

DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE

The Board of Directors recognizes that alcoholism and drug dependency are treatable diseases. Left untreated, they may result in serious personal and family problems. At the same time, the Board is also seriously concerned about the effects of alcohol and drug dependency upon an employee's job performance and ability to serve as a role model for our students.

The Board believes strongly that all employees and students should be able to work and learn in an environment free, from alcohol and drug abuse. Accordingly, the Board expects all employees to report for work and to perform their duties in a manner which does not jeopardize the health, safety and well-being of co-workers and students.

Any employee who suspects that he/she may have an alcohol or drug dependency problem is strongly encouraged to contact his/her supervisor to seek voluntary diagnosis and treatment. The employee will be provided confidential referral services to an outside agency upon request and assisted in determining the extent to which insurance coverage to help pay for such services is available. All voluntary referrals shall be kept confidential.

Prohibited Conduct

No employee shall distribute, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of any alcoholic beverage, malt beverage or fortified wine or other intoxicating liquor. Nor shall an employee unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess, use or be under the influence of any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, anabolic steroid or any other controlled substance (as defined in schedules I through V of section 202 of the federal Controlled Substance Act [21 USC § 812]; by regulation at 21 CFR, § 1300.11 through 1300.15; and in 17-A MRSA, § 1101). This applies-before, during and after school hours, at school or in any other school system location, defined as follows:

"School system location" means in any school building or on any school premises; in any school-owned vehicle or in any other school-approved vehicle used to transport students to and from school or school activities; off school property at any school-sponsored or school-approved activity, event or function, such as a field trip, or athletic event, where students are under the jurisdiction of the school, unit; or during any period of time such employee is supervising students on behalf of the school system or otherwise engaged in school unit business.

Any illegal use, possession, furnishing, selling or provision of assistance in obtaining alcoholic beverages or scheduled drugs not covered by the preceding paragraph is also prohibited.

In addition, employees (including coaches) are prohibited from selling, distributing or promoting any performance-enhancing substances included on the banned substances list prepared by the Maine Department of Health and Human Services Office of Substance Abuse.

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Appropriate disciplinary action shall be taken against any employee who violates this policy, up to and including dismissal. Referrals for assistance or treatment do not preclude disciplinary action being taken for violations of this policy.

As provided in the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, any employee is required to notify the school unit of a criminal or civil conviction for a drug violation occurring in the workplace no later than five calendar days after such conviction. In turn, the Superintendent, within 10 calendar days of learning of such a conviction, is to give written notification to the U.S. Department of Education and to any other federal agency from which the unit receives grant funds.

Implementation

The Superintendent shall be responsible for developing and administering appropriate procedures to implement this policy.

Communication

A copy of this policy is to be given or mailed to all current employees and to new employees at the time of their employment and is to be posted in appropriate locations throughout the school system.

Legal Reference: 21 U.S.C. § 812 (Controlled Substances Act)
21 C.F.R. §§ 1300.11-1300.15
Fed. P.L. 101-226
17-A MRSA § 1101
20-A MRSA § 6621 et seq.

Cross Reference: JICH - Drug and Alcohol Use by Students

Adopted: _____

PROFESSIONAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Board recognizes the importance of developing, maintaining, and extending the skills of staff members and encourages employees to engage in programs and activities that will lead to their professional growth and increased competence.

The Superintendent is authorized to initiate programs and activities which are designed to serve the following purposes:

- A. To provide a structure through which staff members can stay abreast of new developments in their areas of specialty;
- B. To familiarize staff members with new research and innovative teaching methods;
- C. To assist staff members in the process of change and school improvement; and
- D. To facilitate the development, implementation, and evaluation of new programs.

Within budgetary limitations, visitations and attendance at conferences may be approved by the Superintendent in accordance with Board policy.

Legal Reference: Chap. 125 (Maine Dept. of Ed. Rule)

ADOPTED: April 14, 1992

Recorded: June 1998

Reviewed & Approved: December 14, 2004

RECRUITING AND HIRING OF ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PROCEDURES

These procedures implement Board policy GCFB and are designed to establish a thorough, efficient and nondiscriminatory practice for the recruiting and hiring of the most qualified candidates for administrative positions.

A. Job Description Development/Review

To ensure that a written role description of the vacant position accurately represents the current functions and needs, the Superintendent/designee (the Board in a Superintendent search) is to:

1. Conduct a review of (if none exists, develop) the job description, with input from persons affected by the position;
2. Include the criteria (skills, knowledge, abilities) required to perform the duties/responsibilities of the position; and
3. List the minimum qualifications (training, education and experience) for the position.

B. Recruitment

To attract a strong pool of qualified candidates, the Superintendent/designee is to advertise (except in circumstances described in K below) by:

1. Posting the notice of the vacancy within the unit;
2. Placing a display advertisement in appropriate print media, considering at least one appearance in a major Maine weekend or Sunday newspaper; and
3. Identifying and notifying other possible sources of potential candidates, such as professional associations, educational administration programs and placement offices at colleges and universities in Maine and other states, and the Maine Department of Education.

C. Screening

To ensure that a fair and efficient screening process will occur, the Superintendent/designee is to:

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1. Ensure that all applications are reviewed by more than one individual with attention given to an unbiased regard for the criteria and qualifications in the job description;
2. Appoint a screening panel with representation as deemed appropriate to the particular vacancy;
3. Provide orientation on confidentiality and equity issues to screeners;
4. Eliminate all candidates who do not meet the minimum qualifications;
5. Conduct preliminary reference checks, as appropriate;
6. Select candidates for interview based on the degree to which they meet the criteria and demonstrate the skills, knowledge and abilities outlined in the job description; and
7. Notify applicants not selected for interview.

D. Interviewing

To ensure that the interview process will be conducted in a legal and proper manner, the Superintendent/designee is to:

1. Appoint an interview panel (may be the same persons who serve the screening function) with representation as deemed appropriate to the particular vacancy;
2. Provide orientation on the process including the function and extent of responsibility of the panel, the weighting of criteria and the nomination/hiring procedure; and
3. Conduct training to ensure that panel members are aware of the legal aspects of interviewing, including confidentiality and equity issues.

The interviewing panel is to:

1. Design interview questions which match the criteria and the duties/responsibilities outlined in the job description; and

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2. Provide equal opportunity for the candidates to respond to the same questions/questioners.

E. Selection

The interview panel is to:

1. Individually assess the candidates according to their answers to the job description-related questions, rating and commenting on each using a specially prepared form corresponding to the questions/criteria; and
2. Submit a report to the Superintendent, including the individual rating forms as well as a list (usually 2 to 4) of candidates to be considered further for the position.

The Superintendent/designee is to:

1. Have reference contacts made, as appropriate, to check perceived strengths and weaknesses of the candidates;
2. Review the material on the finalist candidates to determine whether additional information is needed;
3. Conduct final interviews of any or all finalists, as deemed necessary;
4. Select the most qualified candidate who fits the criteria and the duties/responsibilities outlined in the job description, based on his/her own professional judgment along with those of the interview panel (or, reject all finalists, reopen the position and begin the process anew); and
5. Have any further reference checks made, as appropriate.

F. Nomination/Employment

The Superintendent is to:

1. Notify and obtain agreement of the successful candidate, pending Board approval;
2. Inform the interview panel; and

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3. Nominate and employ the successful candidate in accordance with state law and local policies.

G. Notification

The Superintendent/designee may:

1. Notify the nominee of the Board approval and employ the administrator;
and
2. Notify the other candidates interviewed.

H. Orientation and Support

To ensure that the new administrator is provided with the proper information about the system and job expectations, the Superintendent/designee is to provide an orientation that includes expectations of the duties/responsibilities of the position along with the policies and procedures of the local school unit.

I. Record Keeping

To ensure that the confidentiality of employee and applicant records are properly maintained, the Superintendent is to provide for the maintenance in secure files of all applications and documentation of the hiring, screening and interviewing process for a period of three (3) years.

J. Confidentiality

To ensure that confidentiality is maintained throughout and permanently following the hiring process, the Board, all employees involved, and any other participants are to maintain absolute confidentiality about candidates, including names, in accordance with state law (20-A MRSA § 6101). The Board is to assume responsibility through the Superintendent for providing adequate orientation at appropriate stages of the process, including at the completion.

K. Hiring of Current Employees

The school unit may forego one or more of the steps set forth in sections B-E of this procedure and appoint a person who is currently employed by the unit to fill

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an administrative position only if the Superintendent, after consultation with the School Board, or the Board in a Superintendent search, determines that the following circumstances exist:

1. The currently employed candidate is exceptionally well qualified for the position; and
2. The decision to forego all or part of the recruitment and screening process will not detract from the goals of this policy.

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The recruiting and hiring of highly qualified administrative personnel is crucial to the overall success of the educational program. The School board is committed to establishing a process that will attract and retain the best possible administrators for the Cape Elizabeth Schools.

~~Furthermore, the School~~In response to an Act to Promote Equity of Opportunity for Women in Administrative Positions in the Public School System (PL 1990, Chap. 889), the Board affirms its commitment to the strict prohibition of discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, national origin or ancestry, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, genetic information or disability, and to obtaining the principle of affirmative action to obtain wide and representative candidate pools.

~~In accordance with 20A:20-A MRSA, section § 1001.13, there will be a written~~the Superintendent shall prepare a procedure designed to ensure nondiscriminatory practices~~practice~~ in recruitment and hiring for all positions requiring administrator certification and, ~~as well as to ensure~~result in selection of the most qualified candidates. This procedure ~~is~~shall be attached hereto as GCFB-R, and shall be reviewed periodically.

~~In the event of an~~Moreover, upon each occasion of administrative vacancy, the Superintendent shall review the procedure and adapt it as necessary. ~~In the case of a vacancy in the superintendency, the Board shall review and adapt the procedure as~~make appropriate adaptations as may be warranted by special circumstances.

~~In accordance with 20A:20-A MRSA, section § 4502.4-A, the unit's~~unit's Affirmative Action Plan shall include: a description of the status of the ~~unit's non-discriminatory~~unit's nondiscriminatory administrator hiring practice; plans for in-service training programs on gender equity for teachers, administrators, and the School Board; and the relationship of the above to the ~~State's~~State's five-year goal for the employment of women in administrative positions.

(See Cape Elizabeth Hiring Procedures Manual)

Legal Reference: 5 MRSA § 4576
20-A MRSA §§ 6, 254.8-10, 256.1, 7, 1001.13, 4502.4A, 13011.6, 13019-A.1D, 13019-B.1C

Cross Reference:

GCFB-R – Procedure for Recruiting and Hiring of Administrative Staff
AC – Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
GCF - Professional Staff Hiring

ADOPTED: March 12, 1996
REVISED: June 10, 2003
REVISED: December 14, 2004

FAMILY CARE LEAVE

Maine’s “Act to Care for Families” requires employers who provide paid leave under the terms of a collective bargaining agreement or employment policy to allow employees to use such leave to care for an immediate family member who is ill (hereafter referred to as “family care leave”) in accordance with the conditions described in this policy.

I. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions from the Act to Care for Families apply:

- A. “Immediate family member” means an employee’s child, spouse or parent.
- B. “Paid leave” means time away from work by an employee for which the employee receives compensation, and is limited to sick time, vacation time, compensatory time and leave that is provided as an aggregate amount for use at the discretion of the employee for any of these same purposes. Paid leave does not include paid short-term or long-term disability, catastrophic leave or similar types of benefits.

II. Amount of Leave Available

An employee may take up to 40 hours of available paid leave (or the amount provided by an applicable collective bargaining agreement if that is greater) as family care leave per 12-month period. For the purposes of this policy, the 12-month period is **[Note: We suggest inserting the same period as the school unit uses to calculate FMLA leave here]**. An employee may not use paid leave for family care leave purposes until it has been earned. If the employee has more than one type of paid leave available under an applicable collective bargaining agreement or employment policy, he/she may specify which type and the amount of each type of leave to be used as family care leave.

All family care leave taken by an employee shall be counted toward his/her entitlement under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act or state Family Medical Leave Act.

III. Employee Notice Requirements

Notice and verification requirements for use of family care leave shall be the same as those required by the school unit for an employee’s own illness. The employee must specify that leave is being taken pursuant to the Act to Care for Families. **[Note: The school unit should revise any applicable leave forms to include this requirement.]**

Legal Reference: 26 M.R.S.A. § 636

Cross Reference: GBN – Family and Medical Leave