

employee during a seasonal session shall not be used to determine eligibility or contribution for any benefits, length of service or wage/salary levels.

3. Seasonal employees performing non-exempt duties shall be paid in accordance with the Seasonal Employee Wage Schedule [[Appendix Part I - 1.02E\(3\)](#)].
- F. **Substitute Employees:** Substitute Employees are defined as non-exempt staff without individual contracts under section 118.21 or section 118.24, Wis. Stats., hired to replace a regular employee during the regular employee's leave of absence.
- G. **Short Term Substitute Teacher:** Short Term Substitute means a substitute employee employed pursuant to a contract under sections 118.21 or 118.24, Wis. Stats., for no more than 20 consecutive days in the same teaching assignment.
- H. **Long Term Substitute Teacher:** Long term substitute means a substitute employee employed pursuant to a contract under section 118.21 or 118.24, Wis. Stats., for more than 20 consecutive days in the same teaching assignment.
- I. **Supervisor:** The District will identify the individual employee's supervisor on the employee's job description.
- J. **Teacher:** Teachers are defined as persons hired under a contract pursuant to § 118.22, Wis. Stats.
- K. **Temporary:** Temporary Employees are defined as persons hired for a specific project for a specific length of time. **This definition includes summer school and seasonal employees as defined in paragraph "E" above.** A temporary employee has no expectation of continued employment.
- L. **Termination:** Termination is defined as an involuntary discharge involving the dismissal of an employee, usually for some infraction of the rules or policies of the District, abandonment of the position, incompetence or other reason deemed sufficient by the Board and/or its designee. Termination results in involuntary separation and with prejudice to the employee. A termination will result in the loss of length of service and other employment benefits. For the purposes of this document, termination shall not include voluntary retirement, voluntary resignation or a nonrenewal of contract under § 118.22, Wis. Stats, § 118.24, Wis. Stats., separation from employment as a result of a reduction in force, or a non-reappointment of an extra-curricular assignment.

1.03 General Personnel Policies

This *Employment Handbook* is subservient to, and does not supersede the provisions set forth in District policies ([Chapter 500 - Personnel](#)).

SECTION 2. EMPLOYMENT LAW

2.01 Employment of Minors

No one under eighteen (18) years of age will be employed without providing proper proof of his or her age. Minors will be employed only in accordance with state and federal laws and District policies.

2.02 Equal Opportunity

It is the policy of the District that no person may be illegally discriminated against in employment by reason of their age, race, religion, creed, color, disability, pregnancy, marital status, sex, citizenship, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, **gender identity or transgender**, arrest record, conviction record, military service, membership in the National Guard, state defense force or any other reserve component of the military forces of Wisconsin or the United States, political or religious affiliation, use or nonuse of lawful products off the employer's premises during nonworking hours, declining to attend a meeting or to participate in any communication about religious matters or political matters, the authorized use of family or medical leave or worker's compensation benefits, genetic information, or any other factor prohibited by state or federal law, or according to District policy.

The District will provide reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with a disability and to employees with sincerely held religious beliefs to the extent required by law, unless such accommodations would impose an undue hardship on the District.

Requests for accommodations from current employees must be made in writing in accordance with District policies and procedures.

The following delineation of employment practices is for informational purposes and is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all employment expectations that may be found in other applicable Board policies, work rules, job descriptions, terms of this *Handbook* and legal obligations.

3.02 Accident/Incident Reports

All accidents/incidents occurring on District property, school buses or during the course of school-sponsored activities, including field trips and other away events, are to be reported to the building principal/immediate supervisor immediately. Reports should cover property damage as well as personal injury. A completed accident report form must be submitted to the supervisor within twenty-four (24) hours or the next scheduled District workday, as appropriate. In the event of a work-related accident or injury, please see the Worker's Compensation section of this *Handbook* on page 48.

3.03 Attendance

The District expects employees to make every effort to be present for work **if the employee is fit for duty**. Employees are expected to adhere to their assigned schedule. In order for the schools to operate effectively, employees are expected to perform all assigned duties and work all scheduled hours during each designated workday, unless the employee has received approved leave. Breaks and meal periods may only be taken during times designated by the employee's supervisor/building administrator and as further specified in other parts of this *Handbook*. Any deviation from assigned hours must have prior approval from the employee's supervisor/building administrator.

Employees who are unable to report to work shall follow the applicable procedures for reporting his/her absence. Any time spent not working during an employee's scheduled day must be accounted for in Employee Access using the appropriate designated options. The District will monitor attendance and absence patterns. Theft of time and/or improper modification of time worked records will be investigated and will result in disciplinary action up to and including termination. Failure to notify the District of an absence and failure to report to work on such day could result in disciplinary action up to and including termination. Failure to return to work the day following the expiration of an authorized leave of absence may result in termination of employment.

Employees who fail to provide adequate notice of tardiness using the notification procedures outlined above, and incur instances of unexcused tardiness as a result, will be subject to discipline up to and including discharge. "Tardiness" is defined as failing to report to work at the scheduled start time of an employee's shift or workday, including failing to report back to work on time after a scheduled lunch or break period, without having preapproval to report late from an immediate supervisor. Tardiness may also include any instances where an employee has punched in at the start of his or her scheduled shift or workday, but who is not prepared to actually begin working at that time. An employee who incurs 2 unexcused instances of tardiness without providing adequate notice to the district in any 120 day period may be terminated for excessive tardiness.

Employees who fail to provide adequate notice of absences using the notification procedures outlined above, and incur unexcused absences as a result, will be subject to discipline up to and including discharge. Absence is defined as failing to report to work for a scheduled shift or workday without having secured preapproved leave. An employee who incurs 2 or more unexcused absences without providing adequate notice to the district in any 120-day period may be terminated for excessive absenteeism.

The District reserves the right to waive enforcement of these rules in very limited circumstances as may be necessary to provide a reasonable accommodation for a qualified individual with a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

***Special attendance provisions for employees who are volunteer fire fighters, emergency medical services practitioners, emergency medical responders, or ambulance drivers:**

In the following paragraphs, "emergency" is defined as "a fire, hazardous substance release, medical condition, or any other situation that poses a clear and immediate danger to life or health or a significant loss of property."

Notwithstanding the District's normal attendance and absence reporting requirements as identified above, the District will permit an employee who is a volunteer fire fighter, emergency medical services practitioner, emergency medical responder, or ambulance driver for a volunteer fire department or fire company, a public agency, or a nonprofit

3. Users may not redistribute copyrighted programs or data without the written permission of the copyright holder or designee. Such permission must be specified in the document or must be obtained directly from the copyright holder or designee in accordance with applicable copyright laws, District policy, and administrative regulations.
 4. A user must not knowingly attempt to access educationally inappropriate material. If a user accidentally reaches such material, the user must immediately back out of the area on the Internet containing educationally inappropriate material. The user must then notify the building administrator and/or immediate supervisor of the site address that should be added to the filtering software, so that it can be removed from accessibility.
 5. A user may not disable internet tracking software or implement a private browsing feature on District computers or networks. Browsing history shall only be deleted by authorized staff or in accordance with the District's technology department's directives.
 6. Employees will annually review the District's Acceptable Use Policy and have a signed form on file with the District.
- C. Electronic Communications with Students: Employees are prohibited from communicating with students who are enrolled in the District through electronic media, except as set forth herein. An employee is not subject to this prohibition to the extent the employee has a pre-existing social or family relationship with the student.

For example, an employee may have a pre-existing relationship with a niece or nephew, a student who is the child of an adult friend, a student who is a friend of the employee's child, or a member or participant in the same civic, social, recreational, or religious organization. The following definitions apply for purposes of this section on Electronic Communication with Students:

"Authorized Personnel" includes classroom teachers, counselors, principals, assistant principals, directors of instruction, coaches, athletic coordinators, athletic trainers, and any other employee designated in writing by the District Administrator or a building principal.

"Communicate" means to convey information and includes a one-way communication as well as a dialogue between two or more people. A public communication by an employee that is not targeted at students (e.g., a posting on the employee's personal social network page or a blog) is not a communication; however, the employee may be subject to District regulations on personal electronic communications. Unsolicited contact from a student through electronic means is not a communication.

"Electronic media" includes all forms of social media, such as, but not limited by enumeration to, the following: text messaging, instant messaging, electronic mail (email), web logs (blogs), electronic forums (chat rooms), video sharing websites (e.g., YouTube™), editorial comments posted on the Internet, and social network sites (e.g., Facebook™, Snapchat™, Twitter™, Instagram™, TikTok™), and all forms of telecommunication such as landlines, cell phones, and web-based applications. "Electronic media" includes all forms of social media, such as, but not limited by enumeration to, the following: text messaging, instant messaging, electronic mail (email), Web logs (blogs), electronic forums (chat rooms), video sharing Websites (e.g., YouTube™), editorial comments posted on the Internet, and social network sites (e.g., Facebook™, MySpace™, Twitter™, LinkedIn™), and all forms of telecommunication such as landlines, cell phones, and web-based applications.

- D. Limited Electronic Communication with Students: Authorized Personnel may communicate through electronic media with students who are currently enrolled in the District only within the following guidelines:
1. The employee shall limit communications to matters within the scope of the employee's professional responsibilities (e.g., for classroom teachers, matters relating to virtual/distance learning, class work, homework, and tests). employee shall limit communications to matters within the scope of the employee's professional responsibilities (e.g., for classroom teachers, matters relating to class work, homework, and tests).
 2. If an employee receives an unsolicited electronic contact from a student that is not within the employee's professional responsibilities (e.g., for classroom teachers, matters relating to class work,

homework, and tests), the employee shall not respond to the student using any electronic media except to address a health or safety emergency.

3. The employee is prohibited from communicating with students through a personal social network page; the employee must create a separate social network page (“professional page”) for this purpose. The employee must enable administration and parents to access the employee’s professional page.
4. Only a teacher, coach, trainer, or other employee who has an extracurricular duty may communicate with students through text messaging. The employee may communicate only with students who participate in the extracurricular activity over which the employee has responsibility.
5. Upon request from administration, an employee will provide the phone number(s), social network site(s), or other information regarding the method(s) of electronic media the employee uses to communicate with any one or more currently-enrolled students.
6. The employee continues to be subject to applicable state and federal laws, local policies, administrative regulations, including:
 - a. prohibitions against soliciting or engaging in sexual conduct or a romantic relationship with a student.
 - b. confidentiality of student records.
 - c. confidentiality of other District records, including staff evaluations, credit card numbers, and private email addresses.
 - d. Upon written request from a parent, the employee shall discontinue communicating with the parent’s minor student through email, text messaging, instant messaging, or any other form of one-to-one communication.
 - e. An employee may request an exception from one or more of the limitations above by submitting a written request to his/her immediate supervisor.
7. Upon receiving a complaint or written request from a parent, the administration may direct an employee to refrain from communicating with the parent’s minor student through email, text messaging, instant messaging, or any other form of one-to-one communication.

E. Retention of Electronic Communications and other Electronic Media: The District archives all non-spam emails sent and/or received on the system in accordance with the District’s adopted record retention schedule. After the set time has elapsed, email communications may be discarded unless the records may be relevant to any pending litigation, pending public records request, or other good cause exists for retaining email records.
<http://dpi.state.wi.us/lbstat/pdf/wi-rrssd.pdf>

F. Electronic Recording: Employees shall not electronically record by audio, video, or other means, any conversations or meetings unless each and every person present has been notified and consents to being electronically recorded. Persons wishing to record a meeting must obtain consent from anyone arriving late to any such meeting. Employees shall not electronically record telephone conversations unless all persons participating in the telephone conversation have consented to be electronically recorded. These provisions are not intended to limit or restrict electronic recording of publicly posted Board meetings, grievance hearings, and any other Board sanctioned meeting recorded in accordance with Board policy. **These provisions are not intended to limit or restrict electronic recordings involving authorized investigations conducted by District personnel, or authorized agents of the District, or electronic recordings that are authorized by the District, e.g. virtual/distance learning classes, surveillance videos, extracurricular activities, voicemail recordings.** ~~These provisions are not intended to limit or restrict electronic recordings involving authorized investigations conducted by District personnel, or authorized agents of the District, or electronic recordings that are authorized by the District, e.g. surveillance videos, extracurricular activities, voicemail recordings.~~

G. Compliance with Federal, State and Local Law: For all electronic media, employees are subject to certain state and federal laws, local policies, and administrative regulations, even when communicating regarding personal and private matters, regardless of whether the employee is using private or public equipment, on or off District property. These restrictions include:

1. Confidentiality of student records (Policy #347).
2. Confidentiality of other District records, including educator evaluations, credit card numbers, and private email addresses ([Board Policy #526](#)).

3. Confidentiality of health or personnel information concerning colleagues, unless disclosure serves lawful professional purposes or is required by law ([Board Policy #526](#)).
 4. Prohibition against harming others by knowingly making false statements about a colleague or the District.
 5. Prohibitions against soliciting or engaging in sexual conduct or a romantic relationship with a student.
 6. An employee may request an exception from the limitations in items one through three above by submitting a written request to his/her immediate supervisor or the individual required to maintain the confidentiality of said records. An employee may request an exception from one or more of the limitations above by submitting a written request to his/her immediate supervisor.
- H. Personal Web Pages: Employees may not misrepresent the District by creating, or posting any content to, any personal or non-authorized website or app that purports to be an official/authorized website/app of the District. No employee may purport to speak on behalf of the District through any personal or other non-authorized website.
- I. Disclaimer: The District's electronic systems are provided on an "as is, as available" basis. The District does not make any warranties, whether expressed or implied, including, without limitation, those of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose with respect to any services provided by the system and any information or software contained therein. The District does not warrant that the functions or services performed by, or that the information or software contained on the system will meet the system user's requirements, or that the system will be uninterrupted or error-free, or that defects will be corrected. Opinions, advice, services, and all other information expressed by system users, information providers, service providers, or other third-party individuals in the systems are those of the individual or entity and not the District. The District will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to misuse of the District's electronic communications system.
- J. Personal Electronic Devices: The District permits staff to use personal technology devices in support of teaching and learning and to access the District's Wireless Public Network when doing so. Personal devices include laptop computers, portable digital assistants (PDAs), cell phones, smart phones, iPods/MP3 players, wireless devices, digital cameras, e-readers, storage devices, or other electronics that may be carried on a person. Staff may use personal devices provided such use does not interfere with educational or employment responsibilities, hinder, disrupt or consume an unreasonable amount of network or staff resources, or violate board policy, administrative rules, state law or federal law. An employee using a personal device shall take adequate measures to ensure the confidentiality and proper maintenance of all pupil record information. The District is not liable for the loss, damage or misuse of any personal device including while on District property or while attending school-sponsored activities.

3.07 Confidentiality

Pupil information employees obtain as the result of their employment with the District is confidential and protected by law unless such information has been designated as pupil directory data as set forth in Board Policy (Policy #347). The law and respect for our students require that student issues are only discussed with employees and parents who need to know the information. In addition to student information, confidentiality is expected in other areas, including employee or District business information. Any requests for District records shall be referred to the appropriate administrator.

3.08 Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest is defined as any judgment, action or relationship that may benefit an employee or another party the employee is affiliated with because of the employee's position with the District. Employees are asked to avoid outside activity that may compete or be in conflict with the best interests of the District. Employees must disclose to their immediate supervisor information of any transaction that may be considered a conflict of interest as soon as they know the facts. No employee may use his or her position to obtain financial gain or anything of substantial value for the private benefit of himself or herself or his or her immediate family, or for an organization with which he or she is associated.

3.09 Contracts and Conflict of Interest

No employee may negotiate or bid for, or enter into a contract in which the employee has a private pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, if at the same time the employee is authorized or required by law to participate in the employee's capacity as an employee in the making of that contract or to perform in regard to that contract some official function

work location may engage in private conversations with non-students or in other personal activities that address, for example, political topics.

- B. During established hours of employment or while an employee is engaged in his/her official duties, no employee or other person may solicit or receive from any employee any contribution or service for any political purpose, where a "political purpose" includes an act done for the purpose of influencing the election or nomination for election of a person to office. Furthermore, no person may enter any District building, office or facility in order to request, make or receive a contribution for a political purpose.
- C. No school employee shall use in any way the classrooms, buildings, or pupils for the purpose of solicitation, promotion, election, or defeat of any referendum, candidate for public office, legislation, or political action. This provision does not apply to use of District facilities by employees for events or activities that are not within their scope of employment and that are held pursuant to the District's policies regarding facilities use by third parties.
- D. No school employee shall make use of school equipment or materials for the purpose of solicitation, promotion, election, or defeat of any referendum, candidate for public office, legislation, or political action.
- E. This section does not apply to the provision of information by school employees in connection with any election, referendum, or legislation where authorized by the school board or District Administrator and where consistent with legal limitations on the use of public funds and school District resources.

3.34 Position Descriptions

Position descriptions are available for inspection for each District employee. At a minimum, the descriptions will include the job title and description, the minimum qualifications, and the essential functions of the position. Employees must be able to perform the essential functions of the job description. The Job Description Manual is available on the website at www.colby.k12.wi.us.

3.35 Severance from Employment

An employee's employment relationship shall be broken and terminated by:

- A. Termination pursuant to the terms of this *Handbook* and the employee's individual contract [if any];
- B. voluntary resignation;
- C. retirement;
- D. nonrenewal of the employee's contract [unless the contract being non-renewed is for an extracurricular or temporary/seasonal assignment and the staff member remains employed with the district in another capacity]; ~~nonrenewal of the employee's contract, [only applicable to employees where nonrenewal rights are provided under the Wisconsin statutes];~~
- E. failure to return to work following an offer of reemployment subsequent to a reduction in force within fourteen (14) calendar days of receipt of a reemployment offer (only applicable to employees where a reemployment process is expressly provided for in other sections of this handbook);
- F. the employee having been on reemployment opportunity status for twelve (12) consecutive months (only applicable to employees where a reemployment process is expressly provided for in other sections of this handbook);
- G. failure to return to work the day following the expiration of an authorized leave of absence; and
- H. job abandonment.

3.36 Solicitations

Individuals, groups and organizations often wish to solicit employees to support a particular activity or organization. This solicitation may be charitable, political or for other purposes. All solicitations of employees must be approved in advance by the administration and be consistent with Board Policy.

3.37 Student Code of Conduct and *Handbook*

The Student Code of Conduct and *Handbook* is available online at www.colby.k12.wi.us.

6.04 Definitions for Payroll Purposes Only

- A. Day: A day shall run from 12:00 midnight (12:00 a.m.) to 11:59 p.m.
- B. Week: A week shall run from 12:00 midnight (12:00 a.m.) Sunday until 11:59 p.m. the following Saturday.
- C. Pay Period: The pay periods are bi-weekly as defined in 6.04B.

6.05 Salary Deferrals –Tax Sheltered Annuities (TSA)

- A. The District will maintain a TSA program without regard to the employee's current or former employee's contribution amounts. Employees shall have the opportunity to participate in the District's Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Code 403(b) Savings Program and invest their money through salary deferral in annuities and other qualifying IRS Code 403(b)(7) investment vehicles (collectively referred to as an "Investment Vehicle").
- B. The purchase of the annuity will be optional for the individual employee. The employee may make 403(b) elective salary reductions in one or both of the following ways:
 - 1. Pre-tax dollars (salary reduction, also known as "regular" TSA contributions) or
 - 2. After tax dollars (also known as "Roth" TSA contributions).
- C. Employee will be permitted to have their contribution remitted via payroll deduction to an Investment Vehicle offered by a vendor listed as a District-approved vendor, as required by the IRS Code and as directed by the District's plan document.
- D. A vendor becomes a District-approved vendor by meeting the requirements set forth by the District which include, but are not limited to, the vendor signing a District-approved Hold Harmless Agreement. The District may ask for proof of vendor registration from the teacher to ensure a District-approved vendor has been chosen. If at any time there are no active employees contributing to a particular vendor, that vendor may be removed from the District-approved vendor list.
- E. The amount to be deducted is selected and the determination made wholly by the person choosing to participate in the Savings Program.
- F. If the vendor accepts electronic payments, the District will electronically transmit to the TSA vendor(s) the amount of the salary deferral elected by the employee if the vendor does not accept electronic payments, the District will make the payments by paper check. This new provision for transmitting to vendors will require the District to transmit the amount of salary deferral twice a month, if the vendor provides the District with an invoice twice per month. The salary deferral will be transmitted on or about the date the money is deducted from the employee's paycheck, provided that the District receives the appropriate invoice from the vendor. In unforeseen circumstances, transmittals will be made no later than fifteen (15) business days following the end of the month in which the amount would have been paid to the participant.
- G. Employees may choose to defer either a percent of salary or a specific dollar amount up to the amount permitted by law. The salary reduction limit (402(g)(1)), the age fifty (50) additional deferral (414(v)(2)(B)(i)), and the "catch up" provision (402(g)(7)) for employees with fifteen (15) or more years of service may change annually.
- H. The salary reduction limits will be adjusted from time to time to conform to statutory limits.
- I. Catch-Up Contributions
 - 1. Documentation will only be required where the employee's total (and Age 50+) deferrals for the calendar year are in excess of the 402(g) limits.
 - 2. The employee agrees to provide documentation certifying compliance with applicable IRS rules and regulations from the Employee's TSA vendor within thirty (30) calendar days if requested by the District.
 - 3. The District agrees to provide the employee, upon written request, with timely information available from the District's records, which is necessary to enable the employee to make catch-up deferrals.
- J. General:
 - 1. The employee shall be permitted to change the TSA amount or vendor three (3) times per calendar year, unless otherwise permitted by the **Finance Director or Superintendent Bookkeeper**, provided he/she provides the District with at least ten (10) business days notice prior to the second payroll date of the month. Stopping contributions does not constitute a change. Upon initial enrollment for new employees, the employee shall certify in writing as requested by the District but no more than two times per year (e.g., due to a change in full-time equivalency, absence, other deferrals, etc.), that the percentage or dollar amount of salary reduction withheld from compensation complies with the limits applicable to 403(b) TSA plan

12.04 Personal Leave Day Restrictions

The personal leave day will not be granted during the first or last week of a semester, **on an open house day**, on a parent-teacher conference day or on an in-service day. Personal leave during these periods may be approved for personal business that cannot be rescheduled for a different time at the discretion of the District Administrator or his/her designee. In addition, personal leave shall not be used to attend Association membership meetings or legislative rallies, to engage in job actions such as picketing or demonstrating, or to participate in activities designed to embarrass or discredit the District.

12.05 Approval of Personal Leave and the Total Number of Employees on Personal Leave

- A. The request to the Administrator shall be made as far in advance as possible, normally not less than five (5) days. Emergencies may delay the submitting of the request until the employee returns to work.
- B. The Administrator has the right to approve or disapprove all requests.
- C. No more than three (3) employees covered under Part II of the handbook and no more than two (2) employees covered under Part III of the handbook per building may take personal leave on any given day when school is in session, unless the District Administrator or his/her designee grants approval to exceed the five (5) total employee limit per building.

12.06 Part-time Employees

Part-time employees will receive personal leave on a pro-rated basis based upon the number of hours they are scheduled to work. The pro-rated amount shall be based on the assumption that a full-time employee works 2,080 hours per year.

12.07 Personal Leave Increments

Personal leave may be allowed in increments of one-half day.

SECTION 13. UNIFORMED SERVICES LEAVE

13.01 Uniformed Services Leave of Absence

The following paragraphs implement certain aspects of the federal Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). While USERRA applies to most types of service within the "uniformed services," these provisions are not intended to diminish any additional rights and benefits provided by other state and federal laws. Further, in limited situations where USERRA may not be applicable (e.g., for certain state call-ups of the National Guard), other laws and/or District policies may apply and provide an employee different rights and benefits.

Employees performing duty, whether on a voluntary or involuntary basis, in a uniformed service shall be granted a leave of absence without pay in accordance with the provisions of federal law, state law, and this *Handbook*.

The "uniformed services" consist of the following [20 CFR § 1002.5(o)]:

- A. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard
- B. Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air Force Reserve and Coast Guard Reserve
- C. Army National Guard and Air National Guard
- D. Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service
- E. Any other category of persons designated by the President in time of war or emergency

National Guard service under authority of state law (i.e., certain state call-ups) and service performed in the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Civil Air Patrol, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary are not protected by USERRA. If an employee notifies the District of a need for leave under these non-USERRA scenarios, the District will apply the relevant provisions of federal or state law (e.g., within Chapter 321 of the state statutes) or District policy.

- D. Return from the Unpaid Child Rearing Leave: The employee shall notify the District Administrator or his/her designee of the employee's intent to return to work at least forty-five (45) days prior to the expiration of the leave. If the employee does not provide such notice he/she will be deemed to have resigned from his/her position with the District as of the expiration date of the leave. Upon return from any leave of absence, the employee may be returned to his or her former position, if available. If the former position is not available as determined by the District, the employee shall be returned to a position equivalent in terms of percentage of contract unless the employee's percentage of contract was reduced or increased due to nonrenewal and/or layoff, whichever is applicable.
- E. Interaction with family and medical leave provisions: The term (i.e. length) of any approved unpaid child-rearing leave shall run concurrent with any leave(s) provided for under the Wisconsin Family and Medical Leave Act and/or under the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act.

14.03 Unpaid Leave of Absence – For Other than Medical and Child Rearing Reasons

- A. Application Procedures: All requests for other unpaid leave of absence, other than emergencies, must be submitted to the District at least 30 days prior to the anticipated beginning of the leave. Such application will be reviewed and processed by the District Administrator and shall be granted or denied in his/her sole discretion. Requests for more than 30 days will require Board of Education approval. The unpaid leave of absence shall not exceed one (1) calendar year. Generally, an employee seeking unpaid leave will be required to fully exhaust any available and accrued paid leave that is available for the purpose.
- B. Benefits During Leave:
 - 1. Length of service and other benefits shall not accrue during such leave.
 - 2. The employee may continue health insurance during the leave of absence by remitting the full premium amounts to the District. The continuation of health insurance at the employee's expense is contingent upon the health insurance carrier allowing such a benefit. If the premium is not received by the due date established by the District, the employee's insurance coverage shall be terminated.
 - 3. During the unpaid leave, the employee shall retain accumulated paid leave, but shall not accrue any additional paid leave during the unpaid child rearing leave.
- C. Placement upon Return from Leave: The employee shall notify the District Administrator or his/her designee of the employee's intent to return to work at least forty-five (45) days prior to the expiration of the leave. If the employee does not provide such notice he/she will be deemed to have resigned from his/her position with the District as of the expiration date of the leave. Upon return from any leave of absence, the employee may be returned to his or her former position, if available. If the former position is not available as determined by the District, the employee shall be returned to a position equivalent in terms of percentage of contract unless the employee's percentage of contract was reduced or increased due to nonrenewal or reduction in force, whichever is applicable.

SECTION 15. BENEFITS APPLICABLE TO ALL REGULAR EMPLOYEES

15.01 Cafeteria Plan/Flexible Spending Account

The District will provide an Internal Revenue Service authorized cafeteria plan/flexible spending account [FSA] under applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code (§ 105, § 106, § 125 and § 129) to permit employees to reduce their salary and contribute to an FSA to cover the following expenses:

- A. Payment of insurance premium amounts (IRC § 106);
- B. Permitted medical **and dental** expenses not covered by the insurance plan (IRC § 105) to the maximum amount of eligible health and dental care expenses not covered by the insurance plan (IRS Code § 105, § 125) per plan year and,
- C. Dependent care costs (IRC § 129) subject to the limitations set forth in the Internal Revenue Service Code. Annually an employee may designate, under the flexible reimbursement plan/cafeteria plan, up to the maximum amount of eligible dependent care expenses per plan year.

the right to select the most qualified applicant for any position based upon stated job descriptions (this restriction does not prohibit the District from considering qualifications that are related to the position and exceed those minimum qualifications listed in the job description). The term applicant refers to both internal candidates and external candidates for the position. The District retains the right to determine the job descriptions needed for any vacant position.

- E. Involuntary Transfers: When the District determines that an involuntary transfer of an employee is necessary, it may, at its discretion, transfer any employee in the District qualified for the position. ~~When the District determines that an involuntary transfer of an employee is necessary, due to the District's need to fill a vacancy or a new position according to the procedures set forth above may, at its discretion, transfer an employee in the District qualified for the position.~~ No employee will be involuntarily transferred by the District without a conference followed by a written notice from the District Administrator and/or his/her designee which will include the reasons for the transfer. An employee who is involuntarily transferred shall suffer no loss of wages, hours, or other fringe benefit as a result of such transfer. An employee who is involuntarily transferred and wishes to remain in a current available position, may request a conference before the Board of Education. An employee who is involuntarily transferred and suffers a loss of wages, hours or other fringe benefit as a result of such transfer may contest the transfer as discipline under Section 1.02.

5.02 Employee Resignations

- A. The teacher's individual contract, shall be considered binding on both parties. If for any reason a teacher asks for release from the contract either during its term or after signing a contract for the ensuing contract year, it is understood that the following conditions for release shall apply:
1. The teacher must give the District notice that they intend on severing their contract with the District. Whenever possible, the teacher must give such notice at least sixty (60) calendar days prior to the date the employee desires the severance to occur.
 2. It is agreed that liquidated damages are due to the District with the sixty (60) calendar day notice of resignation as follows:
 - a. Five hundred dollars (\$500.00) if the employee's resignation is effective on or after July 1st, but before August 1st.
 - b. Seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750.00) if the employee's resignation is effective on or after August 1st, but before the start of the school year.
 - c. One thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) if the employee's resignation is effective on or after the start of the school year.
 3. Liquidated damages and the sixty (60) calendar day notice requirement would not apply to teachers who do not return their contracts by June 15th, or whose resignation is tendered and effective after the end of the school year, but before July 1st.
 4. The employee may choose to have liquidated damages deducted from the employee's last paycheck(s) or the employee shall submit a check for the liquidated damages amount at the time of resignation.
- B. The Board in its discretion may waive the liquidated damages for the following reasons:
1. Employment transfer of spouse;
 2. Illness of employee;
 3. Other reasons as determined by the School Board.
- In the event the District chooses to waive the liquidated damages, the District shall return any damages submitted with the resignation notice to the employee.
- C. Any employee involuntarily called into service by the United States government for military duty shall not be assessed liquidated damages under this Article.
- D. Process for Resignation and Submission of Liquidated Damages

which the employee is qualified. Employees on reemployment list shall not lose the ability to apply for an equivalent FTE position(s) if they accept a position with a different FTE level, a substitute appointment or a temporary appointment, with the District.

6.07 Insurance Benefits Following Nonrenewal

Please see Part I, Section 15, COBRA, subsection 15.11 for a full explanation of insurance continuation options.

6.08 Accrued Benefits during Reemployment Period

Non-renewed employees shall suffer no loss of sick leave, or other accrued benefits if rehired. Sick leave days shall not accrue for an employee during the reemployment period.

6.09 In-Service and Other Training

The District may require teachers to attend in-service and other training, either of which may occur outside of employees' regular hours of work. Additional compensation (if any) for such training shall be determined by relevant law, District policy, and pertinent employment contracts.

SECTION 7. PROFESSIONAL COMPENSATION

7.01 Curriculum Planning Projects and Other Projects within the Scope of Employment

When the District assigns an employee to work on a curriculum project that is outside of the terms of the individual employee's contract, the employee shall be paid according to the Extra-curricular Pay Schedule [Appendix Part I](#). The length of time and maximum number of hours for completion of the project shall be determined by the employee's immediate supervisor, in his/her sole discretion. In order to be compensated, teachers should submit on a bi-weekly basis the time they work on such projects. Other projects that are outside of the terms of the individual employee's contract and that are approved by the District Administrator (or designee) shall be paid at the curriculum projects rate.

7.02 National Board Certification

An employee who earns certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, or a Master Teacher designation if the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is not available in the employee's certification area, shall have his/her salary increased by \$1,500 (minus applicable taxes and other deductions). This shall be a one-time increase in the employee's salary and shall immediately cease if the employee fails to retain such certification.

7.03 Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) Contributions

The Board shall contribute the employer's share **to the Wisconsin Retirement System for eligible employees**. The employee **will** ~~shall~~ pay the employee's required WRS contribution as required by state statute requirements. Under no circumstances shall the Board pay the employee's required WRS contribution.

SECTION 8. POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

8.01 Voluntary Early Retirement Benefit Program

A. Eligibility

Teachers will be eligible for the early retirement benefit provided for in this Article if they a) declare, in writing, to the Board of Education, their retirement intentions prior to February 1 of the calendar year in which they intend to retire from an employer contributing to the Wisconsin Retirement System, b) are WRS eligible for retirement and c) were hired prior to July 1, 2009.

B. Application and Limitation