

## **NONRENEWAL, SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION OF SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS**

### **Employees without Contracts**

The superintendent may suspend (with or without pay) or terminate support staff members who are not under contract. The superintendent shall report any such termination or suspension to the Board of Education. The superintendent's decision will stand approved unless reversed by the Board.

Although support staff employees not employed under contract have no contractual right to continued employment from one academic term or year to the next, such employees may reasonably expect continued employment until notified otherwise.

### **Employees with Contracts**

#### *Nonrenewal*

Unless otherwise required by law, the district may nonrenew the contracts of support staff by notifying the employee prior to entering into a new contract with the employee that his or her contract will not be renewed.

#### *Suspension with Pay*

Support staff members under contract may be suspended by the superintendent with pay in accordance with law. Suspensions with pay will stand approved unless reversed by the Board.

#### *Suspension without Pay*

Support staff members employed under contract may be suspended without pay by the superintendent during the term of such contract for violation of the policies of the Board of Education, for violation of state law, or for any other legal reason. Prior to suspending an employee, the district will notify the employee of the charges, give the employee an opportunity to discuss the charges and inform the employee of the opportunity to appeal the suspension to the Board of Education. In general, pay will not be withheld until the Board renders its decision, unless an appeal has been waived. If the employee appeals, the employee may still be suspended with pay in accordance with Board policy pending the appeal.

#### *Termination*

Support staff members employed under contract may be terminated during the term of such contract for violation of Board policies, violation of state law, or for any other legal reason. Prior to the

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termination, the district will notify the employee in writing of the charges and the action to be taken and shall give the employee an opportunity to discuss or rebut the charges.

Unless an employee's contract allows for termination for any reason at the end of a notice period, the employee may appeal the termination to the Board by filing a written notice of appeal with the superintendent within ten days after receiving the notice of charges.

The employee will be suspended but will continue to be paid until the time for appeal has expired, and if an appeal is taken, until the Board renders its decision unless the law requires the suspension to be without pay. If no appeal is taken, or if the Board terminates the employee after a hearing, the employee's pay will be docked retroactively for any period of suspension.

### ***Termination Pursuant to Contract Terms***

If an employee's contract allows for termination for any reason at the end of a notice period and such notice is given, the employee's contract rights shall expire in accordance with the contract. Notice of termination from the superintendent shall be deemed to be notice from the Board of Education and shall be effective for such purpose when given, unless later reversed by the Board.

### **Special Circumstances**

Pursuant to state law, any employee who strip searches a student in violation of law will be immediately suspended without pay and may be terminated. Appropriate due process in accordance with law and this policy will be provided prior to suspending a staff member with an employment contract.

If the district receives information that an employee has allegedly been involved in sexual misconduct with a student or any other child, the district will suspend the employee pending an investigation. In accordance with law, the district will suspend or continue a suspension of an employee if the Children's Division (CD) of the Department of Social Services finds that an allegation of sexual misconduct with a student is substantiated, but the district may return the employee to his or her position if the finding is reversed by a court on appeal and becomes final. Regardless, the district reserves the right to suspend or terminate an employee for any legal reason, including sexual misconduct, regardless of whether another agency or a court substantiates the claim.

If a former district employee whose job involved contact with children was terminated, nonrenewed or allowed to resign in lieu of termination as a result of an allegation of sexual misconduct with a student, or as a result of such allegations being substantiated by the CD's child abuse and neglect review board, the district is required by law to release information regarding the sexual misconduct to a potential public school employer who contacts the district regarding the former employee. In addition, if the CD substantiates a complaint of sexual misconduct with a student against a former

employee of the district, the law requires the district to release the results of the CD investigation to any potential public school employer who contacts the district.

When employment ends as a result of an allegation of sexual misconduct with a student, the district will provide appropriate due process prior to the release of information regarding the sexual misconduct to a potential public school employer, if feasible. The superintendent or designee is authorized to consult with the district's attorney to determine the appropriate level of due process to provide.

For the purposes of this policy, employees are considered "former employees" if they have resigned, been terminated, had their contracts nonrenewed, or been notified that their contracts with the district will not be renewed or that the district is pursuing termination, even if the process has not been completed.

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***Note: The reader is encouraged to check the index located at the beginning of this section for other pertinent policies and to review administrative procedures and/or forms for related information.***

Adopted:

Revised:

Cross Refs: AC, Prohibition against Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation  
FC, School Closings, Consolidations and Reorganizations  
HPA, Employee Walkouts, Strikes and Other Disruptions  
ILA, Test Integrity and Security  
JFCF, Hazing and Bullying  
JFG, Interrogations, Interviews and Searches  
JHG, Reporting and Investigating Child Abuse/Neglect

Legal Refs: ' ' 162.068, 167.166, RSMo.  
U.S. Const. amend. XIV

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