

### **CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE LICENSING/CERTIFICATION**

Classified employees who require a special license or other certification will keep them current at their own expense. Licensing requirements needed for a position will be considered met if the employee meets the requirements established by law for the position.

NOTE: Boards should adapt IASB sample policies to meet the needs of the local district. Please ensure that the language contained in local policy is consistent with language contained in other district documents (e.g., handbooks, master contracts, etc.).

**Legal Reference:**

Iowa Code §§ 285.5(9); 272; 279.8  
281 I.A.C. 12.4(10); 36; 43.

**Cross Reference:**

411.2 Classified Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection

### **CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE ASSIGNMENT**

Determining the assignment of each classified employee is the responsibility of the superintendent and within the sole discretion of the board. In making such assignments each year the superintendent will consider the qualifications of each classified employee and the needs of the school district.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to assign classified employees and report such assignments to the board.

**Legal Reference:**

Iowa Code §§ 20; 279.8 (2013).

**Cross Reference:**

200.2 Powers of the Board of Directors

411.6 Classified Employee Transfers

## **CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE TRANSFERS**

Determining the location where a classified employee's assignment will be performed is the responsibility of the superintendent and within the sole discretion of the board. In making such assignments each year the superintendent will consider the qualifications of each classified employee and the needs of the school district.

A transfer may be initiated by the employee, the principal or the superintendent.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to transfer classified employees and report such transfers to the board.

### Legal Reference:

29 U.S.C. §§ 621-634 (2012).

42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e et seq. (2012)

42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq. (2012).

Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 35C; 216; 279.8; 294.1 (2013).

### Cross Reference:

411.2 Classified Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection

411.5 Classified Employment Assignment

## CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE EVALUATION

Evaluation of classified employees on their skills, abilities, and competence is an ongoing process supervised by the superintendent. The goal of the formal evaluation of classified employees is to maintain classified employees who meet or exceed the board's standards of performance, to clarify each classified employee's role, to ascertain the areas in need of improvement, to clarify the immediate priorities of the board, and to develop a working relationship between the administrators and other employees.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to ensure classified employees are formally evaluated annually. ~~New and probationary classified employees are formally evaluated at least twice a year.~~

**NOTE:** This policy states that new and probationary employees will be formally evaluated at least twice a year. This is not a legal requirement but is a recommended practice. School districts with another practice should reflect that in the last sentence of the second paragraph. For more detailed discussion of this issue, see IASB's Policy Primer, July 11, 2008.

### Legal Reference:

Aplington Community School District v. PERB, 392 N.W.2d 495 (Iowa 1986).

Saydel Education Association v. PERB, 333 N.W.2d 486 (Iowa 1983).

Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 279.14 (2013).

281 I.A.C. 12.3(3).

### Cross Reference:

411.2 Classified Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection

411.8 Classified Employee Probationary Status

## **CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION**

The board will determine the compensation to be paid for the classified employees' positions, keeping in mind the education and experience of the classified employee, the educational philosophy of the school district, the financial condition of the school district and any other considerations as deemed relevant by the board.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation to the board annually regarding the compensation of classified employees.

**Legal Reference:**

Iowa Code §§ 20.1, .4, .7, .9; 279.8 (2013).

**Cross Reference:**

411.3 Classified Employee Contracts

412.2 Classified Employee Wage and Overtime Compensation

## CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE WAGE AND OVERTIME COMPENSATION

Each non-exempt employee compensated on an hour-by-hour basis, whether full-or part-time, permanent or temporary, will be paid no less than the prevailing minimum wage. Whenever a non-exempt employee must work more than forty hours in a given work week, the employee is compensated at one and one-half times their regular hourly wage rate. This compensation is in the form of overtime pay or compensatory time. Overtime will not be permitted without prior authorization of the superintendent or their designee.

Each non-exempt employee paid on an hour-by-hour basis must log their time using the system identified by the district. ~~complete, sign, and turn in a daily time record showing the actual number of hours worked.~~ Failure of the employee to maintain, or falsification of, a daily time record will be grounds for disciplinary action.

It is the responsibility of the board secretary to maintain wage records.

NOTE: Federal law requires compensation at time and one-half the regular rate for work over 40 hours per week, whether in monetary form or compensatory time.

### Legal Reference:

Garcia v. San Antonio Metropolitan Transit Authority, 469 U.S. 528 (1985).  
29 U.S.C. §§ 2601 et seq. (2012).  
29 C.F.R. Pt. 511 (2012).

### Cross Reference:

411.3 Classified Employee Contracts  
412.1 Classified Employee Compensation

**CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE RESIGNATION**

Classified employees who wish to resign during the school year will give the board notice of their intent to resign and final date of employment and cancel their contract 30 days prior to their last working day.

Notice of the intent to resign will be in writing to the superintendent.

Legal Reference:

Iowa Code §§ 91A.2, .3, .5; 279.19A; 285.5(9) (2013).

Cross Reference:

411.3 Classified Employee Contracts

413 Classified Employee Termination of Employment

### **CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE SUSPENSION**

Classified employees will perform their assigned job, respect and follow board policy and obey the law. The superintendent is authorized to suspend a classified employee with or without pay pending board action on a discharge or during investigation of charges against the employee or for disciplinary purposes. It is within the discretion of the superintendent to suspend a classified employee with or without pay.

In the event of a suspension, due process will be followed.

NOTE: This is a mandatory policy.

Legal Reference:

Northeast Community Education Association v. Northeast Community School District, 402 N.W.2d 765, 769 (Iowa 1987).

McFarland v. Board of Education of Norwalk Community School District, 277 N.W.2d 901 (Iowa 1979).

Iowa Code §§ 20.7, .24 (2013).

Cross Reference:

404 Employee Conduct and Appearance

413 Classified Employee Termination of Employment

### **CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE DISMISSAL**

The board believes classified employees should perform their jobs, respect board policy and obey the law. A classified employee may be dismissed upon thirty days notice or immediately for cause. Due process procedures will be followed.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation for dismissal to the board. A classified employee may be dismissed for any reason, including, but not limited to, incompetence, willful neglect of duty, reduction in force, willful violation of board policy or administrative regulations, or a violation of the law.

**Legal Reference:**

Iowa Code §§ 20.7, .24 (2013).

**Cross Reference:**

- 404 Employee Conduct and Appearance
- 413.3 Classified Employee Suspension
- 413.5 Classified Employee Reduction in Force

### **CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE REDUCTION IN FORCE**

It is the exclusive power of the board to determine when a reduction in classified employees is necessary. Employees who are terminated due to a reduction in force will be given thirty days notice. Due process will be followed for terminations due to a reduction in force.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation for termination to the board. The superintendent will consider the relative qualifications, skills, ability and demonstrated performance through evaluation procedures in addition to guidelines captured in applicable handbooks when making the recommendations.

**Legal Reference:**

Iowa Code §§ 20.7, .24 (2013).

**Cross Reference:**

407.5 Licensed Employee Reduction in Force|  
413.3 Classified Employee Suspension  
413.4 Classified Employee Dismissal  
703 Budget

414.1 Classified Employee Vacation-Holidays-Personal Leave

**SUPPORT STAFF ~~CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE~~ VACATION AND HOLIDAYS**

~~Vacation~~ — Full time, twelve-month noncertificated staff shall receive two weeks of vacation with pay after the completion of one year of service. Each year after five years of employment one day shall be added, up to a total of the full time equivalency of twenty-one (21) days. Vacation time must be utilized within three (3) months from the end of a given fiscal year (i.e. must be used by the first day of October). Any days that are not used will be lost to the employee and cannot be carried forward to subsequent years. Vacation days must be approved, a minimum of two weeks prior to utilization, by the employee's supervisor.

~~Holidays~~ — A. — Fulltime, twelve-month noncertificated employees will be granted time off with pay for the following legal holidays:

- ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ New Year's Day
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ Memorial Day
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ **Independence Day**
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ Labor Day
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ Thanksgiving Day
- ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ Christmas Day

~~A.~~ — Twelve-month support staff will receive Friday off after Thanksgiving, Good Friday, one day as a "floating holiday" during the Christmas break, and the day before Christmas when it is a weekday and when there is no school on that day.

~~B.~~ — Part-time non-certificated employees will be granted time off with pay for the following legal holidays:

- ~~New Year's Day~~
- ~~Memorial Day (unless the school year has ended)~~
- ~~Independence Day~~
- ~~Labor Day (unless the school year has not started)~~
- ~~Thanksgiving Day~~
- ~~Christmas Day~~

~~C.~~ — If a holiday falls on a weekend, the superintendent will designate which workday will be granted off with pay.

~~D.~~ — To be eligible for a holiday off with pay, an employee must have worked the last designated work day preceding the holiday, and the first designated work day following the holiday, unless the absence is excused.

**CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE VACATIONS - HOLIDAYS - PERSONAL LEAVE**

The board will determine the amount of vacation, holidays and personal leave that will be allowed on an annual basis for classified employees.

~~Classified employees who work twelve months a year will be allowed six paid holidays if the holidays fall on a regular working day. The six holidays are New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Classified employees, whether full-time or part-time, will have time off in concert with the school calendar.~~

~~Classified employees will be paid only for the hours they would have been scheduled for the day. Vacation will not be accrued from year to year without a prior arrangement with the superintendent.~~

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation to the board annually on vacation and personal leave for classified employees.

Legal Reference:

Iowa Code §§ 1C; 4.1(34); 20.

Cross Reference:

409.1 Licensed Employee Vacations - Holidays - Personal Leave

601.1 School Calendar

## 414.2 Classified Employee Personal Illness Leave

### **SUPPORT STAFF CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE SICK PERSONAL ILLNESS LEAVE**

~~Support staff shall be granted twelve (12) days of sick leave the first year, thirteen (13) the second year, fourteen (14) the third year, fifteen (15) days the fourth year, sixteen (16) days the fifth, and seventeen (17) days for each year thereafter until the maximum is reached. The maximum days of accumulated sick leave shall be 120 days for all support staff (9, 10 and 12 month employees).~~

~~Support staff employed prior to 2002-2003 school year will be grandfathered with the following maximum days of accumulated sick: 9-month employees: 120 days 10-month employees: 130 days 12-month employees: 140 days~~

~~There shall be no payment for unused accumulated sick leave.~~

~~Deductions for absence or leave for which pay is not allowed shall be made in an amount equal to pay for one day's service for each day of absence.~~

The board will determine the amount of personal illness leave that will be allowed on an annual basis for licensed employees.

Licensed employees will be granted no less than ten days of sick leave in their first year of employment. Each year thereafter, no less than one additional day of sick leave will be granted to the licensed employees up to a maximum, no less than of fifteen days. "Day" is defined as one work day regardless of full-time or part-time status of the employee. A new employee will report for work at least one full work day prior to receiving sick leave benefits. A returning employee will be granted the appropriate number of days at the beginning of each fiscal year.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation to the board annually on vacations, holidays, and personal leave for licensed employees.

~~Should the personal illness occur after or extend beyond the accumulated sick leave, the employee may apply for disability benefits under the group insurance plan. If the employee does not qualify for disability benefits, the employee may request a leave of absence without pay.~~

Evidence may be required regarding the mental or physical health of the employee including, but not limited to, confirmation of the following: the employee's illness, the need for the illness leave, the employee's ability to return to work, and the employee's capability to perform the duties of the employee's position. It is within the discretion of the board and the superintendent to determine the type and amount of evidence necessary. When an illness leave will be greater than three consecutive days, the employee will comply with board policy regarding family and medical leave.

~~If an employee is eligible to receive workers' compensation benefits, the employee will contact the board secretary to implement these benefits.~~

NOTE: The first paragraph of this policy is a re-statement of Iowa law regarding sick leave for school district employees. School districts that have a different policy need to insert it there. The third paragraph is for those school districts that have a disability benefits plan. School districts that do not have a disability benefits plan should remove the paragraph.

Legal Reference:

Whitney v. Rural Ind. School District, 232 Iowa 61, 4 N.W.2d 394 (1942).

29 U.S.C. §§ 2601 et seq. (2012)

29 C.F.R. Pt. 825 (2012).

Iowa Code §§ 20; 85.33, .34, .38(3); 279.40 (2013).

1980 Op. Att'y Gen. 605.

1972 Op. Att'y Gen. 177, 353.

1952 Op. Att'y Gen. 91.

Cross Reference:

403.2 Employee Injury on the Job

414.3 Classified Employee Family and Medical Leave

414.8 Classified Employee Unpaid Leave

### CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

Unpaid family and medical leave will be granted up to 12 weeks per year to assist employees in balancing family and work life. For purposes of this policy, year is defined as July 1 through June 30 **the 12-month period measured forward from the first date an employee takes FMLA leave**. Requests for family and medical leave will be made to the superintendent.

Employees may be allowed to substitute paid leave for unpaid family and medical leave by meeting the requirements set out in the family and medical leave administrative rules. Employees eligible for family and medical leave must comply with the family and medical leave administrative rules prior to starting family and medical leave. It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative rules to implement this policy.

The requirements stated in the Master Contract between employees in the certified collective bargaining unit and the board regarding family and medical leave of such employees will be followed.

**NOTE: This policy is consistent with federal law regarding family and medical leave. The links below are to applicable forms on the U.S. Department of Labor Web site.**

Links

- <https://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/posters/fmlaen.pdf>
- [WH-380-E Certification of Health Care Provider for Employee's Serious Health Condition \(PDF\)](#)
- [WH-380-F Certification of Health Care Provider for Family Member's Serious Health Condition \(PDF\)](#)
- [WH-381 Notice of Eligibility and Rights & Responsibilities \(PDF\)](#)
- [WH-382 Designation Notice \(PDF\)](#)
- [WH-384 Certification of Qualifying Exigency For Military Family Leave \(PDF\)](#)
- [WH-385 Certification for Serious Injury or Illness of Covered Servicemember -- for Military Family Leave \(PDF\)](#)

Legal Reference:

Whitney v. Rural Ind. School. District, 232 Iowa 61, 4 N.W.2d 394 (1942).

26 U.S.C. §§ 2601 *et seq.* ~~(2006)~~ (2012)

29 C.F.R. Pt. 825 ~~(2006)~~ (2012)

Iowa Code §§ 20; 85.33, .34, .38(3); 216; 279.40 ~~(2009)~~ (2013)

1980 Op. Att'y Gen. 605.

1972 Op. Att'y Gen. 177, 353.

414.3E1 Classified Empl. FMLA Notice to Empl.

**CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES**

This document is available at <https://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/posters/fmlaen.pdf>.

*NOTE:* FMLA section 109 (29 U.S.C. § 2619) requires FMLA covered employers to post a notice. Regulations 29 C.F.R. § 825.300(a) may require additional disclosures.

**CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REQUEST FORM**

Date:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, request family and medical leave for the following reason:

(check all that apply)

- for the birth of my child;
- for the placement of a child for adoption or foster care;
- to care for my child who has a serious health condition;
- to care for my parent who has a serious health condition;
- to care for my spouse who has a serious health condition; or
- because I am seriously ill and unable to perform the essential functions of my position.
- because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that my \_\_\_ spouse; \_\_\_ son or daughter; \_\_\_ parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves.
- because I am the \_\_\_ spouse; \_\_\_ son or daughter; \_\_\_ parent; \_\_\_ next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.

I acknowledge my obligation to provide medical certification of my serious health condition or that of a family member in order to be eligible for family and medical leave within 15 days of the request for certification.

I acknowledge receipt of information regarding my obligations under the family and medical leave policy of the school district.

I request that my family and medical leave begin on \_\_\_\_\_ and I request leave as follows: (check one)

- Continuous
- I anticipate that I will be able to return to work on \_\_\_\_\_.
- intermittent leave for the:
  - birth of my child or adoption or foster care placement subject to agreement by the district;
  - serious health condition of myself, spouse, parent, or child when medically necessary;
  - because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that my \_\_\_ spouse; \_\_\_ son or daughter; \_\_\_ parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves.
  - because I am the \_\_\_ spouse; \_\_\_ son or daughter; \_\_\_ parent; \_\_\_ next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.

Details of the needed intermittent leave:

I anticipate returning to work at my regular schedule on \_\_\_\_\_.

- reduced work schedule for the:
  - birth of my child or adoption or foster care placement subject to agreement by the district;
  - serious health condition of myself, spouse, parent, or child when medically necessary;

- because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that my \_\_\_ spouse; \_\_\_ son or daughter; \_\_\_ parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves.
- because I am the \_\_\_ spouse; \_\_\_ son or daughter; \_\_\_ parent; \_\_\_ next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.

Details of needed reduction in work schedule as follows:

I anticipate returning to work at my regular schedule on \_\_\_\_\_.

I realize I may be moved to an alternative position during the period of the family and medical intermittent or reduced work schedule leave. I also realize that with foreseeable intermittent or reduced work schedule leave, subject to the requirements of my health care provider, I may be required to schedule the leave to minimize interruptions to school district operations.

While on family and medical leave, I agree to pay my regular contributions to employer sponsored benefit plans. My contributions will be deducted from moneys owed me during the leave period. If no monies are owed me, I will reimburse the school district by personal check or cash for my contributions. I understand that I may be dropped from the employer-sponsored benefit plans for failure to pay my contribution.

I agree to reimburse the school district for any payment of my contributions with deductions from future monies owed to me or the school district may seek reimbursement of payments of my contributions in court.

I acknowledge that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signed

Date

If the employee requesting leave is unable to meet the above criteria, the employee is not eligible for family and medical leave.

## 414.3R1 Classified Employee Family and Medical Leave Regulation

### CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE - REGULATION

#### A. School district notice.

1. The school district will post the notice in Exhibit 414.3E1 regarding family and medical leave.
2. Information on the Family and Medical Leave Act and the board policy on family and medical leave, including leave provisions and employee obligations will be provided annually. The information will be in the [employee handbook].
3. When an employee requests family and medical leave, the school district will provide the employee with information listing the employee's obligations and requirements. Such information will include:
  - a. a statement clarifying whether the leave qualifies as family and medical leave and will, therefore, be credited to the employee's annual 12-week entitlement or 26 week entitlement depending on the purpose of the leave;
  - b. a reminder that employees requesting family and medical leave for their serious health condition or for that of an immediate family member must furnish medical certification of the serious health condition and the consequences for failing to do so or proof of call to active duty in the case of military family and medical leave;
  - c. an explanation of the employee's right to substitute paid leave for family and medical leave including a description of when the school district requires substitution of paid leave and the conditions related to the substitution; and
  - d. a statement notifying employees that they must pay and must make arrangements for paying any premium or other payments to maintain health or other benefits.

#### B. Eligible employees. (choose one)

Employees are eligible for family and medical leave if three criteria are met.

1. The school district has more than 50 employees on the payroll at the time leave is requested;
2. The employee has worked for the school district for at least twelve months or 52 weeks (the months and weeks need not be consecutive); and,
3. The employee has worked at least 1,250 hours within the previous year. Full-time professional employees who are exempt from the wage and hour law may be presumed to have worked the minimum hour requirement.

If the employee requesting leave is unable to meet the above criteria, the employee is not eligible for family and medical leave.

#### C. Employee requesting leave -- two types of leave.

1. Foreseeable family and medical leave.
  - a. Definition - leave is foreseeable for the birth or placement of an adopted or foster child with the employee or for planned medical treatment.
  - b. Employee must give at least thirty days notice for foreseeable leave. Failure to give the notice may result in the leave beginning thirty days after notice was received. For those taking leave due to military family and medical leave, notice should be given as soon as possible.
  - c. Employees must consult with the school district prior to scheduling planned medical treatment leave to minimize disruption to the school district. The scheduling is subject to the approval of the health care provider.

- d. ~~{Boards who adopt other requirements or additional collective bargaining provisions can add them here.}~~
- 2. Unforeseeable family and medical leave.
  - a. Definition - leave is unforeseeable in such situations as emergency medical treatment or premature birth.
  - b. Employee must give notice as soon as possible but no later than one to two work days after learning that leave will be necessary.
  - c. A spouse or family member may give the notice if the employee is unable to personally give notice.
- D. Eligible family and medical leave determination. The school district may require the employee giving notice of the need for leave to provide reasonable documentation or a statement of family relationship.
  - 1. Six purposes.
    - a. The birth of a son or daughter of the employee and in order to care for that son or daughter prior to the first anniversary of the child's birth;
    - b. The placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption or foster care and in order to care for that son or daughter prior to the first anniversary of the child's placement;
    - c. To care for the spouse, son, daughter or parent of the employee if the spouse, son, daughter or parent has a serious health condition; or
    - d. Employee's serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the essential functions of the employee's position.
    - e. because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that an employee's \_\_\_ spouse; \_\_\_ son or daughter; \_\_\_ parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves.
    - f. because the employee is the spouse; \_\_\_ son or daughter; \_\_\_ parent; \_\_\_ next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.
    - g. ~~{Boards who adopt other purposes for which family and medical leave may be taken should add them here.}~~
  - 2. Medical certification.
    - a. When required:
      - (1) Employees [may/shall] be required to present medical certification of the employee's serious health condition and inability to perform the essential functions of the job.
      - (2) Employees [may/shall] be required to present medical certification of the family member's serious health condition and that it is medically necessary for the employee to take leave to care for the family member.
      - (3) Employees [may/shall] be required to present certification of the call to active duty when taking military family and medical leave.
    - b. Employee's medical certification responsibilities:
      - (1) The employee must obtain the certification from the health care provider who is treating the individual with the serious health condition.
      - (2) The school district may require the employee to obtain a second certification by a health care provider chosen by and paid for by the school district if the school district has reason to doubt the validity of the certification an employee submits. The second health care provider cannot, however, be employed by the school district on a regular basis.
      - (3) If the second health care provider disagrees with the first health care provider, then the school district may require a third health care provider to

certify the serious health condition. This health care provider must be mutually agreed upon by the employee and the school district and paid for by the school district. This certification or lack of certification is binding upon both the employee and the school district.

- c. Medical certification will be required fifteen days after family and medical leave begins unless it is impracticable to do so. The school district may request recertification every thirty days. Recertification must be submitted within fifteen days of the school district's request.
- d. Employees taking military caregiver family and medical leave to care for a family service member cannot be required to obtain a second opinion or to provide recertification.
- e. ~~[Boards who adopt other requirements or have collective bargaining agreements with provisions regarding certification should add them here.]~~

Family and medical leave requested for the serious health condition of the employee or to care for a family member with a serious health condition which is not supported by medical certification will be denied until such certification is provided.

E. Entitlement.

1. Employees are entitled to twelve weeks unpaid family and medical leave per year. Employees taking military caregiver family and medical leave to care for a family service member are entitled to 26 weeks of unpaid family and medical leave but only in a single 12 month period.
2. Year is defined as: (choose one)  
~~Option I - Fiscal year~~  
~~Option II - Calendar year~~  
~~Option III - School year~~  
Option IV - Rolling: measured forward from the first day leave is used, or measured backward from the date leave is used.  
~~Option V - Collective bargaining agreement contract year.~~
3. If insufficient leave is available, the school district may:
  - a. Deny the leave if entitlement is exhausted
  - b. Award leave available
  - c. ~~[Award leave in accordance with other provisions of board policy or the collective bargaining agreement.]~~

F. Type of Leave Requested.

1. Continuous - employee will not report to work for set number of days or weeks.
2. Intermittent - employee requests family and medical leave for separate periods of time.
  - a. Intermittent leave is available for:
    - birth of my child or adoption or foster care placement subject to agreement by the district;
    - serious health condition of myself, spouse, parent, or child when medically necessary;
    - because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that my \_\_\_ spouse; \_\_\_ son or daughter; \_\_\_ parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves;

- because I am the \_\_\_ spouse; \_\_\_ son or daughter; \_\_\_ parent; \_\_\_ next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.
- b. In the case of foreseeable intermittent leave, the employee must schedule the leave to minimize disruption to the school district operation.
  - c. During the period of foreseeable intermittent leave, the school district may move the employee to an alternative position with equivalent pay and benefits. (For instructional employees, see G below.)
3. Reduced work schedule - employee requests a reduction in the employee's regular work schedule.
    - a. Reduced work schedule family and medical leave is available for:
      - birth of my child or adoption or foster care placement subject to agreement by the district;
      - serious health condition of myself, spouse, parent, or child when medically necessary;
      - because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that my \_\_\_ spouse; \_\_\_ son or daughter; \_\_\_ parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves;
      - because I am the \_\_\_ spouse; \_\_\_ son or daughter; \_\_\_ parent; \_\_\_ next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.
    - b. In the case of foreseeable reduced work schedule leave, the employee must schedule the leave to minimize disruption to the school district operation.
    - c. During the period of foreseeable reduced work schedule leave, the school district may move the employee to an alternative position with equivalent pay and benefits. (For instructional employees, see G below.)

G. Special Rules for Instructional Employees.

1. Definition - an instructional employee is one whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group or an individual setting. This includes, but is not limited to, teachers, coaches, driver's education instructors and special education assistants.
2. Instructional employees who request foreseeable medically necessary intermittent or reduced work schedule family and medical leave greater than twenty percent of the work days in the leave period may be required to:
  - a. Take leave for the entire period or periods of the planned medical treatment; or,
  - b. Move to an available alternative position, with equivalent pay and benefits, but not necessarily equivalent duties, for which the employee is qualified.
3. Instructional employees who request continuous family and medical leave near the end of a semester may be required to extend the family and medical leave through the end of the semester. The number of weeks remaining before the end of a semester does not include scheduled school breaks, such as summer, winter or spring break.
  - a. If an instructional employee begins family and medical leave for any purpose more than five weeks before the end of a semester, the school district may require that the leave be continued until the end of the semester if the leave will last at least three weeks and the employee would return to work during the last three weeks of the semester if the leave was not continued.
  - b. If the employee begins family and medical leave for a purpose other than the employee's own serious health condition during the last five weeks of a

semester, the school district may require that the leave be continued until the end of the semester if the leave will last more than two weeks and the employee would return to work during the last two weeks of the semester.

- c. If the employee begins family and medical leave for a purpose other than the employee's own serious health condition during the last three weeks of the semester and the leave will last more than five working days, the school district may require the employee to continue taking leave until the end of the semester.
  4. The entire period of leave taken under the special rules is credited as family and medical leave. The school district will continue to fulfill the school district's family and medical leave responsibilities and obligations, including the obligation to continue the employee's health insurance and other benefits, if an instructional employee's family and medical leave entitlement ends before the involuntary leave period expires.
- H. Employee responsibilities while on family and medical leave.
1. Employee must continue to pay health care benefit contributions or other benefit contributions regularly paid by the employee unless employee elects not to continue the benefits.
  2. The employee contribution payments will be deducted from any money owed to the employee or the employee will reimburse the school district at a time set by the superintendent.
  3. An employee who fails to make the health care contribution payments within thirty days after they are due will be notified that their coverage may be canceled if payment is not received within an additional 15 days.
  4. An employee may be asked to re-certify the medical necessity of family and medical leave for the serious medical condition of an employee or family member once every thirty days and return the certification within fifteen days of the request.
  5. The employee must notify the school district of the employee's intent to return to work at least once each month during their leave and at least two weeks prior to the conclusion of the family and medical leave.
  6. If an employee intends not to return to work, the employee must immediately notify the school district, in writing, of the employee's intent not to return. The school district will cease benefits upon receipt of this notification.
- I. Use of paid leave for family and medical leave.

An employee may substitute unpaid family and medical leave with appropriate paid leave available to the employee under board policy, individual contracts or the collective bargaining agreement. Paid leave includes, but is not limited to, sick leave, family illness leave, vacation, personal leave, bereavement leave and professional leave. When the school district determines that paid leave is being taken for an FMLA reason, the school district will notify the employee within two business days that the paid leave will be counted as FMLA leave.

## **CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE DEFINITIONS**

Active Duty - duty under a call or order to active duty under a provision of law referring to in section 101(a)(13) of title 10, U.S. Code.

Common Law Marriage - according to Iowa law, common law marriages exist when there is a present intent by the two parties to be married, continuous cohabitation, and a public declaration that the parties are husband and wife. There is no time factor that needs to be met in order for there to be a common law marriage.

Contingency Operation - has the same meaning given such term in section 101(a)(13) of title 10, U.S. Code.

Continuing Treatment - a serious health condition involving continuing treatment by a health care provider includes any one or more of the following:

- A period of incapacity (i.e., inability to work, attend school or perform other regular daily activities due to the serious health condition, treatment for or recovery from) of more than three consecutive calendar days and any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition that also involves:
  - treatment two or more times by a health care provider, by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision of a health care provider, or by a provider of health care services (e.g., physical therapist) under orders of, or in referral by, a health care provider; or
  - treatment by a health care provider on at least one occasion which results in a regimen of continuing treatment under the supervision of a the health care provider.
- Any period of incapacity due to pregnancy or for prenatal care.
- Any period of incapacity or treatment for such incapacity due to a chronic serious health condition. A chronic serious health condition is one which:
  - requires periodic visits for treatment by a health care provider or by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision of a health care provider;
  - Continues over an extended period of time (including recurring episodes of a single underlying condition); and
  - May cause episodic rather than a continuing period of incapacity (e.g., asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.).
- Any period of incapacity which is permanent or long-term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective. The employee or family member must be under the continuing supervision of, but need not be receiving active treatment by, a health care provider. Examples include Alzheimer's, a severe stroke or the terminal stages of a disease.
- Any period of absence to receive multiple treatments (including any period of recovery from) by a health care provider or by a provider of health care services under orders of, or on referral by, a health care provider, either for restorative surgery after an accident or other injury, or for a condition that would likely result in a period of incapacity of more than three consecutive calendar days in the absence of medical intervention or treatment, such as cancer (chemotherapy, radiation, etc.), severe arthritis (physical therapy), kidney disease (dialysis).

Covered Servicemember - a current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness.

Eligible Employee - the district has more than 50 employees on the payroll at the time leave is requested. The employee has worked for the district for at least twelve months and has worked at least 1250 hours within the previous year.

Essential Functions of the Job - those functions which are fundamental to the performance of the job. It does not include marginal functions.

Employment Benefits - all benefits provided or made available to employees by an employer, including group life insurance, health insurance, disability insurance, sick leave, annual leave, educational benefits, and pensions, regardless of whether such benefits are provided by a practice or written policy of an employer or through an "employee benefit plan."

Family Member - individuals who meet the definition of son, daughter, spouse or parent.

Group Health Plan - any plan of, or contributed to by, an employer (including a self-insured plan) to provide health care (directly or otherwise) to the employer's employees, former employees, or the families of such employees or former employees.

Health Care Provider-

- A doctor of medicine or osteopathy who is authorized to practice medicine or surgery by the state in which the doctor practices; or
- Podiatrists, dentists, clinical psychologists, optometrists, and chiropractors (limited to treatment consisting of manual manipulation of the spine to correct a subluxation as demonstrated by X ray to exist) authorized to practice in the state and performing within the scope of their practice as defined under state law; and
- Nurse practitioners and nurse-midwives, and clinical social workers who are authorized to practice under state law and who are performing within the scope of their practice as defined under state law; and
- Christian Science practitioners listed with the First Church of Christ Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts;
- Any health care provider from whom an employer or a group health plan's benefits manager will accept certification of the existence of a serious health condition to substantiate a claim for benefits;
- A health care provider as defined above who practices in a country other than the United States who is licensed to practice in accordance with the laws and regulations of that country.

In Loco Parentis - individuals who had or have day-to-day responsibilities for the care and financial support of a child not their biological child or who had the responsibility for an employee when the employee was a child.

Incapable of Self-Care - that the individual requires active assistance or supervision to provide daily self-care in several of the "activities of daily living" or "ADLs." Activities of daily living include adaptive activities such as caring appropriately for one's grooming and hygiene, bathing,

dressing, eating, cooking, cleaning, shopping, taking public transportation, paying bills, maintaining a residence, using telephones and directories, using a post office, etc.

Instructional Employee - an employee employed principally in an instructional capacity by an educational agency or school whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group, or an individual setting, and includes athletic coaches, driving instructors, and special education assistants such as signers for the hearing impaired. The term does not include teacher assistants or aides who do not have as their principal function actual teaching or instructing, nor auxiliary personnel such as counselors, psychologists, curriculum specialists, cafeteria workers, maintenance workers, bus drivers, or other primarily noninstructional employees.

Intermittent Leave - leave taken in separate periods of time due to a single illness or injury, rather than for one continuous period of time, and may include leave or periods from an hour or more to several weeks.

Medically Necessary - certification for medical necessity is the same as certification for serious health condition.

"Needed to Care For" - the medical certification that an employee is "needed to care for" a family member encompasses both physical and psychological care. For example, where, because of a serious health condition, the family member is unable to care for his or her own basic medical, hygienic or nutritional needs or safety or is unable to transport himself or herself to medical treatment. It also includes situations where the employee may be needed to fill in for others who are caring for the family member or to make arrangements for changes in care.

Next of Kin - an individual's nearest blood relative

Outpatient Status - the status of a member of the Armed Forces assigned to –

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

Parent - a biological parent or an individual who stands in loco parentis to a child or stood in loco parentis to an employee when the employee was a child. Parent does not include parent-in-law.

Physical or Mental Disability - a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of an individual.

Reduced Leave Schedule - a leave schedule that reduces the usual number of hours per workweek, or hours per workday, of an employee.

Serious Health Condition –

- An illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves:
- Inpatient care (i.e. an overnight stay) in a hospital, hospice or residential medical care facility including any period of incapacity (for purposes of this section, defined to mean inability to work, attend school or perform other regular daily activities due to the serious health condition, treatment for or recovery from), or any subsequent treatment in connection with such inpatient care; or

- Continuing treatment by a health care provider. A serious health condition involving continuing treatment by a health care provider includes:
  - A period of incapacity (i.e., inability to work, attend school or perform other regular daily activities due to the serious health condition, treatment for or recovery from) of more than three consecutive calendar days, including any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition, that also involves:
  - Treatment two or more times by a health care provider, by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision of a health care provider, or by a provider of health care services (e.g., physical therapist) under orders or, or on referral by, a health care provider; or
  - Treatment by a health care provider on at least one occasion which results in a regimen of continuing treatment under the supervision of the health care provider.
  - Any period of incapacity due to pregnancy or for prenatal care.
  - Any period of incapacity or treatment for such incapacity due to a chronic serious health condition. A chronic serious health condition is one which:
    - Requires periodic visits for treatment by a health care provider or by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision of a health care provider;
    - Continues over an extended period of time (including recurring episodes of a single underlying condition); and
    - May cause episodic rather than a continuing period of incapacity (e.g., asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.).
  - A period of incapacity which is permanent or long-term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective. The employee or family member must be under the continuing supervision of, but need not be receiving active treatment by, a health care provider. Examples include Alzheimer's a severe stroke or the terminal stages of a disease.
  - Any period of absence to receive multiple treatments (including any period of recovery from) by a health care provider or by a provider of health care services under orders of, or on referral by, a health care provider, either for restorative surgery after an accident or other injury, or for a condition that would likely result in a period of incapacity of more than three consecutive calendar days in the absence of medical intervention or treatment, such as cancer (chemotherapy, radiation, etc.), severe arthritis (physical therapy), kidney disease (dialysis).
- Treatment for purposes of this definition includes, but is not limited to, examinations to determine if a serious health condition exists and evaluation of the condition. Treatment does not include routine physical examinations, eye examinations or dental examinations. Under this definition, a regimen of continuing treatment includes, for example, a course of prescription medication (e.g., an antibiotic) or therapy requiring special equipment to resolve or alleviate the health condition (e.g., oxygen). A regimen of continuing treatment that includes the taking of over-the-counter medications such as aspirin, antihistamines, or salves; or bed rest, drinking fluids, exercise and other similar activities that can be initiated without a visit to a health care provider, is not, by itself, sufficient to constitute a regimen of continuing treatment for purposes of FMLA leave.
- Conditions for which cosmetic treatments are administered (such as most treatments for acne or plastic surgery) are not "serious health conditions" unless inpatient hospital care is required or unless complications develop. Ordinarily, unless complications arise, the common cold, the flu, ear aches, upset stomach, ulcers, headaches other than migraine, routine dental or orthodontia problems, periodontal disease, etc., are examples of conditions that do not meet the definition of a serious health condition and do not qualify

for FMLA leave. Restorative dental or plastic surgery after an injury or removal of cancerous growths are serious health conditions provided all the other conditions of this regulation are met. Mental illness resulting from stress or allergies may be serious health conditions, but only if all the conditions of this section are met.

- Substance abuse may be a serious health condition if the conditions of this section are met. However, FMLA leave may only be taken for treatment for substance abuse by a health care provider or by a provider of health care on referral by a health care provider. On the other hand, absence because of the employee's use of the substance, rather than for treatment, does not qualify for FMLA leave.
- Absence attributable to incapacity under this definition qualify for FMLA leave even though the employee or the immediate family member does not receive treatment from a health care provider during the absence, and even if the absence does not last more than three days. For example, an employee with asthma may be unable to report for work due to the onset of an asthma attack or because the employee's health care provider has advised the employee to stay home when the pollen count exceeds a certain level. An employee who is pregnant may be unable to report to work because of severe morning sickness.

Serious Injury or Illness - an injury or illness incurred by a member of the Armed forces, including the National Guard or Reserves in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces that may render the member medically unfit to perform the duties of the member's office, grade, rank, or rating.

Son or daughter - a biological child, adopted child, foster child, stepchild, legal ward, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis. The child must be under age 18 or, if over 18, incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability.

Spouse - a husband or wife recognized by Iowa law including common law marriages.

## CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

Bereavement leave will be provisions will be established by the Board and outlined in the employee handbook on an annual basis.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation to the board annually on bereavement leave for licensed employees.

~~In the event of a death of a member of a classified employee's immediate family, bereavement leave may be granted. Bereavement leave granted may be for a maximum of [insert number] days, with "day" being defined as one work day regardless of full time or part time status of the employee, per occurrence, for the death of a member of the immediate family. The immediate family includes [child, spouse, parent, brother, sister, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, or grandparents of the employee or any member of the immediate household or personal friend or relative not listed above].~~

~~A maximum of [insert number] day of bereavement leave per year will be granted for the death of a close friend or other relative not listed above.~~

~~It is within the discretion of the superintendent to determine the number of bereavement leave days to be granted.~~

NOTE: Boards should adapt IASB sample policies to meet the needs of the local district. Please ensure that the language contained in local policy is consistent with language contained in other district documents (e.g., handbooks, master contracts, etc.).

Legal Reference:

Iowa Code §§ 20 279.8.

Cross Reference:

414 Classified Employee Vacations and Leaves of Absence

### **CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE POLITICAL LEAVE**

The board will provide a leave of absence to classified employees to run for elective public office. The superintendent will grant a classified employee a leave of absence to campaign as a candidate for an elective public office as unpaid leave.

The classified employee will be entitled to one period of leave to run for the elective public office, and the leave may commence any time within thirty days of a contested primary, special, or general election and continue until the day following the election.

The request for leave must be in writing to the superintendent at least thirty days prior to the starting date of the requested leave.

NOTE: Iowa law gives employees a right to political leave to run for public office. This policy reflects the law.

Legal Reference:  
Iowa Code ch. 55 (2013).

Cross Reference:  
401.9 Employee Political Activity  
414 Classified Employee Vacations and Leaves of Absence

### **CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE JURY DUTY LEAVE**

The board will allow classified employees to be excused for jury duty unless extraordinary circumstances exist. The superintendent has the discretion to determine when extraordinary circumstances exist.

Employees who are called for jury service will notify the direct supervisor within twenty-four hours after notice of call to jury duty and suitable proof of jury service pay must be presented to the school district. The employee will report to work within one hour on any day when the employee is excused from jury duty during regular working hours.

Classified employees will receive their regular salary. Any payment for jury duty is turned over to the school district.

NOTE: This policy reflects the practice that the employee sign over checks received for jury duty to the school district. School districts which let employees keep their checks but then deduct the amount from the employee's salary, should reflect that practice in the third paragraph.

Legal Reference:  
Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 607A (2013).

Cross Reference:  
414 Classified Employee Vacations and Leaves of Absence

### **CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE MILITARY SERVICE LEAVE**

The board recognizes classified employees may be called to participate in the armed forces, including the national guard. If a classified employee is called to serve in the armed forces, the employee will have a leave of absence for military service until the military service is completed.

The leave is without loss of status or efficiency rating, and without loss of pay during the first thirty calendar days of the leave.

NOTE: This policy reflects Iowa law.

Legal Reference:

Bewley v. Villisca Community School District, 299 N.W. 2d 904 (Iowa 1980).  
Iowa Code §§ 20; 29A.28 (2013).

Cross Reference:

414 Classified Employee Vacations and Leaves of Absence

### **CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE UNPAID LEAVE**

Unpaid leave may be used to excuse an involuntary absence not provided for in other leave policies. Unpaid leave for classified employees must be authorized by the superintendent.

The superintendent will have complete discretion to grant or deny the requested unpaid leave. In making this determination, the superintendent will consider the effect of the employee's absence on the education program and school district operations, length of service, previous record of absence, the financial condition of the school district, the reason for the requested absence and other factors the superintendent believes are relevant to making this determination.

If unpaid leave is granted, the duration of the leave period will be coordinated with the scheduling of the education program whenever possible to minimize the disruption of the education program and school district operations.

Whenever possible, licensed employees will make a written request for unpaid leave 21 days prior to the beginning date of the requested leave. If the leave is granted, the deductions in salary are made unless they are waived specifically by the superintendent.

**Legal Reference:**

Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 279.8 (2013).

**Cross Reference:**

414 Classified Employee Vacations and Leaves of Absence

### **CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE PROFESSIONAL PURPOSES LEAVE**

Professional purposes leave may be granted to classified employees for the purpose of attending meetings and conferences directly related to their assignments. Application for the leave must be presented to the supervising administrator ~~superintendent~~ 14 days prior to the meeting or conference.

It is within the discretion of the supervising administrator ~~superintendent~~ to grant professional purposes leave. The leave may be denied on the day before or after a vacation or holiday, on special days when services are needed, when it would cause undue interruption of the education program and school district operations, or for other reasons deemed relevant by the superintendent.

**Legal Reference:**

Iowa Code § 279.8 (2013).  
281 I.A.C. 12.7.

**Cross Reference:**

411 Classified Employees - General  
408.1 Classified Employee Professional Development

## WELLNESS POLICY

The Harlan Community School District Board of Education is committed to the optimal development of every student. The board believes for students to have the opportunity to achieve personal, academic, developmental, and social success, there needs to be a positive, safe, and health-promoting learning environment at every level, in every setting.

The school district provides a comprehensive learning environment for developing and practicing lifelong wellness behaviors. The entire school environment, not just the classroom, shall be aligned with healthy school district goals to positively influence a student's understanding, beliefs and habits as they relate to good nutrition and regular physical activity. In accordance with law and this belief, the board commits to the following:

The school district will identify at least one goal in each of the following areas:

- **Nutrition Education and Promotion:** Schools will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that helps students develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors.
- **Physical Activity:** Schools will provide students with age and grade appropriate opportunities to engage in physical activity that meet the Iowa Healthy Kids Act.
- **Other School Based Activities that Promote Wellness:** As appropriate, schools will support students, staff, and parents' efforts to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

The following nutritional guidelines for food available on school campuses will be adhered to:

- Meals served through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Program will be appealing and meet, at a minimum, nutrition requirements established by state and federal law;
- Schools providing access to healthy foods outside the reimbursable meal programs before school, during school and thirty minutes after school shall meet the United States Department of Agriculture ("USDA") Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards, at a minimum. This includes such items as those sold through a la carte lines, vending machines, student run stores, and fundraising activities;
- Snacks provided to students during the school day without charge (e.g., class parties) will meet standards set by the district in accordance law. The district will provide parents a list of foods and beverages that meet nutrition standards for classroom snacks and celebrations; and
- Schools will only allow marketing and advertising of foods and beverages that meet the Smart Snacks in school nutritional standards on campus during the school day.

The superintendent or superintendent's designee shall implement and ensure compliance with the policy by:

- Reviewing the policy at least every three years and recommending updates as appropriate for board approval;
- Implementing a process for permitting parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board, administrators and the public to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the policy;
- Making the policy and updated assessment of the implementation available to the public (e.g., posting on the website, newsletters, etc). This information shall include the extent to which the schools are in compliance with policy and a description of the progress being made in attaining the goals of the policy; and
- Developing administrative regulations, which shall include specific wellness goals and indicators for measurement of progress consistent with law and district policy.

Legal Reference:

42 U.S.C. §§ 1751 et seq.

42 U.S.C. §§ 1771 et seq.

Iowa Code §§ 256.7(29); 256.11(6).

281 I.A.C. 12.5; 58.11.

Cross Reference:

504.5 Student Fund Raising

504.6 Student Activity Program

710 School Food Services

### **Harlan Community School District Wellness Policy**

The Harlan Community School District School Board promotes healthy students by supporting wellness, good nutrition, and regular physical activity as a part of the total learning environment. The school district supports a healthy environment where students learn and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices. By facilitating learning through the support and promotion of good nutrition and physical activity, schools contribute to the basic health status of students. Improved health optimizes student performance potential.

The school district provides a comprehensive learning environment for developing and practicing lifelong wellness behaviors. The entire school environment, not just the classroom, shall be aligned with healthy school district goals to positively influence a student's understanding, beliefs and habits as they relate to good nutrition and regular physical activity.

The school district supports and promotes proper dietary habits contributing to students' health status and academic performance. All foods available on school grounds and at school-sponsored activities during the instructional day should meet or exceed the school district nutrition standards. Foods should be served with a consideration toward nutritional integrity, variety, appeal, taste, safety and packaging to ensure high quality meals.

The school district will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced price meals. Toward this end, the school district may utilize electronic identification and payment systems; provide meals at no charge to all children, regardless of income; promote the availability of meals to all students; and/or use nontraditional methods for serving additions to meals, such as "ala carte" or breakfast.

The school district has utilized a local wellness policy committee comprised of parents, leaders in food/exercise authority, school employees, health care professionals, school administration, and the school nurse. The local wellness policy committee has developed a plan to implement the local wellness policy and pertinent administrative guidelines, as well as, monitor the effectiveness of the policy and guidelines. The superintendent will monitor implementation of the policy and guidelines. The committee will meet quarterly to review and monitor the administrative guidelines and superintendent will then report to the board regarding the effectiveness of this policy and guidelines.

Specific Wellness Goals are delineated in the Administrative Guidelines and include: Goals for Nutrition Education, Physical Education, and Other School Based Activities that are designed to promote student wellness. The Nutrition Guidelines for all foods available with the objective of promoting student health and reducing childhood obesity are also addressed in the Administrative Guidelines.

The Board will monitor the policy and guidelines during annual reports by the superintendent and scheduled policy review protocol.

**Legal Reference:**

Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. 1751 *et seq.* (2005)  
Child Nutrition Act of 1966, 42 U.S.C. 1771 *et seq.*,

## WELLNESS REGULATION

To implement the Wellness Policy, the following district specific goals have been established:

**Goal 1 – Nutrition Education and Promotion:** Schools will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that help students develop lifelong healthy eating behaviors. The goal(s) for addressing nutrition education and nutrition promotion include the following:

- The school district will provide nutrition education that shall be integrated into the appropriate curriculum as part of a sequential, comprehensive, standards-based program as these areas come up on the review cycle or at a time which meets legislated guidelines.
- Include enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant, and participatory activities, such as cooking demonstrations or lessons, promotions, taste-testing, farm visits, and school gardens
- Nutrition education will involve sharing information with families and the broader community to positively impact students and the health of the community. The school district will collaborate with multiple agencies to enhance nutrition education and promotions. Media communication may include local newspapers and radio stations as well as the district web site.
- Nutrition Education may include training for teachers and staff.

**Goal 2 – Physical Activity:** Schools will provide students and staff with age and grade appropriate opportunities to engage in physical activity that meet federal and state guidelines, including the Iowa Healthy Kids Act. The goal(s) for addressing physical activity include the following:

- Engage students in moderate to vigorous activity during at least 50 percent of physical education class time
- Recess at the elementary school should be a minimum of 20 minutes a day, outdoors as weather and time permits, and encourages moderate to vigorous physical activity.
- Encourage teachers to incorporate movement and kinesthetic learning approaches into core subject instructions when possible;
- Offer classroom health education that complements physical education by reinforcing the knowledge and self-management skills needed to maintain a physically active lifestyle
- 

**Goal 3 – Other School-Based Activities that Promote Student Wellness:** Schools will support student, staff, and parents' efforts to maintain a healthy lifestyle, as appropriate. The goal(s) for addressing other school-based activities that promote student wellness include the following

- Educate parents/guardians and school staff about providing healthy beverages and foods for classroom snacks and celebrations by providing a list of foods and beverages that meet nutrition standards.
- Classrooms are encouraged to limit celebrations involving food to one time a month.
- Provide communication to parents encouraging packing healthy meals and snacks and to refrain from including beverages and foods that do not meet established nutrition standards for individual foods and beverages.
- Provide school staff a list of alternative ways to reward children rather than foods and beverages
- Provide school staff communication about standards and nutrition guidelines for all foods and beverages sold to students during the school day (before school and 30 minutes after school).
- The district will support the health of all students by hosting health screenings, hosting health clinics, and wellness checks in the appropriate education areas.
- Engage students and parents, through taste-tests of new school meal items and surveys to identify new, healthful, and appealing food choices and encouraging students to try new foods.
- Support the consumption of breakfast at school by implementing alternative breakfast options to the extent possible (e.g., grab n' go, breakfast in the classroom, breakfast after 1<sup>st</sup> period, etc).
- Discourage students from sharing foods or beverages during meal or snack times, given concerns about allergies and dietary needs

- Students will be provided adequate time to eat with the provision of the district's breakfast and lunch programs.

**Public Involvement:** There is a process for permitting parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers of physical education, school health professionals, the school board; administrators and the public to participate in the development, implementation, and periodic review and update of the policy.

- The district has a local wellness policy committee to advise the district on the development, implementation, and improvement of the school wellness policy

Code No. 507.9R1

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**Harlan Community School District Administrative Guidelines**

**For**

**Wellness and Nutrition Policies**

**May, 2006**

The Harlan Community School District recognizes that healthy eating and activity patterns are essential for our students to achieve their full academic, physical, and mental growth. These are building blocks for a lifelong goal of well-being. All students shall possess the knowledge and skill necessary to make nutritious and healthy choices for a lifetime. District staff members are encouraged to model healthy eating and physical habits as a valuable part of their daily lives. The school district has utilized a local wellness policy committee to develop a plan of implementation of goals to prepare our students for this life long challenge. The superintendent has been designated as the person responsible for reporting the committee's review of the policy and guidelines to the school board.

Specific Goals

1. Nutrition Education

- The school district will provide nutrition education that shall be integrated into the appropriate curriculum as part of a sequential, comprehensive, standards-based program as these areas come up on the review cycle or at a time which meets legislated guidelines.
- The school district shall provide nutrition education that is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health.
- Nutrition education should promote fruits, vegetables, whole grain products, low fat and fat free dairy products, healthy food preparation methods, and health enhancing nutrition practices.
- Nutrition education will involve sharing information with families and the broader community to positively impact students and the health of the community. The school district will collaborate with multiple agencies to enhance nutrition education and promotions. Media communication shall include local newspapers and radio stations as well as the district web site.
- Nutrition education should include training for teachers and staff.

2. Physical Activity and Health

- The district shall provide physical education that promotes safe and enjoyable activities for all students, recognizing that some students with special healthcare needs may need to be provided with alternative educational settings.
- The district will provide physical education that is at least 70 minutes a week for elementary students, Kindergarten through 5th grade, the entire school year.
- Physical Activity should engage students in moderate to vigorous activity during at least 50 percent of the PE class time.

- Certified physical education teachers will teach physical education classes.
- Elementary schools should provide daily recess periods that are preferably outdoors. These recess periods should encourage moderate to vigorous physical activity and provide adequate space and equipment.
- Elementary recess should be at least 20 minutes per day.
- When activities, such as mandatory school wide testing, make it necessary for students to remain indoors for long periods of time, schools should give students periodic breaks during which they are encouraged to stand and/or participate in stretching routines.
- District staff members should not use physical activity (e.g., running laps, pushups) or withhold opportunities for physical activity (e.g., recess, PE) as punishment.

### 3. Other School Based Activities That Promote Student Wellness

#### Integrating Physical Activity into Classroom Settings

- The district shall continue to offer classroom health education that complements physical education by reinforcing the knowledge and self- management skills needed to maintain a physically active lifestyle and to reduce time spent on sedentary activities.

### 4. Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods On the School Campus

#### School Meals

- The district Food Service program shall provide nutritious meals at a reasonable cost.
- The district menus should reflect the preferences of the school community to encourage the average healthy student to eat nutritious meals.
- The district will encourage the schools, parents, and community to be part of a team that takes an active roll in the well being of the students.

### 5. Monitoring and Policy Review

- The district shall continue the integration and monitoring of health education in the appropriate curriculum areas.
- The district will support the health of all students by hosting health screenings, hosting health clinics, and wellness checks in the appropriate education areas.
- The district will support family efforts to provide a healthy diet and daily physical activity for their student(s). This could include sending home nutritional information, posting nutrition tips on the website, providing the families with a list of foods and ideas for healthy celebrations/parties, and/or encourage families to pack healthy lunches and snacks for school outings.

#### Food Marketing in Schools

- School based marketing will be consistent with nutrition education and health promotion.
- The district will promote healthy foods, including fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and low fat dairy products.
- When possible, healthy foods in a la carte and vending machines will be available at a lower cost than foods of minimal nutritional value.
- The district will market activities that promote healthful behaviors.

#### Staff Wellness

- The district recognizes the value of the health and well being of every staff member. District staff will be encouraged to be physically active as positive role models for students.
- The district should develop a plan based on input from school staff members and outline ways to encourage healthy eating, physical activity, and other elements of a healthy

lifestyle among school staff members.

- All meals served through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs will continue to meet, at a minimum, nutrition guidelines established by local, state, and federal statutes and regulations.
  - School meals shall be appealing and attractive, and served in clean and pleasant settings.
  - School meals will offer a variety of fruits and vegetables, and include whole-grain products.
  - School meals will continue to offer low fat (1%), 2%, and fat free milk on a daily basis.
- Breakfast
- The school district will operate the School Breakfast program to ensure that all students have the opportunity for a nutritious breakfast either at home or at school to meet their nutritional needs and enhance their ability to learn.
  - The school district will notify parents and students of the availability of the School Breakfast Program.
  - No food will be sold or served prior to the breakfast period except for curriculum-based activities.

#### Free and Reduced Meals

- The school district will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of, students who are eligible for free and reduced price meals.
- The school district may utilize electronic identification and payment systems.
- The school district will promote the availability of school meals to all students.

#### Meal Times and Scheduling

- Students will be provided adequate time to eat with the provision of the district's breakfast and lunch programs.
- The school district shall schedule meal periods at appropriate times, e.g., lunch should be scheduled between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM; and should not schedule tutoring, club or organizational meetings or activities during meal times, unless students may eat during such activities.
- The district should schedule lunch periods to follow recess periods (in elementary schools).
- The district should assist students in developing the healthy practice of washing hands before meals. Access to hand washing or hand sanitizing should be available before eating meals or snacks.
- The district encourages socializing among students, and between students and adults. Adults will properly supervise cafeterias and serve as role models to students by demonstrating proper conduct and voice level.

#### Qualification of School Food Service Staff

- The school district will continue to employ a food service director, who is properly qualified and/or credentialed according to current professional standards, to administer the school food service program.
- All food service personnel shall have adequate pre-service training in food service operations. All food service personnel should have in-service training programs available according to their levels of responsibility.

#### Sharing of Foods

- The school district shall discourage students from sharing food or beverages with one another during meal or snack time, given concerns about allergies and other restrictions on some student diets.

#### Food Safety/Security

- All foods made available on campus adhere to food safety and security guidelines.
- All foods made available on campus comply with the state and local food safety and sanitation regulations.
- The district will implement plans and guidelines from Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) to prevent food borne illness in school.
- For the safety and security of the food and facility, access to the food service operations are limited to child nutrition staff and authorized personnel. For further guidance see the US Department of Agriculture food security guidelines.

Foods Sold Outside the School Meal (e.g., vending, a la carte, concessions, etc.)

The Harlan Community School District has established the guidelines that food sales in all school buildings, which include all food items sold by school staff, in student stores, through fundraising, a la carte sales, and vending machines, and occurring during the regular school day, should meet certain standards.

#### Food

- Given young children's limited nutrition skills, all elementary meals will be sold as a balanced meal.
- Vending sales, other than low-fat or non-fat milk will not be permitted in elementary schools.
- All foods made available on campus will encourage healthy choices and portion sizes and limit foods of minimal nutritional value.
- Increase the number of vending options that meet the nutritional guidelines to 50 percent for the 2006-2007 school year, 75 percent for the 2007-2008 school year, and 100 percent by the 2008-2009 school year.
- The school district encourages the consumption of nutrient dense foods, i.e. whole grains, fresh fruits, and fresh vegetables.

#### Beverages

- No pop will be allowed in the lunchroom during lunch hours or in the classrooms. The pop machines will be off until after school hours.
- The school district will limit the size of containers and add more variety of drinks that are nutritionally aligned.
- Milk, water, and 100 percent fruit juices may be sold both prior to and through out the school day. This standard will be phased in over the next three school years.
  - 2006-2007 School Year – Milk, water, and beverages containing 10 percent fruit juice with artificial sweetener may be sold both prior to and throughout the instructional day.
  - 2007-2008 School Year – Milk, water, and beverages containing 25 percent fruit juice may be sold both prior to and throughout the instructional day.
  - 2008-2009 School Year – Milk, water, and beverages containing 100 percent fruit juice may be sold both prior to and throughout the instructional day.

#### Fundraising

- School fundraising activities will be recommended to include foods that meet the nutrition and portion size guidelines for foods and beverages sold individually.
- The school district encourages non-food fundraising activities that promote physical activity.

#### Classrooms, Rewards, and Celebrations

- Food served in classrooms must meet the nutritional guidelines of this policy unless otherwise approved by the superintendent or his designee and shall not compete with federal meal programs.
- District Staff should not use food or beverages as rewards for academic performance or behavior.

- Classrooms should limit celebrations that involve food during the school day to no more than one party per month. Each party should include no more than one food or beverage that does not meet district nutrition standards.
- District staff is encouraged to model wellness guidelines for the student body.

#### Monitoring

- The superintendent or designee will ensure compliance with established district wide nutrition and physical activity wellness policies.
- In each building, the principal or designee will ensure compliance in the school and report on the schools compliance to the superintendent.
- In each building, the food service staff will ensure compliance with nutrition policies with food service area and will report to the food service director.
- The school district will report on the most recent USDA School Meals Initiative (SMI) review findings and any resulting changes.
- The superintendent or designee will develop a summary report every year on district wide compliance with the districts wellness policies. After three years the summary will be done on a three-year basis.
- The district summary will be provided to the school board, and approved and published for public viewing.

#### Policy Review

- Each school in the district will conduct a baseline assessment of the school's existing nutrition and physical activity environment. These will be compiled at the district level to identify and prioritize needs.
- Assessments will be repeated every year for three years to help review policies, assess progress, and determine needs of improvement. After three years, assessments will be done on a three-year basis.