Diem, Seasonal, and Temporary Employees</i>					
<b>Sick Leave</b>	<b>Full Time Equivalent (FTE)</b>	<b>Hours Worked Per Week</b>	<b>Non-Exempt: Per Pay Period</b>	<b>Exempt: Per Pay Period</b>	<b>Total Sick Hours Accrued Monthly</b>
Tier 1	.50 - .74	20-29	3/3	6	6
CA SL	.49 or less	19 or less	2/2	-	4

### C. California State Benefits

California State Disability Insurance (SDI) is funded through employee contributions and is designed to provide eligible workers with partial wage replacement when taking time off work for their non-work-related illness or injury, pregnancy, or childbirth.

California Paid Family Leave (PFL) provides employees residing in the State of California with the ability to access their State Disability Insurance for partial wage replacement benefits to care for a seriously ill child, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or registered domestic partner, or to bond with a new child by birth, adoption, or foster care placement.

PFL Military Assist benefits are available to eligible employees who request time off work to participate in a qualifying event due to the military deployment of their spouse, registered domestic partner, parent, or child to a foreign country.

Employees must notify HR of their plan to take leave and the reason for taking leave according to the School's policy. HR is available to assist employees with applying for State Disability benefits through the Employment Development Department. Employees may be eligible to receive PFL benefits while on a leave of absence to care for a seriously ill family member or for baby bonding. Employees are not eligible for PFL benefits when on PDL, FMLA, or CFRA leave for their own serious health condition.

PFL is not a guaranteed right to a leave of absence, and employees taking PFL or PFL Military Assist are not provided job protection rights or a right to return to the same position following their absence.

### D. Pregnancy Disability Leave (PDL)

An employee may take pregnancy disability leave (PDL) if the employee is disabled

because of pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition, including prenatal care and severe morning sickness. The length of leave is dependent on a medical certification and the duration may be up to 17 1/3 weeks or the equivalent number of days the employee would normally work within the same period. Intermittent leave or a reduced work schedule may be taken.

### **Employee Eligibility Criteria**

To be eligible for pregnancy disability leave, the employee must be disabled by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition and must provide appropriate medical certification concerning the disability.

### **Events That May Entitle an Employee to Pregnancy Disability Leave**

The 17 1/3 week pregnancy disability leave allowance includes any time taken (with or without pay) for any of the following reasons:

- The employee is unable to work at all or is unable to perform any one or more of the essential functions of their job without undue risk to self, the successful completion of pregnancy, or to other persons because of pregnancy or childbirth, or because of any medically recognized physical or mental condition that is related to pregnancy or childbirth (including severe morning sickness); or
- The employee needs to take time off for prenatal care.

### **Duration of Pregnancy Disability Leave**

Pregnancy disability leave may be taken in one or more periods, but not to exceed four months total. "17 1/3 weeks" means the number of days the employee would normally work within that period. For example, a full-time employee who works five eight hour days per week, four months means 88 working and/or paid eight hour days of leave entitlement based on an average of 22 working days per month for four months.

PDL will run concurrently with other applicable leaves, such as FMLA leave. The 12-month look-back period will apply to all leaves granted concurrently.

### **1. Pay During Pregnancy Disability Leave**

An employee on pregnancy disability leave may use all accrued paid sick leave at the beginning of any otherwise unpaid leave period. The receipt of sick leave pay, or state disability insurance benefits will not extend the length of pregnancy disability leave.

Sick pay will accrue during any period of unpaid pregnancy disability leave only until the end of the month in which the unpaid leave began. For example, an employee who delivers their baby on March 5 and goes out on leave on that date, would earn one day of

sick leave for the month of March. Accrual for leave would be suspended until the employee returns from leave. All sick leave will be applied starting with the first day of absence until the leave is exhausted.

## **2. Health Benefits**

The provisions of various employee benefit plans govern continued eligibility during pregnancy disability leave and these provisions may change from time to time. When a request for pregnancy disability leave is granted, the School will give the employee written confirmation of the arrangements made for the payment of insurance premiums during the leave period.

If the employee takes pregnancy disability leave and is eligible under the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the School will maintain group health insurance coverage for up to a maximum of 12 workweeks (if such insurance was provided before the leave was taken) on the same terms as if the employee had continued to work after PDL ended. Leave taken under the pregnancy disability policy runs concurrently with FMLA under federal law, but not California Family Rights Act (CFRA). If the employee is ineligible under the federal and state family and medical leave laws, while on pregnancy disability they will receive continued paid coverage on the same basis as other medical leave that the School may provide and for which the employee is eligible, such as continued PDL. In some instances, the School may recover premiums it paid to maintain health coverage for the employee if they fail to return to work following pregnancy disability leave.

## **3. Medical Certifications**

An employee requesting a pregnancy disability leave must provide a medical certification from their healthcare provider on a form supplied by the School. Failure to provide the required certification in a timely manner (within fifteen (15) days of the leave request) may result in a denial of the leave request until such certification is provided.

Re-certifications are required if leave is sought after expiration of the time estimated by the healthcare provider. Failure to submit required re-certifications can result in termination of the leave.

## **4. Requesting and Scheduling Pregnancy Disability Leave**

An employee should request pregnancy disability leave by contacting HR.

The employee should provide at least thirty (30) days notice or as long of notice as is practicable, if the need for the leave is foreseeable.

Where possible, employees must make a reasonable effort to schedule foreseeable planned medical treatments so as not to unduly disrupt the School's operations.

Pregnancy disability leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically advisable, as determined by the employee's healthcare provider.

If an employee needs intermittent leave or leave on a reduced schedule that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employee may be transferred temporarily to an available alternative position for which the employee is qualified, which has equivalent pay and benefits that better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the employee's regular position.

In most cases, the School will respond to a pregnancy disability leave request within two (2) days of acquiring knowledge that the leave qualifies as pregnancy disability and, in any event, within ten (10) days of receiving the request. If a pregnancy disability leave request is granted, the School will notify the employee in writing and leave will be counted against the employee's pregnancy disability leave entitlement. This notice will explain the employee's obligations and the consequences of failing to satisfy them.

#### **5. Return to Work**

An employee on pregnancy disability leave remains an employee of the School and a leave will not constitute a break in service. When an employee returns from pregnancy disability leave, the employee will return to their original job or an equivalent job with equivalent pay, benefits, and other employment terms and conditions as when the leave commenced.

If the employee is not reinstated to the original position, the employee will be reinstated to a comparable position unless there is no comparable position available or a comparable position is available, but filling that position with the returning employee would substantially undermine the School's ability to operate the business safely and efficiently. A "comparable" position is a position that involves the same or similar duties and responsibilities and is virtually identical to the employee's original position in terms of pay, benefits, and working conditions.

#### **6. Employment During Leave**

An employee on pregnancy disability leave may not accept employment with any other employer without the School's written permission. An employee who accepts such employment will be deemed to have resigned from employment with the School.

#### **7. Lactation Accommodation**

The School will provide a lactation break for a reasonable amount of time to accommodate an employee's need to express breast milk. Employees in need of lactation breaks should contact their supervisor and human resources to allow for the School to determine a private space and ensure the reasonable time for breaks is provided. Human

Resources and the supervisor will assist the employee in identifying a proper location that is close to the employee's work area, shielded from view, and free from intrusion. Additionally, where applicable, the School will provide access to a sink with running water and a refrigerator for storing breast milk.

The lactation break shall, if possible, run concurrently with any rest break or meal period already provided to the employee. For non-exempt staff, any additional time needed to express milk outside of the normal rest break and meal period is to be off the clock. If the employee needs additional time past the breaks typically provided in a day, the employee should contact their supervisor and human resources. If a space and break is not provided when requested, please contact human resources.

## E. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and California Family Rights Act (CFRA)

The School complies with the federal Family and Medical Leave Act ("FMLA") and the California Family Rights Act ("CFRA"). The following information provides employees with a general description of their FMLA and CFRA rights.

### Calculating 12-Month Period for FMLA and CFRA

For purposes of calculating the 12-month period during which 12 weeks CFRA or qualifying exigency leaves may be taken, the School uses the "rolling" method also known as the look back method. For example, if an employee begins their leave on March 5, the look back period is 12 months from that date.

Under some circumstances, leave under FMLA and CFRA may run at the same time and the eligible employee will be entitled to a total of 12 weeks of family and medical leave in the designated 12-month period. Accrued sick leave will be paid to the employee starting with the first day of absence until exhausted and will run concurrently with FMLA and/or CFRA leave.

For leave to care for a covered service member, the 12-month period begins on the first day of the leave, regardless of how the 12-month period is calculated for other leaves. Leave to care for a covered service member is for a maximum of 26 workweeks during a 12-month period.

Leave granted under any of the reasons provided by state and federal law will be counted as FMLA and/or CFRA leave and will be considered as part of the 12-workweek entitlement (26-work week entitlement if leave is to care for a service member) in a 12-month period. The 12-month period is measured forward from the date any employee's first FMLA/CFRA leave begins. Successive 12-month periods commence on the date of an employee's first use of such leave after the preceding 12-month period has

ended. No carryover of unused leave from one 12-month period to the next 12-month period is permitted.

### Pregnancy, Childbirth or Related Conditions Under FMLA, CFRA and PDL

Time off due to pregnancy disability, childbirth or related medical condition falls under pregnancy disability leave (PDL) and FMLA leave and is not concurrent with CFRA leave. Employees who may not be eligible for FMLA leave may still be eligible for leave under PDL. Once the pregnant employee is no longer disabled, or once the employee has exhausted PDL and has given birth, they may apply for leave under CFRA, for purposes of baby bonding.

## 1) Family Medical Leave Act

### Employee Eligibility Criteria

FMLA leave provides up to 12 workweeks of unpaid, job protected leave within a 12-month period, under the following conditions:

- The employee must have been employed by the School for at least twelve (12) months,
- The employee has worked at least 1,250 hours during the previous 12-month period before the need for leave; and
- The employee is employed at a location where the School has at least fifty (50) employees within a seventy-five (75) mile radius, except for purposes of baby-bonding where the threshold is twenty (20) employees.

FMLA leave may be taken for one or more of the following reasons:

1. The birth of the employee's child, or placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care. When both parents are employed by the School, and request simultaneous leave for the birth or placement for adoption or foster care of a child, the School will not grant more than a total of 12 workweeks of FMLA leave for this reason.
2. Due to the employee's own serious health condition causing the employee to be unable to perform one or more of the essential functions of their job. This excludes a disability caused by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, as they are covered by the School's pregnancy disability policy.
3. To care for the employee's family member including a spouse, registered domestic partner, child, or parent who has a serious health condition or military service-related injury. When an employee is providing care for an injured spouse, child, parent, or next of kin who is a covered Armed Forces service member, the employee may take a maximum of twenty-six (26) weeks of FMLA leave in a single twelve (12) month period.

### **Intermittent Leave under FMLA**

Full-time employees may take leave of up to 12 workweeks in a rolling 12-month period. Part-time employees may take leave on a proportional basis. The leave does not need to be taken in one continuous period of time. Under FMLA, the employee must have the School's agreement to take intermittent leave.

### **2) California Family Rights Act**

The Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), enforced by the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH), contains family care and medical leave provisions for California employees. CFRA applies to all employees of the state of California and any other political or civil subdivision of the state and cities, regardless of the number of employees.

#### Employee Eligibility Criteria

CFRA leave provides up to 12 workweeks of unpaid, job protected leave within a 12-month period, under the following conditions:

- The employee has more than 12 months of service.
- The employee has worked at least 1,250 hours during the previous 12-month period before the need for leave; and
- The employee is employed at a worksite where there are 5 or more employees within a 75 mile radius.

CFRA leave may be taken for one or more of the following reasons:

1. The birth of the employee's child, or placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care. If the School employs both parents of a child, it will grant up to 12 weeks of leave to each employee.
2. To care for the employee's parent, parent-in-law, spouse, registered domestic partner, child, grandparent, grandchild, and sibling who has a serious health condition.
3. For a serious health condition that renders the employee unable to perform their job.
4. To care for the employee's family member including a spouse, registered domestic partner, child, or parent who has a military service-related injury. When an employee is providing care for an injured spouse, child, parent, or next of kin who is a covered Armed Forces service member, the employee may take a maximum of twenty-six (26) weeks of CFRA leave in a single twelve (12) month period.

### **Intermittent Leave under CFRA**

Full-time employees may take leave of up to 12 workweeks in a rolling 12-month period. Part-time employees may take leave on a proportional basis. The leave does not need to be taken in one continuous period of time. Employees do not need the School's

agreement to take intermittent bonding leave. In the case of intermittent leave, the employee may be required to use such leave in two-week minimum increments, with an exception for shorter increments on at least two occasions.

### **3) Process for Requesting FMLA/CFRA Leave**

#### **Leave Procedures**

The following procedures shall apply when an employee requests leave:

The employee must contact HR as soon as the need for the leave is realized.

If the leave is based on the expected birth, placement for adoption or foster care, or planned medical treatment for a serious health condition of the employee or an eligible family member per FMLA or CFRA, the employee must notify the School at least 30 days before the leave is to begin. The employee must consult with their supervisor regarding scheduling of any planned medical treatment or supervision in order to minimize disruption to the operations of the School. Any such scheduling is subject to the approval of the health care provider of the employee or the health care provider of the applicable family members.

If the employee cannot provide 30 days' notice, the School must be informed as soon as is practical. Notice can be written or verbal and should include the timing and the anticipated duration of the leave, but the School does not require disclosure of an underlying diagnosis. The School will respond to a leave request within 5 business days. The School requires written communication from the health-care provider stating the reason for the leave and the probable duration of the condition. However, the health care provider may not disclose the underlying diagnosis without the consent of the patient.

If the FMLA/CFRA leave request is made because of the employee's own serious health condition, the School may require, at its expense, a second opinion from a health care provider that the School chooses. The health care provider designated to give a second opinion will not be one who is employed on a regular basis by the School.

If the second opinion differs from the first opinion, the School may require, at its expense, the employee to obtain the opinion of a third health care provider designated or approved jointly by the employer and the employee. The opinion of the third health care provider shall be considered final and binding on the School and the employee. While waiting for a second or third opinion, the employee is provisionally entitled to FMLA/CFRA leave.

The School requires the employee to provide certification within 15 days of any request



for FMLA/CFRA, unless it is not practicable to do so. The School may require recertification from the health care provider if additional leave is required. For example, if an employee needs two weeks of family and medical leave, but following the two weeks needs intermittent leave, a new medical certification will be requested and required. If the employee does not provide medical certification in a timely manner to substantiate the need for leave, the School may delay approval of the leave, or continuation thereof, until certification is received. If certification is never received, the leave may not be considered family and medical leave.

If the leave is needed to care for approved family members per FMLA/CFRA, the employee must provide a certification from the health care provider stating:

1. Date of commencement of the serious health condition;
2. Probable duration of the condition;
3. Estimated amount of time for care by the health care provider; and
4. Confirmation that the serious health condition warrants the participation of the employee.

### **Certification**

If an employee cites their own serious health condition as a reason for leave, the employee must provide a certification from the health care provider stating:

- 1) Date of commencement of the serious health condition;
- 2) Probable duration of the condition; and
- 3) Inability of the employee to work at all or perform any one or more of the essential functions of their position because of the serious health condition.

The School will require certification by the employee's health care provider that the employee is fit to return to their job. Failure to provide certification by the health care provider of the employee's fitness to return to work may result in denial of reinstatement for the employee until the certificate is obtained.

## **4) Pay and Benefits Under FMLA/CFRA**

### **Health and Benefit Plans**

The School provides health benefits under a group plan, and will therefore continue to make these benefits available during the leave if the employee is enrolled in the group plan. An employee taking FMLA/CFRA leave will be allowed to continue participating in any health and welfare benefit plans in which they were enrolled before the first day of the leave (for a maximum of 12 workweeks, or 26 workweeks if the leave is to care for a covered service member) at the level and under the conditions of coverage as if the

employee had continued in employment for the duration of such leave. The School will continue to make the same premium contribution as if the employee had continued working. The continued participation in health benefits begins on the date leave first begins. In some instances, the School may recover from employee premiums paid to maintain health coverage if the employee fails to return to work following family/medical leave. An employee is deemed to have “failed to return from leave” if they do not return following the leave of absence, or work less than thirty (30) days after returning from leave. Employees on pregnancy disability leave will be allowed to continue to participate in group health coverage for up to a maximum of four months (or for the approved time) of pregnancy disability leave (if such insurance was provided before the leave was taken) on the same terms as if the employee had continued to work. The employee will also continue to make premium payments, if applicable, based on the payment schedule outlined in the premium payment letter. They will then be able to remain on benefits for any time taken under approved FMLA/CFRA leave if they are eligible for those leaves. Payment is due when it would be made by payroll deduction.

### **Substitution of Paid Leave**

Generally, FMLA/CFRA leave is unpaid. The School is not required to pay employees during FMLA/CFRA leave and may require an employee to use accrued vacation time or other accumulated paid leave other than sick time. If the FMLA/CFRA leave is for the employee’s own serious health condition the use of sick time is required and will run concurrent with FMLA/CFRA leave.

### **Time Accrual**

Sick pay will accrue during any period of unpaid disability leave only until the end of the month in which the unpaid leave began. For example, an employee who delivers their baby on March 5 and goes out on leave on that date, would earn one day of sick leave for the month of March. Accrual for leave would be suspended until the employee returns from leave. All sick leave will be applied starting with the first day of absence until the leave is exhausted.

### **COBRA Benefits**

If an employee requires additional leave after all protected leaves have been exhausted (PDL, FMLA, CFRA), they will be eligible for continued benefits through COBRA.

### **5) Reinstatement Upon Return From FMLA/CFRA**

Under most circumstances, upon return from FMLA/CFRA leave, an employee will be reinstated to their original job or to an equivalent job with equivalent pay, benefits, and other employment terms and conditions. However, an employee has no greater right to

reinstatement than if they had been continuously employed rather than on leave. For example, if an employee on FMLA/CFRA leave would have been laid off had they not gone on leave, or if the employee's job is eliminated during the leave and no equivalent or comparable job is available, then the employee would not be entitled to reinstatement. In addition, an employee's use of FMLA/CFRA leave will not result in the loss of any employment benefit that the employee earned before using family/medical leave.

Reinstatement after FMLA leave may be denied to certain salaried "key" employees under the following conditions:

- 1) An employee requesting reinstatement was among the highest-paid 10 percent of salaried employees employed within 75 miles of the work site at which the employee worked at the time of the leave request;
- 2) The refusal to reinstate is necessary because reinstatement would cause substantial and grievous economic injury to the School's operations;
- 3) The employee is notified of the School's intent to refuse reinstatement at the time the School determines the refusal is necessary; and
- 4) If leave has already begun, the School gives the employee a reasonable opportunity to return to work following the notice described previously.

Under CFRA, the School will reinstate "key" employees.

Employees should contact HR for additional information about eligibility for FMLA, CFRA or PFL.

## F. Bereavement Leave

The School grants leave of absence to benefited employees (employees with at least 50% employment) in the event of the death of the employee's current spouse, child, parent, parents-in-law, legal guardian, brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild, or mother, father, sister, brother, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law, step-parents, foster parents, foster children, and domestic partners. An employee with a death in the family may take up to five (5) consecutive scheduled work days off with pay with the approval of the supervisor. In the event services are located out-of-state, the allowed time off will be seven (7) days. An employee may be granted up to ten (10) days of bereavement leave for the death of the employee's spouse/domestic partner or child.

Bereavement leave may be taken intermittently with prior approval of the supervisor in no less than four hour increments. If an employee requires more than the allocated time off for bereavement leave, the employee may use accumulated sick days. The CEO or designee may approve additional unpaid time off.

## G. Military Leave

Regular full time employees requiring a leave of absence for service in the uniformed services are provided leave and will be re-employed at the end of the leave. Policies governing this leave are designed according to the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act and applicable state regulations. The policy covers those employees who enter active military duty voluntarily and extends to Reservists and National Guard members who are called to limited active duty or extended training duty, including regularly scheduled annual training and military summer camp training.

### **Eligibility**

All employees, except those hired on a temporary or seasonal basis, are eligible for the leave.

### **Length of Leave**

The length of the military leave is determined by the uniformed service organization calling the employee to active duty or military encampment.

### **Request Procedure**

The employee must provide written notice of their obligation or intention to perform service in the uniformed services, unless notice is precluded by military necessity or is otherwise unreasonable or impossible. A copy of the military orders must also be provided. Failure to do so may result in loss of reemployment rights.

### **Pay While on Leave**

Military leaves are without pay.

### **Status of Benefits**

Reservists, National Guard members, and veterans returning from military service in the Armed Forces have and retain rights with respect to seniority, vacation, compensation, length of service, pay increases, as may be from time to time provided by applicable statutes of the United States and the state of California. The employee may maintain health care insurance benefits for up to 24 months while on leave by paying the insurance premiums through COBRA for any leave extending beyond 30 days.

### **Reinstatement**

Upon return from a Uniformed Service Leave, the employee must report to work or request reemployment within prescribed time limits, which are based on the length of the leave:

1. Between one (1) to thirty (30) days: The service member is expected to report to

work on the first regularly scheduled work period on the first full day after release from service and will be reinstated to the same position held at the time the service leave began.

2. Between 31-180 days: The service member must submit an application for reemployment within 14 days of release from service.
3. For 181 days or longer: An application for reemployment must be submitted within 90 days of release from service.

Failure to file an application within the required time period may forfeit the right to reemployment.

## H. Organ and Bone Marrow Donation Leave

The Organ and Bone Marrow Donation Leave grants up to 30 days leave of absence with pay to employees who have exhausted all available sick leave within a one-year period for the purpose of donating an organ and a five (5) day leave of absence with pay to employees who are bone marrow donors. If needed, employees may take an additional unpaid leave of absence, up to 30 days per year, for donating an organ.

This leave may require use of two weeks accrued paid time off for organ donation, and five (5) days for bone marrow donation.

A medical note will be required to be submitted. Medical benefits will be maintained while the staff member is on leave and the staff member is guaranteed reinstatement to work. There will be no discrimination or retaliation for any leave taken.

## I. Jury Duty and Witness Leave

The School encourages employees to serve on jury duty when called. Postponement to non-instructional or off-peak department times is encouraged in order to minimize the impact to the School.

Seasonal and part-time employees will be provided unpaid time off to participate in jury duty. Nonexempt employees will receive full pay while serving up to 5 days of jury leave. Exempt employees called for jury duty will receive full salary for the time spent; however, exempt employees are expected to arrange their work schedule to minimize the impact on the School and must consult with their supervisor for guidance.

The employee should notify HR and their supervisor of the need for time off for jury duty as soon as a notice or summons from the court is received. Any employee summoned for jury duty must provide HR with an authentic summons, subpoena, or notice for such duty and upon returning to work must present proof of jury duty service, including the dates of the employee's service. Employees are expected to return to work if they are excused for jury duty during their regular working hours.

Fees Paid by the Court - All jury fees (excluding mileage) received by the employee while on school paid status shall be remitted to HR. Jury fees received while on school unpaid status are retained by the employee.

## J. Volunteer Firefighters, Reserve Police Officer or Emergency Rescue Personnel

No employee shall be disciplined for taking time off to perform emergency duty as a volunteer firefighter. If the employee is an official volunteer firefighter, a reserve police officer, or an emergency rescue personnel they must alert HR that it may be necessary to take time off due to emergency duty.

## K. Victims of Domestic Violence Leave

Employees who are victims of domestic violence are eligible for unpaid leave regardless of whether any person is arrested, prosecuted, or convicted of committing a crime. This leave provides time off for employees who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, as well as leave for employees who are the victims or related to victims of certain serious or violent felonies. Employees may use available and accrued sick leave. The employee may also take paid vacation if eligible. The employee may request leave if they are involved in a judicial action, such as obtaining restraining orders, appearing in court to obtain relief to ensure the health, safety or welfare, or that of their child.

The employee should provide notice and certification if they need to take leave under this policy. Certification may be sufficiently provided by any of the following:

1. A police report indicating that the employee was a victim of domestic violence.
2. A court order protecting or separating the employee from the perpetrator of an act of domestic violence, or other evidence from the court or prosecuting attorney that the employee appeared in court.
3. Documentation from a medical professional, domestic violence advocate, health-care provider, or counselor that the employee was undergoing treatment for physical or mental injuries or abuse resulting in victimization from an act of domestic violence.

The School will, to the extent allowed by law, maintain the confidentiality of an employee requesting leave under this provision.

## L. Suspension of an Employee's Enrolled Child

If an employee who is the parent or guardian of a child facing suspension from school and is summoned to the school to discuss the matter, the employee should alert the CEO or designee as soon as possible before leaving work. In keeping with California Labor Code Section 230.7, no discriminatory action will be taken against an employee who takes time off for this purpose.

## M. Recreational Activities and Programs

The School or its insurer will not be liable for payment of workers' compensation benefits for any injury that arises out of an employee's voluntary participation in any off-duty recreational, social, or athletic activity that is not part of the employee's work-related duties.

## N. Workers' Compensation

The School, in accordance with state law, provides insurance coverage for employees in case of a work-related injury. The workers' compensation benefits provided to injured employees include:

- Medical care;
- Cash benefits, tax free, to replace lost wages; and
- Vocational rehabilitation to help qualified injured employees return to suitable employment.

To ensure that the employee receives any workers' compensation benefits to which they may be entitled, they will need to:

- Immediately report any work-related injury or illness to HR. If the employee believes the injury or illness is caused by their job and developed gradually, the report should be filed as soon as possible. Reporting promptly helps avoid problems and delays in receiving benefits, including medical care. If the employee does not report the injury within 30 days, they risk losing their right to receive workers' compensation benefits;
- Seek medical treatment and follow-up care if required;
- Complete a written claim form and return it to HR as soon as possible.
- Provide the School with a certification from the healthcare provider regarding the

need for workers' compensation disability leave, as well as the eventual ability to return to work from the leave.

Upon submission of a medical certification that an employee is able to return to work after a workers' compensation leave, the employee under most circumstances will be reinstated to the same position held at the time the leave began, or to an equivalent position, if available. Upon return, a teacher is not guaranteed the same students, but will receive new/transfer students according to the same seniority status they had prior to the leave. An employee returning from a workers' compensation leave has no greater right to reinstatement than if the employee had been continuously employed rather than on leave. For example, if an employee on workers' compensation leave would have been laid off had they not gone on leave, or if the employee's position has been eliminated or filled in order to avoid undermining the School's ability to operate safely and efficiently during the leave, and no equivalent or comparable positions are available, then the employee would not be entitled to reinstatement.

An employee's return depends on their qualifications for any existing openings. If, after returning from a workers' compensation disability leave, an employee is unable to perform the essential functions of the job because of a physical or mental disability, the School's obligations to the employee may include reasonable accommodation, as governed by the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act).

## O. Other Types of Leaves

There are other types of leaves that employees may be eligible for which include:

- Time off to visit children's schools: This leave provides employees up to 8 hours per month (to a maximum of 40 hours per year) of unpaid time off for the purpose of child-related activities which include: to find, enroll, or re-enroll the child in a school or with a licensed childcare provider; to participate in activities of the school or licensed child care provider; to address a child care provider or school emergency. Employees may use available and accrued sick leave;
- Literacy accommodation leave: This leave provides reasonable accommodation for employees who experience difficulties with literacy to enroll in an adult literacy program, work with a tutor or otherwise take steps to improve upon their literacy needs. Employees may use available and accrued sick leave;
- Military spousal leave: This leave provides employees up to 10 days of unpaid, protected leave, to spend time with a spouse or registered domestic partner who is home during a period of military deployment.

## P. Professional Development



The School expects all employees to maintain necessary certifications and encourages all employees to attend meetings, conferences, and other educational sessions that provide training and ideas helpful to the development or operation of the School. Employee requests to attend short-term professional development opportunities (two days or less) not sponsored by the School are subject to the approval of the Executive Director, CEO or designee.

Employees will be allowed with the approval of their supervisor and the CEO or designee to attend extended professional development programs. Extended professional development programs are considered more than two (2) days. An employee will be expected to complete missed work or assignments upon return.

Employees should submit written requests to take professional development days to their supervisors for approval. The request shall include a printed or written agenda and/or printed material pertaining to the professional development. The School requests that employees submit requests to take professional development days at least 10 days for in town events and at least 30 days for out of town events. The granting of request will be solely at the discretion of the Executive Director or CEO.

## Q. Holidays

The School recognizes the following holidays:

- New Year's Day (January 1st)
- Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday
- Presidents' Day
- Memorial Day
- Juneteenth (June 19th)
- Independence Day (July 4th)
- Labor Day
- Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- The Friday after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve (December 24th)
- Christmas Day (December 25th)
- New Year's Eve (December 31st)

Each year the winter break will be reviewed and the holidays determined by the beginning of the school year.

Unless otherwise provided in this policy, all employees will receive time off for each observed holiday. To qualify for holiday pay, an employee must be a regular full time (thirty or more hours per week) classified employee in paid status on the working day immediately preceding or following the holiday. A holiday that falls during a classified

employee's vacation time or sick time is paid as a holiday and is not deducted from vacation or sick-leave balances.

## R. Vacation (Classified Employees)

The School's vacation policy is intended to provide eligible classified employees with time away from work for relaxation and renewal. In order to be eligible for vacation accrual, an employee must be a full time (thirty or more hours per week) classified exempt or nonexempt employee.

Vacation accrual begins on the first day of employment, and employees are eligible for vacation upon successful completion of 30 days of continuous employment. Eligible employees will accrue one day of vacation per month in paid status (e.g. an 8 hour/day 12 month employee will earn 12 days of vacation or 96 hours). Vacation accruals per pay period are displayed in the payroll system and on the employee's pay stubs.

<b>Vacation Accrual</b> <i>Classified Staff</i>					
	<b>Full Time Equivalent (FTE)</b>	<b>Hours Worked Per Week</b>	<b>Non-Exempt: Per Semi Monthly Pay Period</b>	<b>Exempt: Per Pay Monthly Period</b>	<b>Total Sick Hours Accrued Per Month</b>
Full Time	.75+	30+	4 hours/4 hours	8 hours	8 hours
Part Time	.74 or less	29 or less	not eligible	not eligible	not eligible

As a general practice, the supervisor will make an effort to approve a vacation request that is mutually convenient for the employee and the School. A requested vacation will be approved if the absence does not cause a disruption of service or place an undue burden on fellow employees. All vacation requests must be made in advance of the time to be taken. Any changes to a vacation request must be pre-approved by the supervisor at least three (3) business days prior to the start of the requested date of vacation, except in an emergency situation. Failure to get pre-approval may result in disciplinary action. The supervisor may determine peak times in which vacations may not be approved.

Employees may be required to use their earned vacation hours during school recess. Vacation can be used in increments of 1 hour and only used from the employee's available accrual. Vacation hours cannot be advanced ahead of the earned accrual.

Accrued and unused vacation hours will roll over from year to year but are capped at one and a half times the annual rate of accrual. Employees will not accrue any additional vacation until their balance has dropped below the annual cap.

Terminating employees (voluntary or involuntary discharge, death, end of employment agreement, etc.) will be paid all accrued and unused vacation in their final paycheck.

## S. Work Year Calendars

Each year the Board of Directors will approve the instructional and work year calendars for the new school year. Specific work days for certificated staff are determined by the School based on a return date for prep days, professional development, and final date for grade submission. The work days will be designated within the date range listed on the employment agreement.

In coordination with HR, supervisors will prepare a work year calendar displaying the first and last day of the assignment, all recess periods, and designated non-work days. For employees working less than 12 months, non-work days will be determined at the discretion of the employer, indicated on a work calendar provided to the employee, and determined so that work schedules will provide the greatest support to the School or department.

Non-work days are unpaid days based upon the employee's position and employment agreement as stated on the work year calendar. Unlike accrued leave, non-work days will not carry over from year to year.

## T. Make-up Time

Nonexempt employees may choose to use make up time in order to accommodate employee scheduling needs. Employees may choose to work over 8 hours on one or more days per week, so they make up work less than 8 hours another day for personal reasons. The extra hours worked for make-up time would not be counted as overtime. Employees are not to work more than 11 hours in a single work day (without prior approval), and the make up time must all be taken and used within the pay work week. If an employee requests make up time and has worked over 8 hours in a day earlier in the week, and their need for time off changes, the employer may still require the employee to take the planned time off to avoid unnecessary overtime. Unless otherwise approved, employees are not to work more than 40 hours per week, in which case, they will be eligible for overtime. Requests for make up time must be submitted to the supervisor in advance.

## U. Suggestions

The School is always striving to improve operating procedures and encourages all employees to make suggestions to this end. We welcome suggestions on subjects such as

safety; ways to improve customer service; and, how to save labor, money, energy, time, and materials. All suggestions should be submitted in writing to the appropriate supervisor who will in turn discuss them with School management. We appreciate staff suggestions that help make the School more successful.

Initial\_\_\_\_\_

## Confirmation of Receipt of Handbook

I have received the School's Employee Handbook. I understand and agree that it is my responsibility to read and familiarize myself with its policies and procedures, including the Schools policy for preventing discrimination, harassment and retaliation. I have been given the opportunity to ask any questions I might have about the policies in the Handbook.

I understand that except for employment at-will status, any and all policies or practices can be changed at any time by the School. The School reserves the right to change my hours, wages, and working conditions at any time. I understand and agree that other than the CEO, no manager, supervisor, or representative of the School has authority to enter into any agreement, express or implied, for employment for any specific period of time, or to make any agreement for employment other than at-will; only the CEO has the authority to make any such agreement and then only in writing, signed by the CEO.

I understand and agree that nothing in the Employee Handbook creates or is intended to create a promise or representation of continued employment and that employment at the School is employment at-will; employment may be terminated at the will of either the School or myself. My signature certifies that I understand that the foregoing agreement on at-will status is the sole and entire agreement between the School and myself concerning the duration of my employment and the circumstances under which my employment may be terminated. It supersedes all prior agreements, understandings, and representations concerning my employment with the School.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee's Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date