

## **PERSONNEL SERVICES**

**Policy 4120**  
**(Regulation 4120)**  
**(Form 4120)**

### **Employment**

#### **Employment Procedures**

The Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent, votes on the employment of all staff members. In approving applicants the Board will be guided by the desire to obtain individuals committed to providing the highest quality education for the District's students. For Title I staff qualifications and hiring, refer to Policy and Regulation 1621 – Title I.

No person will be employed by the Board until the District obtains a clear criminal records check and a clear check of the DHSS Family Care Safety Registry. Additionally, and prior to offering employment to any teacher who had previously been employed by a Missouri school district or charter school, the Superintendent/designee shall obtain from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education the identity of the school district or charter school that had previously employed the applicant. The District will contact the former employer to determine if such applicant had been terminated or resigned in lieu of termination; or against whom allegations of sexual misconduct had been substantiated by the Children's Division.

All persons employed by outside vendors/contractors who will have contact with students will be required to successfully undergo a criminal records and a clear check of the Child Abuse/Neglect Registry prior to contact with students. Such background checks will be performed at the vendors/contractors' expense and will, upon request, be shared with the District. All finalists for an employment position will be required to sign a release of liability authorizing prior employers, including school districts, to furnish any information about the applicant and the applicant's work performance, including but not limited to discipline records and performance evaluations. The administration may also conduct random background checks after employment. Failure to check references and prior employment for new hires prior to their start date may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension without pay.

The District will participate in the Missouri Rap Back Program. In doing so, the District will comply with all procedures issued by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding the Missouri and National Rap Back Program. As a result, the District will be notified by the Highway Patrol when a new arrest has been reported of a District employee. The District will then request the individual's updated criminal record history.

As part of the criminal records check, any person employed after January 1, 2005, shall submit two sets of fingerprints to be used by the Missouri Highway Patrol and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The fingerprints shall be collected pursuant to standards determined by the Missouri Highway Patrol. All District employees who are authorized to access the Missouri Automated Criminal History Site (MACHS) will only use such criminal history information for purposes of verifying qualifications for employment. The District will not create copies of the criminal record for employment record purposes and will not disseminate the record, except as permitted by law.

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The District will designate a full-time employee, who will be fully trained in the Missouri Highway Patrol's automated criminal history site (MACHS), to serve as the District Local Agency Security Officer (LASO). The District's LASO Security Officer will be responsible for implementation and oversight of the District's Use of MACHS for all applicants. Any employee who attempts to access MACHS without authorization, improperly disseminates an applicant's criminal history record or facilitates unauthorized access to MACHS, will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination. Such improper use of the MACHS system constitutes an "incident" requiring reporting. Immediately upon knowledge of an "incident," the District's Local Agency Security Officer (LASO) will be notified, in writing, describing the "incident." The LASO Officer will then notify the Missouri Highway Patrol with the details of the "incident."

All vacancies should be posted for a minimum of ten (10) school days before the Superintendent may recommend a qualified applicant to the Board for employment. In an emergency situation the Superintendent may temporarily employ an applicant prior to the expiration of the posting. The temporary applicant may be considered along with other applicants for the position after the ten days. However, in order to hire a Board member's spouse, the position must have been posted for a minimum of ten (10) days. (Refer to Policy 0342 – Nepotism, Conflict of Interest and Financial Disclosure.)

The Superintendent or his designee is the person who shall respond to requests from potential employers for information regarding a former District employee. The information the District should provide is title, position, length of employment, whether the employee was terminated or resigned, and whether the District would re-hire the employee.

Additionally, when requests for information from any public school regarding a former employee against whom allegations of sexual misconduct involving a student have resulted in a determination by the Board of an actual violation of sexual misconduct pursuant to Board Policy; a resignation in lieu of termination; or allegations of sexual misconduct that have been substantiated by Children's Division, the Superintendent or his designee shall disclose to the requesting school the allegations of sexual misconduct and the findings of a Children's Division investigation.

Any school district employee who is permitted to respond to requests for information, acting in good faith, who reports authorized information, as provided in this policy or, who, in good faith, reports alleged sexual misconduct on the part of a District employee, will not be disciplined or discriminated against because of such report.

This foregoing policy is intended to comply with the Amy Hestir Student Protection Act, Senate Bill 54, including section 162.068 RSMo. The District shall provide notice of this policy to all

current employees and to all potential employers who contact the District regarding the possible employment of a District employee.

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**Certificated Staff**

All staff members shall be appointed by the Board only upon recommendation of the Superintendent. Should a person nominated by the Superintendent be rejected by the Board, it shall be the Superintendent's duty to make another nomination.

The Superintendent shall ensure that all persons nominated for employment meet certification requirements and the qualifications established for the particular position.

Interviewing and selection procedures shall assure that the principal or other administrator to be directly responsible for the work of the staff member has, to the extent possible, an opportunity to aid in his/her selection; however, the final selection shall be made or approved by the Superintendent.

All candidates shall be considered on the basis of their merits and qualifications and the needs of the school system. In each instance the Superintendent and others playing a role in the selection shall seek to hire the best-qualified person for the job. No person shall on the basis of sex, race, religion, national origin, marital status, age or disability that will not impair performance be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in employment for recruitment, consideration, or selection, therefore, whether full-time or part-time, certificated or noncertificated, under any educational program or activity operated by the District.

To teach in the public schools of Missouri, the teacher must possess an appropriate and valid teaching certificate. The laws state specifically that the teacher must not assume that a portion of the school year can be taught before obtaining a certificate, because the certificate must be in force for the full time for which the contract is effective, beginning the first day of school. If the teacher does not already have a teacher's certificate or has not made arrangements to secure it, he/she should contact the office of the Superintendent/designee at once to make such arrangements. This certificate, along with official copies of transcripts showing all college hours and degrees must be kept on file with this office. If the certificate or letter of intent from the State Department is not on file, no salary payments will be made.

### **Retired Certificated Teachers-Critical Shortage**

If the District itself determines that it has a critical shortage of teachers, the District may employ retired teachers who are currently receiving PSRS retirement benefits. Retired teachers employed under this subsection will not lose these retirement benefits and may teach under this program for up to four (4) years. The exact number of retired certificated teachers that may be employed at any one time as a result of the critical shortage is the greater of 1% of the total of teachers and noncertificated staff or five (5) teachers, whichever is greater.

In determining whether the District has a critical shortage of certificated teachers, the District will:

1. Make a good faith effort to recruit certificated teachers;
2. Post vacancies for at least one month;
3. Not have offered an early retirement incentive program (ERIP) in either of the two preceding years;
4. Solicit applications through the media and through teacher preparation programs;
5. Determine that there is an insufficient number of eligible applicants; and
6. Declare a critical shortage of certificated teachers for one year.

### **Retired Non-Certificated Employees – Critical Shortage**

If the District determines that it has a critical shortage, the District may employ retired noncertificated employees who are receiving non-teacher retirement benefits for up to four (4) years. Retired persons employed under this subsection will not incur a reduction of retirement benefits during such employment. The total number of such retired noncertificated at any one time will be determined by calculating 10% of the total noncertified staff or five (5) employees, whichever is lesser. The procedures for determining a critical shortage shall utilize the six criteria set forth in the preceding paragraph. However, the determination of critical shortage must be made for each of the groups of retired employees.

### **Support Staff**

Letters of employment for support staff are issued as soon as feasible after salary schedule and terms have been approved by the Board. Since full-time employees begin their year on July 1, the target date for issuance of letters of employment is as close to the beginning of the fiscal year as possible.

The work year for support staff personnel will be set by the Board based on classification and responsibilities.

Support staff employees will be paid on the Board-approved salary schedule.

### **Immigration Reform and Control Act**

The federal Immigration Reform and Control Act requires all employers to hire only American citizens and aliens who are authorized to work in the United States in order to preserve jobs for those who are legally entitled to them. The District will implement the following procedures to assure compliance with the law:

1. Any employee hired after November 6, 1986, will complete an Eligibility Verification Form (Form I-9), and will produce documents that will establish his/her identity and eligibility to work. (Form I-9 contains a list of documents that will fulfill this requirement.)
2. The District will retain an individual's Form I-9 for three years after the date of hire or one year after the individual is terminated, whichever is later.
3. The form may be reviewed by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and potentially by other federal agencies. In order to minimize potential intrusion, Eligibility Verification Forms will be maintained separately from the employee's personnel files as stipulated in Policy 4860.

For further information concerning the procedures surrounding the Form I-9 or the District's obligations under the Act, consult the District office responsible for personnel matters.

Applicants whose fingerprints have been taken as part of the MACHS criminal record check, as required by the District, are entitled to the following rights:

1. Notification that the applicant's fingerprints will be used to check the criminal history records of the FBI.
2. If the applicant is determined to have a criminal record, he/she will be provided with an opportunity to challenge the report.
3. Applicants determined to have a criminal history record will be advised of the procedure for obtaining a change, correction or update within Title 28 Code of Federal Regulation.
4. If the applicant has a criminal record history, the applicant will be given a reasonable amount of time to correct the record before employment is denied because of the criminal history.

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