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## **SECTION G: Personnel**

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## PERSONNEL POLICIES GOALS

The goal of the employment policies and practices of the Mecklenburg County Public School Board is to promote the employment and retention of highly qualified personnel to effectively serve the educational needs of students.

No employee, contractor or agent of the Mecklenburg County School Board may assist a school board employee, contractor or agent in obtaining a new job, apart from the routine transmission of administrative and personnel files, if the employee, contractor or agent knows, or has probable cause to believe, that such school employee, contractor or agent engaged in sexual misconduct regarding a minor or student in violation of law. This prohibition does not apply if the information giving rise to probable cause

1. A. has been properly reported to a law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the alleged misconduct and
  - B. has been properly reported to any other authorities as required by federal or state law, including title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.) and the regulations implementing it and
2. A. the matter has been officially closed or the prosecutor or police with jurisdiction over the alleged misconduct has investigated the allegations and notified school officials that there is insufficient information to establish probable cause that the school employee, contractor or agent engaged in sexual misconduct regarding a minor in violation of law;
  - B. the school employee, contractor or agent has been charged with, and acquitted or otherwise exonerated of the alleged misconduct; or
  - C. the case or investigation remains open and there have been no charges filed against, or indictment of, the school employee, contractor or agent within 4 years of the date on which the information was reported to a law enforcement agency.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: July 17, 2018

Legal Ref.: 20 U.S.C. § 7926.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-295.

Acts 2018.c. 513.

Cross Refs.:	AC	Nondiscrimination
	GAE/JHG	Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
	GB	Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination
	GBL	Personnel Records
	GBN	Staff Hiring Procedure

## STAFF TIME SCHEDULES

### Work Schedules

The workday for full-time licensed and professional staff is a minimum of seven hours and thirty minutes and continues until professional responsibilities to the students and school division are completed. Administrative meetings, curriculum development, pupil supervision, assigned duties, parent conferences, group or individual planning and extra-curricular activities may require hours beyond the stated minimum. Elementary school classroom teachers are provided at least an average of thirty minutes per day during the students' school week as planning time. Each full-time middle and secondary classroom teacher is provided one planning period per day, or the equivalent, as defined by the Board of Education, unencumbered of any teaching or supervisory duties. If a middle or secondary school classroom teacher teaches more than the standard load of students or class periods per week, as defined by the Board of Education, an appropriate contractual arrangement and compensation is provided. Work schedules for other employees are defined by the superintendent or superintendent's designee consistent with the Fair Labor Standards Act and the provisions of this policy.

### Workweek Defined

For purposes of compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act, the workweek for employees of MECKLENBURG COUNTY School Board is 12:00 a.m. Saturday until 11:59 p.m. Friday.

### Overtime and Compensatory Time

Working hours for all employees not classified as exempt under the Fair Labor Standards Act, including secretaries, bus drivers, cafeteria, janitorial and maintenance personnel, conform to federal and state regulations. The superintendent ensures that job positions are classified as exempt or non-exempt and that employees are made aware of such classifications. Supervisors make every effort to avoid circumstances which require non-exempt employees to work more than 40 hours each week. The MECKLENBURG COUNTY School Board discourages overtime work by non-exempt employees. A non-exempt employee will not work overtime without the express approval of the employee's supervisor. All overtime work must be expressly approved in writing by the superintendent or superintendent's designee. All supervisory personnel must monitor overtime on a weekly basis and report such time to the superintendent or superintendent's designee. Principals and supervisors monitor employees' work, ensure that overtime provisions of this policy and the Fair Labor Standards Act are followed and ensure that all employees are compensated for any overtime worked. Principals or supervisors may need to adjust daily schedules to prevent non-exempt employees from working more than 40 hours in a workweek. Accurate and complete time sheets of actual hours worked during the workweek must be signed by each employee and submitted to the finance officer. The finance officer reviews work records of employees on a regular basis to make an assessment of overtime use.

In lieu of earned accumulated leave and/or overtime compensation, non-exempt employees may receive compensatory time off at a rate stated below:

- **OVERTIME COMPENSATION:** of not less than one and one-half (1.5) hours for each one hour of overtime worked, if such compensatory time; overtime compensation is defined as any hours worked over 40 per week; and
- **EARNED ACCUMULATED LEAVE:** of not less than one hour for each hour of accumulated leave earned, if such earned accumulated leave; earned accumulated

- leave is defined as any hours worked over 35 but less than 40 hours per week; and
- (1) is pursuant to an agreement between the employer and employee reached before earned accumulated leave and/or overtime work is performed, and
  - (2) is authorized by the immediate supervisor.

Employees will be allowed to use compensatory time within a reasonable period after requesting such use if the requested use of the compensatory time does not unduly disrupt the operation of the school division. Employees may accrue a maximum of 120 compensatory time hours and 60 earned accumulated leave hours before they will be provided overtime pay at the rate earned by the employee at the time the employee receives such payment. In addition, upon leaving the school division, an employee will be paid for any unused compensatory time at the rate of not less than the higher of

- the average regular rate received by the employee during the employee's last three years of employment, or
- the final regular rate received by the employee.

Employers may require non-exempt employees who have accrued "compensatory time" / "earned accumulated leave" to exhaust this time prior to using earned leave (sick, personal, & business days (vacation leave is exempt). Employers may set a time limit on when this accrued "compensatory time" / "earned accumulated leave" is required to be used. An Employer may inform an employee who has not used their "compensatory time" within the designated time limit, that they will be required to use that time with forced leave.

Non-exempt employees whose workweek is less than 40 hours per week are compensated in earned accumulated leave or will be paid at the regular rate of pay when the earned accumulated leave exceeds 60 hours for time worked between 35 to 40 hours per week. Such employees will be provided overtime pay or compensatory time as provided above for working more than 40 hours in a workweek.

Employees are provided with a copy of this policy and are required to sign this policy to acknowledge their understanding of overtime and compensatory time provisions. Such signed policy constitutes the written agreement required in this section.

#### Attendance Expectations

All employees are expected to be present during all work hours. Absence without prior approval, chronic absences, habitual tardiness or abuses of designated working hours are all considered neglect of duty and will result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

Adopted: May 20, 2019

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Legal Refs.: 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.  
29 C.F.R § 516.1 et seq.  
Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:2, 22.1-253.13:3,  
22.1-291.1, 40.1-28.8 et seq.  
8 VAC 20-131-240.

Cross Ref.: IC/ID School Year/School Day

## ACCEPTABLE COMPUTER SYSTEM USE

The School Board provides a computer system, including the internet, to promote educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication. The term computer system includes, but is not limited to, hardware, software, data, communication lines and devices, terminals, printers, CD-ROM devices, tape or flash drives, servers, mainframe and personal computers, tablets, cellular phones, smart telephones, the internet and other internal or external networks.

All use of the Division's computer system must be (1) in support of education and/or research, or (2) for legitimate school business. Use of the computer system is a privilege, not a right. Any communication or material generated using the computer system, including electronic mail, instant or text messages, tweets, or other files deleted from a user's account, may be monitored, read, and/or archived by school officials.

The Division Superintendent shall establish administrative procedures, for the School Board's approval, containing the appropriate uses, ethics and protocol for the computer system.

The procedures shall include:

- (1) a prohibition against use by Division employees and students of the division's computer equipment and communications services for sending, receiving, viewing or downloading illegal material via the internet;
- (2) provisions, including the selection and operation of a technology protection measure for the division's computers having Internet access to filter or block Internet access through such computers, that seek to prevent access to:
  - (a) child pornography as set out in Va. Code § 18.2-374.1:1 or as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 2256;
  - (b) obscenity as defined by Va. Code § 18.2-372 or 18 U.S.C. § 1460; and
  - (c) material that the school division deems to be harmful to juveniles as defined in Va. Code § 18.2-390, material that is harmful to minors as defined in 47 U.S.C. § 254(h)(7)(G), and material that is otherwise inappropriate for minors;
- (3) provisions establishing that the technology protection measure is enforced during any use of the Division's computers;
- (4) provisions establishing that all usage of the computer system may be monitored;
- (5) provisions designed to educate students and employees about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with students and other individuals on social networking websites, blogs, in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response;

- (6) provisions designed to prevent unauthorized online access by minors, including “hacking” and other unlawful online activities.;
- (7) provisions prohibiting the unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of photographs and/or personal information of or regarding minors; and
- (8) a component of internet safety for students that is integrated in the Division’s instructional program.

Use of the School Division’s computer system shall be consistent with the educational or instructional mission or administrative function of the Division as well as the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities and developmental levels of students.

The Division’s computer system is not a public forum.

Each teacher, administrator, student and parent/guardian of each student shall sign the Acceptable Computer System Use Agreement, GAB-E1/IIBEA-E2, before using the Division’s computer system. The failure of any student, teacher or administrator to follow the terms of the Agreement, this policy or accompanying regulation may result in loss of computer system privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action.

The School Board is not responsible for any information that may be lost, damaged or unavailable when using the computer system or for any information retrieved via the Internet. Furthermore, the School Board will not be responsible for any unauthorized charges or fees resulting from access to the computer system.

The School Board will review, amend if necessary, and approve this policy every two years.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Refs: 18 U.S.C. §§ 1460, 2256.  
47 U.S.C. § 254.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 18.2-372, 18.2-374.1:1, 18.2-390, 22.1-70.2, and 22.1-78.

Cross Refs.: GCPD            Professional Staff Discipline  
                  JFC                 Student Conduct  
                  JFC-R             Standards of Student Conduct

ACCEPTABLE COMPUTER SYSTEM USE AGREEMENT

**Each employee must sign this Agreement as a condition for using the School Division’s computer system. Each student and his or her parent/guardian must sign this Agreement before being permitted to use the School Division’s computer system. Read this Agreement carefully before signing.**

Prior to signing this Agreement, read Policy GAB/IIBEA and Regulation GAB-R/IIBEA-R, Acceptable Computer System Use. If you have any questions about this policy or regulation, contact your supervisor or your student’s principal.

I understand and agree to abide by the School Division’s Acceptable Computer System Use Policy and Regulation. I understand that the School Division may access, monitor, and archive my use of the computer system, including my use of the internet, e-mail and downloaded material, without prior notice to me. I further understand that should I violate the Acceptable Use Policy or Regulation, my computer system privileges may be revoked and disciplinary action and/or legal action may be taken against me.

Student/Employee Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I have read this Agreement and Policy GAB/IIBEA and Regulation GAB-R/IIBEA-R. I understand that access to the computer system is intended for educational purposes and the Mecklenburg County School Division has taken precautions to eliminate inappropriate material. I also recognize, however, that it is impossible for the School Division to restrict access to all inappropriate material and I will not hold the School Division responsible for information acquired on the computer system. I have discussed the terms of this agreement, policy, and regulation with my student.

I grant permission for my student to use the computer system in accordance with Mecklenburg County School Division’s policies and regulations and for the School Division to issue an account for my student.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

## ACCEPTABLE COMPUTER SYSTEM USE

All use of the Mecklenburg County School Division's computer system shall be consistent with the School Board's goal of promoting educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation and communication. The term computer system includes, but is not limited to, hardware, software, data, communication lines and devices, terminals, printers, CD-ROM devices, tape or flash drives, servers, mainframe and personal computers, tablets, cellular phones, smart phones, the internet and any other internal or external network.

### Computer System Use-Terms and Conditions:

1. **Acceptable Use.** Access to the Division's computer system shall be (1) for the purposes of education or research and be consistent with the educational objectives of the Division or (2) for legitimate school business.
2. **Privilege.** The use of the Division's computer system is a privilege, not a right.
3. **Unacceptable Use.** Each user is responsible for his or her actions on the computer system. Prohibited conduct includes but is not limited to:
  - using the network for any illegal or unauthorized activity, including violation of copyright or contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any federal, state, or local law.
  - sending, receiving, viewing or downloading illegal material via the computer system.
  - unauthorized downloading of software.
  - using the computer system for private financial or commercial purposes.
  - wastefully using resources, such as file space.
  - gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities.
  - posting material created by another without his or her consent.
  - submitting, posting, publishing, or displaying any obscene, profane, threatening,
  - illegal, or other inappropriate material.
  - using the computer system while access privileges are suspended or revoked.
  - vandalizing the computer system, including destroying data by creating or spreading viruses or by other means.
  - intimidating, harassing, bullying, or coercing others.
  - threatening illegal or immoral acts.
4. **Network Etiquette.** Each user is expected to abide by generally accepted rules of etiquette, including the following:
  - be polite.
  - users shall not forge, intercept or interfere with electronic mail messages.
  - use appropriate language. The use of obscene, lewd, profane, lascivious, threatening or disrespectful language is prohibited.

- users shall not post personal information other than directory information as defined in Policy JO Student Records about themselves or others.
  - users shall respect the computer system's resource limits.
  - users shall not post chain letters or download large files.
  - users shall not use the computer system to disrupt others.
  - users shall not modify or delete data owned by others.
5. **Liability.** The School Board makes no warranties for the computer system it provides. The School Board shall not be responsible for any damages to the user from use of the computer system, including loss of data, non-delivery or missed delivery of information, or service interruptions. The School Division denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through the computer system. The user agrees to indemnify the School Board for any losses, costs, or damages incurred by the School Board relating to or arising out of any violation of these procedures.
  6. **Security.** Computer system security is a high priority for the school division. If any user identifies a security problem, the user shall notify the building principal or system administrator immediately. All users shall keep their passwords confidential and shall follow computer virus protection procedures.
  7. **Vandalism.** Intentional destruction of or interference with any part of the computer system through creating or downloading computer viruses or by any other means is prohibited.
  8. **Charges.** The School Division assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees as a result of using the computer system, including telephone, **data**, or long-distance charges.
  9. **Electronic Mail.** The School Division's electronic mail system is owned and controlled by the School Division. The School Division may provide electronic mail to aid students and staff in fulfilling their duties and as an education tool. Electronic mail is not private. Students' electronic mail will be monitored. The electronic mail of staff may be monitored and accessed by the School Division. All electronic mail may be archived. Unauthorized access to an electronic mail account by any student or employee is prohibited. Users may be held responsible and personally liable for the content of any electronic message they create or that is created under their account or password. Downloading any file attached to an electronic message is prohibited unless the user is certain of that message's authenticity and the nature of the file.
  10. **Enforcement.** Software will be installed on the division's computers having Internet access to filter or block internet access through such computers to child pornography and obscenity. The online activities of users may also be monitored manually. **Any violation of these regulations shall result in loss of computer system privileges and may also result in appropriate disciplinary action, as determined by School Board policy, or legal action.**

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Refs: 18 U.S.C. §§ 1460, 2256.  
47 U.S.C. § 254.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 18.2-372, 18.2-374.1:1, 18.2-390,  
22.1-70.2 and 22.1-78.

Guidelines and Resources for Internet Safety in Schools, Virginia  
Department of Education (Second Edition October 2007)

Cross Refs: GCPD            Professional Staff Discipline  
              JFC                Student Conduct  
              JFC-R            Standards of Student Conduct

## ACCESS TO EMPLOYEE SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

The Mecklenburg County School Board does not require current or prospective employees to disclose the username or password to the employee's personal social media accounts or to add an employee, supervisor or administrator to the list of contacts associated with the employee's personal social media account.

If the School Board or a School Board employee inadvertently receives an employee's username and password to, or other login information associated with, the employee's personal social media account through the use of an electronic device provided to the employee by the School Board or a program that monitors the School Board's network, the Board will not be liable for having the information but will not use the information to gain access to the employee's social media account.

This policy does not prohibit the School Board and its agents from viewing information about a current or prospective employee that is publicly available.

This policy does not prohibit the School Board from requesting an employee to disclose the employee's username and password for the purpose of accessing a personal social media account if the employee's social media account activity is reasonably believed to be relevant to a formal investigation or related proceeding by the Board of allegations of an employee's violation of federal, state or local laws or regulations or of the Board's written policies. If the Board exercises its rights under this paragraph, the employee's username and password will only be used for the purpose of the formal investigation or a related proceeding.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: July 20, 2015

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 40.1-28.7:5.

Cross Ref.: GAB/IIBEA                      Acceptable Computer System Use

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT REPORTING

### Reporting Requirement

Every employee of Mecklenburg County Public School Board who, in his professional or official capacity, has reason to suspect that a child is an abused or neglected child, in compliance with the Code of Virginia § 63.2-1509 et seq. shall immediately report the matter to

- the local department of social services where the child resides or where the abuse or neglect is believed to have occurred;
- to the Virginia Department of Social Services' toll-free child abuse and neglect hotline; or
- to the person in charge of the school or department, or his designee, who shall make the report forthwith to the local or state agency. The person making the report to the local or state agency must notify the person making the initial report when the report of suspected abuse or neglect is made to the local or state agency, and of the name of the individual receiving the report, and must forward any communication resulting from the report, including any information about any actions taken regarding the report, to the person who made the initial report.

### Notice of Reporting Requirement

The School Board posts in each school a notice that

- any teacher or other person employed there who has reason to suspect that a child is an abused or neglected child, including any child who may be abandoned, is required to report such suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to local or state social services agencies or the person in charge of the relevant school or his designee; and
- all persons required to report cases of suspected child abuse or neglect are immune from civil or criminal liability or administrative penalty or sanction on account of such reports unless such person has acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose. The notice shall also include the Virginia Department of Social Services' toll-free child abuse and neglect hotline.

### Complaints of Abuse and Neglect

The School Board and the local department of social services have adopted a written interagency agreement as a protocol for investigating child abuse and neglect reports, including reports of sexual abuse of a student. The interagency agreement is based on recommended procedures for conducting investigations developed by the Departments of Education and Social Services.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: July 15, 2015

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:7.A, 22.1-291.3, 63.2-1509, 63.2-1511.

Cross Refs.: JFHA/GBA                      Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation  
                  GBLA                              Third Party Complaints Against Employees

## SCHOOL EMPLOYEE CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

### A. Purpose

The State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act (the Act), applies to public school employees and officials. The Act creates uniform standards of conduct for all public employees and officials. The Act also defines and prohibits inappropriate conflicts of interest and requires disclosure of economic interests in some circumstances. The purpose of this policy is to provide an introduction to the Act for employees. Additional information regarding the Act may be obtained from Policy BBFA Conflict of Interests and Disclosure of Economic Interests and from the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council (the Ethics Council) which assists with compliance with the Act.

### B. Compliance

School board employees are required to read and be familiar with the Act. The superintendent provides employees with information regarding how to access the Act and how to contact the Ethics Council.

The Act's provisions are complex and their application is fact-specific. A violation of the Act could result in civil or criminal penalties. Therefore, if an employee has any question whether an interest the employee has in a contract or transaction involving the school division is prohibited under the Act, the employee should contact the superintendent's office or the Ethics Council for assistance.

### C. Areas of Regulation

The Act prohibits school employees from having a "personal interest," as that term is defined by the Act, in certain contracts and transactions that involve the division and from engaging in other specified conduct related to the schools. The prohibited personal interest also may be that of the school employee's immediate family (a spouse or any other person who resides in the same household as the employee and who is a dependent of the employee).

Under the Act, an employee may be considered to have a prohibited conflict arising from:

- a personal interest in a contract;
  - a personal interest in a transaction;
  - business opportunities tied to official acts; • misuse of confidential information;
- or
- receipt or solicitation of certain gifts.

Examples of prohibited conduct include:

- soliciting or accepting money or other thing of value for services performed within the scope of the employee's official duties, except for the employee's compensation, expenses or other remuneration paid by the division;
- using for the employee's own economic benefit or that of another party, confidential information that the employee has acquired by reason of the employee's public position and which is not available to the public;
- accepting any money, loan, gift, favor, service or business or professional opportunity that reasonably tends to influence the employee in the performance of the employee's official duties;
- accepting any business or professional opportunity when the employee knows that there is a reasonable likelihood that the opportunity is being afforded to influence the employee in the performance of the employee's official duties;
- entering into contracts with the school division under certain circumstances;
- accepting a gift from a person who has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance of the employee's official duties under circumstances where the timing and nature of the gift would cause a reasonable person to question the employee's impartiality in the matter affecting the donor; and
- accepting gifts from sources on a basis so frequent as to raise an appearance of the use of the employee's position for private gain.

#### D. Awards to Employees for Exceptional Service

The Act does not prohibit or apply to the acceptance by a teacher or other employee of Mecklenburg County Public School Board of an award or payment in honor of meritorious or exceptional services performed by the teacher or employee and made by an organization exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

#### E. Advisory Opinions

Employees may seek written opinions regarding application of the Act from the local Commonwealth's Attorney, the local county attorney or the Ethics Council. Good faith reliance on a written opinion of the Commonwealth's Attorney or a formal opinion or written informal advice of the Ethics Council made in response to a written request for such opinion or advice regardless of whether such opinion or advice is later withdrawn, provided that the alleged violation occurred prior to the withdrawal of the opinion or advice, bars prosecution for a knowing violation of the Act provided the opinion or advice was made after a full disclosure of the facts. If the employee relies on written informal

advice given by the Ethics Council in a prosecution for a knowing violation of the Act, the record of the request and the written informal advice given shall be a public record and released upon request. An opinion of the local county attorney may be introduced at trial as evidence that the employee did not knowingly violate the Act.

Adopted: May 21, 2018

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 2.2-3101, 2.2-3102, 2.2-3103, 2.2-3103.2, 2.2-3104.1, 2.2-3109, 2.2-3110, 2.2-3112, 2.2-3121, 2.2-3124 and 30-356.

Cross Ref.:	BBFA	Conflict of Interests and Disclosure Requirements
	CBCA	Disclosure Statement Required of Superintendent
	DJG	Vendor Relations
	GCCB	Employment of Family Members
	GCQA	Nonschool Employment by Staff Members
	KGA	Sales and Solicitations in Schools
	KJ	Advertising in the Schools

## EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY/ NONDISCRIMINATION

### I. Policy Statement

The Mecklenburg County School Board is an equal opportunity employer, committed to nondiscrimination in recruitment, selection, hiring, pay, promotion, retention or other personnel actions affecting employees or candidates for employment. Therefore, discrimination in employment against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, political affiliation, sex, gender, gender identity, age, marital status, genetic information or disability is prohibited. Personnel decisions are based on merit and the ability to perform the essential functions of the job, with or without reasonable accommodation.

The Mecklenburg County School Board provides facilities, programs and activities that are accessible, usable and available to qualified disabled persons. Further, the Mecklenburg County School Board does not discriminate against qualified disabled persons in the provision of health, welfare and other social services.

The statement, "Mecklenburg County School Board is an equal opportunity employer," is placed on all employment application forms.

### II. Notice of Policy/Prevention

This policy is (1) posted in prominent areas of each school division building, (2) included in employee handbooks and (3) provided to any employee or candidate for employment upon request. Training to prevent prohibited discrimination is included in employee in-service training.

### III. Complaint Procedure

#### A. File Report

Any person who believes he has not received equal employment opportunities should report the alleged discrimination to one of the Compliance Officers designated in this policy. The alleged discrimination should be reported as soon as possible, and the report generally should be made within fifteen (15) school days of the occurrence. Any employee who has knowledge of conduct which may constitute prohibited discrimination shall immediately report such conduct to one of the Compliance Officers designated in this policy.

The reporting party should use the form, Report of Discrimination, GB-F, to make complaints of discrimination. However, oral reports and other written reports will also be accepted. The complaint must be filed with one of the Compliance Officers designated in this policy. Any complaint that involves the Compliance Officer shall be reported to the superintendent.

The complaint and the identity of the complainant and the person or persons allegedly responsible for the discrimination will be disclosed only to the extent necessary to fully investigate the complaint and only when such disclosure is required or permitted by law. A complainant who wishes to remain anonymous will be advised that anonymity may limit the school division's ability to fully respond to the complaint.

## B. Investigation

Upon receipt of a report of alleged discrimination, the Compliance Officer shall immediately authorize or undertake an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by school personnel or a third party designated by the school division. The investigation shall be completed as soon as practicable, which generally should be not later than 14 school days after receipt of the report by the Compliance Officer. Upon receiving the complaint, the Compliance Officer will acknowledge receipt of the complaint by giving written notice that the complaint has been received to both the complainant and the superintendent. If the Compliance Officer determines that more than 14 school days will be required to investigate the complaint, the complainant and the superintendent will be notified of the reason for the extended investigation and the date by which the investigation will be concluded.

The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the person(s) alleged to have violated the policy and any others who may have knowledge of the alleged discrimination or the circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation will consider witnesses and evidence from both the complainant and the person(s) responsible for the alleged discrimination. The investigation may also include the inspection of any documents or information deemed relevant by the investigator. The school division shall take necessary steps to protect the complainant and others pending the investigation.

Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a case by case determination based on all of the facts and circumstances revealed by a complete and thorough investigation.

The Compliance Officer shall issue a written report to the superintendent upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint alleges the superintendent has violated this policy, then the report shall be sent to the School Board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations are substantiated, whether this policy was violated and recommendations for corrective action, if any.

All employees shall cooperate with any investigation of alleged discrimination conducted under this policy or by an appropriate state or federal agency.

### C. Action by Superintendent

Within 5 school days of receiving the Compliance Officer's report, the superintendent or superintendent's designee shall issue a written decision regarding (1) whether this policy was violated and (2) what action, if any, should be taken.

If the complaint alleges that the superintendent has violated this policy, the School Board's standing Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination Committee shall make the decision and determine what action should be taken. If the School Board does not have such a standing committee, at its next scheduled meeting it shall appoint a committee consisting of three of its members to handle the matter. The committee shall issue a written decision within 14 calendar days of the time the School Board receives the Compliance Officer's report or the time a committee is appointed, if there is no standing committee. The written decision shall state (1) whether this policy was violated and (2) what action, if any, should be taken.

The written decision must be mailed to or personally delivered to the complainant within 5 calendar days of the issuance of the decision. If the superintendent, superintendent's designee or committee concludes that prohibited discrimination occurred, the Mecklenburg County School Division shall take prompt, appropriate action to address and remedy the violation as well as prevent any recurrence. Such action may include discipline up to and including dismissal.

### D. Appeal

If the superintendent, superintendent's designee or committee determines that no prohibited discrimination occurred, the person who was allegedly subjected to discrimination may appeal this finding to the School Board within 5 school days of receiving the decision. Notice of appeal must be filed with the superintendent, or with a member of the committee which issued the written decision, who shall forward the record to the School Board. The School Board shall make a decision within 30 calendar days of receiving the record. The School Board may ask for oral or written argument from the aggrieved party and the superintendent, superintendent's designee or the committee, whichever issued the written decision, and any other individual the School Board deems relevant. Written notice of the School Board's decision will be given to the complainant.

Employees may choose to pursue their complaints arising under this policy through the relevant employee grievance procedure instead of the complaint procedure in this policy.

E. Compliance Officer and Alternate Compliance Officer

The Mecklenburg County School Board has designated

**Mrs. Nan A. Alga, Director of Personnel**  
**Mecklenburg County Public Schools**  
**P.O. Box 190**  
**Boydton, VA 23917**  
**Telephone: (434) 738-6111**  
**Email: [nalga@mcpsweb.org](mailto:nalga@mcpsweb.org)**

as the Compliance Officer responsible for identifying, investigating, preventing and remedying prohibited discrimination. Complaints of discrimination may also be made to the Alternate Compliance Officer

**Mr. Abe E. Jeffers, Assistant Superintendent**  
**Mecklenburg County Public Schools**  
**P.O. Box 190**  
**Boydton, VA 23917**  
**Telephone: (434) 738-6111**  
**Email: [ajeffers@mcpsweb.org](mailto:ajeffers@mcpsweb.org)**

The Compliance Officer shall

- receive reports or complaints of discrimination;
- conduct or oversee the investigation of any alleged discrimination;
- assess the training needs of the school division in connection with this policy;
- arrange necessary training to achieve compliance with this policy; and
- ensure that any discrimination investigation is conducted by an impartial investigator who is trained in the requirements of equal employment opportunity and has the authority to protect the alleged victim and others during the investigation.

IV. Retaliation

Retaliation against employees who report discrimination or participate in the related proceedings is prohibited. The school division shall take appropriate action against any employee who retaliates against another employee or candidate for employment who reports alleged discrimination or participates in related proceedings. The Compliance Officer will inform persons who make complaints, who are the subject of complaints and who participate in investigations of how to report any subsequent problems.

V. Right to Alternative Complaint Procedure

Nothing in this policy shall deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse to address concerns relating to prohibited discrimination including initiating civil action, filing a complaint with outside agencies or seeking redress under state or federal law.

VI. Prevention and Notice of Policy

Training to prevent discrimination is included in employee orientations and in- service training.

This policy is (1) displayed in prominent areas of each division building in a location accessible to school personnel and (2) included in employee handbooks . All employees are notified annually of the names and contact information of the Compliance Officers.

VII. False Charges

Employees who knowingly make false charges of discrimination are subject to disciplinary action.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised : July 20, 2015

Revised : August 20, 2018

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Legal Refs.: 20 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.

29 U.S.C. § 701.

42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq., 2000e-2 et seq., 2000ff-1(a) and 12101 et seq.

Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, §§ 2.2-3900, 2.2-3901, 2.2-3902

Cross Refs:	AC	Nondiscrimination
	AD	Educational Philosophy
	BCE	School Board Committees
	GB-F	Report of Discrimination
	GBA/JFHA	Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation
	GBM	Professional Staff Grievances
	GBMA	Support Staff Grievances
	GCPD	Professional Staff Discipline
	JB	Equal Educational Opportunities/Nondiscrimination
	KKA	Service Animals in Public Schools

REPORT OF DISCRIMINATION

Name of Complainant

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For Employees, Position:

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For Applicants, Position Applied For:

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Address, Phone Number and Email Address:

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Date(s) of Alleged Discrimination:

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Name(s) of person(s) you believe discriminated against you or others:

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Please describe in detail the incident(s) of alleged discrimination, including where and when the incident(s) occurred. Please name any witnesses that may have observed the incident(s). Please include a description of any past incidents that may be related to this complaint. Attach additional pages if necessary.

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I certify that the information provided in this report is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge.

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Signature of Complainant

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Date

Complaint Received By:

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Compliance Officer

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Date

## PROHIBITION AGAINST HARASSMENT AND RETALIATION

### I. Policy Statement

The Mecklenburg County School Board is committed to maintaining an educational environment and workplace that is free from harassment. In accordance with law, the Board prohibits harassment against students, employees, or others on the basis of sex, gender, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law or based on a belief that such characteristic exists at school or any school sponsored activity. The Mecklenburg County School Board is an equal opportunity employer.

It is a violation of this policy for any student or school personnel to harass a student or school personnel based on sex, gender, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law or based on a belief that such characteristic exists at school or any school sponsored activity. Further, it is a violation of this policy for any school personnel to tolerate harassment based on a student's or employee's sex, gender, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, ancestry, age, marital status or genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law or based on a belief that such characteristic exists at school or any school sponsored activity, by students, school personnel or third parties participating in, observing or otherwise engaged in school sponsored activities.

For the purpose of this policy, school personnel includes School Board members, school employees, agents, volunteers, contractors or other persons subject to the supervision and control of the school division.

#### The school division

- promptly investigates all complaints, written or verbal, of harassment based on sex, gender, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, ancestry, age, marital status, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by law or based on a belief that such characteristic exists at school or any school sponsored activity;
- promptly takes appropriate action to stop any harassment;
- takes appropriate action against any student or school personnel who violates this policy; and
- takes any other action reasonably calculated to end and prevent further harassment of school personnel or students.

### II. Definitions

#### A. Harassment Based on Sex

Harassment based on sex consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, sexually motivated physical conduct or other verbal or physical conduct or communication, which may include use of cell phones or the internet, of a sexual nature when

- submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of obtaining or retaining employment or education;
- submission to or rejection of the conduct or communication by an individual is used as a factor in decisions affecting that individual's employment or education; or
- that conduct or communication substantially or unreasonably interferes with an individual's employment or education, or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive employment or educational environment (i.e. the conduct is sufficiently serious to limit a student's or employee's ability to participate in or benefit from the educational program or work environment).

Examples of conduct which may constitute harassment based on sex if it meets the immediately preceding definition include:

- unwelcome sexual physical contact
- unwelcome ongoing or repeated sexual flirtation or propositions, or remarks
- sexual slurs, leering, epithets, threats, verbal abuse, derogatory comments or sexually degrading descriptions
- graphic comments about an individual's body
- sexual jokes, notes, stories, drawings, gestures or pictures
- spreading sexual rumors
- touching an individual's body or clothes in a sexual way
- displaying sexual objects, pictures, cartoons or posters
- impeding or blocking movement in a sexually intimidating manner
- sexual violence
- display of written materials, pictures, or electronic images
- unwelcome acts of verbal, nonverbal, written, graphic, or physical conduct based on sex or sex stereotyping

#### B. Harassment Based on Race, National Origin, Disability or Religion

Harassment based on race, national origin, disability or religion consists of physical or verbal conduct, which may include use of cell phones or the internet, relating to an individual's race, national origin, disability or religion when the conduct

- creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or educational environment;
- substantially or unreasonably interferes with an individual's work or education; or

- otherwise is sufficiently serious to limit an individual's employment opportunities or to limit a student's ability to participate in or benefit from the education program.

Examples of conduct which may constitute harassment based on race, national origin, disability or religion if it meets the immediately preceding definition include:

- graffiti containing racially offensive language
- name calling, jokes or rumors
- physical acts of aggression against a person or his property because of that person's race, national origin, disability or religion
- hostile acts which are based on another's race, national origin, religion or disability
- written or graphic material which is posted or circulated and which intimidates or threatens individuals based on their race, national origin, disability or religion

### C. Additional Prohibited Behavior

Behavior that is not unlawful may nevertheless be unacceptable for the educational environment or the workplace. Demeaning or otherwise harmful actions are prohibited, particularly if directed at personal characteristics including, but not limited to, socioeconomic level, sexual orientation, perceived sexual orientation or gender identity.

## III. Complaint Procedure

### A. Formal Procedure

#### 1. File Report

Any student or school personnel who believes he or she has been the victim of harassment prohibited by law or by this policy by a student, school personnel or a third party should report the alleged harassment to one of the Compliance Officers designated in this policy or to any school personnel. The alleged harassment should be reported as soon as possible, and the report generally should be made within fifteen (15) school days of the occurrence.

Further, any student who has knowledge of conduct which may constitute prohibited harassment should report such conduct to one of the Compliance Officers designated in this policy or to any school personnel. Any school personnel who has notice that a student or other school personnel may have been a victim of prohibited harassment shall immediately report the alleged harassment to one of the Compliance Officers designated in this policy.

The reporting party should use the form, Report of Harassment, GBA• F/JFHA-F, to make complaints of harassment. However, oral reports and other written reports are also accepted. The complaint should be filed with either the building principal or one of the Compliance Officers designated in this policy. The principal shall immediately forward any report of alleged prohibited harassment to the Compliance Officer. Any complaint that involves the Compliance Officer or principal shall be reported to the superintendent.

The complaint, and identity of the complainant and alleged harasser, will be disclosed only to the extent necessary to fully investigate the complaint and only when such disclosure is required or permitted by law. Additionally, a complainant who wishes to remain anonymous shall be advised that such confidentiality may limit the School Division's ability to fully respond to the complaint.

## 2. Investigation

Upon receipt of a report of alleged prohibited harassment, the Compliance Officer shall immediately authorize or undertake an investigation. The investigation may be conducted by school personnel or a third party designated by the school division. The investigation shall be completed as soon as practicable, which generally should be not later than 14 school days after receipt of the report by the Compliance Officer. Upon receiving the complaint, the Compliance Officer shall acknowledge receipt of the complaint by giving written notice that the complaint has been received to both the person complaining of harassment and the person accused of harassment.

Also upon receiving the complaint, the Compliance Officer shall determine whether interim measures should be taken pending the outcome of the investigation. Such interim measures may include, but are not limited to, separating the alleged harasser and the complainant and, in cases involving potential criminal conduct, determining whether law enforcement officials should be notified. If the Compliance Officer determines that more than 14 school days will be required to investigate the complaint, the complainant and the accused shall be notified of the reason for the extended investigation and of the date by which the investigation will be concluded. If the alleged harassment may also constitute child abuse, then it must be reported to the Department of Social Service in accordance with Policy JHG, Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting.

The investigation may consist of personal interviews with the complainant, the alleged harasser and any others who may have knowledge of the

alleged harassment or the circumstances giving rise to the complaint. The investigation will consider witnesses and evidence from both the alleged harasser and the person allegedly harassed. The investigation may also consist of the inspection of any other documents or information deemed relevant by the investigator. The school division shall take necessary steps to protect the complainant and others pending the completion of the investigation.

In determining whether alleged conduct constitutes a violation of this policy, the division shall consider, at a minimum: (1) the surrounding circumstances; (2) the nature of the behavior; (3) past incidents or past or continuing patterns of behavior; (4) the relationship between the parties; (5) how often the conduct occurred; (6) the identity of the alleged perpetrator in relation to the alleged victim (i.e. whether the alleged perpetrator was in a position of power over the alleged victim); (7) the location of the alleged harassment; (8) the ages of the parties and (9) the context in which the alleged incidents occurred. Whether a particular action or incident constitutes a violation of this policy requires a case by case determination based on all of the facts and circumstances revealed after a complete and thorough investigation.

The Compliance Officer shall issue a written report to the superintendent upon completion of the investigation. If the complaint involves the superintendent, then the report shall be sent to the School Board. The report shall include a determination of whether the allegations are substantiated, whether this policy was violated and recommendations for corrective action, if any.

All employees shall cooperate with any investigation of alleged harassment conducted under this policy or by an appropriate state or federal agency.

### 3. Action by Superintendent

Within 5 school days of receiving the Compliance Officer's report, the superintendent or designee shall issue a decision regarding whether this policy was violated. This decision must be provided in writing to the complainant and the alleged perpetrator. If the superintendent or superintendent's designee determines that it is more likely than not that prohibited harassment occurred, the Mecklenburg County School Division shall take prompt, appropriate action to address and remedy the violation as well as prevent any recurrence. Such action may include discipline up to and including expulsion or discharge. Whether or not the superintendent or superintendent's designee determines that prohibited harassment occurred, the superintendent or superintendent's designee

may determine that school-wide or division-wide training be conducted or that the complainant receives counseling.

4. Appeal

If the superintendent or superintendent's designee determines that no prohibited harassment occurred, the employee or student who was allegedly subjected to harassment may appeal this finding to the School Board within 5 school days of receiving the decision. Notice of appeal must be filed with the superintendent who shall forward the record to the School Board. The School Board shall make a decision within 30 calendar days of receiving the record. The School Board may ask for oral or written argument from the aggrieved party, the superintendent and any other individual the School Board deems relevant. Written notice of the School Board's decision will be given to both the alleged harasser and the person allegedly harassed.

If the superintendent or superintendent's designee determines that prohibited harassment occurred and discipline is imposed, the disciplined person may appeal the disciplinary sanction in the same manner as any other such sanction would be appealed.

Employees may choose to pursue their complaints under this policy through the relevant employee grievance procedure instead of the complaint procedure in this policy.

5. Compliance Officer and Alternate Compliance Officer

The Mecklenburg County School Board has designated

**Mrs. Nan A. Alga, Director of Personnel**  
**Mecklenburg County Public Schools**  
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as the Compliance Officer responsible for identifying, investigating, preventing and remedying prohibited harassment. Complaints of harassment may also be made to the Alternate Compliance Officer

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The Compliance Officer shall

- receive reports or complaints of harassment;
- conduct or oversee the investigation of any alleged harassment;
- assess the training needs of the school division in connection with this policy;
- arrange necessary training to achieve compliance with this policy; and
- ensure that any harassment investigation is conducted by an impartial investigator who is trained in the requirements of equal employment/education opportunity and has the authority to protect the alleged victim and others during the investigation.

#### B. Informal Procedure

If the complainant and the person accused of harassment agree, the student's principal or principal's designee may arrange for them to resolve the complaint informally with the help of a counselor, teacher or administrator.

If the complainant and the person accused of harassment agree to resolve the complaint informally, they shall each be informed that they have the right to abandon the informal procedure at any time in favor of the initiation of the Formal Procedures set forth herein. The principal or principal's designee shall notify the complainant and the person accused of harassment in writing when the complaint has been resolved. The written notice shall state whether prohibited harassment occurred.

#### IV. Retaliation

Retaliation against students or school personnel who report harassment or participate in any related proceedings is prohibited. The school division shall take appropriate action against students or school personnel who retaliate against any student or school personnel who reports alleged harassment or participates in related proceedings. The Compliance Officer will inform persons who make complaints, who are the subject of complaints, and who participate in investigations of how to report any subsequent problems.

#### V. Right to Alternative Complaint Procedure

Nothing in this policy shall deny the right of any individual to pursue other avenues of recourse to address concerns relating to prohibited harassment including initiating civil action, filing a complaint with outside agencies or seeking redress under state or federal law.

#### VI. Prevention and Notice of Policy

Training to prevent harassment prohibited by law or by this policy is included in employee and student orientations as well as employee in-service training.

This policy is (1) displayed in prominent areas of each division building in a location accessible to students, parents and school personnel (2) included in the student and employee handbooks; and (3) sent to parents of all students within 30 calendar days of the start of school. Further, all students, and their parents/guardians, and employees are notified annually of the names and contact information of the Compliance Officers.

## VII. False Charges

Students or school personnel who knowingly make false charges of harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action as well as any civil or criminal legal proceedings.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised : July 20, 2015

Revised: August 20, 2018

Legal Refs: 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1688.

29 U.S.C. § 794.

42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d-2000d-7.

42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e-2000e-17.

42 U.S.C. § 2000ff-1.

34 C.F.R. 106.9.

Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, §§ 2.2-3900, 2.2-3901, 2.2-3902.

Cross Refs:	AC	Nondiscrimination
	AD	Educational Philosophy
	GB	Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination
	GBA-F/JFHA-F	Report of Harassment
	GBM	Professional Staff Grievances
	GBMA	Support Staff Grievances
	JB	Equal Educational Opportunities/Nondiscrimination
	JFC	Student Conduct
	JFC-R	Standards of Student Conduct
	GCPD	Professional Staff Discipline
	JHG	Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
	KKA	Service Animals in Public Schools

REPORT OF HARASSMENT

Name of Complainant:

\_\_\_\_\_

For Students, School Attending:

\_\_\_\_\_

For Employees, Position and Location:

\_\_\_\_\_

Address, Phone Number

and Email Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of Alleged Incident(s) of Harassment:

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of person(s) you believe harassed you or others:

\_\_\_\_\_

If the alleged harassment was toward another, please identify that person:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe in detail the incident(s) of alleged harassment, including where and when the incident(s) occurred. Please note any witnesses that may have observed the incident(s). Please include a description of any past incidents that may be related to this complaint. Attach additional pages if necessary.

I certify that the information provided in this report is true, correct and complete to the best of my knowledge:

Signature of Complainant

Date

Complaint Received By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Principal or Compliance Officer)

Date

## PROHIBITION OF ABUSIVE WORK ENVIRONMENTS

The Mecklenburg County Public School Board prohibits abusive work environments in the school division.

Any school board employee who contributes to an abusive work environment is appropriately disciplined.

Retaliation or reprisal against school board employees who make allegations of abusive work environments or assist in the investigation of allegations of abusive work environments is prohibited.

Adopted: July 17, 2018

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-291.4.

## STAFF COMPENSATION PROCEDURES

Employees are paid in accordance with the MECKLENBURG COUNTY School Division pay schedule. Employees who work less than 12 months are given a copy of the document entitled "Written Notice of How Employees Who Work Less Than 12 Months are to be Paid."

Adopted:

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-78.

Cross Ref.: GBC-E2 Notice of How Employees Who Work Less Than 12 Months  
Are To Be Paid

NOTICE OF HOW EMPLOYEES WHO WORK LESS  
THAN 12 MONTHS ARE TO BE PAID

This notifies **[name of employee]** that Mecklenburg County school division requires him or her to be paid over 12 months regardless of the fact that he or she will actually work over a shorter time period. Specifically **[name of employee]** will receive 12 equal monthly payments of **[dollar amount of each payment]** beginning on **[date]**

In the event that a separation from service occurs before the end of the 12-month payment period, **[name of employee]** will be entitled to an additional payment for the amount actually earned from the beginning of the 12-month pay period until the date of separation from service which has not yet been paid. This additional payment will be included in the employee's final paycheck. For this purpose, "separation from service" has the same meaning as that term is defined in section 1.409A-1(h) of the Treasury Regulations

## BOARD-STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

The MECKLENBURG COUNTY School Board supports and encourages two-way communication between the board and employees. The superintendent is the official representative of the school board in its relations and communications with its employees.

Employees are encouraged to communicate their ideas and concerns in an orderly and constructive manner to the school board and/or the superintendent or superintendent's designee.

The school board desires to develop and maintain the best possible working relationship with the employees of the school division. The school board welcomes the viewpoints of employees, and allows time at its meetings for employees to be heard.

The school board does not discriminate against any employee because of membership in an employee organization, or participation in any lawful activities of the organization.

Adopted: May 20, 2019

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-253.13:7.

## STAFF HEALTH

As a condition of employment every new employee of the School Board including teachers, cafeteria workers, janitors and bus drivers, shall submit a certificate signed by a licensed physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner or registered nurse stating the employee appears free of communicable tuberculosis. Volunteers may be required to provide such a certificate.

After consulting with the local health director, the School Board may require the submission of such certificates annually, or at such intervals as it deems appropriate, as a condition to continued employment.

## Physical Exams for School Bus Drivers

No person shall be employed as a bus driver unless he or she has a physical exam of the scope required by the Board of Education and provides the School Board the results of the exam on the form prescribed by the Board of Education. Such exam and report may be provided by a licensed nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

The School Board may also require alcohol and drug testing in accordance with Policy GDQ School Bus Drivers.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: December 14, 2015

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-178, 22.1-300, 22.1-301, 54.1-2952.2, 54.1-2957.02.

Cross Ref.:	EBAB	Possible Exposure to Viral Infections
	E BBB	Personnel Training—Viral Infections
	GDQ	School Bus Drivers
	JHCC	Communicable Diseases
	JHCCA	Blood-Borne Contagious or Infectious Diseases

## UNLAWFUL MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTION, DISPENSING, POSSESSION OR USE OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

The Mecklenburg County School Board is committed to maintaining a Drug-Free Workplace.

### Prohibited Conduct

Employees may not unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess or use a controlled substance on school property, at any school activity or on any school-sponsored trip. It is a condition of employment that each employee of the Mecklenburg County School Board will not engage in such prohibited conduct and will notify the Mecklenburg County School Board of any criminal drug conviction for a violation occurring on school property, at any school activity or on any school-sponsored trip no later than 5 days after such conviction. An employee who is convicted of criminal drug activity for a violation occurring on school property, at any school activity or on any school-sponsored trip will be subject to appropriate discipline, up to and including termination, or required to satisfactorily participate in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program.

### Discipline

The superintendent and School Board will take appropriate personnel action up to and including dismissal of any employee found to have engaged in prohibited conduct listed above. Such personnel action will include the imposition of a sanction on, or the requiring of the satisfactory participation in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program by, any employee who is convicted of a violation occurring on school property, at any school activity or on any school-sponsored trip.

### Distribution of Policy

All employees shall be given a copy of this policy.

### Drug-Free Awareness Program

The Mecklenburg County School Board shall establish a drug-free awareness program to inform its employees about the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace, the Board's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace, any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs and the penalties that may be imposed upon employees for violations of laws and policies regarding drug abuse.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Refs.: 41 U.S.C. §§ 8103, 8104.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-78.

Cross Refs.: GCPD  
GDQ

Professional Staff Discipline  
School Bus Drivers

## STAFF WEAPONS IN SCHOOL

No one may possess or use any firearm or any weapon, as defined in Policy JFCD Weapons in School, on school property (including school vehicles), on that portion of any property open to the public and then exclusively used for school-sponsored functions or extracurricular activities while such functions or activities are taking place or on any school bus without authorization of the superintendent or superintendent's designee.

Violation of this policy by an employee will result in appropriate personnel action up to and including dismissal.

Illegal conduct will be reported to law enforcement officials.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: July 20, 2015

Revised: May 21, 2018

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Legal Refs: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 18.2-308.1, 22.1-78, 22.1-279.3:1, 22.1-280.2:1.

8 VAC 20-560-10.

Cross Refs.: CLA Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse  
JFCD Weapons in School  
KGB Public Conduct on School Property

## TOBACCO-FREE SCHOOL FOR STAFF AND STUDENTS

Smoking, chewing or any other use of any tobacco products by staff, students, and visitors is prohibited on school property.

For purposes of this policy,

1. "School property" means:
  - a. All interior portions of any building or other structure used for instruction, administration, support services, maintenance or storage.
  - b. Any indoor facility or portion of such facility owned or leased or contracted for and used for the provision of regular or routine health care, day care, or early childhood development (Head Start) services;
  - c. All vehicles used by the division for transporting students, staff, visitors or other persons.
2. "Tobacco" includes cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, chewing tobacco and all other kinds and forms of tobacco prepared in such manner as to be suitable for chewing, smoking or both. "Tobacco" includes cloves or any other product packaged for smoking.
3. "Smoking" means the carrying or holding of any lighted pipe, cigar, or cigarette of any kind, or any other lighted smoking equipment, or the lighting, inhaling, or exhaling of smoke from a pipe, cigar, or cigarette of any kind.

This policy shall be published in student and employee handbooks, posted on bulletin boards and announced in meetings.

Each principal shall post signs stating "No Smoking," or containing the international "No Smoking" symbol, consisting of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a bar across it, clearly and conspicuously in every school cafeteria and other dining facility in the school.

Staff and students found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

### Designated Smoking Areas

The School Board may direct the superintendent to issue regulations designating smoking areas on school grounds outside buildings.

### Electronic Cigarettes

Students are prohibited from possessing, using, or distributing electronic cigarettes or similar vaping products on school buses, on school premises and at school-sponsored activities.

All other persons are prohibited from using electronic cigarettes or similar vaping products on school premises and school vehicles.

For purposes of this policy, "Vapor products and Vaping" are defined by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse. Vaping is, "the act of inhaling and exhaling the aerosol, often referred to as vapor, which is produced by an ecigarette or similar device." The Center for Disease Control (CDC) states that E-cigarettes are known y many other names, such as e-hookahs, mods, Juul pens, or vape pens. The term "vape" is often used because e-cigarette do not produce tobacco smoke, but rather an aerosol, often mistaken for water vapor, that actually consists of fine particles. Many of thes particles contain varying amounts of toxic chemicals, which have been linked to cancer, as well as respiratory and heart disease.

Adopted: December 15, 2014  
Revised: September 24, 2018

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Legal Refs.: 20 U.S.C. §§ 6083, 7183.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 15.2-2820, 15.2-2824, 15.2-2825, 15.2-2827, 22.1-79.5, 22.1-279.6.

Cross Refs.:	GBECA	Electronic Cigarettes
	JFCH	Tobacco-Free School for Staff and Students
	KG	Community Use of School Facilities
	KGC	Use of Tobacco and Electronic Cigarettes on School Premises

## ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

The use of electronic cigarettes is prohibited on school buses, on school premises and at school-sponsored activities.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-79.5.

Cross Refs.: GBEC/JFCH Tobacco-Free School for Staff and Students

JFC-R	Standards of Student Conduct
KG	Community Use of School Facilities
KGB	Public Conduct on School Property
KGC	Use of Tobacco and Electronic Cigarettes on School Premises

## LACTATION SUPPORT

The superintendent shall designate a non-restroom location in each school as an area in which any mother who is employed by the Mecklenburg County School Board or enrolled as a student in the division may take breaks of reasonable length during the school day to express milk to feed her child until the child reaches the age of one. The area must be shielded from public view.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-79.6.

## STAFF PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

The Mecklenburg County School Board recognizes the right of its employees to engage in political activity.

The Board also recognizes that school time and school property should not be used for partisan political purposes. Thus, in his or her political activities, an employee may not

- use his or her position within the school division to further a political cause;
- engage in any activity supporting or opposing a candidate or political party while on duty, while on school property during school hours, or while representing the school division;
- suggest in any manner that the school division or any component of it supports or opposes a candidate for election to any office; or
- use any school division property to engage in any activity supporting or opposing a candidate for public office or a political party.

These restrictions are not intended to limit the rights of school division employees to support or oppose any political candidate or party on their own time. They are intended to minimize distractions from instruction, to assure that no public funds are used to support any candidate for public office, and to assure that the public is not given the false impression that the school division supports or opposes any political candidate or party. School division employees who engage in political activities on their own time must make it clear that their views and actions represent their individual positions and do not represent the views of the school division.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78.

## STAFF GIFTS AND SOLICITATIONS

Exchange of gifts between students and/or parents and staff is discouraged.

No school division employee solicits money, property, goods or services for personal use or use by staff or students during school hours on school property without written authorization from the superintendent or superintendent's designee.

Adopted: May 20, 2019

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78.

Cross Refs.:	JHCH	School Meals and Snacks
	JL	Fund Raising and Solicitation
	KGA	Sales and Solicitations in Schools
	KMA	Relations with Parent Organizations
	KQ	Commercial, Promotional and Corporate Sponsorships and Partnerships

## PERSONNEL RECORDS

Present and past employees shall have access to their personnel files and records which are maintained by the Mecklenburg County School Division. No separate employee files shall be maintained which are not available for that employee's inspection.

If information relative to employment is requested by banks or other establishments or individuals, written permission from the employee to release such information is required, except to comply with a judicial order, a lawfully issued subpoena, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (Va. Code § 2.2-3700 et seq.), or other law or court order. The employee will be notified of the request for records.

The superintendent is responsible for maintaining a system of personnel records for all employees of the School Board. Personnel files of all School Board employees may be produced and maintained in digital or paper format.

Teacher performance indicators, or other data used to judge the performance or quality of a teacher, maintained in a teacher's personnel file or otherwise is confidential but may be disclosed (i) pursuant to court order, (ii) for the purposes of a grievance proceeding involving the teacher, or (iii) as otherwise required by state or federal law. Nothing in this policy prohibits the release of or limits the availability of nonidentifying, aggregate teacher performance indicators or other data.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 2.2-3700 et seq., 2.2-3800 et seq., 22.1-295.1 and 40.1-28.7:4.

Cross Ref.: GBLA            Third Party Complaints Against Employees

### THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINTS AGAINST EMPLOYEES

Any parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the MECKLENBURG COUNTY Public Schools or any resident of MECKLENBURG COUNTY may file a complaint regarding an employee of the MECKLENBURG COUNTY School Board. Such complaint should be filed with the superintendent or superintendent's designee. If the complaint involves allegations that an employee of the MECKLENBURG COUNTY School Board has abused or neglected a child in the course of his employment, the complaint will be investigated in accordance with Va. Code §§ 63.2-1503, 63.2-1505 and 63.2-1516.1.

Information determined to be unfounded after a reasonable administrative review is not maintained in any employee personnel file, but may be retained in a separate sealed file by the administration if such information alleges civil or criminal offenses. Any dispute over such unfounded information, exclusive of opinions retained in the personnel file, or in a separate sealed file, notwithstanding the provisions of the Government Data Collection and Dissemination Practices Act, Va. Code §§ 2.2-3800 et seq., is settled through the employee grievance procedure as provided in Va. Code §§ 22.1-306 and 22.1-308 through 22.1-314.

Individuals lodging a complaint are notified in writing that the complaint has been received and is being investigated.

The complaint should be filed as soon as possible after the alleged incident, usually within 15 school days, and will be processed promptly, usually within 15 days.

Adopted: May 20, 2019

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 2.2-3800 et seq., 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 22.1-295.1.

Cross Refs.:	GB	Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination
	GBA/JFHA	Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation
	GBL	Personnel Records
	GBM	Professional Staff Grievances
	GBMA	Support Staff Grievances
	JB	Equal Educational Opportunities/Nondiscrimination
	JHG	Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting

## PROFESSIONAL STAFF GRIEVANCES

The Mecklenburg County School Board adopts the most recent version of Procedure for Adjusting Grievances promulgated by the Virginia Board of Education based on current statutory provisions.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-253.13:7.C.8, and 22.1-306 et seq.

## SUPPORT STAFF GRIEVANCES

The Mecklenburg County School Board adopts the following procedure in accordance with § 22.1-79(6) of the Code of Virginia, as amended. Nothing in this procedure is intended to create, nor shall it be construed as creating, a property right in employment, nor shall this procedure be interpreted to limit in any way whatsoever the School Board's exclusive final authority over the employment and supervision of its personnel.

The following words and terms are defined as indicated when used in this procedure, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Days" means calendar days unless a different meaning is clearly expressed in this procedure. Whenever any period of time fixed by this procedure shall expire on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the period of time for taking action under this procedure shall be extended to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday. "Working days" means those days that the Mecklenburg County Public School Board office is open for business.

"Dismissal" means the termination of employment of any covered employee with or without cause during the term of such employee's employment.

"Employee" or "employees" means all full-time employees of the Mecklenburg County Public School Board who have completed the required probationary period except the division superintendent and those employees covered under the provisions of Articles 2 and 3 of Chapter 15 of Title 22.1 of the Code of Virginia, as amended. "Employee" does not mean a part-time or temporary employee.

"Grievance" means a complaint or dispute involving the dismissal or other disciplinary action of an employee. A dismissal, reassignment or other action pursuant to a Reduction in Force (RIF) is not a disciplinary action and is not grievable. Employee evaluations are not disciplinary actions and are not grievable. "Grievance" does not mean a complaint or dispute regarding the suspension of an employee. The procedure for the suspension of employees is set forth in Policy GCPF Suspension of Staff Members.

### Procedure

1. Written notice of the proposed action, along with a statement of the reasons for the action, shall be given to the employee by his building administrator/department head. Upon receipt of the recommendation, the employee is required to meet with a Human Resources administrator. During this meeting the employee will receive a copy of this policy as notice of his grievance rights. The employee may file a written request for a hearing with the superintendent within five (5) working days of receiving the written notice. The failure to file such a request within the prescribed time will constitute a waiver of

the right to a hearing and the proposed action will become final without a hearing or further notice.

2. Upon receiving a timely written request, the superintendent shall select an external hearing officer to hear the grievance. The hearing officer will be selected from a list approved by the School Board. The hearing officer will hold a hearing within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of the employee's request. Notice of the hearing shall be given orally or in writing to the employee at least five (5) working days before the hearing. The employee and the school division will share the cost of the hearing officer and the cost of recording the hearing equally.
3. The employee and his supervisor may be represented by legal counsel or a lay advocate at the hearing, but not both. The division may also be represented by legal counsel at the hearing. The hearing will be private and the hearing officer will have full discretion over the conduct of the hearing. However, the employee and the division may make opening statements, may present all material and relevant evidence, including the testimony of witnesses, and may cross examine witnesses. Witnesses may be questioned by the hearing officer.
4. The hearing officer shall give the employee a written decision within five (5) working days after the completion of the hearing. The decision shall be based on the evidence relevant to the issues produced at the hearing in the presence of each party.
5. The employee may appeal the decision to the School Board by providing written notice of appeal to the superintendent within five (5) working days of receiving the decision of the hearing officer. Upon timely appeal, the School Board shall decide the appeal on the written record and render its decision within thirty (30) days of the appeal.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: December 17, 2018

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-79(6), 22.1-313.

Cross Refs.: GCPF  
GDG

Suspension of Staff Members  
Support Staff Probation

## STAFF HIRING PROCEDURES

It is the desire of the Mecklenburg County School Board to recruit, hire and retain the best possible qualified applicants.

The Superintendent is responsible for developing procedures for advertising vacancies and new positions. Those procedures will be designed to ensure that all openings are properly advertised to give all interested and qualified parties the opportunity to apply. While most positions will be filled using those procedures, the School Board may, at the request of the Superintendent, fill positions in other ways. For example, the School Board may authorize the filling of a position to accommodate the disability of an employee, to transfer an employee when it is determined to be in the best interest of the school division, to satisfy the rights of employees returning from leave, to move an employee whose performance is unsuccessful to a position in which the employee might be successful or to discipline an employee for conduct deficiencies.

Current division employees are given an opportunity to apply for positions for which they are qualified.

Vacancies and new positions within the division are advertised on the internet, in each school and in the Central Office.

The applicant determined to be the best qualified shall be selected for a vacant or new position, regardless of whether the applicant is an internal or external candidate.

Application for employment in the Mecklenburg County Public Schools shall be made in writing on forms provided by the Department of Human Resources

It is the responsibility of the applicant to furnish accurate information and any falsification of either information or credentials is cause for dismissal or refusal to employ.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: July 20, 2015

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70,22.1-78.

Cross Refs.: AC                    Nondiscrimination  
                  GCDA                    Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child  
   Abuse or Neglect

## VIRGINIA RETIREMENT SYSTEM

All eligible employees must be members of the Virginia Retirement System. Employee retirement benefits are governed by the rules and regulations established by the Virginia Retirement System.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended, §§ 22.1-78,51.1-135.

Cross Ref.: GBR Voluntary Retirement Savings Program

## VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT SAVINGS PROGRAM

The Mecklenburg County School Division offers its employees the opportunity to participate in a defined contribution retirement plan, also known as a tax sheltered annuity or 403(b) program. This program is maintained and operated pursuant to a written plan.

The written plan contains all the material terms and conditions for eligibility, benefits, applicable limitations, the contracts available under the plan and the time and form under which benefit distributions may be made.

The written plan also addresses any optional features, including hardship withdrawal distributions, loans, plan-to-plan or annuity contract-to-annuity contract transfers and acceptance of rollovers to the plan, which are included in the Division's program.

The written plan may

- allocate responsibility for administrative functions, including functions to comply with the requirements of 26 U.S.C. § 403(b) and other tax requirements
- assign such responsibilities to parties other than the school division, but not to participants (unless the administration of the plan is a substantial portion of the duties of the participant)
- incorporate by reference other documents which thereupon become part of the written plan
- address termination of the program

Every employee of the school division is notified annually about the program.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: July 20, 2015

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Legal Refs.: 26 U.S.C. § 403(b).

26 CFR 1.403(b)-1 et seq.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 51.1-603, 51.1-603.1

Cross Ref.: GBO

Virginia Retirement System

## PROFESSIONAL STAFF

No teacher is regularly employed by the School Board or paid from public funds unless such teacher

- holds a license or provisional license issued by the Board of Education,
- holds a three-year license to teach high school career and technical education courses in specified subject areas or
- is hired to teach in a trade and industrial education program and for whom the teacher licensure requirements have been waived by the Virginia Department of Education.

If a teacher employed under a provisional license is activated or deployed for military service within a school year (July 1 - June 30), an additional year will be added to the teacher's provisional license for each school year or portion thereof during which the teacher is activated or deployed. The additional year shall be granted the year following the return of the teacher from deployment or activation.

The superintendent may request that the Board of Education extend the three-year provisional license of a teacher for at least one year but no more than two additional years. The request must be accompanied by the superintendent's recommendation for such extension and satisfactory performance evaluations for the teacher for each year of the original three-year license.

The Board of Education prescribes, by regulation, the requirements for the licensure for teachers and other school personnel required to hold a license. On recommendation of the superintendent, the School Board may waive applicable licensing requirements as specified Va. Code § 22.1-298.1 for any individual the School Board seeks to employ as a career and technical education teacher who is also seeking initial licensure or renewal of a license with an endorsement in the area of career and technical education.

Adopted: December 15, 2014  
Revised: July 20, 2015  
Revised: May 21, 2018  
Revised: July 17, 2018

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-298.1, 22.1-299, 22.1- 299.5 and 22.1-299.6.

## PROFESSIONAL STAFF CONTRACTS

The School Board enters into written contracts with teachers, principals, assistant principals, and supervisors as defined in 8 VAC 20-441-10 before such employees assume their duties except as noted below. Contracts are in the form permitted by the Board of Education, with special covenants added by the School Board as appropriate. Contracts are signed in duplicate, with a copy furnished to each party.

Written contracts are not required with persons who are temporarily employed. A temporarily employed teacher, is 1) one who is employed to substitute for a contracted teacher for a temporary period of time during the contracted teacher's absence, or 2) one who is employed to fill a teacher vacancy for a period of time, but for no longer than 90 teaching days in such vacancy, unless otherwise approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction on a case-by-case basis, during one school year.

Coaching contracts and contracts for extracurricular activity sponsorship assignments where a monetary supplement is paid are separate from the employee's primary contract. Such contracts are in a form permitted by the Board of Education. Termination of the separate contract does not constitute cause for the termination of the primary contract.

For purposes of this policy, "extracurricular activity sponsorship" means an assignment for which a monetary supplement is received, requiring responsibility for any student organizations, clubs, or groups such as service clubs, academic clubs and teams, cheerleading squads, student publication and literary groups, and visual and performing arts organizations except those that are conducted in conjunction with regular classroom, curriculum, or instructional programs.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: October 15, 2018

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-302.

8 VAC 20-441-10.

8 VAC 20-441-40.

Cross Ref.:	GABB GCDA  GCE  GCG	Supplementary Pay Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect Part-Time and Substitute Professional Staff Employment Professional Staff Probationary Term and Continuing Contract
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GCPB  
GCPD  
GCPF

Resignation of Staff Members  
Professional Staff Discipline  
Suspension of Staff Members

## STAFF SALARY SCHEDULES

The School Board shall annually establish and approve salaries for all school employees.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-289.1, 22.1-313.

## STAFF HIRING INCENTIVE

The Division Superintendent may from time to time elect to provide new hires to classroom teaching positions in Mecklenburg County Public Schools with a one-time incentive in an amount of \$2,500, with \$1,500 paid in the first month of reporting to work in the first year of employment and the remaining \$1,000 paid in the first month of reporting to work in the second year of employment. The incentives may be provided to new teachers taking positions in areas designated by the Virginia Department of Education as hard-to-staff:

- Mathematics
- Spanish
- Special Education

Adopted: June 18, 2018

## SUPPLEMENTARY PAY

The Mecklenburg County Public School Board approves all athletic coaching and other extracurricular activity sponsorships for which supplemental pay is provided. The Board establishes the amount of compensation for employees who coach or supervise such activities.

A separate contract in a form permitted by the Board of Education is executed by the School Board with an employee who receives supplemental pay for any athletic coaching assignment or extracurricular activity sponsorship assignment. All such contracts will require a party intending to terminate the contract to give reasonable notice to the other party before termination thereof becomes effective.

For purposes of this policy, "extracurricular activity sponsorship" means an assignment requiring responsibility for any student organizations, clubs, or groups, such as service clubs, academic clubs and teams, cheerleading squads, student publication and literary groups, and visual and performing arts organizations except those activities that are conducted in conjunction with regular classroom, curriculum, or instructional programs.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: October 15, 2018

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-302 and 22.1-313.

Cross Ref.: GCB

Professional Staff Contracts

## STAFF FRINGE BENEFITS

The Mecklenburg County School Board recognizes the need for fringe benefits in order to promote the employment and retention of the highest quality personnel and effectively serve the educational needs of students. Accordingly, fringe benefits shall be provided pursuant to regulations established by the Board.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-85.

8 VAC 20-460-10.

Cross Ref.: GCBD            Staff Leaves and Absences  
              GBO            Virginia Retirement System

## **Teacher Compensation**

Generally, the Mecklenburg County School Board desires to adopt annually a Teacher Pay Plan that will attract outstanding teachers and will retain those teachers who have met the standards of excellence required by the School Board. The compensation schedule should be based upon a reasonable base salary and should take into consideration years of experience, degree of educational training, level of certification, job performance, and such other criteria as the School Board may deem appropriate.

### **Placement on Compensation Schedule**

1. Licensed personnel submitting transcripts reflecting being awarded a masters or doctoral degree in Education from an accredited college or university will receive a salary adjustment in keeping with this additional preparation. Said salary adjustment for a verified Master's or Doctoral Degree conferred up to the first day of the employee's contract year will be recognized at the beginning of said contract year. A verified Master's or Doctoral Degree in Education conferred after the first day of the employee's contract year will be recognized through prorated salary adjustment for the portion of the remaining fiscal year, beginning with the pay period for the month following verification of degree.
2. Credit for military service may be allowed based on individual circumstances and regulations of the Virginia Board of Education.
3. In order for consideration to be given for a year of teaching or comparable experience on the Teacher Pay Plan, the teacher must have been under full-time contract for at least 120 days of the contract year.

### **Advancement on Compensation Schedule**

1. Except as provided elsewhere in this Policy, each teacher shall receive an annual compensation increase for the step on which he is placed when the increase is the result of an increase in the Teacher Pay Plan.
2. Advancement of teachers to the next step of the Teacher Pay Plan shall depend upon the availability of funding.

### **Pay for Extended Work Year**

Licensed personnel employed for additional duties after the school year has ended (excluding summer school and workshops) may be paid extra compensation.

### **Classified Licensed and Non-licensed Personnel: Wage and Salary Schedule**

Salaries for classified licensed and non-licensed personnel shall be as set forth in the School Board Pay Plan, determined on a case-by-case basis for each employee's placement on the scale. Salaries for all employees shall be calculated on a per diem basis depending on the length of the employee's contract. Annual salary increases are dependent upon availability of funding.

## **Payroll Deductions**

Generally Payroll deductions will be made for those purposes required by law. Optional deductions may be made for insurance, investments, charity or other purposes that the School Board has approved, which the employee has authorized in writing, and that are in compliance with the rules and regulations of the payroll system.

## **Deductions for Absences**

School Board employees who are absent from their assignments without appropriate authorization or who do not have leave coverage shall have their next paycheck decreased at a rate equal to the per diem salary payment for each day of absence.

## **Garnishments and Tax Liens**

Any employee of the School Board who is court ordered or permits his wages to be garnished or attached or enters into voluntary bankruptcy shall be called by the executive director of business and finance. All employees are strongly advised to pay all indebtedness promptly and before the respective deadlines.

## **Initial Placement on the Teacher Compensation Schedule**

Upon initial employment by the Mecklenburg County School Board, teachers shall be given credit for their years of experience, their educational training, their level of licensure, and other criteria that might be appropriate to their employment. Teachers shall provide the Supervisor of Personnel all documents that will verify their training, experience, licensure, and other criteria within thirty (30) days of employment. All teachers under contract with the School Board shall enter the scale at the level of the number of years that have been recognized as appropriate at that time under the policies of the School Board.

## **EMPLOYEE PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS**

The Mecklenburg County School Board authorizes the following specific employee payroll deductions:

1. Authorized Hospitalization Plans
2. Dental Insurance
3. Cancer Insurance
4. Selected Annuities
5. Selected Disability Plans
6. Mecklenburg Education Association
7. Virginia Credit Union

## **WAGE PAYMENTS: SCHOOL INTERNAL ACCOUNTS**

All wage payments to School Board employees must be made through the regular payroll procedure in order to ensure proper withholding of taxes, workman's compensation coverage, other authorized payroll deductions, and the required rate of pay.

### **Procedures for Reporting**

All schools will report the hours worked and complete time sheets and/or trip records. These documents are to be sent to the payroll office as soon as the work is complete, but no later than the last workday of the month.

### **Reimbursements from the School**

The school's reimbursement check must be attached to the time sheets and/or trip records. If an employee's rate of pay is not known, this information can be obtained from the finance office. Overtime rates apply to qualifying employees consistent with applicable law.

## **INSURANCE**

### **State Worker's Compensation**

The Mecklenburg County School Board honors the requirements of Virginia's Worker's Compensation laws.

### **Group Life Insurance**

The School Board pays the employee and employer's cost of the group life insurance program for Virginia public employees.

### **Group Medical Insurance Plan**

The School Board pays an approved percentage of an eligible employee's monthly premium for all full-time employees who carry the School Board's approved hospitalization coverage.

### **Tort Insurance**

The School Board will annually provide for liability insurance coverage for all employees as permitted by Virginia law.

## **HOLIDAYS**

All 10-month full-time and 10-month + 20 days employees of the Mecklenburg County School Board are granted holidays in accordance with the adopted school calendar.

All full-time twelve-month classified employees are entitled to holidays as established on the annual school calendar. Leave for religious holidays may be granted in accordance with the School Board's policy regarding unified leave. When any of the holidays fall on Saturday or Sunday, the Superintendent may designate other days, preceding or following the holiday.

Issued: December 15, 2014

## STAFF LEAVES AND ABSENCES

All employee leaves and absences are subject to school division policy and regulations. The superintendent shall establish any regulations necessary for the application of the division's policies regarding leaves and absences.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §22.1-78.

Cross Refs.: GCBE Family and Medical Leave  
GCBEA Leave Without Pay GCBEB  
Military Leave and Benefits  
GCQA Nonschool Employment by Staff Member

## **MECKLENBURG COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS EMPLOYEE ABSENCES**

### **Reporting Absences**

The division superintendent or his designee shall issue regulations for the reporting of Mecklenburg County School Board employee absences. Unexcused absences may result in an employee's dismissal.

### **Holidays**

All 10-month full-time and 10-month + 20 days employees of the Mecklenburg County School Board are granted holidays in accordance with the adopted school calendar. All full-time twelve-month classified and certified employees are entitled to holidays as established on the annual school calendar. Leave for religious holidays may be granted in accordance with the School Board's policy regarding unified leave. When any of the holidays fall on Saturday or Sunday, the Superintendent may designate other days, preceding or following the holiday.

### **Annual Leave - 12-Month Employees Only Classified, Licensed, and Non- Licensed Personnel**

All twelve month classified, licensed, and non-licensed employees shall be granted vacation at the rate of one (1) day per month. Vacation time may be taken at any time during a contract year if workload permits, and with the authorization of the designated supervisor.

### **Accumulated Annual Leave**

Annual leave earned by an eligible employee may be accumulated to the following year if it is not used, but not to exceed twelve (12) days of total carry-over unless approved by the division superintendent. Upon termination of employment, employees shall not be paid for any unused accumulated annual leave.

Upon retirement, employees shall be paid at a daily rate of pay for unused accumulated annual leave not to exceed twenty-four days. To be eligible for such payment, an employee must have completed a minimum of five (5) years uninterrupted service, including the year of retirement, with the Mecklenburg County Public Schools. The lump sum payment shall be calculated based on the employee's per diem rate at the time of retirement.

Upon retirement the employee may elect to have a portion of or entire payment for unused annual leave paid as monthly premiums towards any insurance being provided by Mecklenburg County Schools through payroll deduction. Such payments may be terminated at any time upon written request of the employee or survivor at least 30 days in advance of the stated termination date. Upon termination of the payment of premiums any remaining balance of payment for unused annual leave will be paid in lump sum to the employee or survivor within 30 days. No interest shall accrue to funds

being paid as monthly premiums. All twelve-month employees shall be expected to work during school holidays except on those days designated on the official school calendar as office holidays. Persons absent from work on workdays other than holidays shall be charged with annual leave for those days.

### **Bus Drivers Leave**

Bus drivers shall be granted 1 day per month of sick leave consistent with their contract runs. This equals 9 per year. Bus drivers shall be allowed to use 1 day of leave per year as personal leave provided appropriate notice is given to the employee's supervisor.

### **Personal Leave**

Two (2) days of leave may be used per year as personal leave provided appropriate notice is given to the employee's principal or supervisor. Personnel who do not use all their personal leave days in a given year may carry over up to two (2) days of personal leave. This carryover leave will be converted to sick leave for the following year.

### **Business Leave**

A maximum of two (2) days per contract year for business may be granted. These days will be with a deduction of the substitute rate per day. For certificated employees, the daily rate shall be defined as the prevailing substitute teacher rate. For classified employees, the daily substitute rate will be established at \$15.00. Business leave may be taken in minimum increments of one-half day increments. Approval of the request for personal or business leave will be based on execution of contractual responsibilities, availability of a suitable substitute and percentage of other staff absences on the requested date(s).

Personal and business leave shall not be cumulative. However unused personal leave will be transferred to accumulated sick leave at the end of the fiscal year.

### **Sick Leave for VRS-1 and VRS-2 Employees Only**

The Mecklenburg County School Division operates under the regulations governing the State Sick Leave Plan for Teachers (Revised-Effective September 1, 1980) as supplemented by school board policies.

The following provisions apply to all full-time, salaried teachers, administrators, central office staff, maintenance and custodial personnel, school bus garage employees, clerical employees, teacher aides and cafeteria personnel:

#### **1. General Rules**

- a. Ten (10), eleven (11) and twelve (12) month employees may earn a maximum of ten (10), eleven (11) and twelve (12) days respectively for each yearly contractual period.
- b. Earnings for less than a full year shall be at the rate of one day per month or major fraction thereof. This provision applies to those employees who do not

begin work at the start of the contracted period and to those who do not complete the full contracted period.

- c. Employees shall be permitted to anticipate sick leave earnings for the current contract year. Should the recipient of advanced sick leave terminate employment with the school system prior to earning the amount of sick leave used, the recipient may have the advanced days deducted from the salary.
- d. An employee cannot claim any portion of earning leave unless he has actually reported for duty in accordance with the terms of his contract. However, if an employee is unable, because of accident or illness, to begin work in accordance with the terms of his contract, such employee may use accumulated leave to his credit not to exceed such balances as of June 30 of the immediately preceding school year.
- e. Sick leave must be taken in minimum of one-half day increments.
- f. The principal or Superintendent shall have the authority to require reasonable proof of illness when he deems it necessary.
- g. Sick leave may accumulate from year to year with a maximum accumulation of 120 days. Except as provided at retirement, no compensation for unused accumulated sick leave shall be provided to employees who terminate employment with Mecklenburg County Schools.
- h. At the time an employee is hired, the School Board shall accept transfer of up to 120 days of sick leave from other Virginia school divisions that participate in the State sick leave plan.
- i. Unused sick leave will be paid to employees upon retirement at a rate of ten dollars (\$10) a day to a maximum of 120 days. To be eligible, an employee must have completed a minimum of five (5) years uninterrupted service including the year of retirement. Such service shall have been in a sick leave earning position in the Mecklenburg County Public School System. Payment of unused sick leave will not be made to any employee who terminates employment for reasons other than retirement.
- j. Leave is granted to all employees for injury sustained on the job under the above terms and in accordance with provisions of the Worker's Compensation Act. Provisions of the policy are effective with the adoption date of the policy section and are not retroactive.

**Compensation for Unused Sick Leave:**

Teachers earn an additional ten (10) sick days at the beginning of each school year. Teachers who have accumulated the maximum one-hundred-twenty (120) sick days and who do not use all ten (10) of these days shall be compensated at the substitute

teacher's daily rate of pay, \$60.00, for the unused balance on the ten (10) days. This compensation will be paid in the July payroll.

### **Bereavement Leave**

In addition to personal illness, sick leave shall be allowed for illness or death in the "immediate family" requiring the attendance of the employee for not more than five consecutive days in any one case.

"Immediate family" includes natural parents, foster parents, stepmother, stepfather, wife, husband, children, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparents, and any other relative living in the household of the employee. If circumstances merit an extension beyond the five consecutive day limit, the employee must request the extension in writing along with medical or other appropriate documentation to the Division Superintendent. The extension, if approved, cannot exceed an additional five days except in situations covered under the provisions of the sick-leave bank. Additional extenuating circumstances requiring further extensions will be directed to the School Board for action. In the case of the illness or injury of an employee's spouse, parent, or child, as specified in the sick-leave bank provisions, the consecutive five- day limitation would not be applicable.

### **Documentation**

- a. Employees shall notify the appropriate supervisor as soon as impending absence is known.
- b. The School Board or its designee, at its sole discretion may require medical documentation from a licensed physician or other accredited practitioner certifying that the employee was unable to perform his or her duties during the period of absence or to verify the employee visited the physician's office for a specific appointment.
- c. Employees must submit the appropriate form to request leave and/or certify the absence.
- d. Teachers, administrators, and any non-exempt employee not utilizing the school division time clock shall report absences in increments of one-half day on the Absence/Leave Report.
- e. Support personnel utilizing the automated time clock system will document sick leave on the monthly time sheet.
- f. Substitutes shall not be called for absences of less than one-half day.

## **Return to Work**

For the employee's protection and the protection of co-workers, an employee may be required to present a written release to return to work, including any restrictions that may apply, from a licensed physician or other accredited practitioner prior to resuming employment. An employee will only be allowed to return to work if he or she is able to perform the essential functions of the job.

## **Family and Medical Leave**

For those sick leave absences that qualify under the Family and Medical Leave Act (Regulation 5.330), leave must be requested by submitting the Mecklenburg County Schools FMLA Request Form and Medical Certification Form. The forms are available on the School Board web site.

Accumulated sick leave will be posted for any portion of FMLA leave deemed medically necessary.

For eligible employees, sick leave used beyond four consecutive days will automatically be designated as Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave. All FMLA leave shall run concurrently with sick leave used.

The employee or his or her supervisor shall promptly notify the Benefits Office of absence due to long term illness, surgery or other medical emergencies which may qualify under FMLA so that proper documentation can be obtained.

Leave for the birth of a child qualifies under FMLA for both expectant parents. The School Board allows a new father to take five (5) working days immediately after the birth or adoption of a child using sick leave (if leave is available). For additional time beyond five days, only the portion of leave deemed medically necessary by a physician may be posted to sick leave. Remaining FMLA requested leave will be posted to compensatory leave, personal leave or vacation leave if available, then becomes unpaid leave.

Maternity leave benefits for the new mother are covered under Regulation 5.370.

## **Sick-Leave Bank (Available only to VRS-1 and VRS-2 Employees)**

The intent of the Sick Leave Bank is to provide some protection for employees who experience catastrophic or long-term illness.

### **Membership**

Membership shall be voluntary on the part of all certified and classified personnel who are eligible for sick leave in the division.

- Members utilizing the Sick Leave Bank will not have to replace those days except as a regular contributing member of the Sick Leave Bank.

- Membership shall be continuous unless withdrawn in writing prior to September 15 each year.
- Upon termination of employment or retirement, members will not be allowed to withdraw their days previously contributed.

## **Enrollment**

- c. An eligible employee may enroll during the annual open enrollment period established as May 1st through June 30th of each year. An employee who is hired after the designated enrollment period may enroll within thirty calendar days of employment. Membership in the bank will be determined on an annual basis and must be designated in writing each year.
- d. Days donated to the Sick Leave Bank are irrevocably donated and lost to the control or individual use of the donor except as a participant in the Sick Leave Bank.
- e. A Sick Leave Bank enrollment form must be submitted to the division superintendent or designee (Supervisor of Personnel).
- f. An eligible employee may enroll during the annual open enrollment period established as May 1st through June 30th of each year. An employee who is hired after the designated enrollment period, may enroll within thirty calendar days of employment. Membership in the bank will be determined on an annual basis and must be designated in writing each year.
- g. An employee shall be enrolled in the Sick Leave Bank for one month prior to becoming eligible to utilize the benefits of the Sick Leave Bank.

## **2. Use of the Sick Leave Bank**

- a. The Sick Leave Bank will be governed under the same rules as sickleave.
- b. The Sick Leave Bank must have a minimum of 420 days donated to implement the program. Members of the bank shall be assessed one (1) day of sick leave if the bank falls below 420 days. Additional assessments of one (1) day each may be made until the bank has a balance of two hundred 420 days. A member may choose to donate up to five (5) days per assessment. A member shall withdraw from the bank if he/she does not accept the assessment and shall lose all contributed days to that point. Members who have no leave to contribute will be assessed an equal number of days the following September.
- c. To request use of the Sick Leave Bank, the employee must make application to the Supervisor of Personnel in writing for the benefit. It is not automatic.
- d. No member of the bank will be granted sick leave from the bank until his/her own sick leave and personal leave have been depleted.
- e. A participant becomes eligible to withdraw days from the bank when he has been out of work twenty consecutive days due to a specific illness or

- injury. The first twenty days must be covered by the employee's available leave or leave without pay.
- f. Participating members must meet the requirements in statements 3(c) and (d), immediately above, at the beginning of each school year before being approved for borrowing days from the Sick Leave Bank again. The maximum number of days that can be drawn from the Sick Leave Bank by any one member in a given school year (July – June) is 30 days total taken in not less than one half-day increments. Participants who withdraw days from the sick leave bank will not have to replace those days except as a regular contributing participant in the sick leave bank.
  - g. Days in the Sick Leave Bank not used will be carried over to the next year.
  - h. If the sick leave bank becomes inoperative for any reason, the sick-leave days remaining in the bank at that time will be distributed to those participants withdrawing from the bank.
  - i. If the sick leave bank is depleted or becomes inoperative, the Board will not be held responsible to anyone then currently withdrawing days from the bank or to anyone then eligible or who may thereafter become eligible to withdraw from the bank.

## **Sick Leave – VRS – Hybrid Employees Only**

### **1. General Rules**

- a. Ten (10), eleven (11) and twelve (12) month employees may earn a maximum of ten (10), eleven (11) and twelve (12) days respectively for each yearly contractual period.
- b. Earnings for less than a full year shall be at the rate of one day per month or major fraction thereof. This provision applies to those employees who do not begin work at the start of the contracted period and to those who do not complete the full contracted period.
- c. Employees shall be permitted to anticipate sick leave earnings for the current contract year. Should the recipient of advanced sick leave terminate employment with the school system prior to earning the amount of sick leave used, the recipient may have the advanced days deducted from the salary.
- d. An employee cannot claim any portion of earning leave unless he has actually reported for duty in accordance with the terms of his contract. However, if an employee is unable, because of accident or illness, to begin work in accordance with the terms of his contract, such employee may use accumulated leave to his credit not to exceed such balances as of June 30 of the immediately preceding school year.
- e. Sick leave must be taken in minimum of one-half day increments.
- f. The principal or Superintendent shall have the authority to require reasonable proof of illness when he deems it necessary.

- g. Sick leave may accumulate from year to year with a maximum accumulation of 90 days. Except as provided at retirement, no compensation for unused accumulated sick leave shall be provided to employees who terminate employment with Mecklenburg County Schools.
- h. At the time an employee is hired, the School Board shall accept transfer of up to 90 days of sick leave from other Virginia school divisions that participate in the State sick leave plan.
- i. Virginia Retirement System Plan 1 and Plan 2 employees who elect to opt into the Hybrid Retirement Plan between January 1, 2014 and April 1, 2014 may transfer up to 90 days accumulated sick leave to their "hybrid" sick leave account.
- j. Accumulated sick leave will be used to supplement periods of 80% or 60% income replacement disability payments to obtain 100% pre-disability income.
- k. Unused sick leave will be paid to employees upon retirement at a rate of ten dollars (\$10) a day to a maximum of 90 days. To be eligible, an employee must have completed a minimum of five (5) years uninterrupted service including the year of retirement. Such service shall have been in a sick leave earning position in the Mecklenburg County Public School System. Payment of unused sick leave will not be made to any employee who terminates employment for reasons other than retirement.
- l. Leave is granted to all employees for injury sustained on the job under the above terms and in accordance with provisions of the Worker's Compensation Act. Provisions of the policy are effective with the adoption date of the policy section and are not retroactive.

### **Compensation for Unused Sick Leave:**

Teachers earn an additional ten (10) sick days at the beginning of each school year. Teachers who have accumulated the maximum ninety (90) sick days and who do not use all ten (10) of these days shall be compensated at the substitute teacher's daily rate of pay, \$60.00, for the unused balance on the ten (10) days. This compensation will be paid in the July payroll.

### **Bereavement Leave**

In addition to personal illness, sick leave shall be allowed for illness or death in the "immediate family" requiring the attendance of the employee for not more than five consecutive days in any one case.

"Immediate family" includes natural parents, foster parents, stepmother, stepfather, wife, husband, children, brother, sister, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparents, and any other relative living in the household of the employee. If circumstances merit an extension beyond the five

consecutive day limit, the employee must request the extension in writing along with medical or other appropriate documentation to the Division Superintendent. The extension, if approved, cannot exceed an additional five days except in situations covered under the provisions of the sick-leave bank. Additional extenuating circumstances requiring further extensions will be directed to the School Board for action. In the case of the illness or injury of an employee's spouse, parent, or child, as specified in the sick-leave bank provisions, the consecutive five- day limitation would not be applicable.

## **Documentation**

- a. Employees shall notify the appropriate supervisor as soon as impending absence is known.
- b. The School Board or its designee, at its sole discretion may require medical documentation from a licensed physician or other accredited practitioner certifying that the employee was unable to perform his or her duties during the period of absence or to verify the employee visited the physician's office for a specific appointment.
- c. Employees must submit the appropriate form to request leave and/or certify the absence.
- d. Teachers, administrators, and any non-exempt employee not utilizing the school division time clock shall report absences in increments of one-half day on the Absence/Leave Report.
- e. Support personnel utilizing the automated time clock system will document sick leave on the monthly time sheet.
- f. Substitutes shall not be called for absences of less than one-halfday.

## **4. Return to Work**

- a. For the employee's protection and the protection of co-workers, an employee may be required to present a written release to return to work, including any restrictions that may apply, from a licensed physician or other accredited practitioner prior to resuming employment. An employee will only be allowed to return to work if he or she is able to perform the essential functions of the job.

## **5. Family and Medical Leave**

- a. For those sick leave absences that qualify under the Family and Medical Leave Act (Regulation 5.330), leave must be requested by submitting the

Mecklenburg County Schools FMLA Request Form and Medical Certification Form. The forms are available on the School Board web site.

- b. Accumulated sick leave will be posted for any portion of FMLA leave deemed medically necessary.
- c. For eligible employees, sick leave used beyond four consecutive days will automatically be designated as Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave. All FMLA leave shall run concurrently with sick leave used.
- d. The employee or his or her supervisor shall promptly notify the Benefits Office of absence due to long term illness, surgery or other medical emergencies which may qualify under FMLA so that proper documentation can be obtained.
- e. Leave for the birth of a child qualifies under FMLA for both expectant parents. The School Board allows a new father to take five (5) working days immediately after the birth or adoption of a child using sick leave (if leave is available). For additional time beyond five days, only the portion of leave deemed medically necessary by a physician may be posted to sick leave. Remaining FMLA requested leave will be posted to compensatory leave, personal leave or vacation leave if available, then becomes unpaid leave.
- f. Maternity leave benefits for the new mother are covered under Regulation 5.370.

## **6. Short-Term Disability**

- a. Employees enrolled in the VRS Hybrid Retirement Plan are automatically members in the Virginia Local Disability Program (VLDP). The VLDP is a Short Term Disability program designed to provide income protection if the employee becomes disabled and is unable to work. Benefits are provided for non-work related and work related disabilities. Benefit terms and conditions are outlined in the VLDP program highlights included in this regulation.
- b. Accumulated sick leave will be posted during periods of Short Term Disability to cover the initial 7-day waiting period and for the difference between the amount received under the VLDP benefit schedule and the employee's normal pay. The combination of Short Term Disability benefit payments and sick leave pay may not exceed 100% of the normal base pay amount.
- c. Short Term Disability benefits are administered by a Third Party Administrator (TPA) selected by VRS.
- d. Short Term Disability benefits are 100% funded by the Mecklenburg County School Board; therefore taxes are deducted through payroll as established by IRS regulations.
- e. The Short Term Disability benefit period may exceed the period established under the Family and Medical Leave Act. Nothing in the Short Term Disability

plan extends FMLA benefits beyond those provided by law.

## **7. Long-Term Disability**

- a. Long-Term Disability benefits provide income replacement for employees who become disabled and unable to work for an extended period of time.
- b. Upon exhausting all Short Term Disability benefits, an employee may file a claim for benefits under the Long-Term Disability plan. The claim process is outlined in the VLDP guide located on the VRS website. Approval of Long-Term Disability benefits rests solely with the insurance company.
- c. Long-Term Disability benefits are paid to the employee by the TPA. Non-work related Long-Term Disability benefit payments are fully taxable.

Issued: December 15, 2014

## FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

### Generally

The Mecklenburg County School Board recognizes its obligation to provide its eligible employees with unpaid leave pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), 29 U.S.C. § 2601 et seq. This policy describes the benefits available to eligible employees under the Act.

### Definitions

Covered active duty: The term covered “active duty” means

- in the case of a member of a regular component of the Armed Forces, duty during the deployment of the member with the Armed Forces to a foreign country; and
- in the case of a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, duty during the deployment of the member with the Armed Forces to a foreign country under a call or order to active duty under a provision of law referred to in 10 U.S.C. § 101(a)(13)(B).

Covered servicemember: The term “covered servicemember” means

- a 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; or
- a veteran who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, for a serious injury or illness and who was a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, at any time during the period of 5 years preceding the date on which the veteran undergoes that medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy.

Eligible employee: To be eligible for leave under this policy the employee must have at least twelve (12) months of service with the Mecklenburg County school division and have worked at least 1250 hours according to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq., in the twelve (12) months preceding the commencement of the leave. Full-time teachers are deemed to meet the 1250 hour test.

Instructional employee: Employees whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group, or an individual setting such as teachers, 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, or auxiliary personnel such as counselors, psychologists, curriculum specialists, cafeteria workers, maintenance workers, bus drivers, or other primarily noninstructional employees.

Next of kin: The term “next of kin” used with respect to an individual, means the nearest blood relative of that individual other than the covered servicemember’s spouse, parent, son, or daughter, in the following order of priority: blood relatives who have been granted legal custody of the covered servicemember by court decree or statutory

provisions, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and first cousins, unless the covered servicemember has specifically designated in writing another blood relative as his or her nearest blood relative for purposes of military caregiver leave under the FMLA. When no such designation is made, and there are multiple family members with the same level of relationship to the covered servicemember, all such family members shall be considered the covered servicemember's next of kin and may take FMLA leave to provide care to the covered servicemember, either consecutively or simultaneously. When such designation has been made, the designated individual shall be deemed to be the covered servicemember's only next of kin.

Outpatient status: The term "outpatient status," with respect to a covered servicemember, means the status of a member of the Armed Forces assigned to

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

Serious health condition: A serious health condition is an illness, injury, impairment or condition that involves inpatient care or continuing treatment by a health care provider.

Serious injury or illness: The term "serious injury or illness," in the case of

- a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, means an injury or illness incurred by the member in line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces (or existed before the beginning of the member's active duty and was aggravated by service in line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces) and that may render the member medically unfit to perform the duties of the member's office, grade, rank, or rating; and
- a veteran who was a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, at any time during a period described in 29 U.S.C. § 2611(15)(B), means a qualifying (as defined by the Secretary of Labor) injury or illness that was incurred by the member in line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces (or existed before the beginning of the member's active duty and was aggravated by service in line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces) and that manifested itself before or after the member became a veteran.

Year: A rolling 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee uses an FMLA leave.

## Leave

Any eligible employee is entitled to leave for a combined total of twelve (12) weeks per year for the following situations:

1. The birth and care of a newborn child;
2. The adoption or foster placement of a child;
3. To care for an employee's spouse, parent, or child with a serious health condition;

4. Because of a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the essential functions of the employee's job; and
5. Because of any qualifying exigency as defined in Department of Labor regulations, arising out of the fact that the spouse, or a son, daughter, or parent of the employee is on covered active duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty) in the Armed Forces.

However, an eligible employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered servicemember is entitled to a total of 26 workweeks of leave per year to care for the servicemember. Leave under this paragraph is available only during a single year. During that year the employee is entitled to a combined total of 26 workweeks of leave under this policy.

To the extent that an employee is entitled to compensated leave under other Mecklenburg County school division policies, such paid leave shall be substituted for unpaid FMLA leave. Otherwise, family and medical leave is unpaid. When paid leave is available, the employee must satisfy any procedural requirements of the division's paid leave policy.

Employees on FMLA leave must report their status and intention regarding returning to work to the school division at least every four weeks.

#### Notice to Employees of Their Rights under the FMLA

##### Posting and General Notice

The Mecklenburg County school division shall post, in conspicuous places, on the premises of the school division where notices to employees and applicants for employment are customarily posted, a notice explaining the FMLA's provisions and providing information about the procedure for filing complaints with the Department of Labor. Attachment 1 may be used as the notice.

A copy of Attachment 1 will also be given to each employee by including it in the employee handbook or similar document or by distributing it to each new employee upon hiring.

##### Eligibility Notice

When an employee requests FMLA leave, or the division has knowledge that an employee's leave may be for an FMLA-qualifying reason, the division should notify the employee of the employee's eligibility to take FMLA leave within five business days. The Eligibility Notice should state whether the employee is eligible for FMLA leave. If the employee is not eligible for FMLA leave, the Notice must state at least one reason why the employee is not eligible (such as, for example, the number of months the employee has worked for the division.) This notification may be accomplished by providing the employee a copy of Attachment 4.

##### Notice of Rights and Responsibilities

The division will provide written notice detailing the specific expectations and obligations of the employee and explaining the consequences of the failure to meet those obligations each time the employee is given an Eligibility Notice. This Notice will include, as appropriate:

- that the leave may be designated and counted against the employee's annual FMLA leave entitlement and the 12-month period for FMLA entitlement;
- any requirements for the employee to furnish certification of a serious health condition, serious injury or illness, or qualifying exigency arising out of active duty or call to active duty status, and the consequences of failing to provide certification;
- that the division will substitute paid leave for unpaid leave and any conditions related to the substitution and the employee's right to take unpaid FMLA leave if the employee does not meet the conditions for paid leave;
- any requirement for the employee to make any premium payments to maintain health benefits and the arrangements for making such payments, and the possible consequences of failure to make such payments on a timely basis;
- the employee's rights to maintenance of benefits during the FMLA leave and restoration to the same or an equivalent job upon return from FMLA leave; and
- the employee's potential liability for payment of health insurance premiums paid by the employer during the employee's unpaid FMLA leave if the employee fails to return to work after FMLA leave.

The Notice of Rights and Responsibilities should be accompanied by any required certification form.

The Notice of Rights and Responsibilities will also include notice that employees on FMLA leave must report their status and intention regarding returning to work to the division at least every four weeks.<sup>1</sup>

If the information provided by the Notice of Rights and Responsibilities changes, the division will, within five business days of receipt of the employee's first notice of need for leave subsequent to any change, provide written notice referencing the prior notice and setting forth any of the information in the Notice of Rights and Responsibilities that has changed.

#### Designation Notice

When the division has enough information to determine whether the leave is being taken for a FMLA-qualifying reason, the division should give the employee written notice whether the leave will be designated and will be counted as FMLA leave within five business days. If the division determines that the leave will not be designated as FMLA-qualifying, the division must inform the employee of that determination. The division will also notify the employee that paid leave must be substituted for unpaid

FMLA leave or that paid leave taken under an existing leave plan be counted as FMLA leave at the time of designating the FMLA leave.

If the division will require the employee to present a fitness-for-duty certification to be restored to employment after taking leave for a continuous period of time, the division will provide notice of the requirement with the Designation Notice. If the division will require that the fitness-for-duty certification address the employee's ability to perform the essential functions of the employee's position, the division must so indicate in the Designation Notice and must include a list of the essential functions of the employee's position.

If the division has reasonable safety concerns regarding the ability of an employee who is returning to work after intermittent or reduced leave schedule to perform his or her duties based on the serious health condition for which the employee took leave, it may require the employee to submit a fitness for duty certification unless one has been submitted within the past 30 days.

If the leave is not designated as FMLA leave because it does not meet the requirements of the FMLA, the notice to the employee that the leave is not designated as FMLA leave may be in the form of a simple written statement.

If the information provided by the division to the employee in the Designation Notice changes, the division will provide, within five business days of receipt of the employee's first notice of need for leave subsequent to any change, written notice of the change.

The division will notify the employee of the amount of leave counted against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement. If the amount of leave needed is known at the time the employer designates the leave as FMLA-qualifying, the division must notify the employee of the number of hours, days, or weeks that will be counted against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement in the Designation Notice. If it is not possible to provide the hours, days, or weeks that will be counted against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement, then the division must provide notice of the amount of leave counted against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement upon request by the employee but no more often than once in a 30-day period and only if leave was taken in that period.

The division's decision to designate leave as FMLA-qualifying will be based only on information received from the employee or the employee's spokesperson. If the division does not have sufficient information about the reason for an employee's use of leave, the division will inquire further of the employee or the spokesperson to ascertain whether leave is potentially FMLA-qualifying. Once the division has knowledge that the leave is being taken for a FMLA-qualifying reason, the division will provide the employee the notice described in this subsection.

An employee giving notice of the need for FMLA leave must explain the reasons for the needed leave so as to allow the division to determine whether the leave is FMLA-qualifying. If the employee fails to explain the reasons, leave may be denied.

## Leave for the Birth, Adoption or Foster Placement of a Child

The employee's entitlement to leave for a birth, adoption or foster placement of a child expires at the end of the twelve month period beginning on the date of the birth, adoption or foster placement. Leave taken for the birth, adoption or foster placement of a child may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule if the superintendent agrees to such an arrangement.

If the necessity for leave for the birth, adoption or foster placement of a child is foreseeable based on an expected birth or placement, the employee shall provide the school division with not less than 30 days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave. If the date of the birth or placement requires leave to begin in less than 30 days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable. The employee's notice should be sufficient to make the division aware that the employee needs FMLA-qualifying leave and of the anticipated timing and duration of the leave.

## Leave Because of a Serious Health Condition of Employee

Employees are entitled, when medically necessary, to take such leave on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule except as provided below.

If the necessity for leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employee shall

- (1) make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the division; and
- (2) provide the division with at least 30 days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave. If the date of the treatment requires leave to begin in less than 30 days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable.

The employee's notice should be sufficient to make the division aware that the employee needs FMLA-qualifying leave and of the anticipated timing and duration of the leave.

The School Board may require that a request for leave because of the employee's own serious health condition be supported by a certification issued by a health care provider of the employee. The division may use Form WH-380-E (Attachment 2) for this certification. The division should request that the employee furnish certification when the employee gives notice of the need for leave or within five business days thereafter, or, in the case of unforeseen leave, within five business days after the leave begins. The division may request certification at a later date if it later has reason to question the appropriateness of the leave or its duration. The employee must provide a complete and sufficient certification within 15 calendar days after the division's request. When the division requests certification, it will advise the employee of the anticipated consequences of the employee's failure to provide adequate certification.

Certification will be sufficient if it states

- (1) the name, address, telephone number and fax number of the health care provider and the type of medical practice/specialization;
- (2) the approximate date on which the serious health condition commenced and its probable duration;
- (3) a statement or description of appropriate medical facts regarding the employee's health condition for which FMLA leave is requested. The medical facts must be sufficient to support the need for leave; and
- (4) information sufficient to establish that the employee is unable to perform the essential functions of his or her position, the nature of any other work restrictions, and the likely duration of such inability.

If an employee requests leave on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule for planned medical treatment of his or her serious health condition, the certification shall include information sufficient to establish the medical necessity for such intermittent or reduced schedule leave and an estimate of the dates on which such treatment is expected to be given and the duration of such treatment and any period of recovery.

If an employee requests leave on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule because of his or her own serious health condition that may result in unforeseeable episodes of incapacity, the certification shall include information sufficient to establish the medical necessity for the intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule, and an estimate of the frequency and duration of the episodes of incapacity.

If the employee submits a complete and sufficient certification signed by the health care provider, the division may not request additional information from the health care provider. However, the division may contact the health care provider for purposes of clarification and authentication of the medical certification. To make such contact, the division must use a health care provider, a human resources professional, a leave administrator, or a management official. The employee's direct supervisor may not contact the employee's health care provider.

If the school division doubts the validity of a certification, it may require, at its own expense, that the employee obtain the opinion of a second health care provider designated or approved by the school division concerning any information certified. The health care provider designated or approved by the school division may not be employed by the school division on a regular basis.

If the second opinion differs from the original certification, the school division may require, at its own expense, that the employee obtain the opinion of a third health care provider designated or approved jointly by the school division and the employee concerning information certified. The opinion of the third health care provider will be binding on both the school division and the employee.

## Leave Because of a Serious Health Condition of a Child, Spouse, or Parent of Employee

Family and medical leave shall be provided when the employee is needed to care for his/her spouse, child or parent with a serious health condition, as defined above. Employees are entitled, when medically necessary, to take such leave on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule except as provided below.

If the necessity for leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employee shall

- (1) make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the division; and
- (2) provide the division with at least 30 days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave. If the date of the treatment requires leave to begin in less than 30 days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable.

The employee's notice should be sufficient to make the division aware that the employee needs FMLA-qualifying leave and the anticipated timing and duration of the leave.

The School Board may require that a request for leave to care for an employee's spouse, parent, or child with a serious health condition be supported by a certification issued by a health care provider of the family member in need of care. The division may use Form WH-380-F (Attachment 3) for this medical certification. The division should ask the employee to furnish certification when the employee gives notice of the need for leave or within five business days thereafter, or, in the case of unforeseen leave, within five business days after the leave begins. The division may request certification at some later date if it has reason to question the appropriateness of the leave or its duration. The employee must provide the requested certification within 15 calendar days after the division's request. When the division requests certification, it will advise the employee of the anticipated consequences of the employee's failure to provide adequate certification.

Certification will be sufficient if it states

- (1) the name, address, telephone number, and fax number of the health care provider and type of medical practice/specialization;
- (2) the approximate date on which the serious health condition commenced and its probable duration;
- (3) a statement or description of appropriate medical facts regarding the patient's health condition for which FMLA leave is requested. The medical facts must be sufficient to support the need for leave; and
- (4) information sufficient to establish that the family member is in need of care and an estimate of the frequency and duration of the leave required to care for the family member.

If an employee requests leave on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule for planned medical treatment of a family member's serious health condition, the certification shall include information sufficient to establish the medical necessity for such intermittent or reduced schedule leave and an estimate of the dates and the duration of such treatments and any periods of recovery.

If an employee requests leave on an intermittent reduced leave schedule in order to care for a family member with a serious health condition, the certification shall include a statement that the employee's intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule is medically necessary for the care of the son, daughter, parent, or spouse who has a serious health condition, or will assist in their recovery, and the expected duration and schedule of the intermittent leave or reduced leave schedule.

If the employee submits a complete and sufficient certification signed by the health care provider, the division may not request additional information from the health care provider. However, the division may contact the health care provider for purposes of clarification and authentication of the medical certification. To make such contact, the division must use a health care provider, a human resources professional, a leave administrator, or a management official. The employee's direct supervisor may not contact the employee's health care provider.

If the school division doubts the validity of a certification, it may require, at its own expense, that the employee obtain the opinion of a second health care provider designated or approved by the school division concerning any information certified. The health care provider designated or approved by the school division may not be employed by the school division on a regular basis.

If the second opinion differs from the original certification, the school division may require, at its own expense, that the employee obtain the opinion of a third health care provider designated or approved jointly by the school division and the employee concerning information certified. The opinion of the third health care provider will be binding on both the school division and the employee.

#### Leave to Care for a Covered Servicemember

If the necessity for leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment for a serious injury or illness of a covered servicemember, the employee shall

- (1) make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the division; and
- (2) provide the division with at least 30 days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave. If the date of the treatment requires leave to begin in less than 30 days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable.

The employee's notice should be sufficient to make the division aware that the employee needs FMLA-qualifying leave and the anticipated timing and duration of the leave.

The School Board may require that a request for leave to care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness be supported by a certification issued by a health care provider of the covered serviceperson. The certification may be completed by any health care provider listed in 29 C.F.R. 825.310(a). The employee shall provide, in a timely manner, a copy of such certification to the school division.

Certification will be sufficient if it states

- (1) the name, address, and appropriate contact information (telephone number, fax number, and/or email address) of the health care provider, the type of medical practice, the medical specialty, and whether the health care provider is one of the following: a (DOD) health care provider, a United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care provider, a DOD TRICARE network authorized private health care provider, or a DOD non-network TRICARE authorized health care provider or a health care provider as defined in 29 C.F.R. 825.125;
- (2) whether the covered servicemember's injury or illness was incurred in the line of duty on active duty;
- (3) the approximate date on which the serious health condition or serious injury or illness commenced or was aggravated and its probable duration;
- (4) a statement or description of appropriate medical facts regarding the covered servicemember's health condition for which FMLA leave is requested. The medical facts must be sufficient to support the need for leave; and
- (5) information sufficient to establish that the covered servicemember is in need of care and whether the covered servicemember will need care for a single continuous period of time, including any time for treatment and recovery, and an estimate as to the beginning and ending dates for this period of time.

If an employee requests FMLA leave on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule for planned medical treatment appointments for the covered servicemember, the certification must state that there is a medical necessity for the covered servicemember to have such periodic care and must contain an estimate of the treatment schedule of such appointments.

If an employee requests FMLA leave on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis to care for a covered servicemember other than for planned medical treatment, the certification must contain a statement that there is a medical necessity for the covered servicemember to have such periodic care, and must contain an estimate of the frequency and duration of the periodic care.

In addition to the information listed above, the division may also request that the certification set forth the information on Form WH-385 (Attachment 7.)

In lieu of Form WH-385, the division will accept invitational travel orders (ITOs) or invitational travel authorizations (ITAs) issued to any family member to join an injured or ill servicemember at his or her bedside. An ITO or ITA is sufficient certification for the duration of time specified in the ITO or ITA. During that time period, the employee may take leave to care for the covered servicemember in a continuous block of time or on an intermittent basis.

The information on the certification must relate only to the serious injury or illness for which the current need for leave exists. The division may seek authentication or clarification of the certification, ITO, or ITA but may not seek second or third opinions. The division may require an employee to provide confirmation of covered family relationship to the seriously injured or ill servicemember.

The division will also accept as sufficient certification of the servicemember's serious injury or illness documentation indicating the servicemember's enrollment in the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

#### Leave Related to a Qualifying Exigency arising from Covered Active Duty or a Call to Covered Active Duty

If the necessity for leave because of a qualifying exigency arising from the fact that a family member is on covered active duty or has been notified of an impending call to covered active duty is foreseeable, the employee shall give such notice to the school division as is reasonable and practicable. The employee's notice should be sufficient to make the division aware that the employee needs FMLA-qualifying leave and the anticipated timing and duration of the leave.

The first time an employee requests leave because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the covered active duty or call to covered active duty status (or notification of an impending call or order to covered active duty) of a military member, the division may require the employee to provide a copy of the military member's active duty orders or other documentation issued by the military which indicates that the military member is on covered active duty or call to covered active duty status and the dates of the military member's covered active duty service. A copy of new active duty orders or other documentation issued by the military shall be provided to the division if the need for leave because of a qualifying exigency arises out of a different covered active duty or call to covered active duty status (or notification of an impending call or order to covered active duty) of the same or a different military member.

A request for leave because of a qualifying exigency must be supported by

- (1) a statement or description signed by the employee of appropriate facts regarding the qualifying exigency for which FMLA leave is requested. The facts must be sufficient to support the need for leave;
- (2) the approximate date on which the qualifying exigency commenced or will commence;
- (3) the beginning and ending dates of absence if the employee requests leave because of a qualifying exigency for a single, continuous period of time;

- (4) an estimate of the frequency and duration of the qualifying exigency if the employee requests leave because of a qualifying exigency on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis;
- (5) if the qualifying exigency involves meeting with a third party, appropriate contact information for the individual or entity with whom the employee is meeting and a brief description of the purpose of the meeting; and
- (6) if the qualifying exigency involves Rest and Recuperation leave, a copy of the military member's Rest and Recuperation orders, or other documentation issued by the military which indicates that the military member has been granted Rest and Recuperation leave, and the dates of the military member's Rest and Recuperation leave.

The division may use Form WH-384 (Attachment 6) for this certification.

#### Rules for Intermittent and Reduced Schedule Leave

When permitted by the FMLA, intermittent and reduced schedule leave may be used until the aggregate amount of such leave equals twelve weeks or 26 weeks if the leave is taken to care for a covered servicemember in the employee's rolling year. However, when the employee requests intermittent or reduced schedule leave that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment the school division may temporarily transfer the employee to an available alternative position with equivalent pay and benefits that better accommodates the employee's intermittent or reduced schedule leave.

When an eligible employee employed principally in an instructional capacity requests leave to care for a family member with a serious health condition, leave because of the employee's own serious health condition, or leave to care for a covered servicemember and the leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment and the employee would be on leave for greater than 20 percent of the total number of working days in the period during which the leave would extend, the school division may require the employee to elect either

- (1) to take leave for periods of a particular duration, not to exceed the duration of the planned medical treatment; or
- (2) to transfer temporarily to an available alternative position offered by the school division for which the employee is qualified and that has equivalent pay and benefits and better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the employee's regular employment position.

The school division may require an employee to make such an election when the employee has

- (1) made a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the division, subject to the approval of the health care provider; and
- (2) has provided the division with not less than 30 days' notice before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave, except that if the date of the treatment requires leave to begin in less than 30 days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable.

## Rules for Husband and Wife Employed by Mecklenburg County School Division

A husband and wife who are both eligible for family and medical leave and are employed by Mecklenburg County school division shall be granted family and medical leave only for a combined total of twelve weeks per year when the leave is taken for the birth, foster placement, or adoption of a child or to care for the child after birth, adoption, or foster placement or to care for a parent with a serious health condition.

A husband and wife who are both eligible for family and medical leave and are employed by Mecklenburg County school division shall be granted family and medical leave only for a combined total of 26 workweeks per year if the leave

- (1) is taken to care for a covered servicemember; or
- (2) is taken as a combination of leave to care for a covered servicemember and leave for the birth, foster placement, or adoption of a child or to care for the child after birth, adoption, or foster placement or to care for a parent with a serious health condition. However, if the leave taken by the husband and wife includes leave for the birth, foster placement, or adoption of a child or to care for the child after birth, adoption, or foster placement or to care for a parent with a serious health condition, the leave for that reason shall be limited to 12 workweeks per year.

## Benefits During Family and Medical Leave

Employees on family and medical leave shall receive the group health insurance plan coverage on the same conditions as coverage would have been provided if the employee had been working during the period of leave. Other benefits shall be provided according to Mecklenburg County school division policy for paid or unpaid leave, whichever applies.

If the employee fails to return to work when the period of leave to which he or she is entitled expires for any reason other than the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a serious health condition that entitles the employee to leave, or other circumstances beyond the employee's control, the school division may recover the premium it paid for maintaining the employee's coverage during the period of unpaid leave in accordance with federal law.

## Return to Work

An employee on family and medical leave shall provide the division at least two work days' notice of the intent to return to work. The employee shall be returned to the same or equivalent position at the end of the family and medical leave unless the division shows that the employee would not otherwise have been employed at the time reinstatement is requested.

The following return to work provisions apply to instructional employees:

1. If an instructional employee begins family and medical leave more than five (5) weeks before the end of an academic term, the employee may be required to continue taking leave until the end of the term if the leave is at least three (3) weeks in duration and the return to work would occur during the last three (3) weeks of the academic term.
2. If an instructional employee begins family and medical leave a) because of the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a son or daughter of the employee, b) to care for a family member with a serious health condition, or c) to care for a covered service member during the five (5) week period before the end of an academic term, the employee may be required to continue taking leave until the end of the academic term if the leave is longer than two (2) weeks in duration and the return to work would occur during the last two (2) weeks of the academic term.
3. If an instructional employee begins family and medical leave a) because of the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a son or daughter of the employee, b) to care for a family member with a serious health condition, or c) to care for a covered service member during the three (3) week period before the end of an academic term, the employee may be required to continue taking leave until the end of an academic term if the leave is longer than five (5) working days in duration.

If an instructional employee is required to continue leave until the end of an academic term, only the period of leave until the employee is ready and able to return to work shall be counted against the family and medical leave entitlement. However, the division must continue the group health insurance coverage under the same conditions as if the employee were working.

#### Outside Employment

An employee who is on family and medical leave may not engage in employment for any other employer or self-employment while on leave. Falsification of records and failure to correct records known to be false are violations of this policy and will result in discipline which may include termination from employment.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Refs.: 29 U.S.C. §§ 207, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2618, 2619.

29 CFR 825.110, 825.115, 825.124, 825.125, 825.200, 825.203, 825.207, 825.300, 825.301, 825.302, 825.303, 825.305, 825.306, 825.307, 825.309, 825.310, 825.311, 825.312, 825.600, 825.602, 825.603, 825.800.

Cross Refs.: GCBD            Staff Leaves and Absences  
              GCBEA          Leave without Pay

## ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1      **Employee Rights and Responsibilities Under the Family and Medical Leave Act** (WHD Publication 1420)  
*Please note: a copy of this poster can be downloaded from <http://www.dol.gov/whd/regs/compliance/posters/fmlaen.pdf>.*
- Attachment 2      **Certification of Health Care Provider for Employee's Serious Health Condition (Family and Medical Leave Act)** (Form WH-380-E)  
*Please note: a copy of the certification form can be downloaded from <http://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/WH-380-E.pdf>.*
- Attachment 3      **Certification of Health Care Provider for Family Member's Serious Health Condition (Family and Medical Leave Act)** (Form WH-380-F)  
*Please note: a copy of this form may be downloaded from <http://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/WH-380-F.pdf>.*
- Attachment 4      **Notice of Eligibility and Rights & Responsibilities (Family and Medical Leave Act)** (Form WH-381)  
*Please note: a copy of this form may be downloaded from <http://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/WH-381.pdf>.*
- Attachment 5      **Designation Notice (Family and Medical Leave Act)** (Form WH-382)  
*Please note: a copy of this form may be downloaded from <http://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/WH-382.pdf>.*
- Attachment 6      **Certification of Qualifying Exigency for Military Family Leave (Family and Medical Leave Act)** (Form WH-384)  
*Please note: a copy of this form may be downloaded from <http://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/WH-384.pdf>.*
- Attachment 7      **Certification for Serious Injury or Illness of Covered Servicemember—for Military Family Leave (Family and Medical Leave Act)** (Form WH-385)  
*Please note: a copy of this form may be downloaded from <http://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/WH-385.pdf>.*

Attachment 8

**Certification for Serious Injury or Illness of a Veteran for  
Military Caregiver Leave (Family and Medical Leave Act)**  
(Form WH-385-V (revised February 2013))  
*Please note: a copy of this form may be downloaded from  
<http://www.dol.gov/whd/forms/wh385V.pdf>.*

## LEAVE WITHOUT PAY

### Employee's Debilitating or Life-Threatening Illness or Injury

A leave of absence, without pay, may be granted to employees of the school division who have a debilitating or life-threatening illness or injury and who are not eligible for Family and Medical Leave as described in Policy GCBE Family and Medical Leave because they have not worked for the division for 12 months or have not worked at least 1250 hours according to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.

Employees with a debilitating or life-threatening illness who are entitled to leave under this policy may take up to thirty (30) days unpaid leave during their first year of employment with the school division. Leave may be taken only in full-day increments. Leave may be taken only when the employee has no other leave (such as sick leave) available.

Employees must submit medical documentation of their need for leave. Whenever possible, documentation must be provided prior to leave being taken.

Approval must be obtained prior to leave being taken.

All rights under this policy expire at the end of the employee's first year of service.

### Other Work During Leave

Employees who are on unpaid leave pursuant to this policy or any other policy, except those on leave pursuant to the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994 (USERRA) (see Policy GCBE Military Leave and Benefits), may not engage in work for which they receive pay or any other type of remuneration without the prior written approval of the superintendent.

Adopted: May 20, 2019

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-296.

Cross Refs.:	GCBD	Staff Leaves and Absences
	GCBE	Family and Medical Leave
	GCBEB	Military Leave and Benefits
	GCQA	Nonschool Employment by Staff Member

## MILITARY LEAVE AND BENEFITS

### Leave

All employees of Mecklenburg County School Board who are members of the state or federal military reserves are entitled to leaves of absence from their duties on all days during which they are engaged in federally funded military duty, including training duty, or when called forth by the Governor.

Immediately upon receipt of official notice to report for duty, the employee will notify his or her supervisor of the need for military leave. A copy of the official orders must accompany the leave request.

### Pay/Paid Leave

All employees on military leave will receive up to 15 days paid leave per federally funded tour of duty. When possible, military leave for employees on less than a 12 month contract will be arranged during non-duty hours.

An employee who is scheduled for a physical examination for military service during working hours, including but not limited to pre-induction physicals, will be given paid leave.

In addition, full-time employees of the Mecklenburg County School Division whose active duty service with the regular armed forces of the United States or the National Guard or other reserve component requires his or her absence from employment will receive supplemental pay in the amount determined by and from the School Board if the employee's military compensation is less than the regular salary paid to the employee by the school division.

The employee will be permitted, upon request, to use any vacation, annual, or similar leave that had accrued at the time military leave began.

Except as outlined above, military leave is unpaid.

### Benefits

#### Health Benefits

If the employee so desires, the employee and the employee's dependents may continue to participate in the division's group health plan for up to 24 months while the employee is on military leave. The employee must notify the Human Resource Department if he or she wants to continue participation in the division's group health plan. Employees who elect to continue on the division's health plan will be responsible for payments, as authorized by applicable federal law.

#### Retirement Benefits

An employee reemployed after military leave will be treated as not having incurred a break in service. The period of military leave will be considered service to the division for purposes of vesting and benefit accrual. The division is responsible for its pension plan funding obligation. The division is not required to make its contribution until the employee is reemployed.

The employee will be allowed, but not required, to make up his or her contributions to a contributory plan. The employee may repay his or her employee contributions for a period of up to three times the period of military service, but not to exceed five years. If the employee's retirement plan is contributory and the employee does not make up his or her contributions, he or she will not receive the employer match or the accrued benefit attributable to his or her contribution because the employer is required to make contributions that are contingent on the employee's contributions.

The employer and employee contribution will be calculated on the rate of pay the employee would have received but for the absence to serve military duty.

## Reemployment

An employee who is entitled to military leave by reason of service in the federal military reserves is entitled to be reemployed by the School Board as long as he or she

- has given advance notice of the need for military leave (unless notice is precluded by military necessity or is otherwise impossible or unreasonable);
- has not been absent from his or her job for more than five years; and
- returns to work as outlined below.

If the employee was absent from work for

- less than 31 days, he or she must report back to work by the beginning of the next regularly scheduled work period after a reasonable amount of time to arrive home, rest and report to work;
- more than 30 days but less than 181 days, the employee must submit an application for reemployment within 14 days after the completion of service;
- more than 180 days, the employee must submit an application for reemployment within 90 days after the completion of service.

Employees who are entitled to military leave due to service in the Virginia military reserves must make written application for reemployment within (1) 14 days of release from duty or from hospitalization following release if the length of the employee's absence by reason of service in the uniformed services does not exceed 180 days or (2) 90 days of his release from duty or from hospitalization following release if the length of the employee's absence by reason of service in the uniformed services exceeds 180 days.

Upon returning from duty, an employee will be restored to the same job he held before leaving or to a comparable job. The School Board is not obligated to reemploy persons returning from military leave in certain unusual situations specified by state and federal law.

## Termination after Reemployment

A person who is reemployed after returning from more than 30 days of military duty will not be discharged except for cause

- within one year after the date of reemployment, if the person's period of military service before the reemployment was more than 180 days; or

- within 180 days after the date of reemployment, if the person's period of military service before the reemployment was more than 30 days but less than 181 days.

#### Discrimination Against Members of Military Reserves Prohibited

Members of the military reserves will not be denied initial employment, reemployment, retention in employment, promotion, or any benefit of employment on the basis of that membership.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: July 20, 2015

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Legal Refs: 38 U.S.C. §§ 4312, 4313, 4316, 4317.

20 C.F.R. §§ 1002.259, 1002.261, 1002.262, 1002.267.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-289.2, 44-93, 44-93.1, 44-93.3, 44-93.4, 44-102.1.

## EMPLOYMENT OF FAMILY MEMBERS

- A. The School Board may not employ or pay, and the superintendent may not recommend for employment, any family member of the superintendent or of a School Board member except as authorized in subsection B below. This prohibition does not apply to the employment, promotion, or transfer within the school division of any family member who
- has been employed pursuant to a written contract with the School Board or employed as a substitute teacher or teacher's aide by the School Board prior to the taking of office of the superintendent or any School Board member, or
  - has been employed pursuant to a written contract with the School Board or employed as a substitute teacher or teacher's aide by the School Board prior to the inception of the family relationship, or
  - was employed by the School Board at any time prior to June 10, 1994, and had been employed at any time as a teacher or other employee of any Virginia school board prior to the taking of office of any member of the School Board or superintendent.

A family member employed as a substitute teacher may not be employed to any greater extent than he was employed by the School Board in the last full school year prior to the taking of office of such Board member or superintendent or to the inception of such relationship.

- B. Notwithstanding the rules stated in Section A above, the School Board may employ or pay, and the superintendent may recommend for employment, any family member of a School Board member provided that
- 1) the member certifies that he had no involvement with the hiring decision; and
  - 2) the superintendent certifies to the remaining members of the School Board in writing that the recommendation is based upon merit and fitness and the competitive rating of the qualifications of the individual and that no member of the Board had any involvement with the hiring decision.
- C. No family member of any employee may be employed by the School Board if the family member is to be employed in a direct supervisory and/or administrative relationship either supervisory or subordinate to the employee. The employment and assignment of family members in the same organizational unit is discouraged.
- D. Family members are defined as father, mother, brother, sister, spouse, son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, sister-in-law or brother-in-law.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: July 20, 2015

Revised: May 21, 2018

Revised: July 17, 2018

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 2.2-3119.

Cross Ref.: BBFA Conflict of Interests and Disclosure of Economic  
Interests  
GCI Professional Staff Assignments and Transfers

## EFFECT OF CRIMINAL CONVICTION OR FOUNDED COMPLAINT OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT

### Generally

The Board will not hire or continue the employment of any part-time, full-time, temporary, or permanent personnel who are determined to be unsuited for service by reason of criminal conviction or information appearing in the registry of founded complaints of child abuse and neglect maintained by the Department of Social Services.

### I. APPLICANTS FOR EMPLOYMENT

#### A. Criminal Convictions

As a condition of employment for all of its public school employees, whether full-time or part-time, permanent, or temporary, the Mecklenburg County Public School Board shall require on its application for employment certification (i) that the applicant has not been convicted of a felony or any offense involving the sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse or rape of a child; and (ii) whether the applicant has been convicted of a crime of moral turpitude.

Notwithstanding the requirements of the previous paragraph, the School Board may employ an individual who, at the time of the individual's hiring, has been convicted of a felony, provided that such individual (i) was employed in good standing by a school board on or before December 17, 2015; (ii) has been granted a simple pardon for such offense by the Governor or other appropriate authority; and (iii) has had his civil rights restored by the Governor or other appropriate authority. However, the School Board may employ, until July 1, 2020, such an individual who does not satisfy the conditions set forth in clauses (ii) and (iii), provided that such individual has been continuously employed by the School Board from December 17, 2015 through July 1, 2018.

The Mecklenburg County Public School Board shall also require on its application for employment, as a condition of employment requiring direct contact with students, whether full-time or part-time, permanent, or temporary, certification that the applicant has not been the subject of a founded case of child abuse and neglect. Any person making a materially false statement regarding a finding of child abuse and neglect shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor and upon conviction, the fact of said conviction shall be grounds for the Board of Education to revoke such person's license to teach.

As a condition of employment, any applicant who is offered or accepts employment, whether full-time, part-time, permanent or temporary with the Mecklenburg County Public School Board shall submit to fingerprinting and provide personal descriptive information. The information and fingerprints shall be forwarded through the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the Federal Bureau of Investigations for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information on applicants who are offered or accept employment.

To conserve the costs of conducting criminal history record checks to applicants and school boards, upon the written request of the applicant, Mecklenburg County Public School Board shall inform another school board with which reciprocity has been established and to which the applicant also has applied for employment of the results of the criminal history record information conducted within the previous ninety days that it obtained concerning the applicant. Criminal history record information pertaining to an applicant for employment by a school board shall be exchanged only between school boards in the Commonwealth in which a current agreement of reciprocity for the exchange of such information has been established and is in effect. Reciprocity agreements shall provide for the apportionment of the costs of the fingerprinting or criminal records check between the applicant and Mecklenburg County Public School Board as provided by statute.

If an applicant is denied employment because of information appearing on his/her criminal history record, the School Board shall provide a copy of the information provided by the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the applicant.

#### B. Founded Complaints of Child Abuse or Neglect

The School Board requires, as a condition of employment, that any applicant who is offered or accepts employment requiring direct contact with students, whether full-time or part-time, permanent or temporary, provide written consent and the necessary personal information for the School Board to obtain a search of the registry of founded complaints of child abuse and neglect. The registry is maintained by the Department of Social Services. The School Board shall ensure that all such searches are requested in conformance with the regulations of the Board of Social Services. In addition, where the applicant has resided in another state within the last five years, the School Board requires as a condition of employment that such applicant provide written consent and the necessary personal information for the School Board to obtain information from each relevant state as to whether the applicant was the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse and neglect in such state. The School Board shall take reasonable steps to determine whether the applicant was the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse and neglect in the relevant state. The Department of Social Services shall maintain a database of central child abuse and neglect registries in other states that provide access to out-of-state school boards for use by local school boards. The applicant may be required to pay the cost of any search conducted pursuant to this subsection at the discretion of the School Board. From such funds as may be available for this purpose, however, the School Board may pay for the search.

If the information obtained pursuant to the preceding paragraph indicates that the applicant is the subject of a founded case of child abuse and neglect, such applicant shall be denied employment, or the employment shall be rescinded.

If an applicant is denied employment because of information appearing on his record in the registry, the School Board shall provide a copy of the information obtained from the registry to the applicant. The information provided to the School Board by the

Department of Social Services shall be confidential and shall not be disseminated by the School Board.

## II. EMPLOYEE CHARGES AND CONVICTIONS

### A. Criminal Proceedings

An employee who is charged by summons, warrant, indictment, or information with the commission of a felony or a misdemeanor specified in Va. Code § 22.1-315 may be suspended in accordance with Policy GCPF Suspension of Staff Members.

If a current employee is suspended or dismissed because of information appearing on his/her criminal history record, the School Board shall provide a copy of the information provided by the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the employee.

The superintendent shall inform the School Board of any notification of arrest of a school board employee received pursuant to Virginia Code §19.2-83.1. The School Board shall require such employee, whether full-time or part-time, permanent, or temporary, to submit to fingerprinting and to provide personal descriptive information to be forwarded along with the employee's fingerprints through the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of obtaining criminal history record information regarding such employee. The contents of the employee's criminal record shall be used only to implement dismissal, suspension or probation in accordance with §§22.1-307 and 22.1-315 of the Code of Virginia.

### B. Founded Complaints of Child Abuse or Neglect

Any employee of Mecklenburg County Public School Board will be dismissed if he or she is or becomes the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse and neglect and after all rights to an appeal provided by Va. Code § 63.2-1526 have been exhausted. The fact of such finding, after all rights to an appeal provided by Va. Code § 63.2-1526 have been exhausted, shall be grounds for the local school division to recommend that the Board of Education revoke such person's license to teach.

## III. COURT ORDERED PROBATION

For purposes of this policy, a court's placing an individual on probation pursuant to Va. Code § 18.2-251 is treated as a conviction and as a finding of guilt.

## IV. COSTS OF FINGERPRINTING, CRIMINAL RECORD AND ABUSE AND NEGLECT CHECKS

The School Board and the applicant or employee shall share the costs of the fingerprinting, criminal record check and abuse and neglect check conducted pursuant to this policy.

Adopted: December 15, 2014  
Revised: July 17, 2018  
Revised: December 17, 2018

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, as amended, §§ 18.2-251, 19.2-83.1, 19.2-389, 22.1-78, 22.1-296.1, 22.1-296.2, 22.1-296.4, 22.1-307, 22.1-315, 63.2-1515.

Cross Refs.: GCPF            Suspension of Staff Members  
                  GCPD            Professional Staff Discipline

## PART-TIME AND SUBSTITUTE PROFESSIONAL STAFF EMPLOYMENT

### Substitute Teachers

Substitute teachers shall:

- be at least 18 years old, with preference given to persons 21 years old or older;
- possess good moral character;
- hold a high school diploma or have passed a high school equivalency examination approved by the Board of Education;
- attend orientation to school policies and procedures; and
- complete fingerprinting, criminal check, abuse and neglect, and TB test.

The Mecklenburg County School Board shall seek to employ substitute teachers, especially those engaged as long-term substitutes, who exceed these requirements.

A substitute teacher, as used in this section, is (i) one who is employed to substitute for a contracted teacher for a temporary period of time during the contracted teacher's absence, or (ii) one who is employed to fill a teacher vacancy for a period of time, but for no longer than 90 teaching days in such vacancy, unless otherwise approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction on a case-by-case basis, during one school year.

### Homebound Teachers

Homebound teachers shall be employed on a part-time, hourly basis. They shall be selected from the active file of applicants in the Personnel Office or from the approved substitute teacher list and shall hold a valid teaching certificate.

### Part-Time Teachers

An employee working less than 180 days or less than six (6) hours per day or who is restricted to temporary or interim employment is considered part-time.

Part-time teachers shall meet the certification requirements of the State Board of Education.

### Summer School Teachers

Summer school teachers shall meet all certification requirements.

### Interns

Arrangements for the utilization of interns in the school division should be initiated through the superintendent.

## Student Teachers

The school division shall accept student teachers only from accredited institutions. All student teachers shall meet the same health requirements as all other personnel. The superintendent shall have the responsibility for the assignment and placement of student teachers in the school system.

Student teachers shall not be used as substitute teachers.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78,22.1-302.

Cross Ref.: GCB Professional Staff Contracts  
GCPD Professional Staff Discipline  
GCPF Suspension of Staff Members

## PROFESSIONAL STAFF PROBATIONARY TERM AND CONTINUING CONTRACT

### Teachers

#### Probationary Term

A probationary term of service of five years in Mecklenburg County Public School Division is required before a teacher is issued a continuing contract. A mentor teacher is provided to every first year probationary teacher to assist him or her in achieving excellence in instruction. Probationary teachers with prior successful teaching experience may be exempt from this requirement with approval from the superintendent. Probationary teachers are evaluated at least annually in accordance with policy GCN Evaluation of Professional Staff. A teacher in the first year of the probationary period is evaluated informally at least once during the first semester of the school year. The superintendent considers such evaluations as one factor in making recommendations to the School Board regarding the nonrenewal of such teacher's contract. If a probationary teacher's evaluation is not satisfactory, the School Board does not reemploy the teacher.

In order to achieve continuing contract status, every teacher must successfully complete training in instructional strategies and techniques for intervention for or remediation of students who fail or are at risk of failing the Standards of Learning assessments. Mecklenburg County Public School Board provides said training at no cost to teachers it employs. If such training is not offered in a timely manner, no teacher will be denied continuing contract status for failure to obtain such training.

Once a continuing contract status has been attained in a school division in this state, another probationary period need not be served unless such probationary period, not to exceed two years, is made a part of the contract of employment. If a teacher separates from service and returns to teaching service in Virginia public schools by the beginning of the third year, the person shall be required to begin a new probationary period, not to exceed two years, if made part of the contract.

If a teacher who has not achieved continuing contract status receives notice of re-employment, he must accept or reject in writing within 15 calendar days of receipt of the notice. Unless a conference with the superintendent is requested as specified in the Code of Virginia, or in the case of reduction in force, written notice of nonrenewal of the probationary contract must be given by the Board on or before June 15 of each year. If the teacher requests a conference with the superintendent, then written notice of non-renewal by the School Board must be given within thirty days after the superintendent notifies the teacher of his intention with respect to the recommendation.

#### Continuing Contract

Teachers employed after completing the probationary period are entitled to continuing contracts during good behavior and competent service. Written notice of noncontinuation of the contract by either party must be given by June 15 of each year; otherwise the contract continues in effect for the ensuing year.

The School Board may reduce the number of teachers, whether or not such teachers have reached continuing contract status, because of decrease in enrollment or abolition of particular subjects.

Furthermore, nothing in the continuing contract shall be construed to authorize the School Board to contract for any financial obligation beyond the period for which funds have been made available.

As soon after June 15 as the school budget is approved by the appropriating body, the School Board furnishes each teacher a statement confirming continuation of employment, setting forth assignment and salary.

Within two weeks of the approval of the school budget by the appropriating body, but no later than July 1, the School Board will notify any teacher who may be subject to a reduction in force due to a decrease in the School Board's budget as approved by the appropriating body.

#### Principals, Assistant Principals, and Supervisors

A person employed as a principal, assistant principal or supervisor, including a person who has previously achieved continuing contract status as a teacher, shall serve a probationary term of three years in such position in the same school division before acquiring continuing contract status as a principal, assistant principal or supervisor.

Continuing contract status acquired by a principal, assistant principal or supervisor shall not be construed (i) as prohibiting the School Board from reassigning such principal, assistant principal or supervisor to a teaching position if notice of reassignment is given by the School Board by June 15 of any year or (ii) as entitling any such principal, assistant principal or supervisor to the salary paid him as principal, assistant principal or supervisor in the case of any such reassignment to a teaching position. No such salary reduction and reassignment, however, shall be made without first providing such principal, assistant principal or supervisor with written notice of the reason for such reduction and reassignment and an opportunity to present his or her position at an informal meeting with the superintendent, the superintendent's designee or the School Board. Before recommending such reassignment, the superintendent shall consider, among other things, the performance evaluations for such principal, assistant principal or supervisor. The principal, assistant principal or supervisor shall elect whether such meeting shall be with the superintendent, the superintendent's designee or the School Board. The School Board, superintendent or superintendent's designee shall determine what processes are to be followed at the meeting. The decision to reassign and reduce salary shall be at the sole discretion of the School Board.

The intent of this section is to provide an opportunity for a principal, assistant principal or supervisor to discuss the reasons for such salary reduction and reassignment with the superintendent, the superintendent's designee or the School Board, and the provisions of this section are meant to be procedural only. Nothing contained herein shall be taken to require cause for the salary reduction and reassignment of a principal, assistant principal or supervisor.

As used in this policy, "Supervisor" means a person who holds an instructional supervisory position as specified in the regulations of the Board of Education and who is required to hold a license as prescribed by the Board of Education.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: July 17, 2018

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-294, 22.1-303, 22.1-304.

Cross Refs.:	GBM	Professional Staff Grievances
	GCB	Professional Staff Contracts
	GCE	Part-Time and Substitute Professional Staff Employment
	GCN	Evaluation of Professional Staff
	GCPA	Reduction in Professional Staff Work Force
	GCPB	Resignation of Staff Members
	GCPD	Professional Staff Discipline
	GCPF	Suspension of Staff Members

## PROFESSIONAL STAFF ASSIGNMENTS AND TRANSFERS

Principals and other supervisory personnel may submit recommendations to the superintendent for the appointment, assignment, promotion, transfer and dismissal of all personnel assigned to their supervision.

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, the Mecklenburg County School Board shall place all employees within the various schools and facilities located in the school division. The superintendent has the authority to assign such employees to their respective positions within the school or facility wherein they have been placed by the School Board.

The superintendent may also reassign any such employee for that school year to any school or facility within such division, provided no change or reassignment during a school year shall affect the salary of such employee for that school year. However, no one will be employed in or reassigned to a situation where a family member, as defined in Policy GCCB Employment of Family Members, is directly responsible for that employee's supervision.

Any employee seeking a transfer of assignment to another work location for the next school year must make a request in writing to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee, with copies to the current supervisor, not later than April 1. This type of request, if granted, will be considered a voluntary transfer. A change of assignment within an immediate work station is the responsibility of the immediate supervisor.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: December 17, 2018

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-293, 22.1-295, 22.1-297.

Cross Ref: GCCB Employment of Family Members

## PROFESSIONAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Mecklenburg County Public School Board provides a program of high-quality professional development

- (i) in the use and documentation of performance standards and evaluation criteria based on student academic progress and skills for teachers and administrators to clarify roles and performance expectations and to facilitate the successful implementation of instructional programs that promote student achievement at the school and classroom levels;
- (ii) as part of the license renewal process, to assist teachers and principals in acquiring the skills needed to work with gifted students, students with disabilities, and students who have been identified as having limited English proficiency and to increase student achievement and expand the knowledge and skills students require to meet the standards for academic performance set by the Board of Education;
- (iii) in educational technology for all instructional personnel which is designed to facilitate integration of computer skills and related technology into the curricula,
- (iv) for administrative personnel designed to increase proficiency in instructional leadership and management, including training in the evaluation and documentation of teacher and administrator performance based on student academic progress and the skills and knowledge of such instructional or administrative personnel, and
- (v) designed to educate School Board employees about bullying as defined in Va. Code § 22.1-276.01 and the need to create a bully-free environment.

In addition, the Board provides teachers and principals with high-quality professional development programs each year in

- (i) instructional content;
- (ii) the preparation of tests and other assessment measures;
- (iii) methods for assessing the progress of individual students, including Standards of Learning assessment materials or other criterion-referenced tests that match locally developed objectives;
- (iv) instruction and remediation techniques in English, mathematics, science and history and social science;
- (v) interpreting test data for instructional purposes;
- (vi) technology applications to implement the Standards of Learning; and
- (vii) effective classroom management.

All instructional personnel are required to participate each year in professional development programs.

The Board annually reviews its professional development program for quality, effectiveness, participation by instructional personnel and relevancy to the instructional needs of teachers and the academic achievement needs of the students in the school division.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: October 15, 2018

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Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-253.13:5 and 22.1-276.01.

## EVALUATION OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Every employee of the Mecklenburg County Public School Board staff is evaluated on a regular basis at least as frequently as required by law.

The superintendent assures that cooperatively developed procedures for professional staff evaluations are implemented throughout the division and included in the division's policy manual. The results of the evaluation are in writing, dated and signed by the evaluator and the person being evaluated, with one copy going to the central office personnel file and one copy to the person being evaluated.

The primary purposes of evaluation are:

- to optimize student learning and growth;
- to contribute to the successful achievement of the goals and objectives of the division's educational plan;
- to improve the quality of instruction by ensuring accountability for classroom performance and teacher effectiveness;
- to provide a basis for leadership improvement through productive performance appraisal and professional growth;
- to implement a performance evaluation system that promotes a positive working environment and continuous communication between the employee and the evaluator that promotes continuous professional growth, leadership effectiveness, improvement of overall job performance and improved student outcomes; and
- to promote self-growth, instructional effectiveness, and improvement of overall professional performance.

The procedures are consistent with the performance objectives included in the Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers and the Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Principals. Evaluations shall include student academic progress as a significant component and an overall summative rating. Teacher evaluations include regular observation and evidence that instruction is aligned with the school's curriculum. Evaluations include identification of areas of individual strengths and weaknesses and recommendations for appropriate professional activities.

Any teacher whose evaluation indicates deficiencies in managing student conduct may be required to attend professional development activities designed to improve classroom management and discipline skills.

If a teacher's performance evaluation during the probationary period is not satisfactory, the School Board shall not reemploy the teacher.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: October 15, 2018

Legal Refs.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 22.1-294, 22.1-295, 22.1-303, 22.1-253.13:5, 22.1-253.13:7 and 22.1-276.2.

Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Teachers (Virginia Board of Education as revised July 23, 2015)  
([http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/performance\\_evaluation/guidelines\\_ups\\_eval\\_criteria\\_teachers.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/performance_evaluation/guidelines_ups_eval_criteria_teachers.pdf)).

Guidelines for Uniform Performance Standards and Evaluation Criteria for Principals (Virginia Board of Education as revised July 23, 2015)  
([http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/performance\\_evaluation/guidelines\\_ups\\_eval\\_criteria\\_principals.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/performance_evaluation/guidelines_ups_eval_criteria_principals.pdf)).

Cross Ref.:	CBG	Evaluation of the Superintendent
	GCG	Professional Staff Probationary Term and Continuing Contract

## REDUCTION IN PROFESSIONAL STAFF WORK FORCE

A decrease in enrollment, abolition of particular subjects, a decrease in the School Board's budget as approved by the appropriating body, a consolidation of schools, the phasing out of programs, departments or grade levels and other conditions may cause a reduction in the number of staff needed in a building, program or department or in the entire school division.

General reduction in total personnel and redistribution of personnel within designated programs shall be done in accordance with regulations adopted by the Board. The regulations will not provide for reductions to be made solely on the basis of seniority; they will include consideration of the performance evaluations of the teachers potentially affected by the reduction in workforce.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 22.1-304.

Cross Ref.: GCG            Professional Staff Probationary Term and Continuing Contract

## **REGULATION: REDUCTION IN FORCE**

### **A. Licensed Personnel**

The layoff of licensed Mecklenburg County School Board personnel due to reduction in force shall be accomplished according to the following provisions:

1. The division superintendent shall recommend the specific endorsement areas or instructional programs in which reductions need to be made and the extent of those reductions.
2. The division superintendent shall then recommend the individuals, if any, who shall be laid off. Generally, the primary factor to be considered in making both the recommendation and determination shall be seniority within each class of employment, the least senior person being laid off first. Generally, within each class, probationary teachers shall be laid off prior to continuing contract teachers.
3. Seniority shall be that period of time commencing with the most recent term of continuous service as a licensed employee with the Mecklenburg County Public Schools including authorized leave as shown by School Board minutes, but excluding temporary, interim, substitute, or part-time employment. The initial date of employment shall be the date of appointment to a licensed position (as distinguished from the date of the School Board meeting where such an appointment was approved), as shown by the School Board minutes. A leave-of-absence for two consecutive years or resignation cancels prior seniority.
4. The division superintendent may recommend exceptions to the seniority rule. Examples of factors which may be considered an exception to the seniority rule are: (1) teaching endorsements on the individual's license which may meet specific school needs, (2) extended responsibilities that the school program may require, (3) teachers on probation, or (4) teachers with licensure deficiencies.
5. Each licensed employee shall be placed on the seniority list for the endorsement area or instructional program in which he is actively assigned. In addition, licensed employees recommended for reduction in the area or program of their active assignments shall be placed on the seniority lists in any other areas or programs for which they have a right to be considered pursuant to paragraph A.6.
6. Each licensed employee who is recommended for lay off from an affected endorsement area or instructional program shall have the right to be considered, using the same criteria, in all other programs or instructional areas for which the employee has completed all endorsement requirements.
7. Released continuing contract licensed employees shall be offered reemployment as vacancies occur. The division superintendent shall determine, in order of seniority, which released employees will be offered the vacant position(s) for which they are qualified. No new licensed employee shall be employed for an area or program until all properly licensed continuing contract persons released from such assignment have been provided with the opportunity of filling the available positions. A licensed employee on continuing contract shall have the right to be offered a position by recall letter,

pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph, for a period not to exceed two years from the date of the individual's release. Such recall letter shall be sent by the division superintendent or his designee by certified mail to the employee's current address as listed with the Supervisor of Personnel. It shall be the responsibility of the released employee to keep the Supervisor of Personnel informed of his current address. A licensed employee's eligibility for recall shall terminate if he:

- a. fails to respond affirmatively in writing fifteen (15) calendar days after the mailing of a recall letter offering him a teaching position;
- b. indicates in writing that he no longer wishes to be considered for recall; or
- c. fails to maintain licensure and other employment eligibility requirements.

## **B. Administrative and/or Classified Licensed Personnel**

Administrative and/or classified licensed personnel shall include those persons who are employed on a fulltime contractual basis by the Mecklenburg County School Board.

1. The division superintendent shall recommend the specific position classification in which a reduction in force needs to be made and the number of positions to be reduced.
2. Where there is only one person in a position classification recommended for mandatory reduction, that person shall be laid off unless the division superintendent considers such employee for another administrative or supervisory position pursuant to paragraph B.5. For purposes of this policy and regulation only, an administrative licensed or classified licensed employee with three years continuous experience in Mecklenburg, and who is recommended for reduction, shall also be considered under the "Licensed Personnel" section of this regulation as a teacher in a program or area, provided that his license is still valid.
3. Where there is more than one person in a position classification, the division superintendent shall recommend which individual(s) shall be laid off. The primary factors to be considered in making both the recommendation and the determination shall be job performance, the specific needs of the school division, and any special qualifications an individual might possess.
4. In those cases where no significant difference among individuals exists after a review of the factors listed in paragraph B.3, the recommendation and determination shall be based on seniority as described in paragraph A.3., the least senior employee within the classification being laid off first.
5. An employee who is recommended for lay off from his or her present position may be considered for other positions which the division superintendent determines to have generally similar duties and for which the person is otherwise qualified.
6. Released employees shall be offered reemployment as vacancies occur in the position which they held under the procedure set out in paragraph

## Classified Personnel

1. Classified personnel are defined as those persons who hold positions that do not require licensure and who are assigned by the School Board full-time to a position.
2. The division superintendent shall recommend the specific position classifications in which a reduction-in-force needs to be made and the specific number of positions needed to be reduced.
3. The division superintendent shall recommend which individuals, if any, shall be laid off within the position classification. The primary factor to be considered in making both the recommendation and the determination shall be seniority, the least senior being laid off first. The procedure by which classified personnel are recommended by the division superintendent for reduction shall be as set out in paragraph A.3., with the exception that all employment, excluding temporary, interim, or substitute employment with the Mecklenburg County Public Schools, regardless of position, shall be counted toward seniority. In addition, an employee who is recommended for lay off from his or her present position shall be considered for lesser positions which the division superintendent determines to have generally similar duties and for which the person is otherwise qualified.
4. Released employees shall be offered reemployment as vacancies occur in the position which they held. The division superintendent shall make a recommendation as to the order of seniority in which released employees will be offered the positions. No new person shall be employed for a position until all persons released from such positions have been provided with the opportunity of filling the available positions. A person shall not have a right to be recalled to a position higher than the one in which he or she was working at the time of the reduction. However, the division superintendent may allow recall to a substantially similar lower position. A person may be offered a position by recall letter for a period not to exceed two years from the date of lay off. Such recall letter shall be sent by certified mail to the employee's current address as listed with the Director of Personnel. An employee's eligibility for recall shall terminate if he:
  - a. fails to respond affirmatively in writing within fifteen (15) calendar days after the mailing of a recall letter offering him a position;
  - b. otherwise indicates in writing that he no longer wishes to be considered for recall; or
  - c. fails to maintain licensure and other employment eligibility requirements, if any

Upon reemployment, all rights related to salary, fringe benefits, and length of service shall be fully restored. However, time that has elapsed between release and reemployment will not count toward length of service. Released classified employees may pay the total premium for group life and hospitalization insurance for a period of eighteen (18) months or the date on which the employee's eligibility for recall is terminated, whichever occurs first.

**D. Transfer**

This policy and regulation shall not apply to the transfer of employees but shall only apply when, due to a reduction-in-force, an employee must be laid off. The division superintendent retains the authority to transfer teachers or other employees to other assignments at any time to reduce the number of persons affected by the reduction-in-force.

**E. Board Minutes**

So that there will be no negative implications regarding the professional record of an employee laid off under this policy, the minutes of the School Board will clearly show that such termination of employment was due to a reduction-in-force.

**F. Activation of Policy**

This policy will be activated upon recommendation of the division superintendent to the School Board. It will not be necessary for the Supervisor of Personnel to establish seniority lists, etc., until such time as notified by the division superintendent.

**G. Effect on Term Contract**

Nothing in this Policy shall be construed as granting an employee on a term contract the right to employment beyond the term of his or her contract or to grant such person a property interest in employment beyond the term of his present contract. Within two weeks of the approval of the School Board budget by the appropriating body, but no later than June 1, the School Board will notify any teacher who may be subject to a reduction in force due to a decrease in the School Board's budget as approved by the appropriating body.

**H. Interpretations**

The School Board realizes that questions will arise about the application of this policy to a specific case. Consequently, interpretations of this policy shall be made by the division superintendent when necessary. Any such interpretations shall be presumed valid until specifically ruled otherwise by the SchoolBoard.

Issued: March 11, 2015

## RESIGNATION OF STAFF MEMBERS

The superintendent is authorized to approve resignations of employees. Any resignation must be in writing.

A teacher may resign after June 15 of any school year with the approval of the superintendent. The teacher shall request release from contract at least two weeks in advance of the intended date of resignation. Such request shall be in writing and state the cause of the resignation. The teacher may, within one week, withdraw a request to resign. Upon the expiration of the one week period, the superintendent shall notify the School Board of the decision to accept or reject the resignation. The School Board, within two weeks, may reverse the decision of the superintendent. In the event that the Board or the superintendent declines to grant the request for release on the grounds of insufficient or unjustifiable cause, and the teacher breaches such contract, disciplinary action, which may include revocation of the teacher's license, may be taken pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Board of Education.

Other employees who wish to terminate their employment must give notice at least ten school days prior to their desired separation date. Notice should be given to the employee's immediate supervisor, who will inform the superintendent. The superintendent will inform the School Board of the resignation at its next regular meeting.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: October 15, 2018

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-304.

Cross Refs.: GCPD  
GDB

Professional Staff Discipline  
Support Staff Employment Status

## PROFESSIONAL STAFF DISCIPLINE

### A. Probation and Dismissal

Teachers may be dismissed for incompetency, immorality, non-compliance with school laws and regulations, disability in accordance with State and federal law, conviction of a felony or a crime of moral turpitude or other good and just cause. "Incompetency" includes, but is not be limited to, consistent failure to meet the endorsement requirements for the position or one or more unsatisfactory performance evaluations.

A teacher shall be dismissed if such teacher is or becomes the subject of a founded complaint of child abuse and neglect, pursuant to Va. Code § 63.2-1505, and after all rights to an appeal provided by Va. Code § 63.2-1526 have been exhausted. The fact of such finding, after all rights to an appeal provided by Va. Code § 63.2-1526 have been exhausted, shall be grounds for the School Board to recommend that the Board of Education revoke such person's license to teach.

In those instances when licensed personnel are dismissed or resign due to a conviction of any felony; any offense involving the sexual molestation, physical or sexual abuse or rape of a child; any offense involving drugs; or due to having become the subject of a founded case of child abuse or neglect, the School Board shall notify the Board of Education within 10 business days of such dismissal or the acceptance of such resignation.

If a current employee is dismissed because of information appearing on his/her criminal history record, the School Board shall provide a copy of the information obtained from the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the employee.

Administrative regulations shall be developed for the dismissal or placing on probation of continuing contract teachers and probationary teachers during the school year.

No teacher shall be dismissed or placed on probation solely on the basis of the teachers' refusal to submit to a polygraph examination requested by the School Board.

### B. Suspension

Employees of Mecklenburg County Public School Board may be suspended as provided in Policy GCPF Suspension of Staff Members.

### C. Failure to Perform Nonemergency Health-Related Services

With the exception of school administrative personnel and employees who have the specific duty to deliver health-related services, no licensed instructional employee, instructional aide, or clerical employee shall be disciplined, placed on probation, or dismissed on the basis of such employee's refusal to (i) perform nonemergency health-related services for students or (ii) obtain training in the administration of insulin and glucagon. However, instructional aides and clerical employees may not refuse to dispense oral medications.

"Health-related services" means those activities which, when performed in a health care facility, must be delivered by or under the supervision of a licensed or certified professional.

D. Effect of Probation Pursuant to Va. Code §18.2-251

For purposes of this policy, a court's placing an individual on probation pursuant to Va. Code § 18.2-251 shall be treated as a conviction and as a finding of guilt.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: May 21, 2018

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 18.2-251, 22.1-274, 22.1-296.2, 22.1-307, 22.1-313, 22.1-315.

Cross Refs.:	GCE	Part-Time and Substitute Staff Employment
	GCG	Professional Staff Probationary Term and Continuing Contract
	GCDA	Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect
	GCPF	Suspension of Staff Members
	JHC	Student Health Services

## SUSPENSION OF STAFF MEMBERS

Employees of Mecklenburg County School Board, whether full-time or part-time, permanent or temporary, may be suspended for good and just cause

- when the safety or welfare of the school division or the students therein is threatened or
- when the employee has been charged by summons, warrant, indictment or information with the commission of
  - a felony; or
  - a misdemeanor involving
    - sexual assault as established in Article 7 (§18.2-61 et seq.) of Chapter 4 of Title 18.2, of the Code of Virginia,
    - obscenity and related offenses as established in Article 5 (§18.2-372 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 18.2, of the Code of Virginia,
    - drugs as established in Article 1 (§18.2-247 et seq.) of Chapter 7 of Title 18.2, of the Code of Virginia,
    - moral turpitude, or
    - the physical or sexual abuse or neglect of a child; or an equivalent offense in another state.

Except when an employee is suspended because of being charged by summons, warrant, indictment or information with the commission of any of the above-listed offenses, the superintendent or appropriate central office designee shall not suspend an employee for longer than sixty (60) days and shall not suspend an employee for a period in excess of five (5) days unless such employee is advised in writing of the reason for the suspension and afforded an opportunity for a hearing before the school board in accordance with Va. Code §§ 22.1-311 and 22.1-313, if applicable. Any employee so suspended shall continue to receive his then applicable salary unless and until the school board, after a hearing, determines otherwise. No employee shall be suspended solely on the basis of the employee's refusal to submit to a polygraph examination requested by the School Board.

Any employee suspended because of being charged by summons, warrant, information or indictment with any of the above-listed criminal offenses may be suspended with or without pay. In the event an employee is suspended without pay, an amount equal to the employee's salary while on suspended status shall be placed in an interest-bearing demand escrow account. Upon being found not guilty of one of the above-listed criminal offenses or upon the dismissal or nolle prosequi of the charge, such employee shall be reinstated with all unpaid salary and accrued interest from the escrow account, less any earnings received by the employee during the period of suspension, but in no event shall such payment exceed one year's salary.

In the event an employee is found guilty by an appropriate court of any of the above-listed criminal offenses and, after all available appeals have been exhausted and such conviction is upheld, all funds in the escrow account shall be repaid to the School Board.

If an employee is suspended because of information appearing on his/her criminal history record, the School Board shall provide a copy of the information obtained from the Central Criminal Records Exchange to the employee.

No employee will have his insurance benefits suspended or terminated because of suspension in accordance with this policy.

The placing of a school employee on probation pursuant to the terms and conditions of Va. Code § 18.2-251 shall be deemed a finding of guilt.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-296.2, 22.1-315.

Cross Refs.	GCDA	Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect
	GDG	Support Staff Probationary Period
	GBMA	Support Staff Grievances
	GBMA-R	Procedure for Adjusting Grievances for Support Staff
	GCPD	Professional Staff Discipline

## NONSCHOOL EMPLOYMENT BY STAFF MEMBERS

Employees may, during the hours not required of them to fulfill their responsibilities to Mecklenburg County School Board, engage in other employment as long as such employment does not detract from or interfere with their employment by Mecklenburg County School Board.

An employee who is on leave from Mecklenburg County School Board, in a paid or unpaid status, may not be employed by the School Board or any other employer in any capacity during the period of leave except with the prior written authorization of the superintendent.

The School Board does not endorse, support, or assume liability for any activity conducted by School Board employees in which division students or employees participate which is not sponsored by the School Board.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Ref.: 29 C.F.R. 825.216(e).

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78.

Cross Refs.:	BBFA	School Board Members Conflict of Interest
	GAA	Staff Time Schedules
	GCBE	Family and Medical Leave
	GCBEA	Leave Without Pay
	GCBEB	Military Leave and Benefits
	GCQAB	Tutoring for Pay
	GCQB	Staff Research and Publishing

## TUTORING FOR PAY

Staff members may not be paid by anyone other than the Mecklenburg County School Board for tutoring students enrolled in a class under their direction.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70,22.1-78

## STAFF RESEARCH AND PUBLISHING

The Mecklenburg County School Board encourages employee innovation in creating and developing high-quality materials to improve student achievement and the efficiency of division operations. The superintendent shall establish regulations pursuant to which the ownership rights to works produced by employees within the scope of their employment may be assigned.

Employees who develop materials, including instructional materials and computer programs, outside the scope of their employment that have a connection to or are related to the division shall inform the superintendent in writing of their intent to develop such materials prior to commencing work.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Ref.: 17 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, and 201.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78.

Cross Refs.: EGAAA      Reproduction of Copyrighted Materials  
GCQA              Nonschool Employment by Staff Members

## STAFF RESEARCH AND PUBLISHING

The Mecklenburg County School Board encourages employee innovation in creating and developing high-quality materials to improve student achievement and the efficiency of division operations. The School Board is the author of works produced by its employees within the scope of their employment and retains all rights to such works unless those rights are expressly waived or assigned to the employee who produced the work.

Any such assignment of rights will be accomplished in accordance with regulations promulgated by the superintendent. The regulations will provide that the work will remain available for the use of the School Board at no charge.

Employees who develop materials, including instructional materials and computer programs, outside the scope of their employment that have a connection to or are related to the division shall inform the superintendent in writing of their intent to develop such materials prior to commencing work.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Ref.: 17 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, and 201.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78.

Cross Refs.: EGAAA      Reproduction of Copyrighted Materials  
GCQA            Nonschool Employment by Staff Members

## SUPPORT STAFF

Support staff personnel are those employees who need not hold a license issued by the Virginia Board of Education in order to obtain their positions. This category includes, but is not limited to, non-licensed administrative, clerical, maintenance, transportation, food services, and paraprofessional positions.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-78.

Cross Refs.:	GCD	Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect
	GCPB	Resignation of Staff Members
	GCPF	Suspension of Staff Members
	GDB	Support Staff Employment Status

## SUPPORT STAFF EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Support staff are not issued written contracts unless such contracts are required by law.

The school division employs three types of support staff:

- Temporary employees who are hired for short-term needs on a daily basis; these employees do not receive benefits and are paid only for hours worked.
- Probationary employees who are fully qualified new employees assigned to authorized positions; these employees are eligible for salary increases and receive benefits.
- Regular employees who have successfully completed the prescribed probationary period; regular employees receive all employment benefits available under School Board policy.

The employment of support personnel may be terminated with fifteen calendar days' notice. Support personnel may also be subject to immediate dismissal for just cause.

Support personnel who are removed from employment for just cause shall be ineligible thereafter for employment by Mecklenburg County School Board.

Employees of Mecklenburg County School Board may be suspended as provided in Policy GCPF Suspension of Staff Members.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-78.

Cross Ref.:	GCDA	Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect
	GDG	Support Staff Probationary Period
	GBMA	Support Staff Grievances
	GBMA-R	Procedure for Adjusting Grievances for Support Staff
	GCPF	Suspension of Staff Members

## SUPPORT STAFF PROBATIONARY PERIOD

The probationary period for all support staff positions is 18 months

Employees who have successfully completed the probationary period for one position will serve another probationary period if they move to another position.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-78, 22.1-79.

Cross Ref.: GBMA Support Staff Grievances  
GBMA-R Procedure for Adjusting Grievances for Support Staff  
GD Support Staff  
GDB Support Staff Employment Status

## SUPPORT STAFF ASSIGNMENTS AND TRANSFERS

Support staff shall be assigned to positions for which their qualifications meet the needs of the school division's operations.

Support staff personnel may request a transfer to a position within their area of competence and for which they are qualified. Support staff personnel may be transferred to positions for which their qualifications best meet the needs of the school division.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78.

Cross Ref.:	GA	Personnel Policies Goals
	GD	Support Staff
	GDB	Support Staff Employment Status
	GDG	Support Staff Probationary Period

## EVALUATION OF SUPPORT STAFF

Every employee of the Mecklenburg County School Board will be evaluated on a regular basis.

The superintendent shall assure that cooperatively developed procedures for support staff evaluations are implemented within the division and included in the division's policy manual. The results of the evaluation shall be in writing, dated and signed by the evaluator and the person being evaluated, with one copy going to the central office personnel file and one copy to the employee.

The primary purposes of evaluation and assistance are:

- to optimize student learning and growth;
- to contribute to the successful achievement of the goals and objectives of the division's educational plan;
- to provide a basis for leadership improvement through productive performance appraisal and professional growth;
- to implement a performance evaluation system that promotes a positive working environment and continuous communication between the employee and the evaluator that promotes continuous professional growth, leadership effectiveness, improvement of overall job performance and improved student outcomes; and
- to promote self-growth, instructional effectiveness, and improvement of overall professional performance.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-70, 22.1-78, 22.1-313, 22.1-253.13:7.C.7.

Cross Ref.: CBG Evaluation of the Superintendent  
GCN Evaluation of the Professional Staff  
GD Support Staff  
GDB Support Staff Employment Status  
GDG Support Staff Probationary Period  
GDPF Suspension of Staff Members

## SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

### Eligibility for Employment

Any applicant for employment operating a school bus transporting pupils must

- a. have a physical examination of a scope prescribed by the Board of Education and furnish a form prescribed by the Board of Education showing the results of such examination
- b. furnish a statement or copy of records from the Department of Motor Vehicles showing that the applicant, within the preceding five years, has not been convicted of a charge of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, convicted of a charge of refusing to take a blood or breath test, convicted of a felony or assigned to any alcohol safety action program or driver alcohol rehabilitation program pursuant to Va. Code § 18.2-271.1 or, within the preceding 12 months, has not been convicted of two or more moving traffic violations or required to attend a driver improvement clinic by the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles pursuant to Va. Code § 46.2-498
- c. furnish a statement signed by two reputable persons who reside in the school division or in the applicant's community that the person is of good moral character
- d. exhibit a license showing the person has successfully undertaken the examination prescribed by Va. Code § 46.2-339
- e. have reached the age of 18 on the first day of the school year
- f. submit to testing for alcohol and controlled substances as required by state and federal law and regulation

Persons for whom registration with the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry is required are not eligible for employment as a school bus driver.

Persons hired as school bus drivers must annually furnish the documents listed in (a) and (b) above prior to the anniversary date of their employment as a condition of continued employment as a school bus operator.

The Mecklenburg County Public School Board requires proof of current certification or training in emergency first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of an automated external defibrillator as a condition of employment to operate a school bus transporting pupils.

### Drug and Alcohol Testing

The school division has a drug and alcohol testing program for school bus drivers and other employees who are required to hold a commercial driver's license (CDL) by U.S. Department of Transportation Regulations who perform safety-sensitive functions as required by federal and state law and regulations.

## Prohibited conduct

Drivers are prohibited from alcohol possession and/or use on the job, use during the four hours before performing safety-sensitive functions, having prohibited concentrations of alcohol in their systems while on duty or performing safety-sensitive functions, and use during eight hours following an accident or until after undergoing a post-accident alcohol test, whichever occurs first.

No driver shall report for duty or remain on duty requiring the performance of safety-sensitive functions when the driver uses any controlled substances except when the use is pursuant to the instructions of a licensed medical practitioner who is familiar with the driver's medical history and has advised the driver that the substance does not adversely affect his ability to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle.

## Required testing

Drivers are subject to pre-employment/pre-duty drug testing, reasonable suspicion alcohol and drug testing, random alcohol and drug testing, post-accident alcohol and drug testing, return-to-duty and follow-up alcohol and drug testing pursuant to procedures set out in the federal regulations. Any employee who refuses to submit to a test shall not perform or continue to perform safety-sensitive functions.

## Notification

Each driver receives educational materials that explain the requirements of federal law and regulations together with a copy of the division's policy and procedures for meeting these requirements. Each driver must sign a statement certifying that he/she has received a copy of the above materials and the division maintains this signed copy.

Before performing each alcohol or controlled substances test, the division will notify the driver that the test is required by federal law or regulation.

## Consequences if testing indicates drug or alcohol misuse

If the testing confirms prohibited alcohol concentration levels or the presence of a controlled substance, the employee shall be removed immediately from safety-sensitive functions in accordance with the federal regulations. All drivers shall be advised of resources available and before a driver is re-instated, if at all, the driver shall undergo an evaluation by a substance abuse professional, comply with any required rehabilitation and undergo a return-to-duty test with negative urine sample.

## Record retention

The division maintains records in compliance with the federal regulations in a secure location with controlled access. With the driver's consent, the division may obtain any of the information concerning drug and alcohol testing from the driver's previous employer. A driver is entitled upon written request to obtain copies of any records

pertaining to the driver's use of alcohol or controlled substances including information pertaining to alcohol or drug tests.

Records shall be made available to a subsequent employer upon receipt of a written request from a driver. Disclosure by the subsequent employer is permitted only as expressly authorized by the terms of the driver's request.

#### Test procedure

The division administers alcohol and controlled substance tests in accordance with federal laws.

Adopted: December 15, 2014

Revised: October 15, 2018

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Legal Refs.: 49 U.S.C. § 31136.

49 C.F.R. §§ 382.105, 382.113, 382.201, 382.205, 382.207, 382.213, 382.217, 382.301, 382.303, 382.401, 382.405, 382.601, 382.605.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 22.1-178, 46.2-339, 46.2-340.

Cross Ref.: GBEA            Unlawful Manufacture, Distribution, Dispensing,  
   Possession or Use of a Controlled Substance

## ACCEPTANCE OF ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES AND RECORDS

### Policy Statement

Electronic or digital signatures can take many forms and can be created using many different types of technology. The authenticity and reliability of electronic signatures relating to transactions are dependent on the accompanying processes, supplemental records and the overall context in which records are created, transferred, and signed. The Mecklenburg County School Board adopts the following policy with respect to the use of electronic records and signatures in connection with its communications with parents, guardians, or other persons having control over a child enrolled in this division.

### Definitions

“Attribution” – An electronic record or electronic signature is attributable to a person if it was the act of the person. The act of the person may be shown in any manner, including a showing of the efficacy of any security procedure applied to determine the person to which the electronic record or electronic signature was attributable.

“Electronic Signature”- An electronic sound, symbol or process attached to or logically associated with a record and executed or adopted by a person with the intent to sign the record.

“Electronic Record” – Any record created, generated, sent, communicated, received or stored by electronic means.

### Applicability

This policy applies to parents, guardians, and other persons having control or charge of a child enrolled in the division; and also to individuals affiliated with the division, whether paid or unpaid, including but not limited to teachers, administrators, staff, students, affiliates, and volunteers.

### Electronic Records

Electronic records created or received by the division shall be appropriately attributed to the individual(s) responsible for their creation and/or authorization or approval. The division shall utilize available technology to implement reliable methods for generating and managing electronic records. Any electronic record filed with or issued by the division may be given full force and effect of a paper communication if the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The communication is an electronic filing or recording and the Mecklenburg County School Board agrees to accept or send such communication electronically; and

2. If a signature is required on the record or communication by any statute, rule or other applicable law or School Board policy, the electronic signature must conform to the requirements set forth in this policy governing the use of electronic signatures.

### Electronic Signatures

An electronic signature may be used if the law requires a signature unless there is a specific statute, regulation, or policy that requires records to be signed in non- electronic form. The issuance and/or acceptance of an electronic signature by the School Board may be permitted in accordance with the provisions of this policy and all applicable state and federal law. If permitted, such electronic signature shall have the full force and effect of a manual signature only if the electronic signature satisfies all of the following requirements:

1. The electronic signature identifies the individual signing the document by his/her name and title;
2. The identity of the individual signing with an electronic signature is capable of being validated through the use of an audit trail;
3. The electronic signature and the document to which it is affixed cannot be altered once the electronic signature has been affixed;
4. The electronic signature conforms to all other provisions of this policy.

### Acceptance, Use and Issuance of Electronic Records and Signatures

The School Board shall maintain an electronic recordkeeping system that can receive, store, and reproduce electronic records and signatures relating to communications and transactions in their original form. Such system should include security procedures whereby the School Board can (a) verify the attribution of a signature to a specific individual, (b) detect changes or errors in the information contained in a record submitted electronically, (c) protect and prevent access, alteration, manipulation or use by an unauthorized person, and (d) provide for nonrepudiation through strong and substantial evidence that will make it difficult for the signer to claim that the electronic representation is not valid.

The School Board shall ensure that all electronic records and signatures are capable of being accurately reproduced for later reference and retained until such time as all legally mandated retention requirements are satisfied.

The School Board shall maintain a secure hard copy log of the PIN/password or actual signature of any individual authorized to provide an electronic signature in connection with School Board business.

The School Board may receive and accept as original, electronic records and signatures so long as the communication, on its face, appears to be authentic.

Adopted: February 25, 2015

Revised: July 20, 2015

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Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-79.3, 59.1-479 et seq.

Cross Ref.: JO                      Student Records