



EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

# HANDBOOK

FOR ALL EMPLOYEES

2024–2025

Becoming the Model for **Urban Education**

# Welcome

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year at Des Moines Public Schools! We are delighted that you have chosen to share your talents, skills, knowledge, wisdom, and abilities with the students of DMPS and your colleagues. Your dedication and contributions are both essential and greatly appreciated.

To assist you in navigating your employment with DMPS, we have provided this Employee Information Handbook, a valuable resource containing essential information about employment expectations, policies, practices, procedures, and our overarching philosophy. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to discuss them with your supervisor. Our goal is for every employee to be well informed and equipped to succeed at DMPS.

When you have time to explore [dmschools.org](https://dmschools.org), look for opportunities for professional development, engagement, and the stories about our students and colleagues at DMPS. There is a lot to share about your school district, which offers the most educational choices in Iowa.

We genuinely hope that your journey with Des Moines Public Schools will be fulfilling and rewarding for years to come. We look forward to working together to meet the needs of our nearly 31,000 students and making a positive difference in our community. We not only welcome you, but invite you to live out our motto: Come Here. Become the Best You Here.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ian Roberts  
Superintendent  
2100 Fleur Drive  
Des Moines, IA 50321-1158  
(515) 242-7766



Susan Tallman  
Chief Talent & Personnel Officer  
2100 Fleur Drive  
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## PREFACE

This Employee Handbook is prepared for informational purposes. It does not constitute a contract of employment between the Des Moines Public School District (hereinafter the District) and its employees, and it should not be construed as such. The Employment Handbook is a resource that helps inform employees of expectations and available services. By thoroughly reading this resource and any applicable contract and/or [Comprehensive Agreement](#), employees will be informed of benefits and opportunities as well as of potential consequences of failure to meet the expectations of the District.

The policies and procedures contained in the Employment Handbook may be changed or amended at any time with or without notice for many employees. For other employees, agreements for specified time periods may be entered into only with the recommendation and approval of the Superintendent, the Chief Talent & Personnel Officer or the Chief Financial Officer. It is the employee's responsibility to refer to the [DMPS website](#) for updated policies and procedures.

Employees are required to review this Employee Handbook annually and to certify that they understand their responsibility to comply with District policies, practices, work rules and employee conduct. Violations of this responsibility may constitute cause for disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

**New or updated content for 2024-2025** that is pertinent for employees / supervisors to be informed and aware of is **highlighted in yellow** for reference. Content that is **new or updated during 2024-2025** that is pertinent for employees / supervisors to be informed and aware of is **highlighted in blue** for reference.

Federal and State law and District policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. These protections apply to applicants for employment as well as employees. The District has a [procedure](#) for processing complaints of discrimination. If you believe you have (or your child has) been discriminated against or treated unjustly at school, please contact Carol Wynn-Green, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager and Title IX Coordinator, 2100 Fleur Drive, 515-242-7732, [carol.wyngreen@dmschools.org](mailto:carol.wyngreen@dmschools.org).

### Administrative Offices

The following is the main office address for administrative and support staff of the Des Moines Independent Community School District.

Des Moines Public Schools  
2100 Fleur Drive  
Des Moines, Iowa 50321-1158  
515-242-7709

Office hours are 8:00a.m. to 4:30p.m. Offices are closed on Saturday and Sunday except by appointment. You may also reach any employee by their e-mail: [first.last@dmschools.org](mailto:first.last@dmschools.org).

All forms referenced in the Employment Handbook can be accessed through [@DMPS Resource Center](#) or on [www.dmschools.org](http://www.dmschools.org).

[@DMPS Resource Center](#) / [Talent & Personnel](#)/ [Forms & Processes button](#)



## EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

### Vision

Becoming the model for urban education in the United States.

### Mission Statement

The Des Moines Public Schools Exist So That Graduates Possess the Knowledge, Skills and Abilities to Be Successful at the Next Stage of Their Lives.

### Student Expectations

Students demonstrate proficiency and understanding of a rigorous core curriculum:

1. They demonstrate proficiency in literacy; mathematics; and science. Students demonstrating below grade level performance will demonstrate significant growth each school year.
  - a. Gaps between the lowest and highest performing students will be eliminated, including disproportionality by race, socio-economic status, and/or zip code of residence.
  - b. Gaps in performance between students identified as Males of Color and other student groups will be eliminated.
  - c. Third grade students will read at grade level. Students grades K-3 demonstrating below grade level performance in literacy skills will demonstrate significant growth each year.
  - d. Students will demonstrate proficiency and understanding of Algebra.
  - e. DMPS Preschool students will be socially, emotionally and academically ready for Kindergarten.
2. They demonstrate financial and economic literacy.
3. They demonstrate an understanding of the value of fine and performing arts in society.
4. They demonstrate proficiency in technological and information literacy.

## [100 Educational Philosophy](#)

### [District Policies and Procedures](#)

All employees will have access to the District's current Policies and Procedures via the District's website at [www.dmschools.org](http://www.dmschools.org)

### [Board Goals](#)

#### Early Literacy

Goal 1: The percent of all fourth grade students proficient on the ISASP ELA Assessment will increase from **57%** in June 2022 to 67% in June 2026.

Goal 2: The percent of black male fourth grade students proficient on the ISASP ELA Assessment will increase from 29.5% in June 2022 to 67% in June 2026.

#### Algebra

Goal 3: The percent of black male eleventh grade students proficient on the ISASP Mathematics Assessment will increase from 17.7% in June 2022 to 45% in June 2026.

#### Social Emotional Learning

A goal will be developed once a baseline measure for social emotional learning is determined. The Superintendent shall not allow the social emotional learning needs of marginalized students to be unaddressed.

#### Governance Policies

The Des Moines School Board relies upon [policy governance](#) to help define and focus the role, vision and values of the board. This creates a clear structure for the School Board to be accountable to the community.

Policy governance enables the School Board to focus on the larger issues, delegate authority, direct management's job without interfering, and evaluate what is accomplished.

## [Governance Policies](#)

### **Equal Opportunity Employment**

The Des Moines Public School District and federal and state law prohibit discrimination in educational and employment programs and activities based on age (employment only), race, creed, color, gender, marital status, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status (students/program only) or disability. These protections apply to applicants for employment as well as employees. In addition, the District prohibits acts of intolerance or any form of harassment toward employees (including applicants for employment), students and others who participate in the District's educational program or activities. For information regarding Title IX or for complaints of discrimination, contact Carol Wynn-Green, Equity and Inclusion Program Manager and Title IX Coordinator, 2100 Fleur Drive, 515-242-7709, [carol.wynngreen@dmschools.org](mailto:carol.wynngreen@dmschools.org).

### [Policies and Procedures](#)

[Code 402 Policy Title: Non-Discrimination, Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity](#)

[Code 406 Policy Title: Hostile Work Environment](#)

[Code 407 Procedure Title: Sexual Harassment](#)

## **COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS**

### **Compensation and Licensure**

An employee required to hold a license or certification for their position is solely responsible for ensuring it is current. Failure to do so could, and likely will, result in termination because by law the District cannot employ or pay an employee who does not have a current license, authorization or certification.

Employees in these positions must provide a copy of their certificate or license to [the Office of Talent & Personnel](#).

Specific information regarding a teacher, coach, or administrator license or certification may be obtained from the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners (BOEE). The BOEE may be contacted by calling (515) 281-3245 or by visiting their website, located at [www.boee.iowa.gov](http://www.boee.iowa.gov).

### **Employee Assistance Program**

The District [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#) is offered through Magellan HealthCare. Our [EAP](#) provides a confidential resource for you to consult with about a variety of topics such as emotional wellness, stress management, career goals, wellness balance and personal and family goals. The professional EAP counselors can discuss with you the nature of your concerns and provide guidance and direction in alleviating those concerns. A variety of appointment times and convenient locations are available to best meet your needs and the first three sessions are free, per person, per year.

The [EAP](#) is a valuable resource that you and your eligible family/household members can contact for a variety of services designed to help you be your best at home and work. All inquiries made through the [EAP](#) are confidential, free and are part of your benefits package. If any additional costs are incurred for services beyond the free sessions offered by the [EAP](#), those costs may be eligible for payment under the behavioral health provisions of your medical benefits plan.

In addition to confidential counseling services the [Magellan EAP](#) provides work/life referrals for a variety of issues including childcare providers, elder care options, adoption resources, tutors, senior housing, pet care, college planning, home repair services and travel planning.

The [Magellan EAP](#) plan also can provide help with Legal/Financial concerns through: two free 30 minute phone consultations with a professional financial expert per year, one free 60 minute phone consultation

with a legal professional per year, referrals to legal financial professionals for in-person services, plus discounted rates for ongoing assistance and online access to education resources, tools and downloadable documents.

The [Magellan EAP](#) is offered 24/7 and is completely confidential. You can access them via phone or [website](#).

Phone: 1-800-356-7089

Website: <https://www.magellanascend.com>

- Click on 'Find My Company/Log In'
- Enter the name of our organization, Des Moines Public Schools
- Agree to the Terms of Use and select 'Go'

## Employee Benefits

The District offers a comprehensive benefit package for employees. Please refer to [Employee Benefits](#) at [dmschools.org](http://www.dmschools.org) <http://www.dmschools.org/departments/human-resources/employee-benefits/> or your [Comprehensive Agreement](#) for information on employee benefits.

[DMPS website](#) / [School District Departments](#) / [Business & Finance](#) / [Employee Benefits](#)

## General Liability

The District provides liability insurance, which covers employees for claims involving bodily injury or property damage to other people. The District's liability insurance coverage applies to all claims arising out of an act or omission occurring within the scope of the individual's employment or duties.

## Holiday Pay for All Employees

Employees are required to be in paid status the afternoon of the working day prior to the holiday or break period, and the morning of the working day following the holiday or break period in order to be eligible for holiday pay. Please refer to any applicable [Comprehensive Agreement](#) for more details.

## Payout of Leave Balance at Resignation

Employees are required to physically work their last day unless they are medically unable to do so. An employee who has a documented medical condition can use all leaves, thus not working their last day. Employees who resign are paid out vacation in a lump sum and are not permitted to use vacation or other paid leaves to extend their termination date.

## Retirement Benefits

All employees are required by law to participate in Social Security and in the Iowa Public Employees Retirement System (IPERS). Forms must be filled out and returned during the first week of employment.

Effective July 1, 2020, enrollment in Des Moines Teacher Retirement System Plan (DMTRS) is no longer available for new staff members per board action on June 2, 2020.

## Travel Compensation

To encourage school employees to attend professional meetings, the District may provide travel allowances when the immediate supervisor grants specific authorization for such trips. The District will provide travel allowances for school employees who furnish their own transportation while conducting school business. Employees using their own vehicle for school business will be reimbursed at current federal travel reimbursement guidelines.

## EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

### Americans with Disability Act (ADA)

To ensure equal employment opportunities to qualified individuals with a disability, the District will make reasonable accommodations for the known disability of an otherwise qualified individual, consistent with the District's obligations under federal and state law.

Employees who may require a reasonable accommodation due to disability should contact Cathy McKay, Director of Employee Services, [catherine.mckay@dmschools.org](mailto:catherine.mckay@dmschools.org).

### District Employees as Agents

It is a conflict of interest for employees of the District to also sell goods or services to the District. No officer, employee, or agent of the District shall participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by federal funds, if a conflict of interest, real or apparent would be involved.

Such a conflict would arise when:

- The employee, officer or agent,
- Any member of his or her immediate family,
- His or her partner, or
- An organization which employs, or is about to employ any of the above,
- Has a financial or other interest in the firm selected for award of any contract.

To the extent permitted by federal, state or local law or regulations, violations of these standards may cause penalties, sanctions or other disciplinary actions to be taken against the District's officers, employees or agents. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.318 (c) (1) Iowa Code § 301.28.

For further information on the procurement practices to be followed by all District personnel please reference the [Purchasing Manual](#).

[@DMPS Resource Center](#) / [Purchasing](#) / Subtopic: Forms\_Manuals\_Reports / Document Type: Manual / [Purchasing Manual 2020-2021](#)

### Confidentiality

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. The [District's FERPA policy](#) can be located on the [District website: News & Information](#) / [Public Records](#) / [Student and Personnel Records](#).

All employees are to be professional at all times and maintain all information obtained in the scope of their employment in a confidential manner. Employees should not discuss student/parent concerns or information in any setting without all employees present having a need to know under FERPA. Confidential information regarding students, or their families may not be shared with anyone without prior written consent of the student's parent/guardian or as otherwise permitted by FERPA. To foster a harmonious work environment and prevent disruption to the same, employees are also expected to refrain from discussing confidential information about other employees without the consent of that employees or as otherwise directed by the District.

### Employee Physicals

Federal and/or state law requires some public school employees to receive a physical examination upon initial employment. The examination must be completed following the offer of employment and prior to the first day of work. Certain categories of school employees are required by law to submit to periodic physicals throughout their employment with the District. Currently those employees that require CDL licensure as a condition of employment must undergo a DOT physical examination every two years or

more frequently if on restrictions. Metro employees and preschool childcare workers are required to undergo a physical that includes screening for tuberculosis every three years. Completed physicals are submitted to [the Office of Talent & Personnel](#) for processing and are placed in the employee's health file. Employees are encouraged to retain a copy of the physical for their records.

## Employee Identities/Names

Names are an important part of an employee's identity. Every employee is entitled to be addressed by the name that is consistently asserted by the employee, and these asserted names will be the name visible in public-facing systems such as e-mail addresses and display names. Employees are not required to obtain a court-ordered name change as a prerequisite to being addressed by the name that corresponds to their identity.

Employees who prefer to be addressed by names other than their legal name do so for a variety of reasons, some of the most common including:

- Individuals who consistently choose to be addressed by their middle name rather than their first name (e.g., Paul Lee Smith prefers to be known as Lee)
- Individuals who consistently choose to be addressed by a shortened version of their first name (e.g., Kathrine prefers to be known as Kate or Richard John prefers to be known as RJ)
- Individuals who have adopted a name unrelated to their legal first name as a consistently asserted part of their identity (e.g., Samantha adopts the name Mark or Seunghui adopts the name Amy)

The key factor in all these instances is that the new name is one that has been consistently asserted over time or is a new name that will be consistently asserted moving forward. Name changes are made with intentionality and should occur infrequently for an employee.

The District will provide a process that is used to enact name changes in our systems. At this time, only changes to an employee's preferred first name will be available. To request a change to a preferred first name, please submit this [form](#). Upon completion of the Name Change Notification form, name changes will be implemented. The form must be completed in its entirety; incomplete submissions will not be implemented. For technical reasons, name changes that involve initials (such as RJ) will not be able to include periods after each letter.

While most name changes will be implemented without concern, name changes that include words generally considered to be offensive or profane will not be implemented. Due to the impact of name changes on the District's information systems, name changes that occur multiple times in the same year may not be implemented.

## Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation

The District promotes a welcoming environment for all individuals. Discrimination against employees and students on the basis of their actual or perceived gender identity or sexual orientation is prohibited. Complaints of discrimination or harassment based on an employee's actual or perceived gender identity or sexual orientation must be handled in accordance with [District Policy 402](#).

### Definitions

1. Gender identity: A person's gender-related identity, which may be the same as or different from the person's sex assigned at birth.
2. Sexual orientation: an individual's enduring pattern of physical, romantic, or other attraction to another person. Sexual orientation is not the same as gender identity.

## Employee Pronouns

Every employee is entitled to be addressed by the name, gender, and pronoun that correspond to the employee's consistently asserted gender identity. Information on name changes is included above under

the heading “Employee Names.” Employees are not required to obtain a court-ordered name or gender change as a prerequisite to being addressed by the name, gender, and pronoun that correspond to their gender identity. Supervisors and coworkers should be made aware of and honor an employee’s request to be referred to by the name, gender, and pronouns that correspond to their gender identity.

### District-Maintained Records

The District may be required to maintain certain records including the employee’s name and sex, which may include the employee’s sex assigned at birth. These records will only be maintained and used as required by law, policy, or rule, and will only be disclosed in accordance with such law, policy, or rule.

Other than documents where the employee’s name and sex assigned at birth are required by law to be listed, any reference to the employee’s name and gender should match the gender identity of the employee.

The employee’s personnel file, including medical or other documentation that might relate to the employee’s gender identity, shall be kept confidential in accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code section 22.7(11) and any other applicable law.

### Restrooms and Locker Rooms

In accordance with Iowa law, any multiple-occupancy or single-occupancy restroom or locker room that is designated for members of one sex and that is accessible by students, must only be used by individuals of the designated sex. Employees may use a multiple occupancy restroom or locker room that is reserved for staff only (e.g., labeled as staff-only and accessible only to staff due to location and/or locked entry) that corresponds to their gender identity. Where available, single occupancy restrooms or changing rooms that are not designated for members of one sex may be used by any individual for any reason, including individuals desiring greater privacy.

### GINA – The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) prohibits employers and other entities covered by GINA Title II from requesting or requiring genetic information of an individual or family member of the individual, except as specifically allowed by this law. To comply with this law, we are asking that you not provide any genetic information when responding to requests for medical information. ‘Genetic information,’ as defined by GINA, includes an individual’s family member’s genetic test, the fact that an individual or an individual’s family member sought or received genetic services, and genetic information of a fetus carried by an individual or an individual’s family member or an embryo lawfully held by an individual or family member receiving assistive reproductive services.

### Mandatory Reporting of Arrests and Convictions

Employees must notify [the Office of Talent & Personnel](#) of any arrests, the filing of criminal charges, the disposition of criminal charges, child abuse complaints, and the findings of any child abuse complaint against them. The Office of Talent & Personnel shall require employees to complete a [Notification of Arrest Criminal Charges or Child Abuse](#) form outlining the date, nature, and current status of the charge, arrest, or complaint within 3 business days of the event. Additionally, the form shall require employees to provide any information they may have with regard to future court dates and/or disposition proceedings. It shall be the responsibility of the employee to supplement and update the information originally provided on the [Notification of Arrest Criminal Charges or Child Abuse](#) form with any new or changed information.

[@DMPS Resource Center](#) / [Talent & Personnel](#) / [Forms & Processes button](#) / Other HR Forms or Processes / [Notification of Arrest Criminal Charges or Child Abuse](#)

The Chief Talent & Personnel Officer or designee shall have the authority to verify any and all information provided on the Notification of Arrest Form. If any information provided on the form is determined to be incomplete, false, or misleading for any reason other than a clerical mistake, the employee may be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.



The District may consider and use the information contained in the Notification of Arrest Form for any purpose which protects the District's interests. However, all information provided to the District on the Notification of Arrest Form will be treated and maintained as part of the employee's personnel file consistent with the requirements of [Iowa Code § 22.7\(11\)](#).

The following terms as used in these procedures and corresponding Board Policy are defined as follows:

**Child Abuse or Abuse** under [Iowa Code § 232.68](#) includes, but is not limited to:

- Any non-accidental physical injury, or injury which is at variance with the history given of it, suffered by a child under 18 years of age.
- The commission of a sexual offense with or to a child, including but not limited to sexual abuse, incest, and sexual exploitation of a minor.
- The failure on the part of a person responsible for the care of a child to provide for the adequate food, shelter, clothing, or other care necessary for the child's health and welfare.

### **Criminal Charges**

All charges of committing a public offense, such as a felony or a misdemeanor, when such offense is prohibited by statute or ordinance, and punishable by fine or imprisonment.

### **Simple Misdemeanor**

Crime resulting in a penalty of either imprisonment not to exceed thirty days, or a fine of at least fifty dollars, but not to exceed one hundred dollars.

[Code 418 Policy Title: Notification of Arrest, Criminal Charges or Child Abuse Complaints](#)

### **Nepotism**

Administrators, specialists, and others in a position to influence hiring decisions, scheduling of work or compensation for work performed, are prohibited from hiring directly or indirectly, or through a subordinate, member(s) of their immediate family (spouse, children, siblings, parents, stepchildren, or in-laws). Family members can and do work within the District. However, direct or indirect supervision will be avoided if at all possible. This policy applies to full-time, part-time, temporary, casual, and intermittent positions as well as private contractors not subject to bidding procedures. Failure by an employee to disclose a familial relationship of a candidate during the hiring process is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. When a potential circumstance arises, it must be submitted to the Director of Personnel or designee and receive final approval in writing by the Superintendent or designee.

[Policy 402.3 Nepotism](#)

### **Retaliation**

The District prohibits retaliation against an individual who, in good faith, files a complaint, or assists or participates in a complaint or investigation, or who opposes language or conduct that violates federal or state law or District policies. Any individual found to have engaged in retaliation may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

### **Vector Solutions Training (*formerly SafeSchools*)**

All staff members are required to complete [Vector Solutions Training \(formerly SafeSchools\)](#) modules annually. The modules selected for employee groups are specific to their job responsibilities and many are [required by state and federal law](#). The modules are designed to provide safety and compliance information to mitigate risks.

All assigned modules need to be completed before March 31, 2025. Staff that do not complete all assigned modules will receive written discipline and/or disciplinary action up to and including termination.

If you do not meet District expectations for completing [Vector Solutions Training \(formerly SafeSchools\)](#) online modules in the future, progressive discipline may be applied.

[@DMPS Resource Center](#) / [Staff Links button](#) / Software /Systems column [Vector Solutions Training \(formerly SafeSchools\)](#)

Or

[DMPS Website](#) / [STAFF](#) / [Vector Solutions Training \(formerly SafeSchools\)](#)

## Staff Calendars

Please refer to the [Staff Calendars](#) located on [dmschools.org](#) for specific days worked for each work group.

[DMPS Website](#) / [School District Departments](#) / [Office of Talent & Personnel](#) / [Staff Calendars](#)

Student calendars: [DMPS Website](#) / [About DMPS](#) / [District Calendar](#)

## Staff Comprehensive Agreements

Bargaining unit employees should refer to their applicable [Comprehensive Agreements](#).

[DMPS Website](#) / [School District Departments](#) / [Office of Talent & Personnel](#) / [Comprehensive Agreements](#)

## Violations of Employment Handbook, Policy and Procedures Complaint Process

### Definition

A complaint is a claim by an employee that one of the specific provisions of this Employment Handbook or any District policy has been violated.

Complaints of violations of the handbook should be reported to the immediate supervisor. If the violator is the immediate supervisor, the report should be made to their supervisor. All reported violations should be addressed by the supervisor with the assistance of the assigned Personnel Manager.

The District maintains a separate [procedure for complaints of discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment](#) under Title IX. Employees with complaints relating to discrimination or harassment should refer to that [complaint procedure](#).

[District website](#) / [School District Departments](#) / [Office of the Superintendent](#) / [Equity at DMPS](#) / [Complaint Procedure](#)

### Violations of Employee Handbook Procedure

Step 1: A complaint should be presented orally to the immediate supervisor within ten working days of the alleged violation for the purpose of resolving the matter informally.

If the complaint is about the immediate supervisor, the complaint should be taken to their supervisor. The supervisor shall render a written decision within ten working days after receiving the complaint.

Step 2: If the employee is not satisfied with the decision at step 1, an appeal may be forwarded within ten working days to the Chief Talent &Personnel Officer. The Chief Talent &Personnel Officer or designee may conduct a conference with the complainant and issue a written decision regarding the complaint within ten working days following the conference.

## Personnel Investigations

All District employees are expected to cooperate fully and truthfully in any review or investigation of alleged misconduct. District policies and procedures protect employees from retaliation for participating in such a review or investigation.

In the event that a District employee is asked to participate in an on-going investigation of alleged wrongdoing by another employee or a student, the employee must cooperate with the District investigator(s). Failure to cooperate fully in a District investigation or any failure to provide complete and accurate information in response to an inquiry from a District investigator may result in a disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

If you are an employee who is covered under a [Comprehensive Agreement](#) and you have a complaint that a provision of the Comprehensive Agreement has been violated, please refer to the “Grievance Procedures” section of the Comprehensive Agreement.

## DISTRICT PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

### Change of Address and Telephone Number

It is the responsibility of the employee to keep a current and up-to-date address and telephone number with the District. Employees should access [Employee Online](#) to make changes and updates.

### Compensatory Time for Eligible Employees

Employees in some non-certified positions may accumulate pre-approved and use pre-approved compensatory (comp) time under certain conditions as determined by the employer. Only non-exempt employees are eligible.

The decision to grant compensatory time for a special project by an individual remains the discretion of the employer and must be pre-approved by the school principal or the department supervisor. When an eligible employee requests to accumulate compensatory time in order to complete a certain project, the rationale and expected length of time necessary to accomplish the assignment must be specified within the request. Under no circumstances will an employee accumulate compensatory time without pre-approval from their immediate supervisor.

If you need to be out a half or full day, you are encouraged to use appropriate leave, including accumulated comp time, personal leave, or vacation depending upon the reason for the absence.

### Earning Compensatory Time

- Foregoing your lunch or break period for the sake of earning comp time is not allowed. Everyone is encouraged to take a lunch break. Under no circumstances will unused breaks be included as accumulated compensatory time. Unused lunch breaks or other break times may not be used to acquire comp time.
- Requests to start work early or stay later if you are aware of an upcoming appointment which will require less than a half-day would be considered flextime and not comp time. This can be authorized by your supervisor if a substitute is not needed, and it does not decrease the level of service to students, school or department.
- Comp time cannot be accumulated or used to extend a vacation or holiday period.
- Additional hours beyond the employee’s scheduled workday/workweek shall not be authorized by the employee’s supervisor unless necessary to the District.
- Comp time cannot be accumulated to be absent from District duties because of a second job.
- Balances over 24 hours on July 1<sup>st</sup> will be paid out.

## Use of Compensatory Time

Employees are required to secure the approval of their immediate supervisor before using accumulated compensatory time. Accumulated compensatory time is to be taken when it will cause the least interruption of instruction or disruption of the school or department.

It is an expectation of both the employee and immediate supervisor that all comp time be used by employees as follows:

- Employees in bargaining units will refer to applicable [Comprehensive Agreement](#).
- Comp time must be pre-approved by the supervisor prior to earning and using.
- Comp time must be recorded in NOVAtime for approval by the supervisor.
- Comp time will be accrued after 40 hours per week for non-bargained non-exempt employees.
- If earned between 7/1 and 6/30, an employee is allowed to accumulate up to 24 hours in their balance as of 6/30 and it can be carried over from year to year.
- Comp time can be used for a late start/early out.
- Supervisors are responsible for ensuring employees follow the revised guidelines (no greater than a balance of 24.0 hours of comp time as of 6/30) and for monitoring balances regularly in NOVAtime.
- When transferring from one assignment to another, all comp time should be used before the effective date of the transfer. Comp time should not be carried from one assignment to another. Exceptions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Director of Personnel.

## Crowdfunding

Crowdfunding is the process of requesting donations to fund a specific purchase or project, typically through platforms designed for this purpose. Crowdfunding does not include the specific requests for donation the District makes using the District's own website or social media.

Because crowdfunding is a unique form of fundraising, certain rules will apply when gifts or donations are sought to benefit the District. If there is reason to believe the gifts are not following donor intent or if we are unable to track the assets received, we reserve the right to restrict future fundraisers through this platform. [See appendix for detailed procedures.](#)

## Direct Deposit

Direct deposit is required for all employees. Change of bank information for direct deposit is necessary and should be updated via [Employee Online](#). Allow up to 30 days for direct deposit after providing new bank information. Employee should leave their previous bank account open until direct deposit has been processed in the new account. Please email [Payroll@dmschools.org](mailto:Payroll@dmschools.org) with any questions.

For those employees grandfathered in receiving a paper check in the mail, the District is not responsible for lost or undelivered mail. If a check is lost, a new check will not be issued until 6 working days following pay day.

## Direct Deposit Fraud

Direct Deposit is a mandatory condition of employment to help ensure the safest and most efficient method of receiving pay. The safety and security of direct deposit can be breached if you give your employee information out to a family member, friend or an outside entity through a fraudulent e-mail scheme known as phishing. The District will never send you an e-mail asking for your employee information. If your [Employee Online](#) access is breached it could allow a criminal to change your direct deposit information and divert your pay to another account. In the event your direct deposit information is accessed and changed, report it to the police immediately, call your bank to close the account, notify your insurance carrier of lost wages, change your information online and contact the Payroll Department.

## Email

It is the responsibility of all employees to regularly check and respond to their email within the scheduled work week. This is the District expectation barring any emergency, vacation or unforeseen circumstances.

## Grant Application Protocols and Procedures

Employees who seek grant funding must go through a Grants Specialist for approval of all funding requests prior to submission, no matter the size of the request.

Grants provide non-repayable funds to the district to support various initiatives. Grants Specialists research, write, and submit grant applications to federal, state, local, and foundation funding sources. Proposal development can involve extensive planning and collaboration with several departments to ensure adherence to district policies and procedures, as well as fiscal compliance with laws and regulations (e.g., supplement versus supplant). Grant Specialists can identify potential funders for your grant needs, write and submit the proposal for you, or provide technical assistance for your proposal prior to submission.

If you are interested in grant funding, please complete a Grant Request Form available at the Resource Center under Business and Finance, Grants folder. While all attempts will be made to match your grant needs to an available funding opportunity, many variables factor into the process (funder priorities, eligibility, deadlines, if multiple submissions are allowed, Grants Specialist capacity, among other factors). If your request is matched to a funding opportunity, you will be contacted by the Grants Team with the next steps in the process.

It's important that you seek approval for all grant applications prior to submission. If you apply for a grant opportunity without going through the Grants Specialists, you may inadvertently disqualify the District from the funding opportunity or you may be required to return the grant funding to the funder.

If you are awarded a grant, please notify the Grants Specialist and the Grants Accountant before spending the funds. They will guide the next steps in the post-award process as to depositing the check, assigning account numbers, required grantor reporting, and other grant requirements.

Grants Specialist: Lori Brenno ([lori.brenno@dmschools.org](mailto:lori.brenno@dmschools.org) or 242-8215)  
Grants Accountants: Debra Meyer ([debra.meyer@dmschools.org](mailto:debra.meyer@dmschools.org) or 242-7646) or Ashley Williams ([Ashley.williams@dmschools.org](mailto:Ashley.williams@dmschools.org) or 242-7329).

## Hiring Staff

Part-time, casual, or temporary hiring practices are the same as those for full-time or regular positions. All hiring must be authorized through the Office of Talent & Personnel. This includes filling an existing vacant position or a new position approved by the Superintendent or their designee. New positions will be advertised, interviews held, and the best qualified candidate selected. The same practice will be followed when selecting individuals for grants. Business & Finance sets the salaries for all positions, including those paid for by grants.

The Chief Talent & Personnel Officer may authorize temporary emergency hiring, either through a temporary agency or direct hiring.

The offer of a job or a promise of a job without authorization from an Office of Talent & Personnel Director or Manager or designee is prohibited.

## Child and Dependent Adult Abuse Training – HF 731

Mandatory reporter training for child and dependent adult abuse may be done through the [Iowa Department of Human Services](http://www.iowa.gov) or through the Area Education Association <https://www.heartlandaea.org>.

Updates are as follows:

- Certificates completed before July 1, 2019, through AEA or ISEA will be accepted and are valid for five years.
- Training completed through DHS after July 1, 2019, will be valid for three years.
- There is no fee for the training.
- You will need to download the certificate and send it to [Office of Talent & Personnel](#). DMPS will not have access to the DHS training information.
- [Office of Talent & Personnel](#) will continue to send out reminders before your certificate expires. (120, 90, 60, 30, and 10 days prior to expiration)
- The child and adult training can no longer be combined into one 2-hour course. Both will be 2 hours each for completion.
- All mandatory reporters are required to take the core (2 hour) training initially but will be allowed to take a one-hour re-certification training every three years thereafter so long as they do so prior to the three-year expiration period.

### Request for Copies

You may be charged a fee for copies of records, check stubs, W-2s or other requested documents. Receipts will be provided for all payments.

### Employee Political Expression

DMPS is a public school district that serves and is welcoming to all students. To respect the diversity of opinions and beliefs of all students, employees, and families in our District in furtherance of our focus on student learning, it is important for employees to abide by certain guidelines relating to their personal political speech and expression.

While in the workplace or otherwise performing official duties, DMPS employees may not engage in political speech or expression that advocates for or against any political party or candidate or any ballot issue. This includes wearing or displaying clothing or other items (for examples, buttons, pins, flags, or posters) in the workplace that advocate for or against any political party or candidate or any ballot issue. Employee speech in the employee's capacity as a DMPS employee must be consistent with District policy and administrative directives. Where necessary, employees should seek guidance from their supervisor or the District's Talent and Personnel department and exercise reasonable professional judgment.

DMPS respects that its employees are part of a vibrant and diverse community, and are entitled to engage in political speech, expression, and activities outside of the workplace in their capacity as private citizens. In doing so, employees must make clear that they are speaking or acting in their capacity as a private citizen and not as a DMPS employee, and that their views do not represent the views of DMPS. This includes refraining from wearing or displaying DMPS attire, employee ID/badge, logo, or insignia when engaging in such speech or activity. Employees are responsible for the content of their speech to the same extent as private citizens. Under certain circumstances, an employee's speech outside of the workplace could pose such a substantial disruption to District operations or undermine the employee's ability to serve as a positive role model to students that disciplinary consequences might be necessary. Such determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis, consistent with the employee's rights under federal and state law.

### Animal Guidelines

**Purpose:** Animals in schools may fall into one of the following categories: Service dogs; therapy dogs; and classroom animals. General guidelines are listed below to ensure consistency throughout the district.

#### Service Dogs

- A Service animal can be a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability.
  - The tasks performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability.



- Iowa and the ADA allow miniature horses to qualify as service animals; however, it is at the discretion of the building/team to determine if a miniature horse can be accommodated.
- Service animals can be trained by a professional training program or by the person with the disability themselves.
- A vest, ID tag, or specific harness is not required but advised.
- Proof of vaccinations and exams signed by a veterinarian are required.
- Service dog's care will be the responsibility of the handler.
- Main contacts:
  - Administrator
  - Nurse

### **Therapy Dogs**

- A therapy dog is a dog that is trained in basic obedience skills and is not required to perform essential tasks for those they serve or specialize in a particular area of service.
- Therapy dogs do not have public access rights under the ADA.
- Therapy dogs may be used in the school setting on a regular basis when proper documentation is in place and the employee has received approval from the Professional Therapy Dog Oversight Committee
  - Primary contact: Behavioral Health Coordinator
- Notify the building nurse/administrator prior to therapy animal coming into the building.
- Therapy dog's care will be the responsibility of the handler.
- Application process:
  - Proof of current certification
  - Signed statement from building administrator
  - Health records of annual vaccinations and exams signed by a veterinarian
  - Signed copy of 'Therapy Dog Handler Ethics' form
  - Proof of private liability insurance- minimum of \$1 million dollars
- Main contacts:
  - Behavioral Health Coordinator (Primary Contact)
  - Administrator
  - Nurse

### **Classroom Animals**

- Use of animals in the classroom can assist students to learn appropriate care of animals, enhance investigative and observational skills and reinforce curriculum objectives.
- Only domesticated animals are allowed in the classroom unless brought in by a qualified individual such as a conservation officer or a zoo curator.
- The classroom teacher is responsible for ensuring that the animal is always appropriately cared for.
- Refer to "Maintaining Animals in the Classroom Protocol".
- Main contacts:
  - Administrator
  - Nurse

## **CONDUCT IN THE WORKPLACE**

### **[Non-Discrimination, Hostile Work Environment, and Bullying Complaint Procedure](#)**

#### **[Code 402](#)**

This complaint procedure has been developed to handle complaints of discrimination or harassment. Employees, applicants for employment, parents, students, and volunteers can file a complaint. This

[Complaint Form](#) may be used to submit the complaint online. Employees should also use the form to make internal complaints. Briefly, the complaint procedure includes the following steps:

1. Complainants may talk to their building principal or immediate supervisor to try to resolve the problem informally. If the complaint is based upon the conduct of the Complainant's principal or immediate supervisor, the Complainant may contact that person's immediate supervisor. Complaints should be reported as soon as possible after the event giving rise to the complaint.
2. If the Complainant prefers to proceed with a formal complaint, or if the matter has not been informally resolved, they may file a complaint with the Equity and Inclusion Program Manager based on the allegation. Formal complaints should be filed by the Complainant within 180 days after the event giving rise to the complaint or it is determined the complaint cannot be informally resolved.
3. Within 10 working days, the appropriate investigator will begin the investigation. An investigation will include taking a written statement from interviewing the Complainant, the Respondent(s) named in the complaint, and those witnesses who have been identified who have relevant information pertaining to the complaint. Relevant documentation will also be collected and considered. During the investigation a respondent may elect to have a union representative, friend, counsel or any other individual present during interviews and subsequent meetings.
4. Within 30 working days, the investigator shall complete the investigation and issue a written report making findings with respect to the individual allegations set out in the complaint and rendering an ultimate finding as to whether the greater preponderance weight of the evidence, based on the entire record, indicates the District's policies have been violated. Under some circumstances, when many individuals are involved in the investigation or an extensive legal review must be done, the investigator will inform the Complainant of the expected date of completion beyond the 30 working days.
5. The District prohibits retaliation against an individual for filing a complaint. Any individual intentionally providing false information in a complaint investigation may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

In the event the investigator finds:

- A. No violation of District policy, the findings will be shared by the investigator with the Complainant and the Respondent.
- B. A violation of the District's policies or no violation of the District's policies but other inappropriate behavior on the part of the Respondent, the findings will be reviewed:
  1. By the investigator with the Complainant and the Respondent; and
  2. By the investigator and Respondent's principal or the immediate supervisor, the director responsible for Respondent, and a representative of the Office of Talent & Personnel. The Office of Talent & Personnel representative will inform the Respondent of any decision regarding disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.
  3. If disciplinary action is warranted, documentation of the disciplinary action will be placed in the Respondent's file. All other information regarding the case will be kept in confidential files. Any disciplinary consequences will be kept confidential, in accordance with applicable law.
  4. The District has no jurisdiction to take disciplinary action over parents and volunteers. However, steps will be taken to ensure individuals do not continue to violate non-discrimination policies on District property, or at school-related activities.

The complaint will be closed after the investigator has provided the information to the Complainant and the Respondent unless, within ten days of receipt of the final investigative report, either side files a written appeal to the Superintendent setting out the reason(s) why they believe the decision should not stand.

In the event of an appeal, the Superintendent/designee shall review the written record and may meet with the appealing party. The Superintendent/designee may affirm, reverse, modify or remand the matter for

further proceedings and shall, within twenty (20) days of the written appeal, confirm this decision in writing to the appealing party.

Except in the event of a termination of a certified employee, the Superintendent/designee decision shall be final.

The District encourages individuals to use the internal complaint procedure. However, the Complainant may seek legal advice of his or her choosing or file a formal complaint with the Des Moines Human Rights Commission, Iowa Civil Rights Commission, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or other agencies. If the Complainant seeks other avenues of redress, the District may choose not to conduct its internal complaint procedures.

*Board Policies: Code 402, 402.1, 406, and 407; Code 601*

*Approved January 19, 1993; revised August 6, 1996; revised July 25, 2006; August 2007*

### **Use of Personal Property or Equipment on District Property**

Occasionally employees bring personal items to work in an effort to help them with the performance of their job. We do not encourage relying on personal equipment to perform District work functions. The District asks that all personal equipment be removed from District facilities and requests for needed equipment should be forwarded to the attention of the immediate supervisor if replacement equipment is needed. If personal equipment has mistakenly been identified with a DMPS tag, it should not be removed from the District until the issue is resolved.

The District shall not be responsible for lost, stolen or damaged personal equipment and/or property. Any such claims will be the responsibility of the employee and their respective insurance company.

### **Sexual Harassment (Title IX)**

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, Des Moines Community School District prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual harassment as defined by the regulations implementing Title IX (34 C.F.R. § 106.30), against any individual participating in any education program or activity of the District. This prohibition on discrimination applies to students, employees, and applicants for employment.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to adopt procedures for any individual to report sexual harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator, for the provision of supportive measures to anyone who has been subjected to sexual harassment whether or not they proceed with a formal complaint under those procedures, and for the investigation and resolution of such complaints, as required by Title IX. This Title IX complaint process shall be used to respond to all complaints of sexual harassment that fall within the scope of Title IX. For complaints of sexual harassment that do not fall within the scope of Title IX, the District may still offer supportive measures to the target of such conduct and shall apply any other policy or procedure applicable to the alleged conduct.

Any individual with questions about the District's Title IX policy and procedures, or who would like to make a report or file a formal complaint of sex discrimination or sexual harassment may contact the District's designated Title IX Coordinator, Carol Wynn-Green, 2100 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA 50321; phone: 515-242-7732; email: [carol.wynnngreen@dmschools.org](mailto:carol.wynnngreen@dmschools.org).

Retaliation against a person who made a report or complaint of sexual harassment, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation or resolution of a sexual harassment report or complaint is strictly prohibited. Retaliation includes threats, coercion, discrimination, intimidation, reprisals, and/or adverse actions related to employment or education. Any individual who believed they have been retaliated against in violation of this Policy should immediately contact the District's Title IX Coordinator.

Reference [Appendix A](#) for the full Sexual Harassment Procedures Manual.

## EMPLOYEE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

### Appropriate Attire

As professionals in our schools, we realize and value the public's perception of our roles as mentors and models for students. Therefore, the following dress code will apply to all employees throughout the school District.

Any employee who deals with the public should ensure that they are appropriately dressed for the occasion. We trust we can rely on the professional judgment of our staff in choosing attire that is appropriate for their particular job responsibilities. Your attire should help project a professional atmosphere with students, staff, parents and other guests at our offices and schools.

Supervisors of specific departments (transportation, food service, etc.) may require specific uniforms or more detailed dress codes to be worn during working hours while on duty.

#### Additional Guidelines

- Clothes should not have inappropriate pictures or phrases for an educational environment
- Employees shall not wear apparel that is inappropriately revealing
- All staff will wear their District-issued ID badges in a visible location
- If administration determines an employee's jewelry or tattoos present a conflict with the employee's job or work environment, the employee will be encouraged to identify appropriate options, such as removal of excess or offensive jewelry, covering of tattoos, or other reasonable means to resolve the conflict

School District staff members who do not, in the judgment of the principal/supervisor, reasonably conform to this dress code shall receive a notice from their principal/ supervisor. Repeated violations or refusal to comply with the directions of the principal/ supervisor by an employee could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

### Employee Conduct

The intent of these conduct guidelines is to encourage all District employees to strive for and achieve high standards of job performance and workplace conduct that are essential to ensure delivery of quality services, and to help provide an objective, consistent, and equitable system of dealing with potential employee conduct issues. These guidelines are also intended to protect the well-being of all District employees and students. As such, it is the District's goal to support and assist staff who have personal or professional difficulties which may impact their professional performance, by providing coaching and professional growth opportunities. It is also important that as a high-achieving system, we operate as a consistent, harmonious, and transparent organization by clearly articulating the applicable conduct guidelines.

The District expects its employees to meet certain performance standards, to maintain acceptable attendance, to comply with a variety of District rules and policies, and to conduct themselves with proper regard to the rights of other employees, students, and the District. Employees need to be aware of all Board policies applicable to employee conduct.

Throughout the year, the District has to respond to and address inappropriate employee conduct, which may result in disciplinary action up to and including discharge from employment. These conduct guidelines are designed to achieve objective, consistent, and equitable treatment of employees.

Supervisors will have training and coaching sessions with employees throughout the year to give guidance and support. If corrective action becomes necessary, the District utilizes a system of progressive discipline depending on the level of infraction. The District's progressive disciplinary system is not intended to be a penalty system. Rather, it is a system to help define the problem, record the facts,

communicate the seriousness of a problem, define the improvements that are necessary, specify a time period allowed for such improvement, and advise what can occur if improvements are not accomplished.

In most circumstances, the District does not issue disciplinary action without conducting an objective due process including fact finding and/or investigation, which ordinarily includes an opportunity for employees to explain or defend their actions. If the results (determined based upon preponderance of information) from the due process demonstrate that discipline is appropriate, the District then utilizes the appropriate level of discipline from the guidelines set forth below.

Violations are handled by the District through the following documentation and incremental steps of progressive discipline depending on the circumstance:

- Record of Discussion or Oral/Written (based on job classification)
- Written Reprimand
- Suspension
- Discharge

For more serious rule violations, the District may deem it necessary to issue a higher level of discipline to an employee (immediate discharge for the most serious violations with the first conduct violation).

While it is not possible to list all the infractions for which an employee will be disciplined, the following list provides examples of inappropriate, unacceptable conduct, which the District has categorized by levels of severity to utilize as guidance for determining the appropriate level of discipline:

#### **Level One Violations**

- Tardiness
- Smoking or using tobacco or e-cigarettes on District property
- Violation of dress code
- Unprofessional workplace communication (example: politics)
- Foul language (cursing, not directed at someone or not in the presence of students)
- Personal use of email or internet
- Failure to maintain satisfactory and harmonious working relationships with the public or other employees
- Inefficiency in the performance of duties

#### **Level Two Violations**

- Inappropriate social media - see District guidelines on pg. 30 or the following link: <https://www.dmschools.org/news-and-information/social-media/77557-2/>
- Excessive absences (refer to the attendance policy on pg. 30 and pp. 45-52 in [Employee Information Handbook](#))
- Negligent misuse of public funds
- Negligence or failure to perform work duties
- Foul language (cursing in the presence of students)
- Negligent release of confidential information without proper authority
- Careless, negligence or improper use of property
- Unauthorized use of District equipment
- Earning unauthorized Comp Time/OT
- Sleeping on the job
- Insubordination
- Failure or inability to complete a required training program that is a part of a job assignment, including Vector Solutions (formerly SafeSchools)

### **Level Three Violations**

- Abusive language or cursing (directed at another employee, student, parent, community member)
- Unauthorized or improper use of any type of leave
- Failure to report to work without notification for a period of one (1) or two (2) days
- Failure to comply with school safety practices and policies including use of unlabeled or unauthorized product container in the performance of the job
- Interference with a District investigation; failure to fully cooperate and/or provide truthful information in a District investigation
- Inappropriate use of de-escalation techniques and/or CPI guidelines
- Fighting (verbal)
- Threats (verbal)
- Intentionally releasing confidential information without proper authority
- Falsifying reported timecards or inappropriately altering payroll information
- Failure to obtain or maintain a current license or certificate required by law or organizational standards as a condition of employment.

### **Level Four Violations** (Potentially Discharge for First Conduct Violation)

- Use of derogatory terms or hateful speech/actions towards or about a protected class in any context (example: use of the “n” word)
- Fighting (physical)
- Threats (physical)
- Inappropriate physical contact with students or adults
- Refusal to work or leaving workplace without authorization
- Theft
- Intentional misuse of public funds
- Willful destruction of property
- Gambling in the District facilities, on District property or the use of District equipment
- Gross misconduct unbecoming an employee
- Conviction of a felony charged by court of proper jurisdiction, provided the felony is relevant to the position.
- Indecent conduct or inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature
- Use of undue influence to gain or attempt to gain promotion, leave, favorable assignment, or other individual benefit
- Falsification, fraud, or omission of information in applying for a position or in completing job responsibilities
- Failure to report to work without notifying immediate supervisor of an appropriate reason, for a period of three (3) consecutive days will be considered to have voluntarily quit their position with the District
- Possession and/or use of alcohol
- Operating a motor vehicle while under the influence (OWI) three (3) or more times (after August 1, 2023)
- Possession and/or use of a controlled substance
- Possession and/or use of weapons on District property
- Violation of, or failure to comply with, an executive order or published rules and regulations of the District, i.e., sexual harassment, hostile work environment harassment, Chapter 102 (student abuse), Chapter 103, discrimination, etc.
- Any other act which endangers the safety, health, or well-being of another person, or which is of sufficient magnitude that the consequences cause or act to cause disruption of work or gross discredit to the organization.



## Evaluations

### Certified

Evaluations for teachers are based on the Iowa Teaching Standards & Criteria which have been referenced to the Marzano Teaching Standards. Administrators are evaluated based on the Iowa Standards for School Leaders.

### Beginning Teachers

Pursuant to the rules of the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners, the first two years of a new-to-profession (“Beginning”) teacher shall be served under an initial educator license. During each year that a Beginning teacher serves under an initial educator license, that teacher will receive three formal observations as part of their evaluation.

### Probationary Teachers

Under Iowa Code Section 279.19, the first three consecutive years of employment of a teacher in the District are designated as probationary. However, if the teacher successfully completed a probationary period of employment for another Iowa school district, the probationary period shall not exceed two years. Each probationary teacher who is not a beginning teacher shall be formally observed for the purpose of evaluation at least two times during the first semester of employment, one time during the second semester of employment, and at least once every year after that for the remainder of their probationary period. Any employee may receive additional observations at any time during their employment with the District.

### Non-Probationary Teachers

All non-probationary teachers shall be observed and evaluated at least once every three years. Any employee may receive additional evaluations at any time during their employment with the District. Each non-probationary teacher whom the principal or appropriate supervisor considers likely to be evaluated as less than “meets” shall be formally observed.


### Non-Certified Staff

New employees will be evaluated at least once during the first 12 months of employment and then will be scheduled for formal evaluation at least once every three years. Any employee may receive additional evaluations at any time during their employment with the District.

## Fiscal Responsibility and Misuse of Public Funds

It is unprofessional and unethical for any school district employee to misuse public funds. Misuse of public funds and property includes:

- a) Failing to account property for funds collected that were entrusted to the practitioner in an educational context.
- b) Converting public property or funds to the personal use of the practitioner.
- c) Submitting fraudulent requests for reimbursement of expenses or pay.
- d) Combining public or school-related funds with personal funds.
- e) Failing to use time or funds granted for the purpose for which they were intended.
- f) Expenditures that lack public purpose.

The  [Financial Service Procedure Manual](#) is a supplement to the DMPS Employee Information Handbook and includes policies and procedures that each employee is expected to understand and comply with.

[District website](#) / [School District Departments](#)/ [Office of Business & Finance](#) / [Finance Resources](#)

## Gifts

All District employees are considered public employees. Per [Iowa Code § 68B.22](#), public employees may accept “nonmonetary items with a value of three dollars or less.” In addition, Board policy [437](#) states “only

those gifts and honoraria permitted by law may be received by a district official, employee, or members of their immediate family.” Except for incidental gifts of negligible monetary value, gifts from parents or students to staff members who have direct influence over the student are prohibited.

[437 Policy Title: Gifts to District Officials and Employees](#)

## Staff Technology Use – District Provided Equipment Laptop/Mobile Device Agreement

### Computers and Mobile Devices

Des Moines Public Schools has formalized policies to guide the use of technology for the district. Below are several key points for staff. For a comprehensive list of policies related to all technology use, please see this link: [Technology Policies](#).

1. Computer use is only for legal, authorized purposes: Unauthorized or illegal uses include but are not limited to harassment; destruction of or damage to equipment, software, or data belonging to others; unauthorized copying of copyrighted materials; private business unrelated to school activities.
2. Authorized Users: Must be District staff member or student. The computer must always be in the possession of the staff member. Staff are responsible for notifying the Technology Department in a timely manner of any change in the physical location or primary use of an IT asset as per the [IT Asset Management Policy](#). In order to allow group use of the computer it is permissible for additional District users to access the computer within the presence of District staff; appropriate use is the responsibility of the staff member to monitor.
3. Use Restrictions: As per the [Acceptable Use Policy](#), the use must follow District computer user rules which states that users must never engage in any activity that might be harmful to systems or to any information stored thereon, such as creating or propagating viruses, disrupting services, or damaging files or making unauthorized or non-approved changes. Under no circumstances is an employee of DMPS authorized to engage in any activity that is illegal under local, state, federal or international law while utilizing DMPS owned resources.
4. Account Security: As per the [Identity Management Policy](#), staff must make every reasonable effort to keep their account secure, which includes safeguarding the account credentials such as email address and password. If you suspect your account has been tampered with, you can initiate a password reset at: [myaccount.microsoft.com](http://myaccount.microsoft.com). Additional information for password standards can be found in the [Password Control Standard Policy](#).
5. Travel Policy: The traveler must notify Technology of all foreign travel one week prior to departure via the [International Travel Request Form](#). **Logins from locations outside of the United States are automatically disabled.** If your account is disabled, you will need to notify the Technology Customer Service Desk (CSD) at 515-242-8161 during normal business hours to enable your account.

All travelers planning a trip to a foreign country must review the [High-Risk Countries List](#). If travel is planned to any High-Risk countries during a trip the traveler must consider the entire trip HIGH-RISK. All DMPS devices including laptops and iPads are to be left at home or in a secure location at DMPS's office during High-Risk Travel. Login attempts from High-Risk countries will not be granted.

6. Software: As per the [Software Purchase Approval Policy](#), **before** the purchase of software- even ones with zero cost, a request must be made, reviewed, and decided before proceeding. Only a school principal or department director or their proxy can submit for technology approval. This ensures the leadership is aware and approves of the technology being leveraged under their supervision.
7. Loss and Damage to Computer and/or Equipment: Staff members shall return the laptop to the District in the same condition received except for ordinary wear, at the location in which it was received. You will be charged for a missing computer, protective case, power supply, or bag.

8. Use Outside of District: Staff members can use the computer away from school facilities and will be responsible for loss or damage to the computer. It is recommended to check your personal insurance coverage.
9. Investigations: Authorized users will promptly complete incident reports and deliver to the District a copy of all related documents. Authorized Users will also fully cooperate with the District's investigation of any vandalism, theft, accident, claim, or lawsuit involving use of computer.
10. Repairs and Alterations: By consenting to this agreement, staff member is acknowledging financial responsibility for the cost of restoring the computer back to its original configuration for loss, damage, unauthorized repairs, replacement parts or alterations.
11. Incidental, Special or Consequential Damages: Staff member waives all claims against the District for any incidental, special or consequential damages in connection with the furnishing, performance or use of computer.

## Non-Mobile Telephones

For the safety of students and staff: never disconnect, remove, or swap out a telephone in an occupied space. These telephones are assigned and registered to their specific location for Emergency Management Services and 911 response. Moving telephones places an unacceptable amount of risk that emergency response will be delayed or inhibited. Should you need access to your extension because of a move, leave the phones where they are and open a technology ticket and allow the DMPS Technology Team to serve you.

Please refer to the [District Technology Resources](#) website for additional information about technology equipment, software, and account information and the best course for requesting support.

## Use of Personal Devices During Work Hours

Any District-issued or personal electronic devices (including but not limited to smart phones and cell phones) are to be used appropriately and not during an employee's supervisory or instructional duties, unless the use is directly related to the performance of those duties.

Employees must ensure that student safety and well-being are not impacted by the use of any electronic devices (texting or e-mailing, etc.) during work hours. All personal communications should be made during sanctioned breaks and not in the midst of a professional meeting or at a time that interferes with professional duties. District landline telephones are available for official school business only. In case of an emergency, a message may be sent or received, or telephone call made, but the communication should be limited to no more than five minutes and the employee must ensure appropriate supervision of students during this time, if applicable.

Employees will not be called on the phone during the workday except in an emergency. Failure to follow these guidelines may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

The [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#) is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records and personally identifiable information. Employees shall not create photographs, audio recordings, or videos of students:

- Without prior authorization from their building administrator (which shall only be granted if there is a reasonable job-related basis for creating the photograph or recording), or
- If a reasonable educator would believe there is a health or safety emergency and where the photograph or recording is necessary to protect the health and safety of staff, students, or others. In that case, the staff member must promptly notify the building administrator of the existence of the photograph or recording and may not share or disseminate the photograph or recording in a way that violates the student's rights under FERPA.

Violation of this policy may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

## Social Media Guidelines

The District recognizes the importance of social media as a means of communications. The District encourages the appropriate use of social media as a means to communicate, whether as an individual or as a school or District program, if such use is helpful in reaching our various constituencies.

The District acknowledges that its employees have the right under the First Amendment as private citizens to speak out on matters of public concern. However, the District has the right to regulate the speech of employees in specific circumstances. Accordingly, it is essential that employees conduct themselves in such a way that their personal and/or educational use of social media does not adversely affect their position with the District.

The purpose of these guidelines is to establish protocols for the use of social media by employees and to outline expectations for its use. Social media includes websites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or other social media and applications.

1. Expectations for all use of social media (personal and educational)
  - District employees' behavior on social media should reflect the same standards of honesty, respect and consideration they are expected to adhere to in all forms of communications and interactions.
  - Do not submit or post confidential or protected information about the District, its students, alumni, or employees. You should assume that most information about a student is protected from disclosure by both federal law (the [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#) and state law [Iowa Code Section 22.7\(1\)](#)). Disclosure of confidential or protected information may result in liability for invasion of privacy or defamation and result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.
  - Report, as required by law, any information found on a social networking site that falls under the mandatory reporting guidelines.
  - Do not use language that could be considered defamatory, obscene, proprietary, or libelous, or that constitutes an incitement to imminent violence or a true threat.
  - Do not post or otherwise publish content that is or could reasonably be perceived as bullying, discrimination, harassment or sexual harassment in violation of District policy.
  - Exercise caution with regards to exaggeration, colorful language, guesswork, copyrighted materials, legal conclusions, and derogatory remarks or characterizations.
  - Consider whether a particular posting puts your professional reputation and effectiveness as a District employee at risk.
  - Be cautious of security risks when using third-party applications within a social media site.
  - Run updated malware protection to avoid infections of spyware and adware that social media sites might place on your personal computer.
  - Be alert to the possibility of phishing scams that arrive through a social media site.
2. Expectations for the personal use of social media

In addition to Section 1, above, employees using social media for personal (non-District-related) purposes are expected to:

  - Refrain from accepting current District students as "friends" on personal social media sites.
  - Be aware that people classified as "friends" have the ability to download and share your information with others.
  - Remember that once something is posted to a social media site it may remain available online even if you think it is removed.

- Assume that anything you post to a personal social media site can be accessed by anyone and will be available forever.
  - Sharing school or District social media posts to your personal social media page (i.e., retweeting a @DMSchools announcement to your personal Twitter page) is acceptable and encouraged if it is something of interest to you.
  - Set and maintain appropriate social media privacy settings. Be aware that social media sites can change their privacy policies and standards at any time, possibly exposing posts that employees believed were private to the public.
  - Avoid using a social media site to post content which may be considered defamatory or obscene, and do not post content which violates copyright or other intellectual property laws.
  - Never use a social media site to post information about a District student or employee in a way that is or could be reasonably perceived as discriminatory, harassing, or defamatory.
  - Never use a social media site to post or otherwise publish confidential or protected information about the District, its students, or its employees. Disclosure of confidential or protected information may result in liability for invasion of privacy or defamation.
3. Expectations for the educational use of social media  
In addition to Section 1, above, employees using social media for educational (school or District-related) purposes are expected to:
- Comply with all District policies and state laws on the use of District-owned hardware, software and networks apply, as relevant, to the use of social media for a District school, class or program.
  - Notify your immediate supervisor and the Office of Communications if you wish to establish a social media site for a school, class or program.
  - If using Facebook, create an organization page for your school, class or program; do NOT use a personal Facebook page for school-related purposes (the Office of Communications can provide guidance on how to do this).
  - Establish expectations for acceptable use on your social media site that are compliant with the District's expectations for acceptable use.
  - Do not post anything on a school or District affiliated social media page that advocates for or against a political candidate or ballot initiative.
  - Refrain from posting or otherwise publishing images that include students without parental release forms on file, which can be confirmed in Infinite Campus.
  - Pay close attention to the site's security settings and allow only approved participants access to the site.
  - Remember that behavior inappropriate in school or the classroom should be considered inappropriate online.
  - Seek consent before using the District logo or school-specific logos or mascots. The use of the DMPS logo should be approved by the District's Office of Communications. The use of a school's logo or mascot should be approved by the principal or their designee.

Employees found to have engaged in inappropriate use of social media or other electronic communication may be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

#### Establishing a school or District-related social media site

Anyone who wishes to establish a social media site for a District office, school, class or program must first notify their immediate supervisor and the Office of Communications. If you have questions on content, you would like posted to the District's social media pages please contact:

Phil Roeder at (515) 242-8153 or [phillip.roeder@dmschools.org](mailto:phillip.roeder@dmschools.org) or  
Amanda Lewis at (515) 242-8162 or [amanda.lewis@dmschools.org](mailto:amanda.lewis@dmschools.org)

### Acceptable Use Guideline Example

The following acceptable use guideline is posted to the school District's page, and provides an example that can be adopted for other District-related social media sites:

Des Moines Public Schools has created this Facebook page to serve as an additional means to share news, provide information, and facilitate communications within our school District community. We thank all of the Facebook users who "like" our page and contribute to our online community. Messages posted to this Facebook page do not necessarily represent the views of Des Moines Public Schools. Des Moines Public Schools reserves the right to remove comments and/or report users who post comments which, in the school District's sole discretion, bully, intimidate, or harass any individual; contain obscenity, nudity or gratuitous violence; are commercial solicitations; are factually erroneous, libelous, or wildly off-topic; are from anonymous blog trolls; constitute incitement to violence or violation of law or District policy, or which constitute true threats; or that otherwise violate State law, school District policy, or the social media site's own policies.

### Use of Leave

Certified staff workday is 7 hours and 45 minutes. Certified staff may only take a half or full day leave. A half-day absence is up to 3 hours and 52 minutes. If a substitute is required, they will be paid a half or full day respectively.

An associate's workday is 7 hours and 30 minutes (Ruby Van Meter associates' workday is 7 hours and 45 minutes). With the approval of the Director of Personnel, specific schools/programs may be designated at 7 hours and 45 minutes. An associate may only take a half or full day leave if a substitute is required. Requests for hourly leave will only be granted with the approval of the immediate supervisor if it does not disrupt service. A half-day absence is up to 3 hours and 45 minutes. If a substitute is required, they will be paid a half or full day respectively.

Employees in bargaining units should refer to their applicable [Comprehensive Agreement](#) for more specific information.

### Voluntarily Quit – Non-Certified Employees

A non-certified employee that is absent from work for three consecutive scheduled workdays, without providing notification of a valid reason to their immediate supervisor, will be considered to have voluntarily quit their employment.

### Workday

Determination of the work schedule and assignment of work will be made by the District and may be changed from time to time to meet the changing needs of the school or department.

The following is an abbreviated explanation of policies and guidelines that have been proven in the past to be the most important for staff members to know. The list is not meant to be all-inclusive.

### Inclement Weather

Employees can access inclement weather/closing information at this [link](#).

### Work from Home

Working from home in lieu of time spent on duty at the workplace, in the event of inclement weather or otherwise, is not permitted except with the express consent of the employee's immediate supervisor.

### Remote Work

Certain positions throughout the District have been authorized to perform all duties remotely. All remote positions must be authorized by the Department Chief or Executive Director.



## Length of Day

### Certified Staff

Certified staff are expected to be on duty during the time the office in the facility where they are assigned is normally open. The total required workday for certified employees is 7 hours and 45 minutes, including a 30-minute duty-free lunch. Extra time spent is at the certified employee's discretion (except in cases of required meetings and activities) and is not to be accumulated as compensatory time nor is it paid time except when it has been pre-approved by the Director of Personnel and is paid through such sources as grants when they are available.

### Non-Certified Staff

The total workday and workweek for non-certified staff members is to be determined by each department. Please refer to the [Comprehensive Agreement](#) for specific hours for each group.

## Arrival and Dismissal Time

Arrival and dismissal times for each employee will be determined by the needs of the school or the department.

## Time Clock

All hourly and non-exempt salaried employees who report to a district building are required to record their hours using a district time clock. Employees are required to clock in and out each workday. Additionally, employees are required to clock in and out for their unpaid lunch period. Exceptions may be approved by the Director of Personnel.

The District prohibits fraudulent time keeping activities such as falsifying timesheet records, clocking in for someone else, and clocking in while away from the job. Employees who participate in fraudulent time keeping will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

## Lunch Period

Unless the [Comprehensive Agreement](#) for a certain group has other stipulations, each employee will be provided a 30-minute uninterrupted lunch break. Lunch time is to be duty-free with no supervisory requirements except in an unusual situation such as one involving student safety.

## Leaving the Building

Employees may leave the building during the workday with the permission of the principal or immediate supervisor. When leaving your work area for more than a few minutes, notify the office manager or immediate supervisor:

- That you are leaving
- Where you are going
- How long you plan to be gone

This serves as protection for you and the District.

## Rest Periods

Non-exempt staff members are allowed one 15-minute break in the morning and one 15-minute break in the afternoon of a full workday. Breaks not taken within the day will not be accumulated or added to comp time. The 15-minute breaks cannot be added together to make a 30-minute break and they cannot be combined with the 30-minute lunch period to make a longer lunch period. Breaks may not be used at the end of the day to leave early or at the beginning of the day to arrive late.

## Faculty Meetings and Student/Family Activities for School-Based Employees

### Certified Staff

According to the [Comprehensive Agreement](#), certified employees may be required to remain after the regular workday to attend faculty meetings or activities no more than **two (2) times each month that school is in session**. Attendance at the meetings shall not be required longer than **sixty (60) minutes beyond their pupils' regular dismissal time**.

In addition to staff meetings, certified staff may be required to attend student/family activities.

**Student/Family Activities.** Prior to the start of the school year, the Employer will compile a list of Student/Family Activities occurring outside of the employee contract hours for the school year. The Employer, in collaboration with the Association, shall assign a point value ranging from one (1) to four (4) points, based on the estimated time and/or effort required per activity. Each employee shall be expected to accumulate two (2) points per semester. In the event an employee accepts an activity worth three (3) or four (4) points, the employee shall only be required to accumulate four (4) points total for the school year. If the meeting and/or activity falls on a holiday weekend, attendance cannot be required, unless the employee holds an extra duty pay assignment.

Provisions of this section do not apply to SUCCESS employees or **Bilingual Family Liaisons** who routinely attend morning/evening meetings and work a flexible schedule.

### Non-Certified Staff and Educational Support Professionals (ESP Comprehensive Agreement)

An employee may be required to remain after the end of the regular workday for the purpose of attending staff meetings no more than 2 times each month **that school is in session**. Attendance at such faculty meetings or activity shall not be required longer than **sixty (60) minutes beyond their pupils' regular dismissal time**. Compensatory time **or overtime** shall be earned in increments of reasonable rounding to the closest fifteen (15) minutes.

## STUDENT AND CLASSROOM ISSUES

### Child Abuse Reporting

To protect victims of child abuse and in compliance with Iowa law, incidents of alleged child abuse should be reported to the proper authorities. All licensed school employees, teachers, coaches, and paraeducators are mandatory reporters as provided by law and are to report alleged incidents of child abuse, they become aware of within the scope of their professional duties.

When a mandatory reporter suspects a student is the victim of child abuse, the mandatory reporter shall make an oral report of the suspected child abuse to the Iowa Department of Human Services within 24 hours of becoming aware of the abusive incident and shall make a written report to the Iowa Department of Human Services within 48 hours following the oral report. If the mandatory reporter believes the child is in immediate danger, the local law enforcement agency will also be notified.

The creation and submission of a report should be kept confidential, and no reference to the making of the report should be placed in the child's school record. Every attempt is made by the Iowa Department of Human Services and the District to maintain your confidentiality as a mandatory reporter.

To make a report of suspected child abuse, call the [Iowa Department of Human Services](#) toll-free 24-hour hotline: 1-800-362-2178. A [Report of Suspected Child Abuse](#) form is available on the Iowa Department of Human Services website (<http://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/470-0665.pdf>).

There is a different process for reporting abuse of a student by a District employee. An employee who suspects or has knowledge about abuse of a student by a District employee must report such abuse to that building's Level 1 Investigator. [See appendix for the list of all Level 1 Investigators by building.](#)

## Level One Investigator

Level one investigator training provides educators with guidance about the differences between a school employee's mandatory reporting responsibilities and the procedures for investigating allegations of abuse of students by school employees.

The District, in accordance with chapter 102.5(3), has a trained level one investigator at every building location in the school District.

Any individual wishing to report a student being abused by an employee shall notify the building Level I Investigator. [See appendix for the list of all Level I Investigators by building.](#)

## **Corporal Punishment, Restraint and Seclusion of Students**

School employees are prohibited by law from using corporal punishment, mechanical restraint, and/or prone restraint against any student. Certain actions by school employees are not considered corporal punishment. School employees may use "reasonable and necessary force, not designed or intended to cause pain" to do certain things, such as prevent harm to persons.

State law places limits on school employees' abilities to restrain or seclude any student. The law limits why, how, where, and for how long a school employee may restrain or seclude a student. If a student is restrained or secluded, the school must maintain documentation and must provide certain notices to the child's parent. District employees will receive training in accordance with 281 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 103 on physical restraint and seclusion prior to using these behavior interventions with students.

Non-employees whose duties could require the individual to participate in or be present when physical restraint or seclusion is being used will be invited to join employee training on this subject.

Failure to comply with Chapter 103 training or requirements shall result in discipline, up to and including termination.

## **Documentation Requirement**

In accordance with Chapter 103, following an incident of physical, restraint, or seclusion, notice must be given to the student's parent or legal guardian. Notification, or a documented attempt at notification, must occur the day of the incident. Additionally, parents or guardians must be notified in writing within three days of the incident.

## **Crisis Support Protocol**

Student and staff safety are the utmost priority. It is important if a situation arises, when a staff member needs assistance de-escalating a behavioral situation, in which there is a perceived physical threat, and/or a student poses a danger to him/herself or others that:

1. All staff know strategies to maintain a safe environment
2. All staff know how to access support
3. Support is readily available

School-wide routines, crisis training, and planning, good communication, and quick reference materials are a few essential tools in ensuring that staff know how to obtain support, and that support is readily available. The following guidelines are posted in all buildings near the telephone to ensure quick access to support as well as strategies for de-escalation and personal safety.

**How to Access Crisis Support**

➤ **Crisis- Student Behavior With The Potential to Harm Self or Others\***

Call \_\_\_\_\_ at extension \_\_\_\_\_.

If no answer call \_\_\_\_\_ at extension \_\_\_\_\_.

- Tell the person you need a staff member for crisis support in room \_\_\_\_\_.

➤ **While Waiting for Assistance**

- Use a quiet, calm voice
- If you have to move, use slow movements and give the child space
- If possible, remove the stressor to the child
- Provide clear guidelines for the child, offering an alternative action
- If necessary, send the other students to room \_\_\_\_\_
- If the child has a behavior plan, follow it
- Use basic behavior principles to keep yourself safe -block and move
- Document the student's behavior if possible

**\*In the case an imminent danger that puts you or others at immediate serious risk of death or serious physical harm with no other reasonable resources, call 911.**

The False Claims Act is a federal law that makes it a crime for any person or organization to knowingly make a false record or file a false claim regarding any federal health care program, which includes any plan or program that provides health benefits, whether directly, through insurance, or otherwise, which is funded directly, in whole or in part, by the United States government or any State health care program. "Knowingly" includes having actual knowledge that a claim is false or acting with "reckless disregard" as to whether a claim is false.

Examples of potential false claims include knowingly billing Medicaid for services that were not provided, submitting inaccurate or misleading claims for actual services provided, or making false statements to obtain payment for services.

The False Claims Act contains provisions that allow individuals with original information concerning fraud involving government health care programs to file a lawsuit on behalf of the government and, if the lawsuit is successful, to receive a portion of recoveries received by the government.

Teachers, registered nurses, mental health professionals, bus drivers, paraprofessionals or any other employee of the District must act with honesty and integrity in all of your employment or business activities. Please follow all laws and regulations, policies and procedures that apply to your work activities. These requirements include providing services that are billed under Medicaid. You must maintain accurate medical records and submit only complete and appropriate claims for services provided.

The federal False Claims Act protects employees from being fired, demoted, threatened or harassed for filing a lawsuit under the Act.

The federal False Claims Act under 31 U.S.C. §§ 3729 - 3733 identifies, in part, that:

Any person who knowingly makes, uses, or causes to be made or used, a false record or statement to get a false or fraudulent claim paid or approved by the government is liable to the United States Government for a civil penalty of:

- Not less than \$5,500 and not more than \$11,000
- Plus, three times the amount of damages which the government sustains because of the act of that person.

Administrative remedies for false claims and statements under title 31 of the United States Code, Chapter 38, identify in part, that:

Any person who makes, presents, or submits a claim that:

- The person knows or has reason to know is false, fictitious, or fraudulent and is a statement in which the person making, presenting, or submitting such statement has a duty to include such material fact; or
- Is payment for the provision of property or services which the person has not provided as claimed.
- Shall be subject to, in addition to any other remedy that may be prescribed by law, currently a civil penalty of not more than \$5,500 for any such claim.

Procedures for detecting and preventing fraud, waste, and abuse include:

Internal:

- Monthly internal audits of individual case records to assure that Medicaid funded services have been provided and only Medicaid eligible services have been claimed
- Billing claims submitted are independently reviewed for accuracy and correctness and approved through the supervisory structure. The claims process is structured so that no one person has the authority to prepare and submit a Medicaid billing claim.

External:

- Periodic audits by the appropriate state/federal agencies to ensure that the District:
  - Employs generally accepted accounting practices,
  - Employs an adequate system of checks and balances to reduce or eliminate opportunities for fraud, and
  - Appropriately calculates rates that are used to bill Medicaid or other guarantors.

Please contact your immediate supervisor, or [Erin Jenkins](mailto:erin.jenkins@dmschools.org), Administrative Assistant, 2100 Fleur Drive, 515-242-7617, [erin.jenkins@dmschools.org](mailto:erin.jenkins@dmschools.org).

## Services to Students During Non-Contract Hours

Services, such as respite, speech, tutoring, therapy, etc., in the community are important to children with special needs and their families. District staff members have special skills and may have the interest in providing services during non-contract hours.

The decision to provide care services during non-contract time is a personal decision of each staff member. However, staff should not provide such services to students for whom they could have responsibility for during the school day.

In the rare case that an exception to the policy is desired, a request should be made in writing to your immediate supervisor. They will confer with the special education administrator and convene the educational team that serves the child, including the parent, to discuss the merits of an exception to the policy as it relates directly to the individual student's needs.

Exceptions, when granted, are temporary. The sponsoring agency along with the parent will work to identify other care providers who might be of assistance to the family as soon as possible.

## **Student Field Trips and Excursions**

### **Purpose**

The Board of Education supports learning opportunities outside of the school building and understands that such opportunities are a valuable part of the educational experience in helping achieve each participating student's educational objectives. The Board also recognizes that a properly planned, well conducted, and carefully supervised field trip or excursion is a meaningful part of the curriculum in any classroom.

The Board of Education will not be responsible for any field trip or excursion that is not approved in accordance with the procedures set forth in this policy and the accompanying regulations.

Extracurricular activities shall be those activities which are not a part of the regular school academic program and for which no approved class credit is given. Generally, the Board will not sponsor, subsidize, or approve travel for extracurricular type activities, except those held within a District program or activity or supported by the District. Extracurricular organizations desiring approval of a field trip or extracurricular trip must request that the Board approve and authorize such a trip. A request must be made to the Board, in writing, by the sponsor of such activity. Such request shall be delivered to the Superintendent or Designee in ample time prior to the Board meeting at which the request will be considered for the Board to fully review prior to acting thereon.

The Board may authorize field trips and excursions which require students to miss school days for such events that contribute to the achievement of education goals of the school district.

Each District-sponsored field trip or excursion must have at least one (1) DMPS employee who is responsible for organizing and supervising the trip, hereinafter referred to as the "sponsoring DMPS employee."

### **Definitions of Trips and Excursions:**

#### **School Sponsored Local Trips**

Any out of school trip (i.e. field trips, co-curricular, student activities) or planned activity in which a class or group of students leaves the school grounds for the purpose of continuing and extending the program of instruction, participation and/or competition. Local trips are considered instructional and planned with objectives determined in advance and appropriate instruction preceding and following each trip.

A building principal may authorize day long or shorter local trips and excursions when such events contribute to the achievement of education goals of DMPS. DMPS will provide bus transportation and a substitute teacher if one is needed for principal-approved day-long or shorter field trips and excursions.

In authorizing field trips and excursions, the building principal will consider the financial condition of the school district including their site-based building budget, the educational benefit of the activity, the inherent risks or dangers of the activity, and other factors deemed relevant to the activity. Written parental permission will be required prior to the student's participation in all field trips and excursions.

Field trips and excursions are to be arranged with the building principal well in advance. A detailed schedule and budget must be submitted by the sponsoring DMPS employee to the building principal along with the request for authorization of the field trip or excursion. Following field trips and excursions,

the sponsoring DMPS employee may be required to submit a written or oral summary of the event. The sponsoring DMPS employee must provide the building principal with adequate documentation to support any expenditure of DMPS funds (e.g., receipts).

For school sponsored trips where student participation is required, all costs will be paid by DMPS. Transportation costs paid by the school district are bus costs. Any transportation costs in excess of busing costs will be paid by the organization or student activity.

#### District Supported Overnight Trips

The Superintendent or their designee may authorize principal requested overnight trips and excursions when such events require students to miss school and contribute to the achievement of education goals of the school district. In certain instances, DMPS may provide for a substitute teacher if one is needed, and information regarding planning and fundraising efforts will be allowed using family email along with staff time and school facilities. Written parental permission will be required prior to the student's participation in field trips and excursions.

1. **Out-of-State Trip:** Any out-of-state school trip which requires missing multiple school days and is initiated as an extension of the educational program or school sponsored activity. Cost of substitutes may be incurred by DMPS. PreK-5 grade students are not eligible for Out-of-State trips.

If an academic individual or team, as a result of in-state competition, qualifies for national competition, DMPS will support this competition.

For DMPS-supported national trips where student participation is required, all costs will be paid by DMPS. Transportation costs paid by the school district are bus costs. Any transportation costs in excess of busing costs will be paid by the organization or student activity. In the event a national trip is cancelled for any reason beyond the control of the district, DMPS will not be held liable or responsible for costs lost by families. Travelers may purchase travel insurance at their own cost if they so choose.

2. **International Trip:** Any school trip that includes travel outside of the United States which requires missing multiple school days and is initiated as an extension of the educational program or school sponsored activity. Costs associated with substitutes and staff travel connected to world language trips during the school are incurred by the school district. Costs associated with student travel will be paid by the organization or student activity. Only students in grades 9-12 are eligible to participate in international trips. The Superintendent or their designee may elect not to sponsor international trips, even when related to the educational program. If no sponsorship or approval is provided, the trip will be treated as a non-district sponsored trip. In the event an international trip is cancelled for any reason beyond the control of the district, DMPS will not be held liable or responsible for costs lost by families. Travelers may purchase travel insurance at their own cost if they so choose.

#### Non-District Supported Trips

DMPS cannot accept responsibility for non-school district supported trips. Non-DMPS supported trips may not occur during school time, and; therefore, shall not be planned during school time. No school resources, including but not limited to school equipment, staff time and/or school facilities will be used to communicate information regarding these trips.

A building principal may authorize the distribution of information regarding trips and excursions that take place outside of the school calendar when such events contribute to the achievement of the education goals of the school district. School and district family email information, along with staff time and use of school facilities will not be allowed. No costs will be incurred by the school district; expenses for necessary substitute teachers cannot be paid for with school district funds and compensatory time will not be granted to individual employees.



Information regarding planning and fundraising efforts will be allowed and may include only the following information:

- a) Overview of the trip, including dates, locations, estimated costs, and purpose;
- b) Request for private email address to receive additional information;
- c) Notice that the trip is a non-district sponsored trip;
- d) Name of the commercial agency coordinating the trip.

Employees engaging in a private venture, cooperating with, receiving benefit from, or serving as agents for a commercial agency, will not use DMPS work/contract time, classrooms/school facilities, materials or other district resources to promote, plan, organize or recruit students for the non-district supported trip.

If an employee cooperates with a commercial agency in organizing such a trip, the employee will provide participating students and their parents/guardians with a disclaimer that states the trip is a non-district supported event and not endorsed by the district.

#### Exceptions

The Superintendent or their designee is empowered to authorize trips and use of resources not covered in rules stated above. This will be done only in unusual situations, particularly trips that combine education and social experiences or trips of long distances.

#### Required Planning and Procedures for School Supported, District Supported and District Affiliated Trips

##### Required Pre-Travel Planning

**Approvals and Sharing:** Any approvals or sharing required by the school principals and/or the Superintendent/designee are to be completed before sharing information with students and families by trip sponsors and school staff. For District-sponsored overnight trips, the Trip Request Form should be submitted at least 6 months prior to the extended trip date or at the Superintendent/designee's discretion. When this is not possible, such as a trip based on competition during the year, the request should be submitted at least 4-6 weeks prior to the proposed trip. The principal will forward the form to the Superintendent's office. Field Trip Requests should specify how the trip will benefit students in a way not possible in the classroom, how the trip fits into the curriculum, and how the teacher will follow up on the trip afterwards.

The following information shall be included in the Field Trip Request Form District-Sponsored overnight trips:

- a. The date, destination and purpose of the trip, as well as how it enhances educational objectives;
- b. The number of students participating, and the names of the staff and chaperones involved;
- c. The cost per child of the trip and the means by which the requirements are to be met (i.e. fundraising);
- d. Copies of contracts with carriers and travel agency and evidence of insurance for the carrier (if one is used);
- e. Copies of the written itinerary including locations, phone numbers, and estimated time of arrival at each location;
- f. Date of scheduled orientation meeting (minimum) where the information regarding the trip will be covered. These meetings should highlight the following; travel and packing tips, tipping, medical and health concerns, modes of transportation, hours of departure and return. Remind participants to carry sufficient personal medication supplies and physician documentation for medication to last the length of travel or to replace medication lost during the trip;
- g. Parental permission forms and travel waivers. For District-sponsored extra and co-curricular activities that have multiple local trips per season, a one-time permission form/travel waiver to cover the entire season for that activity is permissible. For any overnight trips, a separate

permission/travel waiver must be obtained for each student. Permission does not transfer from one activity to another; if a student participates in multiple activities, a permission form/travel waiver must be obtained for each activity.

- h. Upon completion of the trip, the sponsoring DMPS employee will file a written report with the Superintendent/designee and building principal or supervisor for any unusual incidents during the trip.
- i. Upon completion of the trip, the sponsoring DMPS employee will file all receipts and other documentation needed to support the expenditure of DMPS funds.

### Safety Assurances

The sponsoring DMPS employee shall take all reasonable and necessary actions to ensure:

- a. The safety and well-being of students are protected at all times;
- b. Written parental permission is sought and obtained prior to departure;
- c. The event is properly planned, and is integrated with DMPS-approved curriculum and/or other established learning goals;
- d. Each event is properly supervised and monitored by chaperones who have been approved by the DMPS Human Resources Department;
- e. Student behavior is monitored and complies with the DMPS Student Code of Conduct. Any issues should be communicated with the school principal immediately or as soon as practicable after the occurrence;
- f. A copy of each participating student's emergency medical information is provided by the school nurse and accessible during the event;
- g. For international trips, no travel is permitted to any place where the region is deemed unsuitable for student travel, the Board's liability insurance is restricted, or the U.S. Department of State has issued a Travel Warning. The trip coordinator, prior to leaving, must check with the US Department of State to ensure the travel destination is a safe place to visit;
- h. District emergency preparedness processes and crises response plans are reviewed and understood.
  - 1. **Supervision:** Adequate adult supervision (minimum 15:1 required for local trips; 10:1 for District-sponsored overnight trips) shall be provided. Every field trip shall have a minimum of one adult supervisor, including at least one DMPS certified staff member. For District-sponsored overnight trips, supervisors shall consist of the teacher/supervisor, other staff members and/or parents, unless waived by the Superintendent or their designee. Preferably, supervisors should represent all genders attending the trip.

All chaperones must meet all DMPS requirements for volunteers, have current background checks on file with the DMPS Human Resources office, and be approved by the Director of Human Resources or their designee.

All chaperones must travel to and from the sites with students. Chaperones must refrain from using alcohol and controlled substances at all times. Chaperones must refrain from using tobacco products in the presence of students, on school property and other smoke-free facilities. Chaperones must follow emergency procedures as outlined by the sponsoring DMPS employee.

**Fundraising:** Moderate fund-raising activities may be used to defray the cost of optional field trips. A list of fund-raising activities and/or organizations that will be solicited for support must be submitted with the

[Field Trip Request Form](#).

Students involved in fund raising activities must fully realize that optional field trips for which they are raising funds are tentative until approved by the Superintendent/designee. For those extended optional field trips with a total cost exceeding \$1,000 to the group of students participating, three quotations must be secured by the sponsoring DMPS employee.

All field trip costs must be budgeted in advance of field trip approval. Travel, lodging, meal expenses, substitute teacher cost, and employee stipends, if any, shall be considered part of the total cost of the trip. Costs and resources to be used must be outlined as part of the Field Trip Request Form. School supported extended trips cannot make a profit. Money collected for trips must meet the expenditure of the trip.

Money deposited will be forfeited if a student signs up for an extended trip, then decides not to participate in the trip after deadlines for dropping have passed.

2. **Participation:** Student participation in non-local school supported extended trips shall be voluntary. No student will be subjected to retribution if they choose not to participate. The sponsor of the trip should make every effort to aid children who would find such an expense a hardship. This should be done unobtrusively so as not to embarrass the child involved.
3. **Scheduling:** Every attempt must be made to schedule trips during vacation periods. If travel arrangements necessitate that school days are missed, the administration may approve staff and student absences. Extended field trips which take place while school is in session will be limited to a maximum of three regular school days. The Board directs the school administration to make every effort to limit extended/international field trips to those times when school is not in session. An anticipated amount of school time lost must be included on the Field Trip Request Form.
4. **Parent Permission and Medical Information:** Student participants will furnish written parent/guardian permission and medical emergency information, along with authorization for medical care, prior to the extended field trip.
5. **Student Participation:** Only enrolled DMPS students are eligible to attend field trips or excursions. Students may be required to meet school-based criteria for participation in a field trip or excursion, including criteria relating to student grades, attendance, and behavior. Any such criteria must be equitably applied. If a student is suspended, expelled, or otherwise ineligible to participate in school activities, the student shall not be eligible for any school-sponsored or supported trip or excursion.
6. **Student Conduct:** All students participating in any field trip or excursion are expected to abide by trip conduct rules, regulations and the rules of the school district. The signed Rules and Expectations of Student Conduct Forms must be on file. Any student violating such rules will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including being sent home at the expense of the parent/guardian. A designated adult must accompany the student home at parent/guardian expense.
7. **Participant List:** A list of trip participants will be on file in the principal's office 30 days before departure. The list will be distributed to the staff and attendance office at this time (dates of trip to be included) if there will be school days involved.
8. **Nondiscrimination:** Students will not be discriminated against on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, religion, or disability with regard to participation in student trips and excursions. Students with disabilities shall be afforded an equal opportunity to participate in field trips and excursions, as required by federal and state law. Accommodations, modifications, and other supports needed to participate in a field trip or excursion should be discussed by the student's IEP or 504 team, if applicable.

It is the responsibility of the Superintendent or their designee to review this policy, communicate requirements and expectations with others, and make recommendations to the Board for student trip reports and approvals.

[Code 627 Policy Title: Student Field Trips and Excursions](#)

## Standardized Testing and Assessment Proper and Ethical Test Administration

- In the administration of standardized tests, it is a violation of test security to do any of the following:
- Provide inappropriate test preparation such as any of the following:
  - Copy, reproduce, or use in any manner any portion of any secure test booklet, for any reason.
  - Share an actual test instrument in any form. This includes using old copies of the Iowa Assessments.
  - Engage in instructional practices targeted at specific test content.
- Deviate from the test administration procedures specified in the test Administration manual.
- Provide assistance to students during the test administration that would give them an advantage over other students.
- Make test answers available to students.
- Change or fill in answers on student answer documents.
- Provide inaccurate data on student answer documents.
- Engage in any practice to artificially raise student scores without actually improving underlying student achievement.
- Participate in, direct, aid, counsel, assist, encourage, or fail to report any of the acts listed above.

Administrators, certified and non-certified staff, and students must adhere to ethical procedures in testing. Violation of these procedures will be investigated, and appropriate sanctions may be taken by the Board and/or the [Iowa Board of Educational Examiners](#) (BOEE). According to 282— [Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 25](#), it is deemed unprofessional and unethical for any licensee to violate Standard III- misrepresentation, falsification of information [25.3(3)] of the standards of professional conduct and ethics.

This includes “Falsifying or deliberately misrepresenting or omitting material information regarding the evaluation of students or personnel, including improper administration of any standardized tests, including, but not limited to, changing test answers, providing test answers, copying or teaching identified test items, or using inappropriate accommodations or modifications for such tests.”

School or District staff members must immediately report all incidents of unethical behavior or other test irregularities by students or staff to their immediate supervisor. District leadership will cooperate with the Iowa Department of Education and Iowa Board of Educational Examiners in a thorough fact-finding investigation of the alleged irregularity and determine if test results are invalidated. A staff member found to have committed testing irregularities shall be subject to discipline in accordance with Iowa Code and Board policy.

## Student Records - Student Data Confidentiality Agreement

The District expects employees to respect the confidentiality of student records and to act in a professional manner in the handling of student data. Confidential data, including data on individual students, must not be created, collected, stored, maintained, or disseminated in violation of state and federal laws.

The following guidelines shall be followed regarding the appropriate use of student data collected by employees or made available to from other school/District employees, Infinite Campus or any other file or application employees have access to:

1. The District must comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended (FERPA, 34 CFR Part 99) the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA, 34 CFR §§ 300.127 and 300.560-300.576) and other state and federal laws pertaining to the confidentiality, use and disclosure of personally identifiable information about District students. Personally identifiable information is information that directly or indirectly identifies a student or

information that alone or in combination that would allow a reasonable person in the school community to identify the student.

2. Student data will only be accessed for students for whom employees have a legitimate educational interest and will be used for the sole purpose of meeting student needs.
3. Employees will securely log in and out of programs that store student specific data. Employees will not share passwords.
4. Any documents created containing student specific data will be stored securely within the District network. No student data will be saved to personal devices or personal email or other accounts.
5. Regardless of its format, all information will be treated with respect for student privacy. Student data must not be left accessible or unattended in any form, including information on a computer display. Computer screens will be locked while unattended.
6. Employees will share personally identifiable information about an individual student with other District employees only when there is a "legitimate educational interest" in knowing the specific information.
7. When sharing summary-level data in a public forum, employees will ensure that individual students cannot be identified (minimum group size of ten for public use).
8. Employees will gain approval from their immediate supervisor prior to publicly sharing any student achievement data other than that which is publicly available from District or state sources (e.g., posted on the District or state website). Employees will not share student data on social media.
9. Employees will secure written permission from the Research and Data Management Department prior to including any student achievement data that is not publicly available in any research report for an undergraduate or graduate course or for internal research.
10. All external research requests, including those from curriculum publishers, testing companies, universities, and all other outside parties, must be approved in writing by the Research and Data Management Department.
11. Employees will inform their immediate supervisor immediately if personally identifiable student data is lost, stolen, or disclosed to non-authorized individuals.

## Tutoring

Certified personnel under contract shall not render tutorial services for pay during the hours school is in session. In unusual circumstances, teachers may, with approval of the superintendent or the superintendent's designee, be employed as tutors of pupils currently enrolled in their classes. Private tutoring sessions for pay should not use school materials or facilities.

[Code 443 Policy Title: Tutoring](#)

[Code 443 Procedure Title: Tutoring](#)

## HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

### Fragrance/Scent-Safe Workplace Standard

In an effort to protect students, staff and visitors with chemical sensitivities and to create a safe and healthy environment. The District has implemented a fragrance/scent safe workplace standard and asks that everyone minimize the use of any fragrances in the workplace.

Employees should refrain from bringing air freshener products, essential oils, wearing heavy perfumes/cologne, other personal care products such as body sprays, hand lotions, cleaning products or solutions, etc. Workspace areas and areas that are enclosed such as restrooms are also included in this standard. Acceptable use of products that are labeled as unscented, scent-free or fragrance free by the manufacturer are suggested and recommended as safe and appropriate.

## Smoke and Tobacco Free Workplace

It is the policy of the District that using, smoking, or carrying lit tobacco products, “vapor” or “e-cigarettes”, tobacco devices, or smokeless tobacco products which includes all forms of tobacco and nicotine products that are not FDA (Federal Drug Administration) approved for tobacco cessation are prohibited at any time on District property and at any school activity sponsored by the District. For purposes of this policy, District property includes any building used for instruction, administration, support services, maintenance, or storage; the grounds and surrounding buildings; and all District-owned vehicles. This policy applies to all students, teachers, staff, vendors, contractors and visitors.

For the purposes of this policy, “smoking” means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, pipe, or any other lighted or heated tobacco or plant product intended for inhalation, in any manner or in any form. “Smoking” also includes the use of an “e-cigarette” which creates a vapor, in any manner or in any form, or the use of any oral smoking device for the purpose of circumventing the prohibition of smoking in this policy.

For the purposes of this policy, “e-cigarette” and “vapor cigarette” includes any electronic or oral device, such as one composed of a heating element, battery, and/or electronic circuit, which provides a vapor of nicotine or any other substances, and the use or inhalation of which simulates smoking. The term shall include any such device, whether manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as an “e-cigarette”, “e-cigar”, “e-pipe”, or under any other product name or descriptor.

Violators of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

## Substance Free Workplace

The District is subject to the [Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, Public Law 100-690](#). The District is committed to the policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace. Thus, the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of any controlled substance by any employee in the workplace is prohibited. (A “controlled substance” within the meaning of this statement means any controlled substance in schedules I through V of Section 202 of the Controlled Substance Act-21 U.S.C. 812, and as further defined in federal regulations found at 12 C.F.R. 1308.11.) Any violation of this prohibition will result in discipline up to and including termination.

As required by federal law, it is a condition of continued employment that:

- Any employee who is convicted of any criminal drug statute violation for conduct in the workplace is required to notify their immediate supervisor of this fact no later than three (3) days after such conviction. (a “conviction” means a finding of guilt - including a plea of “nolo contendere” - of the imposition of a sentence, or both, by any judicial body charged with the responsibility of determining violations of federal or state criminal drug statutes)
- Each employee abides by the terms of this statement

Federal law requires that the District notify the federal government of any conviction in violation of this policy.

Federal law further requires that the District impose sanctions which may include termination for any violation of the provisions of this notice or policy.

## Drug and Alcohol Use or Possession

The use, possession, sale, transfer, or purchase of alcohol or drugs by employees on District property or when engaged in District business are prohibited. Any employee in violation of this policy or who is found to be impaired by intoxicants while in the workplace shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. Any employee can be drug tested due to reasonable suspicion. Drugs prescribed by a licensed physician, that are federally regulated, for an employee may be possessed and used by that employee in the workplace, in accordance with terms of their prescription as



long as such usage does not limit the employee's ability to perform their job efficiently and safely in the considered judgment of the immediate supervisor.

[Code 416.1 Policy Title: Alcohol and Substance Abuse](#)

[Code 416.2 Procedure Title: Alcohol and Drug Testing Procedures](#)

## Universal Precautions

The District complies with the [Occupational Safety and Health Administration](#) (OSHA) safety standards when handling blood and other bodily fluids that could contain blood pathogens. Universal precautions must be used by every employee in the care of students, employees, and visitors who may expose them to blood pathogens or bodily fluids.

## Why Take Special Precautions?

Some diseases such as the HIV virus, hepatitis B or C can be carried in the blood. If someone comes in contact with the blood of a person infected with these illnesses, it is possible for that person to become infected. Some people infected with hepatitis B or C may show signs of illness such as jaundice, fatigue, nausea, or joint pain. Someone with the HIV virus may have a fever, persistent fatigue, chronic diarrhea, or weight loss. Other people may carry these germs in their bodies for life, but never show signs of the illness. Every precaution to prevent infection should be taken any time you come into direct contact with anyone's blood or bodily fluids.

## [Occupational Safety and Health Administration \(OSHA\)](#)

OSHA has established regulations that must be followed by employees working in settings (to include schools), where exposure to blood pathogens is possible. These regulations require employees to receive training in universal precautions within six months of initial assignment, and at least annually thereafter. District employees must be complete this training through [Vector Solutions Training \(formerly SafeSchools\)](#). OSHA also requires the employer to have a plan that addresses how to handle blood exposures. The District Plan is posted on SharePoint. (Search for: [Bloodborne Pathogens Plan.pdf](#))

## What are the Main Points of the Plan?

Several practices must be implemented to reduce potential exposure:

1. OSHA requires employers to offer the Hepatitis B vaccine series to employees who can reasonably anticipate exposure to blood or other infected body fluids. Categories of employees who qualify are listed in the plan. The Office of Talent & Personnel will notify you if you are eligible to receive this vaccine. Information about the Hepatitis vaccine is available, and the District offers eligible employees the vaccine at no cost.
2. Universal Precautions: This is the primary safeguard. Follow these precautions with the assumption that all blood or bodily fluids are infectious. All employees who perform any procedure that involves blood or bodily fluids should follow the following guidelines:
  - **Gloves:** Wear approved gloves provided by the District when touching blood or bodily fluids containing visible blood or any bodily fluids. Change the gloves after each individual contact. Gloves and other supplies needed to practice universal precautions can be obtained from the School Nurse.
  - **Cleanup of Blood Spills:** While wearing gloves, wipe away any visible blood with paper towels then wash the area with a disinfectant agent approved for use by the District.
  - **Disposal of Waste:** Place gloves and cleaning supplies in a plastic bag. Seal the bag and give it to the nurse or custodian for proper disposal in an approved Biohazard container
  - **Hand Washing:** Always wash your hands with warm soapy water after removing your gloves.
3. **Engineering Controls:** Place any sharps (needles or lancets) in special sharps container.



4. Personal Protective Equipment: It is your responsibility to be sure you have the appropriate supplies to safely care for injuries where blood is present. These supplies can be obtained from the school nurse.
5. Exposure to Another Person's Blood or Bodily Fluid: When possible, have the person handle their own blood until you can put on your gloves and organize your supplies. If you come in contact with someone else's blood or bodily fluids, wash the area immediately with soap and water. Report the exposure as soon as possible to the school nurse or department manager. You will be asked to complete an employee injury report and will be referred to our Occupational Health physicians for assessment and treatment if warranted.

To prevent indirect exposure, do not eat, drink, smoke, apply cosmetics, lip balm, or handle contact lenses in work areas where occupational exposure to blood or blood products is possible. Avoid leaving food and drinks on work surfaces that could have blood or potentially infectious materials present. If you have questions or need supplies to practice Universal Precautions, contact the building nurse or [Melissa Abbott](mailto:melissa.abbott@dmschools.org), Health Services Supervisor, Smouse Opportunity School, 2820 Center Street, 515- 242-7618, [melissa.abbott@dmschools.org](mailto:melissa.abbott@dmschools.org).

## LEAVE AND ABSENCES

Refer to the applicable [Comprehensive Agreement](#) for more detail.

Employees are required to:

- Monitor all leave balances and only select the appropriate and available leave when requesting time off. (i.e. sick leave must be used for sick leave).
- Use all applicable paid leave prior to requesting unpaid leave.
- Review and submit timesheet for supervisor approval at the end of each pay period.
- Submit any leave adjustments for their timesheet need to a supervisor within 30 days after the end of the pay period that needs to be corrected.
- Ask a supervisor to submit leave adjustment requests after the 30-day period to the Director of Personnel.

### Cancellations

As soon as you know a pre-planned absence has been cancelled, ask your supervisor to deny the leave request in NOVAtime if it has not been submitted to payroll Supervisor or designee will need to contact [payroll](#) for further action.

### Denial of Request to be Absent

Approval for a request to be absent is not automatic. Your immediate supervisor or administrator may deny or approve a request to be absent. The supervisor may request or require documentation of absences before deciding or approving the request. Please refer to your [Comprehensive Agreement](#) for details.

### Approval of Leave

All leave must be approved by a supervisor or their designee and entered into NOVAtime. It is important that leave provisions be uniformly interpreted in accordance with negotiated [Comprehensive Agreements](#).

### Employees Needing a Substitute

- Employees will need to access their district email to retrieve the welcome email from [Frontline](#). Within this email, the log-in credentials for the automated phone system will be included. The user I.D. is the employee's phone number, and the PIN is a system generated number. In addition, there will be a separate email from Frontline. The email is an invitation to create an account for the website log-in access. The log-in information for the website will be created by the

employee. If the employee needs the invitation resent, please call the Employee Substitute Center at 242-8100.

- All sick and personal days must be reported to the Automated Absence Reporting System in order to receive a job number. Absences should be reported by calling 1-800-942-3767 or going to this link <https://www.aesoponline.com>. The principal or supervisor will report all other absences such as bereavement, special leave, deduct, etc. Every absence receives a job number.
- Failure to get a valid job number for an illness or personal absence before the workday begins, may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment or deduction of salary.
- Notify your school by 1:00pm on the day you are absent to indicate:
  - “Yes”, I am returning or “No”, I am not returning.
- The principal, supervisor, or designee will extend your absence on the Automated Absence Reporting System and retain the substitute if necessary. If you return to work, but do not notify your principal or department supervisor and a substitute reports the next day, the substitute will be paid for half a day. This will be deducted from your salary.
  - Automated Absence Reporting System: 1-800-942-3767
  - Online Absence Reporting System: <https://www.aesoponline.com>
  - Employee Substitute Center Fax Number: 515-242-8265
  - Employee Substitute Center Number: 515-242-8100

## Attendance Policy

### Excessive Absenteeism

An employee may be subject to termination if the employee is absent from work when they have exhausted all available paid or unpaid leave and no other approved leave is available or if it impacts the employee’s performance or the department. The immediate supervisor or administrator may request a doctor’s note for any absence at any time; however, it would not automatically qualify the absence as excused or approved. Special consideration may be given to first-year employees.

### Extended Medical/Disability

When an employee has been absent and has not performed active service for the District for 120 calendar days and all available paid and unpaid leaves have been exhausted, the employee may be subject to termination.

### Filling Positions Left Vacant Due to an Employee’s Prolonged Absence

The District has the right to fill any vacancy that occurs as a result of an employee’s leave pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) after the time period mandated by the FMLA has expired. If an eligible employee, who has exhausted his or her FMLA leave and all other sources of paid or unpaid leave, is unable to return to work after 120 calendar days of inactive service to the District, the employee may be subject to termination. If an employee who has exhausted his or her FMLA leave is released to return to work prior to 120 calendar days of inactive service and his or her position has been filled, they will be offered the next available position for which the employee is qualified.

### Termination of Administrative Personnel

Chapter 279 Administrators who are certified or licensed by the Board of Educational Examiners may be terminated only through the process set forth in [Chapter 279 of the Iowa Code](#).

- If reduction of the administrative staff becomes necessary, a reasonable attempt will be made to achieve that reduction on the basis of normal attrition. If this is not possible, those who are best qualified in the sole judgement of the Superintendent will be retained.
- The administrator may, upon the recommendation of the supervisor, have the option of applying for a vacancy in a non-administrative assignment and will be entitled to placement on the salary

schedule commensurate with educational achievement and years of experience in the District or for the position they are seeking.

## Nursing Mothers

Employees are responsible for notifying their supervisor of the need to express milk during the workday and how long the accommodation is needed. A building or district nurse and supervisor will meet with the employee to make arrangements that include the following: a designated location, an agreed upon number of expression times per day and the length of time per expression. The designated location will be a room or location that is within the school or building the employee works, and that provides privacy and sanitary conditions. Employees will not be allowed to go home or to another location for this accommodation unless it is during a designated/authorized break period or is otherwise authorized by the employee's supervisor.

## Adoption, Placement, and Bonding Leave

Up to fifteen (15) days of sick days may be utilized when an employee requests leave due to placement of a child for adoption in the employee's home, to be taken within the first twelve (12) months following such adoption or placement.

## Bereavement/ Hospice/Funeral Leave

In the case of the death of the wife, husband, child, or (step) child of a regular full time employee, or of the employee's (or spouse's) (step) father, (step) mother, (step) brother, (step) sister, (step) grandparent, (step) grandchild, or legal dependent, the employee will submit leave through the payroll management system (NOVAtime) to be reviewed by their immediate supervisor for as many days, not to exceed five, during the individual employee's service year as may be necessary for attendance at the funeral and for any other purposes directly arising out of said death, and no deduction of pay shall be made for the days of absence approved.

Up to 2 of the 5 allowed bereavement days (per the [Comprehensive Agreement](#)) may be used for hospice visitation.

In the case of the death of any other relative or person of unusually close personal relationship, a total of two (2) days per year will be allowed for attendance at the funeral or other similar memorial service without loss of pay. Only one-half day or full day can be used for each funeral or other similar memorial service. Bargaining units need to refer to their respective [Comprehensive Agreement](#).

An employee who is paid while on bereavement leave during their extended service year shall have the obligation to complete their extended work assignment at no additional pay.

## Educational Purposes

Attendance at educational meetings or visiting other schools is permitted at full pay if the Director of Personnel - Certified or Classified Staff approves such absence. If any regular full time employee wishes to be absent from duty for a brief period to attend a professional or para-professional meeting, or to visit schools, a written request for approval of such absence on the [Professional Leave Form](#) located on [@DMPS Resource Center](#) should be signed by the immediate supervisor and filed with the [Office of Talent & Personnel](#) at least ten days prior to the first day of anticipated absence. Please refer to your [Comprehensive Agreement](#) for further details.

[@DMPS Resource Center](#) / [Talent & Personnel](#) / [Forms & Processes button](#) / Group By: Leave Requests

- [LEAVE Request – Certified Leave Exception](#)
- [LEAVE Request – Classified LOA / Leave](#)

## Extended Leave of Absence Without Pay

Employees may request extended leaves of absence without pay for a period of time to be terminated at the conclusion of the semester during which the leave commenced or for one additional semester following the conclusion of the semester in which the leave commenced. An employee shall file an application with the [Office of Talent & Personnel](#). The application shall be reviewed by that office and will be submitted to the Board of Directors or designee for their consideration when required. Extended leaves of absence may be granted for health, professional study, or family responsibilities, which may include child nurturing. The employee's service will resume either at the beginning of the fall or spring semester in accordance with the leave of absence agreement.

While on extended leave, the employee's retirement funds, accumulated sick leave, and placement on the salary schedule shall be frozen. While no additional benefits will be provided by the Employer during the leave period, the employee may purchase such benefits. At the conclusion of the extended leave of absence, the salary of the employee shall be the salary stated on the salary schedule for the step and class for which that employee was appointed at the time of the commencement of the leave. A request for early termination of the leave agreement and reinstatement of position must be made in writing to the Director of Personnel - Certified or Classified Staff at least thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the new semester. The Employer shall reserve the right to delay reinstatement until the beginning of the school semester following the request.

Early reinstatement before the beginning of the new semester to those granted a leave of absence for a regular school year must indicate a desire to return within five (5) days of receipt of regular letter of intent sent to all employees.

## Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

### Eligibility

- Employees employed at least 12 months (in total) with the District and
- Have worked at least 1,250 hours during the 12 months immediately preceding the commencement of the leave

### Circumstances that allow for FMLA?

- Birth of a child
- Placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care
- To care for the spouse, parent (not in-laws) or child (under 18) of employee who has a serious health condition
- Employee's own serious health condition
- Qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the spouse, child or parent of the employee is on active duty (or called to active duty) in the Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation
- To care for a "covered service member" who is the employee's spouse, parent, child, or "next of kin"

### When should the employee apply?

- When an absence is expected to last in excess of 3 days
- If the need for FMLA leave is foreseeable, the employee should apply 30 days prior
- If the need for FMLA leave is unforeseeable, within 2 business days of the employee becoming aware for the need for leave, where feasible

### What forms need to be completed?

- A [request for FMLA](#) needs to be completed by the employee  
[@DMPS Resource Center](#) – [Staff Links](#) – [FMLA Request form](#) or  
[@DMPS Resource Center](#) / [Talent & Personnel](#) / [Forms & Processes button](#) / Group By:  
Employee Services / [Request for FMLA](#)

- A medical certification must be completed by the treating health care provider when the absence is due to a serious health condition
- Certification of military leave requests

#### How long can an employee use FMLA?

- With proper certification, employees may be eligible for a maximum of 12 weeks of FMLA leave in a 12-month period
- Employees may also apply for leave on an intermittent or reduced work schedule basis
- Employees utilizing leave to care for a “covered service member” are eligible for a maximum of 26 weeks of FMLA in a 12-month period

#### What is required for the employee to return to work?

- A release from the treating health care provider (if absent for own health condition)
- When an employee returns, they will be restored to the same position or to an equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay and conditions of employment (some exceptions may apply for “key employee” as defined by the provisions of FMLA)

#### When is FMLA leave paid vs. unpaid?

- Employees must use available sick leave for an absence for the employee’s own health condition
- Employees using FMLA for a family member may use family sick leave (maximum 15 days), personal leave, and vacation leave, where available. The remainder of the leave will be unpaid

#### What happens when FMLA is exhausted?

- Employees exhausting FMLA will be subject to provisions of the [attendance policy](#).

For questions regarding FMLA contact: [Sherri Weatherly](#), Benefits Specialist, 2100 Fleur Drive, 515-242-7624, [sherri.weatherly@dmschools.org](mailto:sherri.weatherly@dmschools.org).

For additional information, visit the “Family and Medical Leave Act” section of the United States Department of Labor’s website, at <https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/benefits-leave/fmla> or review the Employee Rights under the Family and Medical Leave Act compliance poster at <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WHD/legacy/files/fmlaen.pdf>.

### Workers Compensation

Employees who are injured in the course of their employment should complete the injury report found on the DMPS website: [DMPS Workman's Comp Injury Report Form](#). The nurse will make an appointment with Occupational Health ([Occupational Health Clinic Flier](#)) if necessary. If the nurse is not in the building, the injured employee should contact their immediate supervisor for assistance with the process. It is recommended that the form be filled out regardless of the employee needing to be seen at the clinic.

For questions regarding workers compensation contact [Sherri Weatherly](#), Benefits Specialist, 2100 Fleur Drive, 515-242-7624, [sherri.weatherly@dmschools.org](mailto:sherri.weatherly@dmschools.org).

### Family Illness Leave

Employees covered by a bargaining agreement, refer to your applicable [Comprehensive Agreement](#).

In the event of illness in the immediate family, an employee shall be granted up to fifteen (15) days of absence without loss of salary to be deducted from sick leave. The immediate family shall be construed to mean only the following: spouse, parent, child, or sibling (including biological, step, adoptive, foster, and in-laws for parent and child only). A statement from a responsible person other than the employee may be required as proof of illness. It is the responsibility of the employee to monitor their family sick leave days. Usage of more than fifteen (15) days of family illness may result in loss of pay for that day.

## Jury Duty Leave

The District employee must submit their jury duty leave in NOVAtime. The District will continue to pay an employee for days missed on jury duty. However, an employee is required to reimburse the District for the amount the county pays a juror for service, minus mileage as well as submit proof of jury attendance provided by the court. See Appendix for complete [Jury Duty Guidelines](#)

## Military Reserve Duty

A leave of absence will be granted for military reservists for required training purposes, but not for a period exceeding a total of thirty calendar days in any calendar year. You cannot be paid by both employers simultaneously. Reservist leaves in excess of 30 days will be unpaid leaves. Employees are expected to take such training during the times when school is not in session whenever possible. A copy of the original orders must be turned in to the [Office of Talent & Personnel](#) as soon as possible prior to the leave.

## Military Reserve Training

A leave of absence will be granted for employees subject to [Iowa Code 29A.28\(1\)\(a\)](#) for required training purposes, but not for a period exceeding a total of thirty (30) days in any calendar year. Leaves for training purposes are granted without loss of pay, but employees are expected to take such training during the times when school is not in session whenever possible.

## Military Service Leave

Leaves of absence are granted for military purposes, not to exceed the enlistment or draft period. On completion of the military service, the salary of the employee is entitled to reinstatement at the same wages they would have received had they not taken such a leave, but subject to the following conditions: That the position was not abolished, that the employee is physically and mentally capable of performing the duties of the position, that the employee makes written application for reinstatement to the [Office of Talent & Personnel](#) within ninety (90) days after termination of military service, that the employee submits an honorable or general discharge from the military service, and that the employee has the appropriate license(s) and certifications(s).

## Re-employment Rights for Military Personnel

The right of military personnel to be reinstated in their jobs when they return from active duty is governed by the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA).

## Personal Leave

### Personal Leave (Other than AFSCME)

At the beginning of each work year, each employee shall be credited with two (2) days, or four (4) half-days, to be used for the employee's personal business.

1. An employee planning to use a personal day shall notify their supervisor at least five (5) working days in advance, except in cases of unforeseen emergency. An emergency is defined as "an unexpected occurrence or set of circumstances which require the immediate attention and presence of the employee." Requests for personal leave must be made through the method determined by the Employer.
2. The Employer will accept requests for personal leave no earlier than July 1 for the period of July 1 through September 30. Personal leave requests for October 1 through the end of the contract year will be accepted no earlier than the first day of student contact for the school year.
3. No personal leave will be granted during conferences, provided that the dates of conferences are announced prior to the first day of student contact for the school year.
4. Such an absence may not be taken during the first five (5) days of student contact at the beginning of the school year and the last five (5) days of student contact at the end of the school



- year.
5. Such absence may not be taken on the last scheduled work day immediately before Spring Break.
  6. Approval of personal leave shall not be rescinded by the Employer once approved.
  7. Up to five (5) unused personal days will be carried over from year to year.
  8. Up to two (2) unused personal days per contract year may be paid out to the employee on June 30 at the District's standard substitute rate.

### Personal Leave Payout Option

Bargaining unit employees may choose to have up to two (2) unused personal days per year paid out to the following employees:

- DMEA and ESP (except clerical) personal leave payout payment will be included on the June 30, paycheck at the **District's standard substitute rate.**
- ESP – Clerical personal leave payout payment will be included on the June 30, 2025, paycheck at their substitute rate.
- AFSCME and Trades personal leave payout payment will be included on the June 27, 2025, paycheck at the hourly rate for your position.FM

### Personal Leave (AFSCME employees only)

All regular AFSCME employees shall be allowed a total of two (2) days in one fiscal year without loss of salary, for bona fide personal or business activities that cannot reasonably be accomplished outside the normal workday. An employee planning to use a personal day shall notify their supervisor at least ten (10) working days in advance, except in cases of unforeseen emergency. Such absence may not be taken immediately before or after holidays or vacation periods. Please refer to the applicable [Comprehensive Agreement](#) for additional information. All leave requests must be submitted in NOVAtime and will be reviewed by your immediate supervisor. Up to 2 unused personal days will be carried over from year to year.

### Political Activities

A leave of absence may be granted for one semester or one year to an employee who desires to run for office. This provision recognizes the rights and obligations of employees to be participating citizens in such activities as voting, discussing political issues, campaigning for candidates, or running for and serving in public office. Such a leave would be granted without pay. Any public employee who becomes a candidate for any elective public office shall, upon request of the employee and commencing any time within thirty days prior to a contested primary, special or general election and continuing until after the day following that election, automatically be given a period of leave.

### Professional Leave and Job-Related Meetings

A Professional Leave Request form must be completed and submitted for approval to your immediate supervisor 10 days in advance of the requested leave. Teachers must complete and submit a professional leave form within 10 days of the requested leave. The form can be located at [@DMPS Resource Center](#). All other staff will submit a request for professional leave in NOVAtime to be approved by their Supervisor. Please refer to your [Comprehensive Agreement](#) if applicable for details.

### Sick Leave

The purpose of sick leave is to prevent any loss of pay to employees who are medically disabled because of an illness or accident, and not capable of performing the duties of their job. Sick leave should not be abused, and excessive use may result in your supervisor requiring a doctor's excuse for any absence, at any time. Sick leave must not be used or approved by a supervisor for any other type of leave. Both parties are subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. Sick leave is not intended to be used for routine doctor and dental appointments. However, employees may use sick leave for a doctor or dental appointment, for which the employee has no control: for example: dental emergencies or medical



testing that can only be scheduled during the normal workday. It is expected that the employees will schedule routine doctor and dental appointments on a personal leave day or during non-working time whenever possible.

An employee must report the intention to be absent from duty to their immediate supervisor by at least one hour before the employee’s regular starting time. If possible, notification should be given on the previous day or earlier or every day you are gone from work, unless a doctor’s note specifies a timeframe. Employees in bargaining units, please refer to your applicable [Comprehensive Agreement](#) or work rules. Your supervisor will want to know the reason for your absence and approximately when you expect to return, in order to properly reschedule your job duties or arrange for a substitute. For absences of more than three days, it is the District’s expectation that you provide regular updates regarding your absence and your expected return to duty. If you are out of the office for five or more consecutive days due to an illness, you must bring a “return to work” release from your doctor. Failure to provide this release may lead to denial of benefits and discipline, up to and including termination. Your supervisor may ask you to bring a doctor’s release after any period of illness and may ask you to report to [Melissa Abbott](#), Health Services Supervisor, Smouse Opportunity School, 2820 Center Street, 515- 242-7618, [melissa.abbott@dmschools.org](mailto:melissa.abbott@dmschools.org). It is your responsibility to notify the Employee Services if you need to use FMLA leave. (See [FMLA](#) section for eligibility requirements).

If an employee expects to return to an assignment, the employee must notify their immediate supervisor of such intention no later than 45 minutes prior to normal student dismissal time on the previous day. If the employee does not give the required notification of intent to return, and the substitute subsequently reports for duty the following morning, the substitute will be paid for an additional half day, and the pay for this will be deducted from the employee’s salary.

All full-time employees shall be allowed sick leave as stated in the table below without loss of pay. Non-bargained staff (only) will receive their sick leave amounts on a semi-monthly accrual basis over the course of the fiscal year, instead of receiving the lump sum amounts each new fiscal year. The table below outlines how this will work for a non-bargained 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) who earns 15 days of sick leave a year based on the hours they work in a day. If the employee works less than 1.0 FTE or is a new non-bargained employee hired after July 1, 2018 the amount would adjust accordingly.

| Accrual Periods per Year | Hours Worked in a Day | Total Sick Days Earned in a Fiscal Year | Hours of Sick Leave Accrued per Period |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|
| 24                       | 7.5                   | 15                                      | 4.69                                   |
| 24                       | 7.75                  | 15                                      | 4.84                                   |
| 24                       | 8                     | 15                                      | 5                                      |

All new non-bargained employees will earn sick leave in accordance with [Iowa Code Section 279.40](#) which states the following:

Public School employees are granted leave of absence for medically related disability with full pay in the following minimum amounts:

1. The first year of employment ..... 10 days.
2. The second year of employment..... 11 days.
3. The third year of employment ..... 12 days.
4. The fourth year of employment ..... 13 days.
5. The fifth year of employment ..... 14 days.
6. The sixth and subsequent years of employment ..... 15 days.

There is no sick leave maximum for all non-bargained staff. This enables non-bargained staff to keep all their sick leave earned over the course of their career without concern they will hit a cap and lose it.

If an employee does not need to use the allotted days during the contract year, the unused days will be added to the allowance for the succeeding year. In case of absences for illness or injury in any one year exceeding the aggregate of days allotted for that year, the excess shall be deducted from the employee's accumulated days. At the end of the year, any of the accumulated days which are unused shall be added to the regular allowance for the succeeding year. If an employee is unable to begin service under the contract on the date on which the contract is designated to begin, the employee shall nevertheless be entitled to draw compensation for any unused medically related disability leave accumulated from prior years of service with the District, pursuant to its regulations thereto, payable at the time regular installments are due under this contract, notwithstanding the fact that actual service did not commence under this contract for the school year covered therein. If an employee is unable to report for duty on the first day of the new contract and had no accumulated sick leave on which to draw, compensation for sick leave will not be allowed under the new contract until the employee does report, whereupon it will become retroactive. All accumulated sick leave is forfeited upon the termination of employment and is not transferrable from one employee to another.

### Religious Holidays

Employees whose religious affiliation requires the observance of holidays other than those regularly scheduled in the school calendar may submit a request to the Director of Personnel.

Employees will be eligible to use accrued leave for this purpose or additional unpaid leave may be granted in accordance with the law.

### Vacation

Please refer to departmental guidelines and your [Comprehensive Agreement](#). All vacation requests must have the approval of your immediate supervisor or designee. The employee should check available vacation balance prior to request for use.

For those employees in a non-bargaining unit, vacation days are accrued each pay period, and may be used as earned.

Twelve-Month Non-Exempt Paras will accrue vacation per the table below. Accrual rate changes occur on the employee's anniversary date, not July 1<sup>st</sup>. No more than a maximum of twice their annual accrual may be carried over.

| Length of Service                   | Vacation Period<br>(Subsequent Year) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 0 months through 11 months          | 5/6 day per month                    |
| More than 11 months through 6 years | 10 working days                      |
| 7 years through 12 years            | 15 working days                      |
| 13 years and above                  | 20 working days                      |

Example: If an employee accrues 10 days per year, the carryover max is 20 days per year.

**Food Service Managers** all regular full-time managers shall earn annual paid vacation based on the schedule below. The vacation shall be based upon employment in the fiscal year and shall be prorated for those employees that work less than the full fiscal year. The service requirement during the first fiscal year of employment shall be determined by the date of original hire. All yearly service requirements shall

be based on service during complete fiscal years. More than eight (8) months employment in the first fiscal year shall count as one (1) full fiscal year of employment.

| Service Requirements                   | Vacation Period    |                    |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
|  | 12 Month Employees | 9 Month Employees  |
| Less than six (6) months               | None               | None               |
| 6 months through 11 months             | 5 working days     | 3.75 working days  |
| More than 11 months                    | 10 working days    | 7.5 working days   |
| 7 fiscal years through 12 fiscal years | 15 works days      | 11.25 working days |
| 13 fiscal years or more                | 20 working days    | 15 working days    |

The rate shall be the manager's regular straight time rate of pay. Managers shall receive pay for vacation days earned as part of the base salary paid over 26 pay periods.

Twelve-Month Exempt Specialists will accrue 15 days for years one and two and will then begin accruing 25 days at year three. The change of the accrual rate happens on the employee's anniversary date, not July 1st. No more than a maximum of twice their annual accrual can be carried over.

Exempt Specialists Working Less Than Twelve Months or working twelve months at 0.5, will accrue 5 days per year, with the exception of 195- and 205-day Specialists who do not accrue vacation days. No more than a maximum of twice their annual accrual can be carried over.

Twelve-Month Non-Exempt Specialists will accrue 10 days for years one and two and will then begin accruing 20 days at year three. The change of the accrual rate happens on the employee's anniversary date, not July 1st. No more than a maximum of twice their annual accrual can be carried over.

Twelve-Month Administrators will accrue 25 days of vacation on a prorated basis upon eligible employment. Accrued vacation may be taken as it is earned. No more than a maximum of 50 vacation days may be accumulated or carried over. The normal vacation period or any portion thereof granted to all 12-month Administrators should occur, as much as possible, during the interval beginning one week after the close of the academic school year and one week prior to the date of teaching staff returning in the fall.

Any Administrator who has completed the required time to be entitled to an annual vacation or any part thereof, and whose service with the District has ended, will be paid the regular salary for the vacation days accrued, up to a maximum of 50 days.

### Veterans Day Leave

If Veterans Day falls on a regularly scheduled workday, employees will be allowed to take a personal day or unpaid day of leave in honor of this holiday.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

### Security Cameras In Schools and Buses

#### [Code 781 Policy Title: Security Cameras in Schools and Buses](#)

It is the policy of the Des Moines Public Schools to create and maintain a safe school and work environment. Security cameras (closed circuit television systems-CCTV) are installed within school buildings and buses as well as the exterior of buildings. Security cameras monitor school property, assisting administrators in detecting and deterring unacceptable behavior or activities and otherwise enforcing district rules. Camera systems also provide a historical record to facilitate investigations.

## Visitors / Guests During Working Hours

Employees' guests and children are not normally allowed at work during your regularly scheduled hours or while you are working paid overtime. Employees should not bring their children to work when daycare or other supervision is not available.

Special occasions may arise, however, when it is important for a member of your family or a friend to see you during office hours and this may be allowed at the immediate supervisor's discretion. Such occasions should occur rarely and should not distract others or interfere with your work duties and responsibilities.

## Weapons

### [Code 419 Policy Title: Possession of Weapons by Employees](#)

The District is committed to maintaining a safe teaching and learning environment. The presence of weapons in the schools is prohibited. The possession of weapons by employees is prohibited on school grounds or at school- sponsored or school-related activities.

## TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT

### Contract Release – Certified Employees

Certified employee resignation and retirement notifications are due to the [Office of Talent & Personnel](#) twenty-one days after contracts are issued. Certified employee contracts are typically issued on March 15th of the contract year. Resignations or retirements are typically due to the [Office of Talent & Personnel](#) by April 5th of the contract year.

In accordance with Iowa Law, there will be a 21-day time period, after certified contracts are issued, for certified employees to resign or retire from the school district without penalty.

If a certified employee does not submit notice for resignation or retirement to the [Office of Talent & Personnel](#) within the 21-day time period, an employee will remain under contract with Des Moines Public Schools for the upcoming school year.

If a certified employee tenders a resignation or retirement request after the 21-day time period, Des Moines Public Schools will be unable to release the employee from their current contract until a suitable replacement is hired. In addition, once a suitable replacement is hired, there will be a \$1,500 fee assessed for release of contract, change in fee effective 1/31/2022. If a suitable replacement is not hired or an employee fails to pay the release fee, the employee will be expected to fulfill the contract until the end of the school year.

Please refer to [Board Policy Series 400 Code 417](#).

The resignation/retirement form can be found: [@DMPS Resource Center](#) / [Talent & Personnel](#) / [Forms & Processes button](#) / Group By: OTHER HR FORMS or PROCESSES / [Resignation or Retirement Request](#)

## APPENDIX

### Conditions of Employment Administrators

#### Certified Administrator

The term Administrator working under an administrator's license may include any other individual having the authority to hire, transfer, suspend, layoff, recall, promote, discharge, assign, reward or discipline other employees, or the responsibility to direct them or to adjust their grievances, or effectively to recommend such action.

#### Probationary Administrator with Less Than Three Consecutive Years of District Administrative Experience

1. A Probationary Administrator is an individual employed as an Administrator in the District for less than three consecutive years.
2. Administrators who are new to the District and/or administrators serving in their first administrative assignment in the District will be considered probationary and will be evaluated annually.
  - The goal of this evaluation schedule is to provide a structure of support and development for these administrators during their initial years of employment with the District.

#### Administrator Evaluations

Administrators will be evaluated every year. The summative evaluation will include reflection and documentation of performance based on the [Iowa Standards for School Leaders](#).

#### Administrative Assignments

Administrative assignment is defined as the placement of an Administrator at a specific location or in a specific job function(s). The assignment of all Administrators will be reviewed annually by the Superintendent or their designee for the benefit of the District, the individual or both.

1. An Administrator may request a change of assignment. The Superintendent shall make the final decision.
2. An Administrator maybe reassigned unilaterally without a request for a change of assignment. The Superintendent shall make the final decision.
3. Administrators will be given notice of changes of assignment. Such assignments shall be made to serve the need of the District and normally will be effective at the close of the service year.

#### New Certified Staff

All new certified employees must submit and/or complete the following information to the [Office of Talent & Personnel](#), 2100 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA 50321-1158, prior to starting employment:

- Online employment application
- A cancelled check for automatic deposit or a letter from the bank with routing and account numbers
- Federal W-4 and IA W-4 form
- Verification that the employee has been approved for an Iowa teaching license
- Valid driver's license and Social Security card or other [I-9 Form acceptable documents](#)
- Mandatory Reporter: Child and Dependent Adult Abuse
- Educational verification documents such as transcripts with conferred date of degree
- Background check

Before October 15 of the year employed, all certificated staff (in order to avoid being placed on unpaid leave) must have the following documents on file:

- A photocopy of their Iowa teaching license
- A photocopy of transcripts of all college coursework (all certified employees must file a complete official transcript of all their collegiate work with conferred date)

Acknowledgement of the receipt will be issued by the [Office of Talent & Personnel](#) as soon as the records are posted and filed. If an error or discrepancy is found, a special notice will be attached to your receipt. Please correct any errors immediately to avoid misunderstandings or complication later.

Note: Teachers who need conditional or an Executive Director's Decision License must have the application, fee, and course of study on file with the [Iowa Board of Educational Examiners](#) prior to beginning their assignment. For more information, you can contact the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners at 515-281-3245 or at [www.boee.iowa.gov](http://www.boee.iowa.gov).

By law, the [Office of Talent & Personnel](#) must receive these documents according to the above timelines. Once filed, these records become the property of the District. Failure to respond to this requirement in a timely manner may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment.

## Advancement on the Salary Schedule

### Licensed and Certificated Staff Members

Continuing certified staff members (including administrators) must submit a transcript for reclassification to the [Office of Talent & Personnel](#) by February 15 to receive the pay increment. Transcripts received after February 15 but before September 15 of the following school year will count on the reclassification schedule, but retroactive payments will not begin until the first check in December. Please see the [Comprehensive Agreement](#) for more details.

### Non-Certified Staff

To receive extra pay for semester hour credits earned, eligible non-certified employees must turn in photocopy transcripts no later than September 15. Please see the [Comprehensive Agreement](#) for more details.

### Licensure/Certification

The Iowa Board of Educational Examiners no longer provides school districts with a copy of employee licenses showing the proper endorsements for the current teaching or administrative assignment. It is the obligation of each certified staff member to renew their license with the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners at the proper time and notify the [Office of Talent & Personnel](#) at [dmps.talentpersonnel@dmschools.org](mailto:dmps.talentpersonnel@dmschools.org). The [Office of Talent & Personnel](#) will respond to employees via e-mail verifying that the license has been confirmed.

For information about license and authorization information and/or applying or renewal of license you can contact the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners at 515-281-3245 or at <https://boee.iowa.gov/apply-license>.

### Jury Duty Guidelines

The District will continue to pay you for the days you are absent for jury duty, therefore, you are required to reimburse the District for the amount that the county pays you to serve as a juror. If you are not selected to serve on the jury, you were scheduled for you are expected to contact your supervisor and return to work.

To avoid a deduction in pay the District requires documentation of jury duty service AND reimbursement of jury duty fees.

Documentation is defined as one of the following:

- 1) Copy of the check that is received from the Clerk of Court OR
- 2) Attendance record from the Clerk of Court.



Within 30 days of jury duty, one of the two forms of documentation must accompany your reimbursement check made payable to DMPS.

The daily compensation amounts paid for serving on a jury are:

District (Polk County) jury duty:

\$30.00 per day up to seven days

\$50.00 per day for eight or more days of service

Federal (Grand/Petit) jury duty:

\$50.00 per day with no increase until 30 days of service has been completed.

Payments for jury duty are to be sent to:

Des Moines Public Schools  
Financial Services  
2100 Fleur Drive  
Des Moines, Iowa 50321

Attn: [Pam Gomez](mailto:pamela.gomez@dmschools.org)  
[pamela.gomez@dmschools.org](mailto:pamela.gomez@dmschools.org)

For jury service in a county other than Polk County, notify [Pam Gomez](mailto:pamela.gomez@dmschools.org), Administrative Assistant, Financial Services, 515-242- 8527, [pamela.gomez@dmschools.org](mailto:pamela.gomez@dmschools.org) so that additional arrangements can be made on the reimbursement and prevent a payroll deduction.

County checks: any amounts over the daily rates are for mileage reimbursements and may be kept by the employee.

If you attend ½ day of jury duty, the same amount will be due to the District unless your payroll earnings are less than the compensation for jury duty. Less than full time employees should contact [Pam Gomez](mailto:pamela.gomez@dmschools.org), Administrative Assistant, Financial Services, 515-242- 8527, [pamela.gomez@dmschools.org](mailto:pamela.gomez@dmschools.org) before sending in their reimbursement.

If the Business Office does not receive reimbursement and documentation within 30 days, the employee will be docked one day of pay for each day of jury duty served.

Jury duty days may not be used for any other purpose.

Examples when jury duty cannot be claimed:

- 1) You witnessed a car accident. You have been subpoenaed to testify in court. This should be documented as personal leave or vacation.
- 2) A family member has to appear in court, and they truly need you there to support them. You may even be called as a character witness. This is NOT jury duty. Personal leave or vacation should be used.
- 3) You have witnessed abuse on a child in your classroom. The court has subpoenaed you to appear at a custody hearing. You are to use professional leave for your absence.
- 4) You have been given a date to appear for jury duty. You are directed to call the night before to see if you must report the following day. You find that you do not have to report. Although you have already requested a substitute for your absence you are to cancel the absence using the [Frontline Absence Management \(website\)](#) or phone system) and come to work. You will not qualify for jury duty pay.

If you choose to be absent from work you must change your leave request from jury duty to either vacation or personal leave, depending on your supervisor's approval. Failure to make the appropriate changes will result in a dock in pay for each day absent.

It is strongly suggested that you work out details of your jury duty with your office manager and/or supervisor in regard to substitutes and length of your jury service. Keep one or both of them informed as you are able to determine your required days.

## Crowdfunding Procedures

### Definition

Crowdfunding is the process of requesting donations to fund a specific purchase or project, typically through platforms designed for this purpose. Crowdfunding does not include the specific requests for donation the district makes using the District's own website or social media.

Because crowdfunding is a unique form of fundraising, the following rules will apply when gifts or donations are sought to benefit the District. If there is reason to believe the gifts are not following donor intent or if we are unable to track the assets received, we reserve the right to restrict future fundraisers through this platform.

### Preapproved Site

At this time, Donors Choose ([donorschoose.org](http://donorschoose.org)) is the only crowdfunding platform approved for requesting funds for District use. Under no circumstances should an outside bank account be opened to raise funds for the District. If further clarification is needed or you have any questions, please contact the Controller at 515-242-7718.

### District Partnership Program

DMPS participates in the Donors Choose District Partnership Program, an improved partnership strategy to maximize funding for our schools.

District Partnership Program benefits include:

- A district [landing page](#) that houses all DMPS projects in one place, providing greater visibility for funders;
- Advanced notification of funding opportunities from partners, including matching opportunities;
- A simplified process to upload a project, no longer requiring the internal approval form step;
- Automated controls and reports.

To take advantage of this ongoing funding opportunity, complete these easy steps:

1. Create a Project Idea that complements district curriculum and priorities and will boost engagement and learning in your classroom. (When possible, break down large projects into several smaller projects (under \$500 each) for a better change of being funded).
2. Sign up for an account at [donorschoose.org/teachers](http://donorschoose.org/teachers). This link walks you through the process and offers other information.
3. Shop for the items you need for your project from the approved vendors.
4. Submit your project. The process should take less than 25 minutes.
5. Your project will be reviewed and posted by Donors Choose within approximately three (3) days.
6. If your project is fully funded, supplies will be shipped directly to your classroom. If a project does not reach its goal, donors can redirect their contributions toward your next project.
7. After the materials arrive, submit a brief report for Donors Choose.

**TECHONOLOGY REQUESTS:** It is important that all technology requests align with district technology guidelines, which will be displayed when you create your project. The guidelines can also be found [here](#).

**FERPA AND CONFIDENTIALITY:** Please make sure to comply with FERPA and confidentiality when sharing information about your students or posting photos. (Permission slips from parents are required by Donors Choose).

For other helpful information about Donors Choose, click [here](#). To access a 12-minute webinar "Donors Choose Guide to Teacher Success", click [here](#). If you have additional questions, please contact [Lori Brenno](#), Grants Specialist.

## Information on eligibility, from the Donors Choose website:

*Is my role or position eligible for Donors Choose?* Your role is eligible to create projects on Donors Choose if you meet all the following criteria:

- You work in an [eligible school](#).
- You're employed full-time (or considered at least 0.75 FTE) by a public school, public charter school or the Office of Head Start.
- You're a front-line educator or other faculty member whose main responsibility is to directly teach or counsel students:
  - Front-line educators and other faculty can include (but aren't limited to): classroom teachers, subject-areas teachers, librarians, therapists, counselors, school nurses, etc.
  - You are in charge of creating your own lesson plans (or equivalent in a non-classroom role), and not primarily assisting another lead teacher.

Your role is not eligible to create projects on Donors Choose if you:

- Are in a primarily administrative role, e.g., principal, coordinator, business officer, Dean
- Teach or train staff and other faculty members, and only spend some time with students while assisting other teachers, e.g., instructional coach/teacher developer
- Are a parent (including PTA members)
- Are an instructional aide or a school staff member that primarily assists other faculty members, e.g., teachers' assistant, paraprofessional, or student teacher
- Are an athletic coach that does not meet the eligibility criteria above
- Are a temporary substitute teacher, a part-time teacher, or an after school teacher
- Are in a supporting 'school staff' role such as cafeteria worker, security guard, bus driver, etc.
- Work in an Early Head Start classroom

## Leader Responsibility

It is the responsibility of the project leader to understand and comply with all legal and regulatory requirements that apply to the crowdfunding activity including the specific platform's rules. When uploading a campaign onto donorschoose.org, please make sure you maintain student confidentiality and follow laws pertaining to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA). As the project leader, it is your responsibility to ensure the use of donation items align with your proposed use of funds and are in line with the donor's intent. The project leader is in charge of maintaining a file that includes:

- Confirmation of email with district approval to post on donorschoose.org
- Written detail of the project – what is posted on the fundraising website
- Photos or images posted with the project
- Copy of all agreements and permission forms

## Donation Requirements

All donations or gifts that are requested using the District's name, referencing the employee's position with the District even if the District is not named, or requested on behalf of District students specifically or in general are considered District property. The following staff must be informed when donations or gifts are received through crowdfunding so the gift may be appropriately acknowledged and inventoried by the District. With the exception of DonorsChoose donations, when an employee transfers or leaves the District, the property stays with the District.

- Technology: All technology must be sent to IT to be barcoded and entered into the system. The funding source should be noted as a donation and who/where it was from. Contact [Bill Malone](#) (242-8251), cc [Sharon Fuller](#) (242-8175) and [Emily Truitt](#) (242-8120).

- Music: [Kelly Schnackenberg](#) (242-7609), cc [Sharon Fuller](#) (242-8175) and [Emily Truitt](#) (242-8120).
- Athletics: [Troy Owens](#) (2428536) or [Jason Allen](#) (242-8377), cc [Sharon Fuller](#) (242-8175) and [Emily Truitt](#) (242-8120).
- Textbooks: [Debbie Hill](#) (242-7931), cc [Sharon Fuller](#) (242-8175) and [Emily Truitt](#) (242-8120).

### DonorsChoose.org Materials Ownership Policy

The following is the policy of donorschoose.org and is posted on their website.

Materials funded through DonorsChoose.org are considered to be the property of the public school classroom and will be sent to the school where the teacher is registered on our site when materials are ordered. When they arrive, materials should be given to the teacher who submitted the project request, to be used in their classroom. Materials for projects requesting "life essentials" for students are meant to be given to the students to use and own, and thus the following policy will not apply.

Districts and schools often have policies around documenting or tracking donated items, and we encourage teachers to learn about such policies before submitting requests for funding on our site. DonorsChoose.org will not be able to override these policies but will provide support in cases where a teacher is denied access to materials that were delivered for their classroom.

\*If a teacher leaves a school:

Any materials that have been delivered to the school by default should remain at that school if a teacher leaves. However, the teacher is welcome to take the materials with him/her to a new school if both of these criteria are met:

- The teacher will continue to teach in a public school and in a position that meets our eligibility criteria.
- The principal gives consent for the teacher to take funded materials to use in their new classroom.

## Evaluation Procedures & Standards

### Procedures

#### Notification

Within four weeks after the employee or SUCCESS employee reports to their assignment, the building principal or their appropriate supervisor shall acquaint each employee or SUCCESS employee under their supervision with the formal evaluation procedures as may be used and advise each employee or SUCCESS employee as to the designated person or persons who will observe and evaluate the employee's or SUCCESS employee's performance. No formal evaluation shall take place until such orientation has been completed.

#### Formal Observation

Each probationary employee or SUCCESS employee shall be formally observed by their employer for the purpose of evaluation at least two times during their first semester of employment, at least one time during the employee's or SUCCESS employee's second semester of employment, and at least once every year for the employee's remaining period of probation. During each year that an educator serves under an initial license (Beginning educator), the Beginning educator shall be formally observed three times. Each non-probationary employee or SUCCESS worker shall be observed by their principal or appropriate supervisor at least once every three years for the purpose of completing a formal evaluation. Observations made for Career Level III-B employees may be substituted for this formal observation at the discretion of the Employer.

## **Conference**

Each formal observation of an employee or SUCCESS employee shall be followed by a personal conference between the employee or SUCCESS employee and the employee or SUCCESS employee's Evaluator.

## **Written Evaluation**

The evaluation shall be reduced to writing and a copy given to the employee or SUCCESS employee. If the employee or SUCCESS employee disagrees with the written evaluation, the employee or SUCCESS employee may submit a signed and dated written position to the building principal or their appropriate supervisor, and then the written position shall be attached to the file copy of the evaluation in question. The employee or SUCCESS employee shall be asked to sign the written evaluation; however, such signature shall be understood to indicate the employee's or SUCCESS employee's awareness of the evaluation and acknowledgement of receipt of the written evaluation report, but in no instance shall said signature be interpreted to mean agreement with the content of the material.

## **Informal Observation**

Additional informal observations of employees or SUCCESS employees may occur at the discretion of the Employer. It may not be deemed necessary to reduce such informal observations to writing; a verbal discussion between the Employer and the employee or SUCCESS employee concerning the informal observations may suffice. Where an informal observation reflects areas of needed improvement and that a plan of assistance is warranted, the administration shall, in a timely manner, provide the employee with written feedback regarding the informal observation. If a written evaluation is deemed necessary, the procedure for written evaluation as outlined above shall be followed.

## **Personnel File**

Each employee or SUCCESS employee shall have, upon request, the right to review the evaluation documents contained in their personnel file. An employee or SUCCESS employee has the right to respond in writing to any evaluation documents. Any complaints directed toward an employee or SUCCESS employee which are placed in their personnel file shall be promptly called to the employee's or SUCCESS employee's attention in writing.

## **Performance Standards for SUCCESS Employees**

### **Performance Area I: Collaboration and Coordination**

- Works collaboratively with representatives of social service agencies, schools, and advisory committees to meet the needs of program participants.
- Functions as a member of the interdisciplinary team.
- Provides prompt and ongoing follow up to school and agency staff regarding client status.

### **Performance Area II: Effectiveness with Youth and Families**

- Assesses the comprehensive needs of children/youth and families and assist them in identifying their current and potential strengths and needs.
- Assists children/youth and families in linking them to services available and in overcoming barriers to utilize those services.
- Develops an effective relationship with children/youth and families.

### **Performance Area III: Professional Qualities**

- Adapts work schedule to meet family and program needs and work(s) within building guidelines.
- Maintains a caseload that is consistent with program objectives to provide long-term support for selected families.
- Maintains accurate records and completes required reports.
- Provides for confidentiality of all program services as it relates to both written and verbal communications.

## Performance Area IV: School Performance/Outcomes

- Collaborates with all stakeholders to support academic achievement.
- Collaborates with all stakeholders to support improvement of student behavior.
- Collaborates with all stakeholders to support improvement of student attendance.

## Transfer Procedure

For administration of this Article, SUCCESS employees are treated as a separate and independent group, provided transfer procedure rights only within that group.

### Definition

Transfer is defined as movement of an employee or SUCCESS employee to a different building.

### Employee-Initiated Transfer

Known existing full time and /or part-time openings for certificated employees identified by subject area or grade level and locations that will be available for the subsequent school year will be posted on the district's web page, [www.dmschools.org](http://www.dmschools.org) and [Teachlowa.gov](http://Teachlowa.gov).

- Notification of Vacancies (Openings) for SUCCESS Employees.
- SUCCESS employees will only be eligible to transfer to vacant SUCCESS Program job classifications, e.g., case manager, family development specialist, and center coordinator.

The following procedures apply to employee-initiated transfers:

- A timeline for transfer activities will be developed and communication to employees by January 15th of each year.
- The District determines and provides staffing allocations to each building annually in as timely a manner as feasible. It is the responsibility of the Superintendent to ensure public interest supersedes the privileges of District employees and the requirements of the District supersede those of a specific school.
- When a vacancy exists, the principal/hiring administrator will attempt to select the most qualified teacher based on experience, specific qualifications, certification/licensure and seniority.
- All vacancies will be subject to being filled by the licensed employee transfer procedure as hereinafter provided. A vacancy shall be deemed to occur on the date the current employee ceases active employment, or the Board of Directors takes official action on such position, whichever occurs first.
- Vacancy Description - All vacancies shall be defined by and posted according to the job classification and detailed by the job description. The employee will utilize the online application form and process to apply for a transfer.
- An employee who is on a plan of improvement may not apply for a transfer. The Superintendent may waive this restriction.
- The principal/hiring supervisor may elect to interview external candidates in addition to at least one internal candidate, provided at least one internal candidate applies, unless the end result is layoff. Selected applicants will be interviewed using the standard District hiring process.
- After interviews are conducted, the principal/hiring administrator will make a recommendation to the Superintendent and/or their designee following District Hiring Procedures.
- Following the transfer process, the principal/hiring supervisor will interview external candidates to solidify staffing plans and avoid creating additional vacancies in other buildings related to summer vacancies. The principal/hiring supervisor will interview internal candidates only for highly hard to fill positions requiring specialized qualifications or positions requiring previous years of experience as a district employee as indicated on the specific job description.

### **Employer-Initiated Transfer**

Notification. In the case of Employer-initiated transfers, the principal of the school in which the employee or SUCCESS employee works shall inform the employee or SUCCESS employee in writing of the reasons for transfer. Employer-initiated transfers of an employee or SUCCESS employee after the beginning of an academic year will not be effective until a personal conference has been held between the Employer and the employee or SUCCESS employee.

### **Return Rights**

Any employee or SUCCESS employee assigned to an administrative or supervisory position that subsequently becomes a member of the bargaining unit shall be entitled to retain such rights as may have accrued under the applicable [Comprehensive Agreement](#).

### **Procedure for Staff Reduction**

For administration of this Article, SUCCESS employees are treated as a separate and independent group provided staff reduction rights only within that group.

### **Attrition**

In the event it is necessary to have a reduction in staff, the District shall attempt to accomplish such reduction by attrition. In the event necessary reduction of staff cannot be accomplished by attrition, the District shall determine which employees or SUCCESS employees are to be retained according to the following procedure:

- Staff Reduction within a Building and District. When employment cannot be provided in a particular building, the reduction in staff shall be based upon (a) the needs of the school system as determined by the District, (b) the affected employee's or SUCCESS employee's educational preparation and experience, and (c) the relative skill, ability, and competence of the employee or SUCCESS employee for which employment cannot be provided. When those employees or SUCCESS employees for which employment cannot be provided in a particular building have qualifications considered equal, the employee or SUCCESS employee with the least district seniority within the building shall be declared excess and shall be transferred first.
- Reductions shall first be made through attrition. Following, reductions will be made from among employees or SUCCESS employees with temporary or emergency certification, unless otherwise needed to maintain an existing program.
- Employer initiated transfers that result from this practice shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions expressly associated with Employer-Initiated Transfers identified above. Should further reductions be necessary and when the remaining employees or SUCCESS employees have equal qualifications and relevant experience; the employees or SUCCESS employees with the least district seniority shall be laid off first.

### **Recall Rights**

Any employee or SUCCESS employee laid off pursuant to this practice shall have recall rights to any position for which they are or may become qualified for one year from the effective date of their layoff and shall be offered employment in such professional categories in inverse order of the layoff.

### **Notification of Vacancies**

A laid-off employee or SUCCESS employee shall be notified by certified mail of an appropriate vacancy sent to the employee's or SUCCESS employee's address on file with the [Office of Talent & Personnel](#). An employee's failure to respond affirmatively in writing within five calendar days after receipt of the District's letter shall cause loss of recall rights.



## Level One Investigator

Any individual wishing to report a student being abused by an employee shall notify the building Level I Investigator. Below is a list of all Level I Investigators by building.

[Code 418.1 Policy Title: Report of Student Abuse by School Employee](#)

| <b>LEVEL 1 INVESTIGATORS 2024-2025</b> |                    |                   |                  |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>LEVEL</b>                           | <b>BUILDING</b>    | <b>FIRST NAME</b> | <b>LAST NAME</b> |
| Pre                                    | JF TAYLOR          | JODI              | HARRELL          |
| Pre                                    | MCKEE              | GABRIEL           | MORENO           |
| Pre                                    | MITCHELL PRESCHOOL | JENNY             | MOORE            |
| Pre                                    | WOODLAWN           | LAURA             | CORKREAN         |
| ES                                     | BRUBAKER           | ASHLEY            | INTHELANGSY      |
| ES                                     | BRUBAKER           | BRITTANY          | BONESHEFSKI      |
| ES                                     | BRUBAKER           | KATRISHA          | RINNAN           |
| ES                                     | CAPITOL VIEW       | KAREN             | CATRON           |
| ES                                     | CAPITOL VIEW       | BENJAMIN          | GRAEBER          |
| ES                                     | CARVER             | GRACE             | BETZ             |
| ES                                     | CARVER             | JILL              | BURNETT REQUIST  |
| ES                                     | CATTELL            | SHELLY            | JOHNSON          |
| ES                                     | CATTELL            | SCOTT             | NICHOLS          |
| ES                                     | COWLES             | MICHAEL           | GOSSEN           |
| ES                                     | COWLES             | MELISSA           | LEYDEN           |
| ES                                     | DOWNTOWN SCHOOL    | MICHELLE          | HURLBURT         |
| ES                                     | DOWNTOWN SCHOOL    | JESSICA           | RAMIREZ          |
| ES                                     | DOWNTOWN SCHOOL    | BARBARA           | HOGAN            |
| ES                                     | EDMUNDS            | KELLY             | TU               |
| ES                                     | EDMUNDS            | TAYLOR            | MOORE            |
| ES                                     | EDMUNDS            | JAYNETTE          | RITTMAN          |
| ES                                     | FINDLEY            | BARBARA           | ADAMS            |
| ES                                     | FINDLEY            | RYAN              | PIRTLE           |
| ES                                     | GARTON             | BRADLEY           | PAUL             |
| ES                                     | GARTON             | ANDREA            | SAFINA           |
| ES                                     | GREENWOOD          | TAMMA             | HOWE             |
| ES                                     | GREENWOOD          | JENNY             | INMAN            |
| ES                                     | HANAWALT           | JENNIFER          | WILLIAMS         |
| ES                                     | HANAWALT           | JOLENE            | LIEBL            |
| ES                                     | HILLIS             | OLGA              | BARNES           |

|    |             |                    |                  |
|----|-------------|--------------------|------------------|
| ES | HILLIS      | AMBER              | SMITH            |
| ES | HOWE        | KARI               | BROOKS           |
| ES | HOWE        | EMILY              | PETRSON          |
| ES | HUBBELL     | TOM                | BARTELLO         |
| ES | HUBBELL     | CARRIE             | BELT             |
| ES | JACKSON     | BROOKE             | HAKERT           |
| ES | JACKSON     | MELANIE            | SHELLENBERGER    |
| ES | JEFFERSON   | DAVID              | SHARKEY          |
| ES | JEFFERSON   | WILLIE             | MONTGOMERY       |
| ES | KING        | SARA               | BITTING          |
| ES | KING        | CORY               | HEABERLIN        |
| ES | LOVEJOY     | KRISTEN            | KENNEDY ANDERSON |
| ES | LOVEJOY     | BRANDI             | OTTO             |
| ES | MADISON     | JENNIFER           | KREIGER          |
| ES | MADISON     | SARAH              | MAJOROS          |
| ES | MCKINLEY    | SARAH              | GRADY            |
| ES | MCKINLEY    | LINLEY             | HOUSER           |
| ES | MONROE      | CARMEN             | COLLISON         |
| ES | MONROE      | STEPHANIE          | FLICKINGER       |
| ES | MONROE      | CHRISTOPHER (JOHN) | WARD             |
| ES | MOORE       | RENEE              | GELFOND          |
| ES | MOORE       | SARA               | MAYES            |
| ES | MOORE       | BETTINA            | BRADLEY          |
| ES | MORRIS      | SHERRY             | AMOS             |
| ES | MORRIS      | JULIE              | GEISTKEMPER      |
| ES | MORRIS      | JAIME              | ROBINSON         |
| ES | MORRIS      | JEFFREY JB         | WATSON           |
| ES | MOULTON     | EDWARD             | MCCULLEY         |
| ES | MOULTON     | VIRGINIA           | MARTIN           |
| ES | OAK PARK    | ALEXIS             | DENTON           |
| ES | OAK PARK    | DUSTIN             | HOCKMAN          |
| ES | PARK AVENUE | DIANNA             | ANDERSON         |
| ES | PARK AVENUE | AMY                | CAIN             |
| ES | PERKINS     | DANNIELLA          | VAJGRT           |
| ES | PERKINS     | MICHAEL            | DERRICK JR       |
| ES | PHILLIPS    | KRISTY             | FITZGERALD       |
| ES | PHILLIPS    | SUSAN              | HUNTER           |

|    |                |             |                 |
|----|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| ES | PLEASANT HILL  | TODD        | JOHNSON         |
| ES | PLEASANT HILL  | MEGAN       | EISCHEID        |
| ES | RIVERWOODS     | AARON       | BAHR            |
| ES | RIVERWOODS     | TRACI       | SHIPLEY         |
| ES | SAMUELSON      | BENJAMIN    | LACONNER        |
| ES | SAMUELSON      | CARRIE      | WEERS           |
| ES | SAMUELSON      | AMY         | WIEGMANN        |
| ES | SOUTH UNION    | TINA        | HASSEL          |
| ES | SOUTH UNION    | KELLY       | RUDEN           |
| ES | STOWE          | MAGGIE      | DAU             |
| ES | STOWE          | TIONA       | SANDBULTE       |
| ES | STUDEBAKER     | BRIAN       | COOK            |
| ES | STUDEBAKER     | CASSIE      | KENDZORA        |
| ES | STUDEBAKER     | KELSEY      | VAIL            |
| ES | STUDEBAKER     | NICOLE      | LYON            |
| ES | WALNUT STREET  | LESLIE      | BARNHIZER       |
| ES | WALNUT STREET  | AMY         | LAUG            |
| ES | WILLARD        | JULIE       | KRUSE           |
| ES | WILLARD        | WAYNE       | KNUTSON         |
| ES | WINDSOR        | MIRANDA     | HUBNER          |
| ES | WINDSOR        | CLAUDIA     | LORENTZEN       |
| ES | WRIGHT         | MICHELLE    | HURLBURT        |
| ES | WRIGHT         | MEGAN       | CAVE            |
| MS | BRODY MIDDLE   | NATASHA     | DAVIS           |
| MS | BRODY MIDDLE   | JOLYNN      | MAY             |
| MS | CALLANAN       | SARAH       | BENGSTON        |
| MS | CALLANAN       | HEATHER     | FARRIS-VERMEER  |
| MS | CALLANAN       | CONNER      | DALTON          |
| MS | GOODRELL       | CARRIE      | ROMO            |
| MS | GOODRELL       | SARAI       | TILLINGHAST     |
| MS | GOODRELL       | PATRICK     | LEWIS           |
| MS | HARDING MIDDLE | BEN         | HEINEN          |
| MS | HARDING MIDDLE | CHRISTOPHER | SCHMIT          |
| MS | HIATT MIDDLE   | OSCAR       | CARDENAS        |
| MS | HIATT MIDDLE   | JOSEPH      | GREEN           |
| MS | HIATT MIDDLE   | SARAH       | SMITH           |
| MS | HOYT           | FAIROUZ     | BISHARA-RANTISI |

|    |                 |             |             |
|----|-----------------|-------------|-------------|
| MS | HOYT            | ALISON      | KENNEDY     |
| MS | HOYT            | BRITTANY    | OAKLEY      |
| MS | MCCOMBS         | JASON       | SNOW        |
| MS | MCCOMBS         | CHRISTOPHER | DOUGLAS     |
| MS | MCCOMBS         | JENNIFER    | CORNELIUS   |
| MS | MEREDITH MIDDLE | JEFFERY     | RICHER      |
| MS | MEREDITH MIDDLE | TERRIE      | PRICE       |
| MS | MERRILL         | RYAN        | DAUGHERTY   |
| MS | MERRILL         | KATHRYN     | PANEK       |
| MS | MERRILL         | DANIELLE    | TAYLOR      |
| MS | WEEKS MIDDLE    | CHARLOTTE   | BRUMFIELD   |
| MS | WEEKS MIDDLE    | MICHAEL     | PENTEK      |
| HS | CENTRAL ACADEMY | JESSICA     | GOGERTY     |
| HS | CENTRAL ACADEMY | JANELLE     | DANNER      |
| HS | CENTRAL CAMPUS  | JESSIE      | MASTELLAR   |
| HS | EAST            | LISA        | HARRINGTON  |
| HS | EAST            | STEVEN      | LEIB        |
| MS | HOOVER          | DOUG        | CALAWAY     |
| HS | HOOVER          | ROBERT      | RANDAZZO    |
| HS | HOOVER          | MORGAN      | SCHONEBERG* |
| HS | JF TAYLOR MAC   | SUSAN       | HOPE        |
| HS | JF TAYLOR MAC   | JORDYN      | TERRY       |
| HS | LINCOLN HIGH    | MOLLY       | NORTON      |
| HS | LINCOLN HIGH    | JOY         | LINQUIST    |
| HS | LINCOLN HIGH    | OCIE        | LOWERY III  |
| HS | LINCOLN HIGH    | WESTON      | WOLVEN      |
| HS | LINCOLN HIGH    | TORI        | RABE        |
| HS | NORTH HIGH      | CHRISTOPHER | MANIECE     |
| HS | NORTH HIGH      | RYAN        | WILLIAMSON  |
| HS | NORTH HIGH      | CHAD        | RYAN        |
| HS | NORTH HIGH      | CAIT        | BURLEY      |
| HS | OPTIONS ACADEMY | AMANDA      | DVORAK      |
| HS | OPTIONS ACADEMY | RICHARD     | BLONIGAN II |
| HS | ORCHARD PLACE   | RICHARD     | BLONIGAN    |
| HS | ORCHARD PLACE   | STEPHANIE   | ZUEHLKE     |
| HS | ROOSEVELT       | MELISSA     | FLOYD       |
| HS | ROOSEVELT       | JEFFREY     | HUMMEL      |

|    |                            |          |                 |
|----|----------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| HS | ROOSEVELT                  | ANDREW   | WADE            |
| HS | RUBY VAN METER             | JENNIFER | BRINDLE-ROTHMAN |
| HS | RUBY VAN METER             | LAUREL   | FRIEDMAN        |
| HS | RUBY VAN METER             | LINDSEY  | FOX             |
| O  | ALL POINTS ACADEMY         | SUSAN    | HOPE            |
| O  | ALL POINTS ACADEMY         | JORDYN   | TERRY           |
| O  | ASPIRE ACADEMY @ JF Taylor | SUSAN    | HOPE            |
| O  | ASPIRE ACADEMY @ JF Taylor | JORDYN   | TERRY           |
| O  | FOCUS                      | LORI     | BONNSTETTER     |
| O  | FOCUS                      | ERIN     | ELSCOTT         |
| O  | FOCUS                      | SUSAN    | HOPE            |
| O  | SCAVO                      | NA       | NA              |
| O  | SMOUSE                     | ROBERT   | LUNDIN          |
| O  | 4+ PROGRAMS                | SUSAN    | HOPE            |
| O  | 4+ PROGRAMS                | HEATHER  | CARMAN          |

# APPENDIX A

## SEXUAL HARASSMENT PROCEDURES MANUAL

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## I. THE POLICY

In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, Des Moines Community School District prohibits sex discrimination, including sexual harassment as defined by the regulations implementing Title IX (34 C.F.R. § 106.30), against any individual participating in any education program or activity of the District. This prohibition on discrimination applies to students, employees, and applicants for employment.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to adopt procedures for any individual to report sexual harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator, for the provision of supportive measures to anyone who has been subjected to sexual harassment whether or not they proceed with a formal complaint under those procedures, and for the investigation and resolution of such complaints, as required by Title IX. This Title IX complaint process shall be used to respond to all complaints of sexual harassment that fall within the scope of Title IX. For complaints of sexual harassment that do not fall within the scope of Title IX, the District may still offer supportive measures to the target of such conduct and shall apply any other policy or procedure applicable to the alleged conduct.

Any individual with questions about the District's Title IX policy and procedures, or who would like to make a report or file a formal complaint of sex discrimination or sexual harassment may contact the District's designated Title IX Coordinator, Carol Wynn-Green, 2100 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA 50321; phone: 515-242-7732; email: [carol.wynnngreen@dmschools.org](mailto:carol.wynnngreen@dmschools.org).

Retaliation against a person who made a report or complaint of sexual harassment, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation or resolution of a sexual harassment report or complaint is strictly prohibited. Retaliation includes threats, coercion, discrimination, intimidation, reprisals, and/or adverse actions related to employment or education. Any individual who believed they have been retaliated against in violation of this Policy should immediately contact the District's Title IX Coordinator.

## II. DEFINITIONS

**A. Sexual harassment** means unwelcome behavior or conduct (physical, verbal, written, electronic) because of sex or gender, and that meets any of the following definitions:

1. **"Quid Pro Quo" Harassment.** A District employee explicitly or implicitly conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the District on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct, **OR**
2. **Hostile Educational/Work Environment.** Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's education program or activity, **OR**
3. **Sexual assault.** An offense that meets the definition any one of the following offenses:
  - Rape: the penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus, with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person without consent of the victim.
  - Fondling: the touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification without consent of the victim.
  - Incest: sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law; or
  - Statutory rape: sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent; **OR**



#### 4. **Stalking:**

- Purposefully engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person ("target") that would cause a reasonable person to fear bodily injury to, or the death of, the target or a member of the target's immediate family.
- when the person ("stalker") knows or should know that the target will be placed in reasonable fear of bodily injury to, or the death of, the target or a member of the target's immediate family by the course of conduct; and
- the stalker's course of conduct induces fear in the target of bodily injury to, or the death of, the target or a member of the target's immediate family, **OR**

#### 5. **Dating Violence:** violence committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. The existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of:

- The length of the relationship.
- The type of relationship.
- The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship, **OR**

#### 6. **Domestic Violence:** any felony or misdemeanor crime of violence committed:

- By a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim.
- By a person with whom the victim shares a child in common.
- By a person who is cohabiting with, or has cohabited with, the victim as a spouse or intimate partner.
- By a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the State of Iowa; or
- By any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the State of Iowa.

**B. Consent** means knowing and voluntary agreement to engage in conduct or an activity with another individual. Silence or an absence of resistance does not imply consent. Past consent to engage in conduct or an activity does not imply future consent; consent can be revoked at any time. An individual who is incapacitated (e.g., when a person is asleep, unconsciousness, under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or disability) cannot give consent. Coercion, force, or the threat of either invalidates consent. Under no circumstances can a student give consent to engage in any sexual conduct or activity with an employee of the District.

**C. Complainant** means any person who alleges that they have been subjected to sexual harassment as defined by this Policy. At the time of filing a formal complaint, a complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the District's education program or activity.

**D. Respondent** means any person who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment under this Policy, and over whom the District is able to exercise substantial control.

### III. **POLICY SCOPE**

This Policy applies to all persons participating in the District's education program or activity, including students and employees and applicants for employment. Under Title IX, the District has jurisdiction over locations, events or circumstances over which it substantially controls the Respondent and the context in which the harassment occurs. The District's jurisdiction is limited to conduct against a person that occurs in the United States.

Any person may make a report of sexual harassment to the District's Title IX Coordinator.

#### IV. CONFIDENTIALITY

The District is committed to creating an environment that encourages individuals to come forward if they have experienced or witnessed sexual harassment. However, the District cannot promise absolute confidentiality to any party. District employees cannot promise confidentiality to any student who reports possible sexual harassment to them.

The District will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination or sexual harassment, or has been identified as the perpetrator or respondent to any such report or complaint, or is a witness to any complaint or investigation, **except** as required to carry out the purposes of this Policy (including the conduct of any complaint resolution process), applicable law, or as permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), 20 U.S.C. § 1232g.

#### V. REPORTING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, INCLUDING SEXUAL ASSAULT AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT

##### A. Employee Reporting Obligations

Any District employee who witnesses or becomes aware of sexual harassment have an affirmative obligation to report immediately to the District's Title IX Coordinator or to their building principal or immediate supervisor. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action against the employee, up to and including termination of employment.

##### B. Reporting to Law Enforcement

Because sexual misconduct may constitute both a violation of District policy and criminal activity, individuals who have been subject to criminal sexual misconduct may wish to report their concerns to law enforcement. An individual may proceed under this Policy whether or not they elect to report to law enforcement.

##### C. Reporting to the District

Any individual who wishes to make a report or file a formal complaint of sexual harassment may contact the District's Title IX Coordinator Carol Wynn-Green, 2100 Fleur Drive, Des Moines, IA 50321; phone: 515-242-7709; email: [carol.wyngreen@dmschools.org](mailto:carol.wyngreen@dmschools.org). Any individual who is subject to, witnesses, or becomes aware of alleged sexual harassment may also submit an anonymous report at [https://dmschools.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0fAgUXrVMTJr4DI](https://dmschools.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0fAgUXrVMTJr4DI).

[DMPS website](#) / [School District Departments](#) / [Office of Talent & Personnel](#) / [Equity, Inclusion & Compliance](#) / [Complaint Information & Procedure](#)

**Allegations that an employee of the District has engaged in sexual harassment toward a student must be immediately reported or referred to the District's designated Level 1 Investigator and must be handled in accordance with 281 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 102 (Procedures for Charging and Investigating Incidents of Abuse of Students by School Employees).** The Level 1 Investigator shall be responsible for complying with the requirements of Chapter 102, including with respect to reporting the alleged conduct to law enforcement or other appropriate state agencies. The Level 1 Investigator shall work with the District's Title IX Coordinator to determine how to preserve or restore the student's access to the District's education program and activities.

##### D. Amnesty for Complainants and Participants in Investigations

The District will not pursue disciplinary action for improper possession or use of alcohol or other drugs against a student who reports in good faith an incident of sexual misconduct, or who participates in good faith in an investigation into an incident of sexual misconduct. The District may still notify the parent/guardian of the student(s) involved in such possession/use to promote the student safety and well-being or otherwise report such possession or use as required by law.

#### **E. Retaliation Prohibited**

Retaliation against a person who makes a report or complaint of sexual harassment, or who assists, or participates in any manner in an investigation or resolution of a sexual harassment report or complaint is strictly prohibited. Retaliation includes threats, coercion, discrimination, intimidation, reprisals, and/or adverse actions related to employment or education. Any individual who believed they have been retaliated against in violation of this Policy should immediately contact the District's Title IX Coordinator.

This Policy's antiretaliation protections do not apply to any individual who makes a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of any complaint, investigation, hearing, or other proceeding under this Policy. However, a determination that an individual made a materially false statement in bad faith must be supported by some evidence other than the determination of whether the Respondent violated this Policy alone. An individual who makes a materially false statement in bad faith may be subject to discipline up to and including suspension or expulsion of a student or termination of an employee's employment.

#### **F. Time Frames for Reporting and Response**

The District strongly encourages prompt reporting of complaints and information. While there is no time limit in invoking this Policy in responding to complaints of alleged sexual harassment, a complaint should be submitted as soon as possible after the event takes place in order to maximize the District's ability to respond promptly and equitably.

The District may not be able to fully investigate a formal complaint against an individual who is no longer affiliated with the District. Under those circumstances, the District will still consider whether it can offer supportive measures to the Complainant or proceed under another applicable law, policy, procedure, handbook provision, or rule.

In all cases, the District will conduct a prompt and equitable investigation of allegations of sexual misconduct. Generally, the District will attempt to complete the investigation and make a determination regarding responsibility within forty-five (45) calendar days of receipt of a formal complaint. However, the District may alter or extend this time with notice to both parties. The time it takes to complete the resolution of a sexual harassment complaint may vary based on the complexity of the investigation and the severity and extent of the alleged conduct, as well as on whether there is a parallel criminal investigation, or if school breaks occur during the process.

### **VI. PROCESS FOR RESPONDING TO REPORTS OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

#### **A. Initial Meeting with the Complainant**

Upon receipt of any report of sexual harassment occurring in the District's educational program or activity, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will schedule a meeting with the Complainant in order to provide the Complainant a general understanding of this Policy and to identify forms of supportive measures available to the Complainant with or without the filing of a formal complaint, and to explain the process for filing a formal complaint. The intake meeting may also involve a discussion of any specific supportive measures that may be appropriate.

At the initial intake meeting with the Complainant, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will seek to determine how the Complainant wishes to proceed. The Complainant may opt for: (1) informal resolution; (2) formal resolution; or (3) not proceeding. Supportive measures may still be offered whether or not the Complainant chooses any of these options.

If the Complainant wishes to proceed with either informal or formal resolution, a written document must be filed by the Complainant or signed by the Title IX coordinator alleging harassment against a respondent (the “formal complaint”). Where the Title IX Coordinator signs a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator is not the complainant or otherwise a party to a complaint proceeding under this Policy.

## **B. Informal Resolution**

Upon filing of a formal complaint, a Complainant who does not wish to pursue formal resolution may request a less formal proceeding, known as “Informal Resolution.” Informal resolution is available to the parties any time prior to a determination of responsibility being issued.

Informal resolution is a voluntary process that requires the written consent of the Complainant and Respondent. The District will not require the parties to participate in the Informal Resolution process as a condition of enrollment, employment, or of any other right conferred by the District. The Title IX Coordinator will assess the severity of the alleged harassment and the potential risk for others in the District community to determine whether informal resolution may be appropriate. Informal Resolution will **never** be used to resolve allegations involving an employee sexually harassing a student.

The Title IX Coordinator will provide the parties with a written notice setting forth the allegations, the requirements of the informal resolution process set forth in this Policy, the right of any party to withdraw from the informal process and proceed with the formal complaint process at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution; and any consequences resulting from the participation in the informal process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared by the District.

Upon receipt of written consent from the parties to participate in informal resolution, the Title IX Coordinator will consult separately with the Complainant and Respondent and gather additional relevant information as necessary. The Title IX Coordinator may also put in place any appropriate supportive measures to protect the educational and work environment of the parties.

The Title IX Coordinator will work with parties to determine a mutually acceptable resolution to the complaint. This resolution will be reduced to writing and signed by the Complainant and the Respondent. Once signed, the written resolution becomes final and neither party can initiate the formal complaint process for the allegations in the formal complaint. The written resolution is not subject to appeal.

Either party may, at any time prior to signing an informal resolution agreement, elect to end the informal resolution process and initiate formal resolution instead.

In order to promote honest, direct, communication, information disclosed during informal resolution will remain confidential, except where disclosure may be required by law or authorized in connection with duties on behalf of the District.

## **C. Formal Resolution**

Upon submission of a formal complaint, Complainant may elect to pursue a formal resolution, which is described more specifically in this section.

### **1. Consolidation of Complaints**

The District may consolidate formal complaints of sexual harassment against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents, or by one party against another party, where the allegations arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

## 2. Required Notices

**Notice of Investigation.** If a Complainant elects to pursue a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will provide a written Notice of Investigation simultaneously to both parties notifying the parties of:

- the identities of the parties involved in the incident;
- the conduct alleged;
- the date and location of the incident;
- Respondent's entitlement to a presumption of innocence;
- The parties' rights to have an advisor of their choice at the party's expense, who may be an attorney;
- The parties' rights to review and comment on investigative evidence; and
- The effect of making materially false statements in bad faith during this process.

If, during the course of investigation, the District determines that additional allegations will be investigated as part of the pending complaint, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will provide written notice of the additional allegations to any identified Complainant(s) or Respondent(s).

**Notice of Interviews, Hearings, or Other Meetings.** The Title IX Coordinator shall provide to Complainant and Respondent a written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of any interview, hearing, or meeting with sufficient time for the party to prepare.

## 3. Dismissal

The District shall dismiss any formal complaint made under this Policy if at any time it determines that it lacks jurisdiction under Title IX because the conduct alleged in the formal complaint:

- Would not constitute sexual harassment as defined in Section II of this policy, even if proved,
- Did not occur in the District's education program or activity; or
- Did not occur against a person in the United States.

The District, in its sole discretion, may dismiss any formal complaint under this Policy if at any time:

- The Complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the Complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations;
- The Respondent is no longer enrolled in or employed by the District; or
- Specific circumstances exist that prevent the District from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations. Examples include, but are not limited to, a significant passage of time from the date of the allegation(s) in the complaint to the date the complaint is filed that makes investigation impracticable, or where the Complainant has stopped participating in the process.

Dismissal of a complaint from proceeding under this Policy does not preclude the District from offering supportive measures to any party or from proceeding under any other applicable policy, procedure, rule, or handbook provision applicable to students and/or employees of the District.

Upon dismissal of any formal complaint under this section, written notice of this dismissal and the reason(s) therefor will be provided simultaneously to Complainant and Respondent.

#### **4. Investigation**

The Title IX Coordinator shall designate an Investigator to conduct an investigation into any formal complaint. The Investigator must be appropriately trained in conducting Title IX investigations, unbiased, and have no conflict of interest in the present case. The Investigator serves as a neutral fact-finder, and shall interview both parties, relevant witnesses, and gather and review evidence relevant to the outcome of the complaint.

The burden of proof and the burden of gathering sufficient evidence to reach a determination of responsibility rests with the District and not with the parties. Both parties will have an equal opportunity to present witnesses and other evidence (both inculpatory and exculpatory) to the Investigator. Neither party will be restricted in their ability to discuss the allegations or to gather and present relevant evidence; provided, however, that such communications shall not constitute harassment or retaliation against any party other otherwise violate applicable law, rule, or regulation.

The Investigator will evaluate all relevant evidence, both inculpatory and exculpatory, and will not make credibility determinations based solely on a person's status as complainant, respondent or witness.

The Investigator will only access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's treatment records made or maintained by a health care provider, or other records protected under a legally recognized privilege, with that party's voluntary, written consent.

Prior to completion of the Investigative Report, the Investigator will provide each party with copies of any evidence obtained by the Investigator that is directly related to the allegations in the complaint. Both parties will have ten (10) calendar days to submit a written response to the evidence to the Investigator. By accepting receipt of this information, the parties and their representatives, if any, agree that the use or dissemination of evidence for any purpose other than those directly related to the parties' participation in the Title IX complaint process is prohibited and may result in appropriate discipline in accordance with District policy.

#### **5. Investigative Report**

After conducting the investigation, the Investigator will complete an investigative report that summarizes all relevant evidence, including statements and interviews with the parties and any witnesses, and any documents, records, photographs, recordings, or other evidence obtained by the investigator.

The investigative report will be distributed simultaneously to both of the parties at least ten (10) calendar days prior to a Determination of Responsibility being made.

#### **6. Determination of Responsibility**

The Decision-Maker is responsible for determining whether the conduct alleged in the complaint constitutes a violation of this Policy and any other applicable District policies, procedures, handbook provisions, or rules. The Decision-Maker shall be comprised of a multi-member panel. The Decision-Maker shall not be the Title IX Coordinator or Investigator, and must be impartial and unbiased, have no conflict of interest in the particular case, and have training required by Title IX and this policy.

After receipt of the investigative report and prior to reaching a decision, each party shall be permitted submit to the Decision-Maker relevant questions to be asked of the other party and/or any witnesses, including those challenging the credibility of the party or witness. The Decision-Maker shall review the



questions with the party or witness to whom the questions are directed but shall not ask any questions that are irrelevant or improperly inquire about the Complainant's sexual predisposition or past sexual conduct (other than where the incidents occurred between the Complainant and Respondent and are asked for purposes of demonstrating consent, where applicable). The Decision-Maker will provide a written explanation to the party of why any question was excluded. The Decision-Maker shall provide the responses of the party or witness in writing to both parties. The parties shall be provided with an opportunity for limited additional follow-up questioning.

The Decision-maker cannot draw an inference about responsibility based solely on a party's or witness's refusal to answer questions.

## **7. Standard of Proof and Determination**

The determination of whether or not a violation of this Policy occurred will be made on the preponderance of the evidence, or whether it is more likely than not that the Respondent violated this Policy.

## **8. Sanction**

Sanctions and remedies will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Decision-Maker, where authorized to do so. Where applicable federal or state law, Board policy, contract, handbook provision, or other rule gives authority for issuing of a particular sanction to a different District decision-making body (e.g., school board, IEP team) the Decision-Maker will recommend sanctions to that decision-making body or official, or the Board for further action.

Sanctions may include, but are not limited to required training, a written warning, suspension or expulsion of a student, or suspension or termination of an employee's employment with the District. The Decision-Maker may impose or recommend any sanction that it finds to be fair and proportionate to the violation and in accordance with Board Policy.

Remedies may include, but are not limited to, offers of counseling, training, changes or modifications to class or work schedules or assignments, provision of additional supervision, and other actions as deemed appropriate under the circumstances present in the case. The Title IX Coordinator shall be responsible for implementing any proposed remedies.

## **9. Written Determination Regarding Responsibility**

The Decision-Maker will issue a written determination regarding responsibility, which shall be determined by a preponderance of the evidence. The written determination will include:

- Identification of the allegations;
- A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including notifications to the parties, interviews, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held (if applicable);
- Findings of fact;
- Conclusions regarding the application of this Policy and any other relevant District policy, procedure, handbook provision, or rule to the facts;
- A statement of and rationale for the Decision-Maker(s) determination regarding responsibility for each allegation;
- A statement of and rationale for any disciplinary sanctions that will be imposed on Respondent, if applicable;
- A statement of and rationale for any remedies the District will provide to restore or preserve Complainant's access to the District's educational program or activity, if applicable; and

- A statement of the District's appeal policy and procedures.

The Decision-Maker will provide the written determination to the parties simultaneously. The written determination shall be final, subject to the parties' right to appeal in Section 10, below.

## **10. Appeals**

Within five (5) calendar days of delivery of the written determination to them, either party may appeal the dismissal of a formal complaint, or the Decision-Maker's written determination and/or any sanction imposed by the Decision-Maker to the Chief of Talent & Personnel or her/his designee. Such appeals will be in writing and will be delivered to the Chief of Talent & Personnel, or her/his designee. The Chief of Talent & Personnel, or her/his designee, will determine if the written determination will be stayed pending the outcome of the appellate decision. Appeals will be limited to any of the following bases:

- A procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
- New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the written determination was issued that could affect the outcome of the matter; or
- The Title IX Coordinator, Investigator(s), or Decision-Maker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias that affected the outcome of the matter.

The Chief of Talent & Personnel, or her/his designee, will notify both parties in writing if an appeal is received alleging one of the bases for appeal above. Both parties will be given an opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the written determination. The parties' written statements must be submitted within five (5) calendar days of notice of the appeal.

Except as required to explain the basis of new information, an appeal will be limited to a review of the written record of the investigation, the written determination, and the parties' written statements on appeal.

The Chief of Talent & Personnel, or her/his designee, may affirm, reverse, or modify the written determination and/or sanctions imposed, or may remand to the Investigator or Decision-Maker for further action. A written appeal decision will be issued simultaneously to the parties describing the result of the appeal and the rationale therefor. The written appeal decision of the Chief of Talent & Personnel, or her/his designee is the final decision of the District, and no further appeals are permitted under this Policy.

### **C. Complainant Does Not Wish to Pursue Resolution or Requests Confidentiality**

If the Complainant does not wish to pursue formal or informal resolution and/or requests that his or her report remain confidential, the Title IX Coordinator or designee will inform the Complainant that the District's ability to respond to the alleged sexual harassment may be limited. The Title IX Coordinator or designee may weigh the Complainant's request against the following factors:

- The seriousness of the alleged sexual misconduct,
- Whether there have been other complainants of sexual misconduct against the same Respondent, and
- The Respondent's right to receive information about the allegations, including the name of the complainant.

The Title IX Coordinator will only initiate a formal complaint under these procedures against the wishes of the Complainant where required by federal or state law, regulation, or rule, or where doing so is not clearly unreasonable based on known circumstances, based on the potential impact to the District community if the allegations were true.

The Title IX Coordinator or designee will inform the Complainant if the District cannot ensure confidentiality. Even if the District cannot take disciplinary action against the Respondent because the Complainant insists on confidentiality or that the complaint not be resolved, the District reserves the authority to implement supportive measures or other appropriate actions to promote a safe learning environment for the complainant and/or the entire District community.

#### **D. Advisors**

Complainants and Respondents have equivalent rights to be accompanied at any stage of the process by an advisor of their choice, who may be a parent or guardian, union representative (where applicable), other support person, or an attorney at the party's sole expense. Advisors may not answer questions on behalf of any party or otherwise participate in any interview or meeting, other than to confer with the party they are supporting/representing.

#### **E. Supportive Measures**

The District may implement supportive measures to preserve or restore the Complainant's access to the District's education program or activity. Supportive measures will be individualized, provided at no cost to the parties, and are non-disciplinary in nature.

Supportive measures may include, but are not limited to:

- Counseling,
- Extension of deadlines or other course-related adjustments,
- Modifications of work or class schedules,
- Mutual restrictions on contact between the parties,
- Leaves of absence,
- Increased security and monitoring,
- Increased supervision and/or escort services, and/or
- Other similar measures.

The District may temporarily remove a student accused of violation this policy on an emergency basis, following an individualized safety and risk analysis that finds an immediate threat to the physical safety of any individual. Any student so removed will be provided with notice and an opportunity to challenge this action immediately following the removal, and any other rights conferred by law. Emergency removals must be consistent with other applicable laws. The District, in its sole discretion, may place an employee accused of violating this policy on administrative leave pending the outcome of the informal or formal complaint process.

### **VII. RESOURCES AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS AND EMPLOYEES**

There resources available to individuals regardless of whether or not they choose to report a violation of this Policy to the District or local law enforcement. Any person may obtain information about services and supports offered to students and employees by contacting the District's Title IX Coordinator.

## A. External Reporting Resources

A Complainant may choose to file a complaint with the state and federal agencies listed below.

**Office for Civil Rights  
(OCR) – Chicago Office**  
U.S. Department of  
Education  
Citigroup Center  
500 W. Madison Street, Suite  
1475  
Chicago, IL 60661  
Phone: (312) 730-1560  
Fax: (312) 730-1576 TDD:  
(877) 521-2172  
Email: OCR.Chicago@ed.gov  
Web: [www.ed.gov/ocr](http://www.ed.gov/ocr)

**Equal Employment  
Opportunity Commission  
(EEOC)**  
Reuss Federal Plaza  
310 W. Wisconsin Avenue,  
Suite 800  
Milwaukee, WI 53203-2292  
Phone: (800) 669-4000  
Fax: (414) 297-4133  
TTY: (800) 669-6820  
Web: [www.eeoc.gov/](http://www.eeoc.gov/)

**Iowa Civil Rights  
Commission (ICRC)**  
Grimes State Office Building  
400 E. 14th Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319  
Toll free: (800) 457-4416  
Phone: (515) 281-4121  
Fax: (515) 242-5840  
TDD: (877) 521-2172  
Web: <https://icrc.iowa.gov/>

## VIII. PREVENTION, TRAINING, AND POLICY COMMUNICATION

The District is committed to education, communication, and training of students and employees in order to prevent sexual harassment and to assure an appropriate response when incidents occur. The District will provide information to students and employees staff on:

- The definitions of sexual harassment;
- District procedures for responding to incidents of sexual harassment; and
- Employee obligation to report any sexual harassment of which the employee becomes aware.

The District will also ensure that individuals who serve as Title IX Coordinators, Title IX Investigators, Decision-Makers, Appeal Decision-Makers, and facilitators of the informal resolution process have adequate training as required by Title IX.

## IX. RECORDKEEPING

The District will maintain the following records for seven years:

- Each sexual harassment investigation, including determinations, audio or video recordings, disciplinary sanctions, and any remedies provided to the Complainant;
- Any appeal and the result therefrom;
- Any informal resolution; and
- Materials used by the District to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and those who facilitate informal resolution under this Policy.

Additionally, the District will create and maintain for seven years:

- Any actions, including supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment;
- Documentation of the basis for the District's conclusion that its response to any such report or complaint was not deliberately indifferent;

- Documentation that the District has taken measures designed to restore or preserve access to the District's educational program or activity;
- Where no supportive measures are provided to Complainant, documentation of why it was not clearly unreasonable to do so.

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