

ARTICLE 22
PROFESSIONAL
GROWTH/IMPROVEMENT

- 22.1 The District and the Association support the principle of continuing training for professional educators, participation by professional educators in professional organizations in the areas of their specializations, and leaves for work on advanced degrees or special studies, foreign travel and participation in community education projects.
- 22.2 The Guidelines for Professional Growth/In-service shall be revised by the District and the Association and distributed to professional educators.

22.2.1 Continuing Education Obligations

It is recognized that there may be in-service offerings that professional educators are requested by the District to attend outside the normal professional work day described in Articles 6 to 8. In such cases, professional educators who agree to attend shall be paid at the professional educator's regular hourly rate under the salary schedule.

22.2.2 Tuition Reimbursement

- The District shall pay the full cost of tuition and other reasonable coursework expenses (e.g., laboratory fees, books, and the like) incurred in connection with any specific courses, workshops, seminars, conferences, in-service training sessions, or other such sessions in which attendance is specifically requested or required by the District. This section applies to coursework and other expenses (including testing and other licensure fees) related to adding other licensures requested by the District.
- The District shall reimburse professional educators for tuition cost for up to six (6) non- cumulative hours in a 12-month period for which graduate credit is granted by a college or university. Reimbursement shall be for the cost of tuition or the tuition rate for graduate courses at Portland State University, whichever is less. Coursework must be toward an advanced degree, TSPC licensure, professional education courses, or related to the professional educator's assignment. Evidence of a passing grade is required. Reimbursement shall not be made for books, lab fees, I.D. cards, gym fees, food, housing, transportation, supplies or other tuition expenses. Professional educators shall be reimbursed within sixty (60) days of submitting proof of satisfactory completion of the course. A professional educator must remain employed with the District for at least one (1) semester following reimbursement.
- Tuition reimbursement funds shall be available to temporary professional educators employed for a position that is expected to exist for more than one hundred thirty-five (135) days. In addition, a temporary teacher who is employed for less than one hundred thirty-five (135) days may apply and may be approved for tuition reimbursement if their building administrator supports their application for the funds. The temporary teacher who receives tuition reimbursement must remain employed with the District for at least one (1) semester following reimbursement if the District offers the temporary teacher continued employment.

22.2.3 National Board Teacher Examination

Reimbursement shall also be made for the fee charged a professional educator who takes and passes the National Board Teacher Examination to obtain a specialty area endorsement. This amount shall be within the tuition cost as stated in Section 21.2.2.2.

22.2.4 State-Approved Professional Exams

A professional educator may access ~~their~~ **his/her** professional growth funds for requests for High Objective State Standards of Evaluation (HOUSSE) assessments or for State Approved Core Academic exams such as the Praxis or Oregon Educator Licensure Assessment (ORELA:NES). Professional educators shall be reimbursed following sixty (60) days of submitting documentation of a passing score or a copy of the HOUSSE request submitted to TSPC.

22.3 ~~The District shall pay, either through reimbursement to the professional educator or direct payment to the appropriate agencies, for the cost of fingerprinting for licensure/certification renewal.~~

22.4 Because Speech and Language Pathologists participate in Medicaid billing for services, the District shall pay for licensure costs/fees for Speech and Language Pathologists to obtain or renew licensure from Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

21.5 Student Teachers/Interns

Upon mutual agreement between the professional educator and the District, student teachers, interns or observers may be placed with the professional educator. The District will request that the college or university advise the professional educators of the type and amount of honorarium to be paid at the time the professional educators are asked to be a supervising teacher/educational professional.

22.5 21.6 The District and the Association agree pipeline programs for future educators of color to join the District align with the District's and the Association's core values of racial equity and social justice and student achievement, particularly underserved students. The parties are in support of programs, such as the Portland ~~Rise to Teach Teacher Program (PTP)~~ and the District's Career Lattice Programs focused on educators of color, including the EA/Para-Teacher track and the Coach to Teacher Track. Applicants who have participated in the Portland Teacher Program, EA/Para-Teacher track, Coach to Teacher Track, or any other future Career Lattice Program focused on educators of color are eligible to receive letters of intent as described under Article 18.4.4.1.

22.6 Professional GrowthImprovement Fund

The District agrees to annually budget a fund to pay the expenses of professional educators who work half-time (.5) or more to attend professional conferences.

22.7 A conference to be attended may be selected by the professional educator. Approval shall not be denied provided the conference has a legitimate pedagogical purpose. Transportation, meals, lodging, and registration shall be deemed appropriate expenses. Meals shall be reimbursed at the IRS rate, which shall be adjusted annually. A professional educator attending such conferences and meetings shall be granted sufficient leave time to attend without loss of compensation. The approval shall designate what portion, if any, of such leave time shall be charged against professional leave. Professional educators shall, upon request, submit a written report regarding such conferences. Professional educators are eligible for advances on professional ~~growthimprovement~~ funds when necessary documentation is presented. If an advance is not requested, professional educators shall be reimbursed within thirty (30) days of submitting complete and accurate documentation of expenses.

22.7.1 Professional educators are eligible for advances on professional ~~growthimprovement~~ funds when necessary documentation is provided. If an advance is requested by the professional educator and such advance request is approved by the District, payment in consideration of that advance will be issued within thirty (30) days of the date the expense is expected to be incurred. Consistent with IRS regulation and District policies and procedures, the District's Travel/Training Expense Reimbursement Request Form and all supporting documentation of expenses related to the advance received must be submitted no later than sixty (60) days from the date the actual expense was incurred. The District shall notify the professional educator of the sixty-day (60-day) deadline when the member is approved for the funds, and thirty (30) days after the approved trip is scheduled to begin. For this provision "days" means calendar days.

22.7.2 If an advance is not requested, professional educators shall be reimbursed within thirty (30) days of submitting complete and accurate documentation of expenses. Consistent with IRS regulations and District policies and procedures, the District's Travel/Training Expense Reimbursement Request Form and all supporting documentation of expenses must be submitted no later than sixty (60) days from the date the expense was incurred.

22.7.3 If a professional educator submits for reimbursement beyond the sixty (60) day limit, the amount of reimbursement shall be reduced by the amount of employer and employee associated taxes.

22.8 ~~A professional educator may access her/his professional improvement funds for requests for High Objective State Standards of Evaluation (HOSSE) assessments or for State Approved Core Academic exams such as the Praxis or Oregon Educator Licensure Assessment (ORELA). Professional educators shall be reimbursed following sixty (60) days of submitting documentation of a passing score or a copy of the HOSSE request submitted to TSPC.~~

22.9 The cost of substitutes made necessary by attendance at conferences for which expenses are paid from the fund shall be borne by the District and shall not be charged against the fund.

22.10 The Guidelines for use of the Professional ~~Growth~~Improvement Fund shall be revised by the District and the Association and distributed to professional educators. Under this Agreement, the following guidelines shall be implemented:

22.10.1 One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1500) shall be available to professional educators only once every three years.

22.10.2 Applications must be processed within one (1) week of being submitted by the professional educator.

22.10.3 These funds shall not be available to temporary professional educators unless the temporary educator is employed for a position that is expected to exist for more than one hundred thirty-five (135) days. In addition, a temporary teacher who is employed for less than one hundred thirty-five (135) days may apply and may be approved for Professional ~~Growth~~Improvement Funds if their building administrator supports their application for the funds and expects the individual to be re-employed by the District the following year.