

ARTICLE 23

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATOR RIGHTS AND JUST CAUSE

23.1 No professional educator shall be disciplined, reprimanded, or reduced in compensation without just cause. Reprimands shall be made privately and not in the presence of students, parents, professional educators or members of the community. Professional educators who have completed three (3) full years of service and are not covered by the Fair Dismissal law shall not be dismissed without just cause. Plans of Assistance and Letters of Expectation are not disciplinary and shall not be issued for misconduct.

23.2 A determination of sexual conduct or abuse as provided by Oregon law is subject to just cause and other contractual provisions and may be grieved as outlined in Article 5.

23.3 This Article does not apply to dismissal, ~~except as provided in Section 23.4, non-extension~~ or nonrenewal of professional educators. However, professional educators subjected to nonrenewal or dismissal shall be afforded the procedural rights of due process.

23.4 **The dismissal, non-renewal or non-extension of a professional educator covered by the Oregon Fair Dismissal Law shall be governed solely by that statute.** ~~In the event of dismissal from employment a professional educator may elect to appeal the dismissal to binding arbitration in accordance with Section 5.5 of this Agreement, or the Fair Dismissal Appeals Board, but not both. Dismissal shall mean termination during the contract year for any professional educator or a second non-extension of a contract professional educator. The professional educator must so notify the Superintendent, in writing, within ten (10) calendar days after receipt of notice of the dismissal decision of the District's School Board. Probationary professional educators who are non-renewed and temporary professional educators completing the term of their contract may not appeal to arbitration.~~

23.5 The personal life of a professional educator is not an appropriate concern of the District, except where it relevantly affects the professional educator's fitness for or performance of **their** ~~his/her~~ professional duties.

23.6 **Removal from an Extended Responsibility Assignment**

23.6.1 If a professional educator is removed from an extended responsibility assignment, upon request **they s/he** shall be given the reasons in writing and afforded the opportunity to have a representative present in any discussion with the supervisor.

23.6.2 If a professional educator starts an extended responsibility assignment during a school year, and the professional educator is removed from the responsibility during the school year, the professional educator shall be paid the entire salary due for that assignment, unless the professional educator is ~~physically~~ unable to perform the extended responsibility assignment.

~~23.6.3 Dismissal of a professional educator whose assignment includes extended responsibility as an extension of the assignment (e.g., TOSA, Media Specialist, Music Teacher) is subject to Section 23.4.~~

23.7 **Administrative Support at Parent Meetings**

A professional educator has the right to administrative support at any meeting with a parent. Professional educators shall not be required to meet with a parent without a workday's advance notice. If during any meeting with a parent and administrator it appears to the professional educator that complaints are being made that could result in the discipline of the professional educator, that professional educator has the right to ask for representation before continuing the meeting. A professional educator has the right to ask the supervisor to take administrative charge of the meeting when such a meeting is dealing with the job performance of or a

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possible action against the professional educator. Tape recorders **and audio recordings** shall not be allowed without the consent of the professional educator.

23.8 **Investigations**

Whenever a professional educator is directed to meet with an administrator or other representative of the District regarding a matter which could result in disciplinary action, termination, nonrenewal or layoff, the professional educator shall be given prior written notice including:

23.8.1 A description of the issue to be discussed in such meeting, **including specific examples of the time, place and type of action being investigated, if known, at the meeting. -enough specifics for the professional educator to gather any material/information related to the allegation.-** and

23.8.2 The right to have representation by the Association or private legal counsel present to advise the professional educator during the meeting.

23.8.3 If additional reasons for a meeting emerge after the initial notice, the District will provide an additional notice with the additional reasons. If the professional educator believes there is insufficient time between the additional notice and the meeting, the District can choose between rescheduling the meeting later to investigate all reasons, or schedule a second meeting for the additional reasons.

23.8.4 Professional educators are not to be interviewed or questioned at the time of notice.

23.8.5 If the allegation is related to sexual conduct or abuse, the investigation will be conducted **by Employee & Labor Relations and/or an appropriate** a subject matter expert for sexual misconduct or abuse.

23.8.6 Bargaining Unit Members shall not conduct investigations of other bargaining unit members.

23.8.7 The parties shall cooperate in good faith to schedule the meeting within a reasonable period of time. The parties shall identify their respective representatives and communicate it to the other party prior to the meeting.

23.8.8 This section does not apply to a meeting where the sole reason for the meeting is to discuss re-assignment.

23.8.9 The written notice of the meeting shall not be placed into the professional educator's building file or personnel file but may be kept in an investigation file.

23.8.10 At the conclusion of the investigation, a determination will be issued and retained in the investigation file. A copy of the determination will also be provided to the professional educator. The determination shall be issued within thirty (30) calendar days of the conclusion of the investigation unless there are extenuating circumstances.

23.9 **Letter of Expectation**

23.9.1 A Letter of Expectation is a written notice of an expectation, standard, policy or procedure arising from a complaint or an administrative concern. Letters of Expectation will not include standards stated in the evaluation rubric. A Letter of Expectation is not a finding of fault or misconduct and is not a disciplinary action. **The District will not issue a Letter of Expectation with Just Cause.**

23.9.2 A Letter of Expectation must conform to the template agreed upon by the parties (Appendix K). Letters of Expectation shall be placed in the official district personnel file. Letters of Expectation shall be

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removed from the official district personnel file after six (6) years ~~two (2) years~~. Professional educators who have received a Letter of Expectation have the right to review any letters of expectation addressed to them and attach a response.

23.10 Paid Administrative Leave or Alternative Assignment

23.10.1 A professional educator who is removed from work pending an investigation and is available to report to work shall be placed on paid administrative leave or the District may place the professional educator in an alternative assignment. Alternative assignments will not result in a reduction in compensation or benefits.

23.10.2 If the professional educator on paid administrative leave is unavailable to report to work, **they** ~~he/she~~ will be removed from paid administrative leave status and will be able to appropriately use any leave accruals until the professional educator is available to report to work and be placed back on paid administrative leave status.

23.10.3 The District shall not dock a professional educator's paid leave balance in lieu of actual time off for a disciplinary suspension, or retroactively change Paid Administrative Leave to unpaid disciplinary suspension, unless there is agreement by the employee and Association.

23.10.4 Paid administrative leave or alternative assignment should be limited to situations where:

23.10.4.1 The presence of the employee in the workplace might tend to interfere with an investigation;

23.10.4.2 There are concerns the employee will repeat the alleged serious misconduct;

23.10.4.3 Removal of the employee from the worksite is appropriate to maintain the safety and security of students and/or staff; ~~or~~

23.10.4.4 The alleged misconduct is serious enough to result in dismissal, if substantiated.; **or**

23.10.4.5 Paid administrative leave is required by law.

23.10.5 Paid administrative leave letters will conform to the template attached as Appendix L of this Agreement and provide a description of the reason for the paid administrative leave, which is sufficient for the employee and Association to understand the events being referenced. The Association may contact the District's Labor Relations Office for additional information. The District shall place paid administrative leave letters in the investigation file, not in the professional educator's personnel file.

23.10.6 The investigation shall be conducted promptly in order to limit the time that the professional educator is involuntarily away from work. Investigations of professional educators on Paid Administrative Leave will be given priority over other investigations. If the administrative leave pending investigation lasts longer than ten (10) work days, the District shall notify the professional educator in writing of the reasons.

23.10.7 While on administrative leave, if a professional educator needs access to **their** ~~his/her~~ PPS email to gather evidence for the investigation, the District will work with the Association to allow for that access. By arrangement with the site administrator, the professional educator shall also have access to materials from **their** ~~his/her~~ classroom or office.

23.10.8 School and program administrators will not communicate that a professional educator is on administrative leave or disclose the reason for the administrative leave to staff, parents, students or the public. In the case where violence, child endangerment or criminal behavior is alleged, the administrator can inform those who need to know that the professional educator is not at the school. In all cases, when asked directly about the professional educator's whereabouts, the Administrator may respond that the professional educator is not at the school.

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23.11 Required Examination by Physician

23.11.1 The District may direct a professional educator to be examined by the professional educator's physician if there exist substantive reasons which call into question a professional educator's ability to perform assigned duties. The professional educator shall be counseled as to the concern that has prompted the referral. The professional educator shall provide the District a statement from ~~their~~ ~~his/her~~ personal physician that confirms that the District's concern is being addressed and that the professional educator is able to perform assigned duties or is unable to continue at the present time. The professional educator will not be required to release ~~their~~ ~~her/his~~ private medical records.

23.11.2 If the professional educator does not have a physician, or a substantive reason exists, the District may direct the professional educator to be examined by the District's physician. The District shall provide the professional educator with the reasons prior to being examined by the District's physician. The District shall pay for any such examinations and also provide the necessary release time. The District shall request that the physician only disclose medical information specific to the reason that prompted the referral.

23.12 A professional educator shall not be required by the District to involuntarily submit to testing of bodily fluids unless there is a substantive reason to believe the health and safety of others is at risk.

23.13 Exceptional Medical/Health Care Needs

Professional Educators routinely have assigned to their regular classrooms students with special needs. Some of these students have exceptional medical/health care needs that are of a nature requiring the use of technical procedures, medical hardware, or supplies in personal health maintenance cycles. Professional educators shall not be required to have back-up training or responsibilities for the medical procedure. (This does not eliminate the option of professional educators assisting in emergencies or in volunteering to participate in training and practices for which they feel some comfort.)

23.14 Lost Keys

Professional educators shall not be required to reimburse the District for lost keys. Professional educators will not be responsible for re-keying District facilities. Professional educators shall be responsible for safeguarding keys in accordance with District regulations.

23.15 Standardized Testing

Student performance on standardized tests is not designed or intended to and shall not serve as the basis for involuntary transfer, layoff, recall, placement on the salary schedule, and/or disciplinary action.

23.16 Respectful Working Environment

23.16.1 Purposeful, intentional conduct by an individual or group of individuals against another, if a reasonable person would consider the behavior to be threatening, intimidating or offensive, is inconsistent with a respectful work environment. Examples include verbal abuse or other behavior that demeans, threatens, humiliates or intimidates others in the workplace. No professional educator shall be retaliated against for reporting, grieving or protesting such behavior. Likewise, no professional educator shall retaliate against a co-worker, or other District staff for reporting, grieving and/or protesting such behavior on the part of a professional educator. This section shall not be interpreted to mean that bargaining unit members may file a grievance against other bargaining unit members.

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23.16.2 Reasonable counseling, discipline or job performance evaluations are consistent with a respectful working environment and are not prohibited by this provision.

23.17 The District shall comply with Oregon law that prohibits the use of polygraph examinations for employment purposes (ORS 659A.300); and prohibits an employer from requiring an employee to provide access to the employee's personal social media account (HB 2654 effective January 1, 2014).

ARTICLE 27 EVALUATION

27.1 The performance of professional educators shall be evaluated in writing in accordance with the provisions of the *Portland Public Schools Handbook for Professional Growth and Evaluation* (hereafter referred to as the “*Handbook*”) dated December 16, 2013. Any revisions of the Handbook shall be mutually agreed upon. The jointly agreed upon evaluation forms will be included in the Handbook.

27.2 The Handbook and appendices shall be made available in electronic form to all professional educators and District administrators. An electronic copy of the Handbook and appendices, including the Framework and appropriate forms setting forth criteria to be used in evaluations, shall be distributed to professional educators whenever the Handbook is revised and to all professional educators who are being newly evaluated using the Handbook.

27.3 An evaluator’s rating of a professional educator in an element or a component shall be based on direct evidence supporting the rating and the evaluator shall include the evidence in the written evaluation.

27.4 Testing

Student performance on District-wide and/or other standardized tests may indicate where modifications of instruction are required, and the implementation of such modifications may be part of the evaluation process. However, evaluations or criticism of a professional educator shall not be based specifically on the issue of comparisons of such student performances.

27.5 While varied sources of information are weighed and considered, observations of a professional educator’s performance and written evaluations shall be done only by licensed administrators. No member of the bargaining unit shall be the individual responsible for the evaluation of another member of the unit. Observations of professional educators made by non-administrators in the course of the non-administrators’ duties shall not be shared without written permission of the observed professional educator.

27.6 Evaluation Cycle

27.6.1 The evaluation cycle differs for probationary educators and contract educators. All professional educators in the bargaining unit shall be included in the definition of probationary or contract educators in accordance with Article 1: Status and Effect of Agreement.

27.6.2 Probationary professional educators shall be formally evaluated at least two (2) times during the school year. The written Formal Observation Summary (Form 5) shall be completed on the following schedule: Probationary 1: by October 31; Probationary 2: by the last working day preceding the Thanksgiving Holiday; and Probationary 3: by the last working day preceding the Winter Break. The Summative Evaluation Report (Form 6) for all probationary professional educators shall be completed by March 1st.

27.6.3 Unless substantive reasons exist, contract professional educators in Option 1 shall be on a two-year evaluation cycle. During year one (1), the Supported Phase of the cycle, contract professional educators will continue to work on their goals and reflect on their practice. During year one (1), the evaluator may conduct informal observations.

27.6.4 Substantive reasons shall include evidence of unsatisfactory performance as defined by the evaluation Framework, and as documented through informal observations. Assignment to a new building shall not be considered a substantive reason to be placed on a Supervised Phase.

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27.6.5 During year two (2), the Supervised Phase of the cycle, the process of observations and conferences described in the Handbook will culminate in a summative evaluation meeting in which the evaluator and professional educator shall review a written summative evaluation report.

The summative evaluation report shall be submitted by May 1st of the year it is due.

27.6.6 Upon request, a professional educator shall be provided with a copy of the original notes made by the evaluator during an observation.

27.6.7 A copy of the written evaluation shall be submitted to the professional educator at the time of the formal evaluation conference or within ten (10) days thereafter; one (1) copy is to be signed and returned to the administration, the other is to be retained by the professional educator.

27.6.8 A professional educator having more than one supervisor shall not be subject to more than one evaluation cycle / supervised phase. In addition, there shall be one of the two supervisors who conduct the evaluation; the additional supervisor may submit notes related to an observation being conducted.

27.7 Evaluation Committee

No later than 90 days following the ratification of this CBA, PPS and PAT form a committee that will develop an updated process and evaluation tool for educators to be used in the 2024-2025 school year. The new process will include a peer assistance and review process to be determined by the committee with final approval coming from the Superintendent. ~~The Evaluation Committee will meet to continue its work on the evaluation process and Handbook.~~

27.8 Observations and Conferences

27.8.1 Formal Observations

27.8.1.1 Formal observations shall be preceded by a pre-observation conference and shall be followed with a post-observation conference.

27.8.1.2 Following the observation, the evaluator shall give a copy of the original observation notes to the professional educator.

27.8.1.3 A post-observation conference between the professional educator and evaluator shall take place generally within five working days following the formal observation and shall be private.

27.8.2 Summative Evaluation

27.8.2.1 A Summative Evaluation Report shall be completed for probationary professional educators and submitted by March 1. A Summative Evaluation Report shall be submitted for contract professional educators at least every other year by May 1st of the Supervised Phase.

27.8.2.2 The educator shall sign a copy of the Final Summative Evaluation Report to signify receipt of, not agreement with, the Report.

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27.9 A professional educator or an administrator may request the presence of an observer at any formal evaluation meeting.

27.10 In the event that the professional educator feels that the evaluation was incomplete or unjust, ~~s/he~~ they may put ~~his/her~~ their objections in writing and have them attached to the evaluation report to be placed in ~~his/her~~ their personnel file. Such written objections shall normally be made within thirty (30) days of receipt of the evaluation.

27.11 Program of Assistance for Improvement Plans of Assistance

27.11.1 The Plans of ~~Program of~~ Assistance ~~for Improvement~~ shall be in writing and include the following:

27.11.1.1 A description of the deficiency which is to be addressed by the Plan ~~Program of~~ Assistance ~~for Improvement~~; and

27.11.1.2 A plan ~~program~~ for achieving the desired performance improvement. The plan ~~program~~ of assistance shall include:

23. The description of the improvement in performance that the educator is expected to achieve;

b. A description of resources to be used and assistance to be provided by the District; and

c. The plan ~~program~~ shall contain a reasonable timeline for completion and include a schedule for assessing progress towards achieving improvement in performance.

27.11.2 Upon request of the professional educator, following successful completion of a plan ~~program~~ of Assistance ~~for Improvement~~, the educator shall be given written verification. A copy of this notice shall be placed in the personnel file.

27.11.3-Waiver

~~27.11.3.1 The parties agree that the provisions of ORS 342.895(5) are hereby waived by the District for the duration of this Agreement. That is, should a grievance or other claim of violation of applicable evaluation procedures or fundamental unfairness in a Program of Assistance for Improvement be held by the Association or individual professional educator, such grievance shall be filed in a timely manner pursuant to the provisions of the grievance procedure set forth at Article 5: Grievance Procedure. Such a grievance shall not be held in abeyance for the timeline set forth in ORS 342.895(5). This waiver is subject to the repeal or amendment of ORS 342.895(5) during the term of this Agreement.~~

~~27.11.3.2 The parties understand that the filing of a grievance as described above shall not operate to delay or otherwise impede the District's right to implement the Program of Assistance for Improvement.~~

27.12 A grievance relating to an evaluation of a professional educator may be filed to the extent that it alleges:

~~27.12.1 An item is clearly untrue; or~~

27.12.2 A violation of the procedural requirements of this Article; or

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27.12.3 A violation of (a) specific provision(s) of the Handbook and any revisions to that document.

27.13 Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to limit the opportunity of the professional educator or of either party, to make claims concerning alleged violations of this Agreement or of policies, in their presentations to the Fair Dismissal Appeals Board.

27.14 A grievance arbitration will not result in a requirement that the evaluation be modified or withdrawn unless it is shown that a violation of the evaluation process as described above directly affected the outcome of the evaluation. If an arbitrator determines that a probationary professional educator was not evaluated as described in 27.12 and that the failure to follow the evaluation process directly led to the nonrenewal, discharge or dismissal, the arbitrator may reinstate the professional educator but shall have no authority to grant any additional years of employment status, including contract status, beyond that which existed at the time the original evaluation which was subject of the grievance occurred. Thus, the arbitrator shall have no authority to rule separately on the issue of the nonrenewal, discharge or dismissal of the professional educator.

ARTICLE 5 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

5.1 Definitions, Time Limitations

- 5.1.1 Grievance: A "grievance" is defined as an allegation by a professional educator, a group of professional educators or the Association that there has been a violation of any provision of this Agreement.
- 5.1.1.1 "Employee grievance" is a grievance by one (1) or professional educators, provided the conduct complained of directly affects the professional educator(s).
- 5.1.1.2 "Association grievance" is a grievance by the Association where the conduct complained of affects one or more professional educators or the Association.
- 5.1.1.3 Group grievance: If, in the judgment of the Association, a grievance affects a group or class of professional educators, the Association may submit such grievance in writing to the Chief Human Resources Officer or designee directly and the processing of such grievance shall be commenced at Level II. However, a group grievance affecting professional educators at a single building or an Association grievance affecting professional educators at a single building shall be initiated at Level I with the principal or immediate supervisor.
- 5.1.1.4 If a grievance arises from action or inaction on the part of a member of the administration at a level above the principal or immediate supervisor, the grievant shall submit such grievance in writing to the Chief Human Resources Officer and the processing of such grievance will be commenced at Level II. Grievances regarding salary and/or placement on the Appendix A salary schedule shall be filed with the Chief Human Resources Officer and shall be considered as a Level II grievance. The Level II, Step 1 hearing may be waived by mutual agreement.
- 5.1.1.5 Grievances that are reasonably related shall be joined and processed together.
- 5.1.2 Grievant: A "grievant" is the professional educator or professional educators or the Association making the claim.
- 5.1.3 Day or Workday: Unless specifically defined as calendar days, all days in this agreement mean contract days for the bargaining unit included in the standard calendar; excluding holidays, weekends, and other non-working days including winter, spring and summer breaks. During the summer recess, a grievance may proceed upon mutual consent of the parties.
- 5.1.4 All grievances shall be filed within thirty (30) days after the first knowledge by the injured party of the factual occurrences constituting the basis of the grievance. In case of an assignment, or other continuing classification or condition, a grievance concerning either past or future effects thereof may be limited in its remedy of past effects to adjustment no more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of the grievance.
- 5.1.5 A grievance may not be filed over a unit determination matter or a 1(e) violation of ORS 243.672 or a matter that would cause the District to commit an unlawful act or a matter imposed upon the District by a higher authority.
- 5.1.6 The District shall continue, with respect to professional educators, to provide the separate grievance procedure in existence with respect to issues arising solely under policies and regulations other than this Agreement, or regarding matters which are not employment relations as defined by law.

5.2 Purpose

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The purpose of this procedure is to secure, at the lowest possible level, equitable solutions to the problems that may from time to time arise affecting professional educators. Both the parties agree that these proceedings will be kept informal and confidential as may be appropriate at any level of the procedure.

5.3 General Procedures

5.3.1 Representation

A professional educator who initiates a grievance may elect to be represented by the Association or the professional educator may elect to represent ~~himself/herself~~ **themselves** at Levels I. If the professional educator elects to represent ~~himself/herself~~ **themselves**, the professional educator shall so indicate in writing and shall include a statement that the professional educator assumes responsibility for all costs which the professional educator incurs associated with the processing of the grievance.

5.3.2 Parties Present

5.3.2.1 The grievant shall have the right to be present with witnesses ~~statements~~ at ~~any~~ level-**2 or above** of the grievance process (but may waive this right through the Association representative). ~~The District and Association shall mutually agree upon a process prior to the grievance meeting, including the number of witnesses, to be utilized at Level II or above meeting. The presence of the administrator whose action is the subject of the grievance may be required.~~ The grievant is entitled to Association representation at any meeting or hearing held under this procedure.

5.3.2.2 When it is necessary, pursuant to the grievance procedure provided for in this Agreement, for grievants, building or program representatives, members of the Association's Advocacy Committee, or any other representative designated by the Association to attend a grievance meeting or hearing during a school day, up to up to two representatives and the grievant(s) shall, upon notice to his/her supervisor or principal, and to the Superintendent, be released without loss of pay, as necessary, in order to permit participation in the foregoing activities. However, should the participation of witnesses in the grievance procedure necessitate the employment of a substitute, the Association shall assume the responsibility for payment of the cost of the substitute.

5.3.3 Individual Adjustment

Any professional educator may file and process a grievance through Level II of this procedure and have said grievance adjusted without intervention of the Association provided:

5.3.3.1 the adjustment is consistent with the terms of this Agreement; and

5.3.3.2 the Association, or its designated Association representative at Level I, has been notified in advance of and given opportunity to be present at all meetings held pursuant to this Article. Any such grievance decision shall be forwarded to the Association.

5.3.4 Time Extensions

5.3.4.1 Time extensions shall be consented to in writing and shall be with the mutual consent of the grievant, or the Association, on behalf of a grievant, and the District.

5.3.4.2 Failure at any step of this procedure to communicate the decision in writing on a grievance within the specified time limit shall permit the grievant to proceed to the next step.

5.3.4.3 Failure at any step of this procedure to appeal the decision to the next step within the specified time limit shall be deemed to be acceptance of the decision rendered at that step.

5.3.5 Cooperation

All parties shall cooperate in the investigation of a grievance and promptly supply any readily available relevant information or documents to the other party.

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5.3.6 Limitation of Remedies

Except as otherwise provided by law, this grievance procedure shall constitute the exclusive remedy of professional educators and the Association.

5.3.7 Contents of Grievance

The written formal grievance shall, if applicable, contain the specific Agreement article and section that has allegedly been violated (*e.g.*, Article 23.8), and/or identify the basis for the grievance and include a short statement of the facts giving rise to the allegation and the relief sought. The written response shall include the decision and the rationale for such decision.

5.3.8 Separate Files

All documents, communications and records dealing with the processing of a grievance shall be filed in a separate grievance file which shall constitute a "personnel file," within the meaning of the confidentiality provisions of ORS 342.850. Access to those files shall be limited to those with a valid business interest in the case.

5.3.9 Forms

Grievance forms shall be prepared jointly by the administration and the Association and given appropriate distribution so as to facilitate operation of the grievance procedure.

5.3.10 Privacy

Except as otherwise provided by law or by agreement of the parties, meetings and hearings under this procedure shall not be conducted in public.

5.3.11 Reprisals

No reprisals of any kind shall be taken by the District or by any member of the administration against any grievant, representative, member of the Association, due to participation in the grievance procedure.

5.4 Levels and Steps

5.4.1 Level I. Principal or Immediate Supervisor

5.4.1.1 Step 1: An employee grievance or an Association grievance affecting professional educators at a single building shall be raised by the filing of a formal written complaint setting forth the material required by Section 5.3.7, at the office of the professional educator's supervisor.

5.4.1.2 Step 2: Within ten (10) days the grievance shall be discussed by the supervisor and the professional educator and, if requested by the professional educator, persons approved by the Association, one (1) of which shall be designated as the official representative for the professional educator.

5.4.1.3 Step 3: In the event no settlement occurs at the Step 1 meeting, the supervisor, within ten (10) days of the meeting, shall set forth the reasons for the decision.

5.4.1.4 Step 4: In the event no settlement occurs at Step 3, the grievance may be appealed to Level II by filing a written appeal within ten (10) days of receipt of the Step 3 response. Such appeal must specify the portions of the Step 3 response which are in disagreement and the manner in which each portion is in error.

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5.4.2 Level II. Chief Human Resources Officer or designee

- 5.4.2.1 An appeal of a grievance from Level I or a grievance filed by the Association affecting professional educators in more than one (1) building shall be filed at this level. In addition, certain administrative actions included in Section 5.1.1.4 shall also be initiated at this level. Only the Association may initiate or forward a grievance to Level II.
- 5.4.2.2 Step 1: Within ten (10) days of receipt of the grievance, the Superintendent or designee shall conduct a grievance hearing.
- 5.4.2.3 Step 2: Within ten (10) days following completion of the Level II, Step 1 hearing, the Chief Human Resources Officer or designee shall provide a written decision to the parties. However, at the request of the Chief Human Resources Officer or designee, or the grievant, an informal hearing meeting will be held within five (5) days to discuss the grievance and decision. In such case, the written decision shall be issued within five (5) days following the meeting.
- 5.4.2.4 Step 3: If the grievance is not settled at Level II, Step 2, a copy of the decision of the Chief Human Resources Officer, or designee shall be submitted to the Superintendent and the Board of Education.

5.5 Arbitration

- 5.5.1 If a grievance is not resolved at Level II, it may be appealed to arbitration within sixty (60) days of receipt of the Level II Step 2 decision. Only the Association may appeal a grievance to arbitration.

5.5.2 Requesting an Arbitrator

After receipt of the Level II, Step 2 response or decision, the Association may request a list of seven (7) Oregon and Washington arbitrators from the Oregon State Conciliation Service who are members of the American Arbitration Association Labor Panel. A copy of the request shall simultaneously be filed with the District. Each party shall then alternately strike one (1) name from the list supplied until one

(1) name remains and that person shall be arbitrator. The winner of a coin toss shall be the first to strike names. In the alternative, the parties may jointly agree upon any person to serve as arbitrator.

5.5.3 Authority of Arbitrator

The arbitrator shall be encouraged to issue a decision within twenty (20) days of the close of the hearing or submission of briefs, whichever occurs later. The arbitrator's decision shall be in writing and shall set forth findings of fact, reasons and conclusions. The arbitrator may not add to, subtract from, or modify the terms of this Agreement, and may not award punitive damages. The arbitrator's decision shall be final and binding.

5.5.4 Costs

Fees and expenses for the arbitrator shall be borne equally by the Association and the District.

5.5.5 Attendance

Persons having a direct interest in the arbitration are entitled to attend hearings, but the arbitrator shall have the power to require the retirement of any witness during the testimony of other witnesses.

5.5.6 Evidence

Except for evidence used solely for impeachment or rebuttal or to refresh recollection, evidence shall be restricted to exhibits made known to the other party at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the first arbitration session and to testimony from witnesses whose names were made known to such party within said time; provided that the arbitrator may, upon a showing of good cause or to prevent injustice, relieve a party from this restriction.

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5.5.7 Affidavits

The arbitrator may receive and consider the evidence of witnesses by affidavit, but shall give it only such weight as s/he deems proper after consideration of any objections made to its admission.

5.5.8 Oaths

Before proceeding with the first hearing, the arbitrator may take an oath of office. The arbitrator may require witnesses to testify under oath administered by any duly qualified person.

5.5.9 Waiver of Oral Hearings

The parties may provide by written agreement for the waiver of oral hearings.

5.5.10 Time and Place

The arbitrator shall fix the time and place for each hearing. At least five (5) days prior thereto, s/he shall mail notice of the time and place thereof to each party.

5.5.11 Order of Proceedings

The arbitrator may, at ~~his/her~~ **their** discretion, vary the normal procedure under which the initiating party first presents the claim (except in discipline cases), but in any case, shall afford full and equal opportunity to all parties for presentation of relevant proofs. The hearings may be reopened by the arbitrator on ~~his/her~~ **their** own motion or on the motion of either party for good cause shown at any time before the award is made, but if the reopening of the hearing would prevent the making of the award within the time specified in these procedures or any other specified time agreed upon by the parties in writing, that matter may not be reopened unless both parties agree upon the extension of such time limit.

5.5.12 Serving of Notices

Each party shall be deemed to have consented and shall consent that any papers, notices or processes necessary or proper for the initiation or continuation of an arbitration under these rules and for any court action in connection therewith or the entry of judgment of an award made thereunder may be served upon such party (a) by mail addressed to such party or ~~his/her~~ **their** attorney at ~~his/her~~ **their** last known address, or (b) by personal service on such attorney or the Employee Relations Department or the Office of the Association as applicable.

5.5.13 Communication with Arbitrator

Except as expressly authorized herein, there shall be no communication between the parties and the arbitrator other than at oral hearings and those necessary to accomplish the filing of evidence, briefs and papers, to arrange the order of proceedings and to provide notice. Prior to contacting an arbitrator, the opposing party shall be given notice by the initiator.

5.5.14 Arbitrability / Review of Arbitration Decision

Upon request of either party, the arbitrator shall first hear and rule in writing on questions of procedural and substantive arbitrability. Grievances, in order to be arbitrable, must have been processed according to this grievance procedure. Grievances must include only those issues described in Section 5.1.1 unless otherwise agreed to by the parties. Grievances shall be heard unless the contract clearly is not susceptible to the interpretation cited in the grievance. Ambiguity shall result in the grievance being considered. If neither party requests a separate hearing on grounds of arbitrability, and if the arbitrator still rules that a grievance is not arbitrable, s/he shall not comment on the merits of the grievance in any way.

5.5.15 Conflict of Interest

No person shall serve as arbitrator in any arbitration in which he or she has any financial or personal interest in the result of the arbitration, unless the parties, in writing, waive such disqualification. Prior to accepting the appointment or immediately upon receiving notice of this rule, whichever is later, the prospective arbitrator shall disclose to the parties any circumstances likely to create a presumption of bias or which might disqualify ~~him or her~~ **them**. If either party declines to waive the presumptive disqualification, the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the procedures described below.

5.5.16. Substitute Arbitrator

If any arbitrator shall resign, die, withdraw, refuse or be unable or disqualified to perform the duties of the office, it shall be vacant, and the matter may be reheard by a new arbitrator. A party desiring to fill such vacancy and continue arbitration must give notice thereof to the other party at the Oregon Employment Relations Board within five (5) days of the date of receipt of knowledge of the vacancy and request that the Employment Relations Board furnish an additional list of seven (7) arbitrators. The successor shall then be selected in the same manner as in the original selection.

ARTICLE 20 REDUCTION IN STAFF/LAYOFF

20.1 Notification of Reduction in Force/Layoff

20.1.1 In the event a layoff of professional educators is required during the course of the school year, the District shall notify the Association and the affected professional educators sixty (60) calendar days prior to the effective layoff date. If the layoff is to become effective the subsequent year, the District shall notify the Association as soon as the layoff decision is made.

20.1.2 Along with the notification, the District shall provide the Association with all relevant data, including but not limited to a seniority listing of professional educators in the areas of licensure or classification in which the layoff is required. The District shall schedule at least one (1) meeting annually with the Association to review the staffing process.

20.1.3. The District shall first determine the program(s) or area(s) scheduled for reduction or elimination.

20.1.3.1 The District shall provide an announcement to professional educators in those areas in which the layoff must occur, offering the opportunity for professional educators who would not otherwise be laid off, to voluntarily apply for one (1) year unpaid leaves of absence. A professional educator who volunteers for such leave and has ten (10) years of service with the District shall continue to receive District paid medical/dental benefits for up to one (1) year. Upon written request, such leave may be extended for an additional year providing the layoff condition remains in effect. Such professional educators shall have the same rights to return to the District as professional educators returning from leaves of absence.

20.1.3.1 The provisions of ORS 342.934(2) (a) and (b) relating to transferring professional educators and combining positions to avoid layoff shall apply.

20.1.4 Technology

If during the term of this Agreement bargaining unit positions are to be eliminated due to technology, the District will first notify the Association of such possibility and allow opportunity for discussions of other options which may be available, including retraining.

20.2 Lay-off

20.2.1 **Except as required by ORS 342.934, as it pertains to cultural competency and linguistic ability.** ~~(4)(b)~~ Professional educators shall be laid off according to length of continuous service with the District provided that those professional educators who are retained are both competent or will qualify as competent, and hold necessary licensure from TSPC or necessary certification or licensure under other professional disciplines. Length of service (seniority) shall be based on the first day of actual service with the School District. Leaves shall not be considered as interruptions of continuous service. If two or more professional educators have the same first date of actual service, seniority shall be determined by predetermined lot (done prior to the effective notice of layoff). Professional educators of less than half-time shall not be used to supplant professional educators who are half-time or more.

20.2.2 Competence shall be defined as the ability to teach a subject or grade level based on recent teaching experience related to that subject, as further defined by Appendix D, or grade level within the last five years, or educational **attainments** ~~obtainments~~, or both, but not based solely on being licensed to teach. The District shall consider a professional educator's willingness to undergo additional training or pursue additional education in deciding upon questions of competence. Grade level shall mean the grade levels PK-8, or 6-12. For the purpose of the articles on layoff and transfer, Behavior Management Specialists, Student Services Specialists, Child Development Specialists, Social Workers, School Psychologists, Audiologists, Special Education, English as a Second Language, and Bilingual Programs shall be considered as "subjects." For the purpose of the articles on layoff on transfer, a Bilingual Program is defined as a program where

50% or more of student instruction is in a language other than English.

- 20.2.3 Professional educators who do not have recent experience in the subject or grade level where they seek to be retained may nevertheless qualify as competent if they have completed recent (within the most recent five years) training that is agreed upon by both the district and the professional educator as adequate preparation for the assignment or are willing to complete training applicable to that subject or grade level. TOSAs, mentor teachers, and other specialists who work primarily with adults shall qualify as being competent in the subject area or grade level that they previously occupied within PPS even if they have been out of the position that primarily provides direct service to students for longer than five years. This provision shall also apply to released-time PAT officers.
- 20.2.4 If the professional educator asserts a right to be retained in a position(s) where ~~he/she~~ **they** has not had recent training or experience as defined above, the District and professional educator shall review the professional educator's training and experience to that date and determine the course of training to be completed. The District shall reimburse the professional educator for tuition according to Section 21.2.2 for any credit hours required by the District in this retraining plan. Professional educators may use their 12 hours of tuition reimbursement for a two-year period without limit in any one year for coursework required by the retraining plan. If the District and professional educator mutually agree, mentoring or other educational opportunities may be substituted for all or part of the college or District in-service credit required. The District shall provide final notification of the training or additional education requirements to be required and the timeline required, and the professional educator shall either accept the training as a condition of accepting the position or shall decline and thus be laid off.
- 20.2.5 Following the implementation of a layoff, the District may administratively transfer professional educators in accordance with Article 18 who remain as necessary to meet staffing needs.
- ~~20.2.6 If a professional member is to be/is fully or partially laid off and a portion of an assignment becomes available for which the professional educator is licensed and competent, the District shall assign the FTE to the professional educator or offer to recall the professional educator to that portion of the assignment. Professional educators who are partially laid off (have reduced FTE) shall have recall right to the portion of their position that was reduced. However, the District may reduce and/or increase FTE between .5 and .66, .67 and .74, and/or .75 and .99 without this resulting in a layoff.~~
- 20.2.7 No bargaining unit position in the District shall be considered "vacant" for purposes of ORS 342.845(5) if filling the position with a non-extended administrator would cause another professional educator to be laid off, or if there is a professional educator on the recall list who would otherwise be entitled to be recalled to that position.

20.3 Layoff Benefits

- 20.3.1 The District shall provide medical benefits to professional educators who are laid off for a period of three (3) months following the month in which their coverage would otherwise end. The laid off professional educator may then continue medical benefits at their own expense in accordance with the provisions established by the Health and Welfare Trust.
- 20.3.2 Professional educators covered by this article shall be given consideration for work as a substitute; such will not affect the professional educators' recall rights.

20.4 Recall

- 20.4.1 Professional educators who are laid off shall have the responsibility when asked originally to notify the District of their interest in and willingness to be recalled. They must reaffirm such interest by notification to the District's Human Resources Department, in writing, if asked, on or before April 1 of every year for three (3) years following their effective date of layoff.
- 20.4.2 Professional educators who are laid off shall be recalled to positions they are licensed and have competence or will qualify as competent (as defined in Section 20.2) to fill when a vacancy occurs, in the order of most senior first.
- 20.4.3 A professional educator who has been laid off may refuse one (1) job offer without loss of recall rights.

- 20.4.4 Professional educators who are recalled for an FTE amount less than their FTE amount at the time of layoff may decline the position and remain on the recall list until another position becomes available that is comparable in FTE to the position at the time of layoff. A member on lay-off who accepts a lower FTE job offer, shall remain on the recall list for their original FTE position.
- 20.4.5 The District's obligation to recall a professional educator shall terminate following three (3) years of layoff status or upon two (2) refusals by a professional educator to accept a position offered by the District or if the professional educator resigns.
- 20.4.6 If a professional educator is recalled, the professional educator must indicate ~~his or her~~ **their** acceptance within five (5) days following receipt of the notice of recall. The professional educator must report for work within thirty (30) days within up to sixty (60) days if the employer does not release such professional educator or sixty (60) days if employed by another District), following receipt of such notice or be considered to have refused the position. In doing so, shall relinquish any and all rights under this Agreement and shall be deemed as having resigned their employment with the District.
- 20.4.7 A professional educator who is recalled and returns to work shall return with the same probationary or contract status, placement on the salary schedule and all other seniority-related and accrued benefits held prior to being laid off.