

Termination of Employment

The superintendent has the statutory authority to issue probable cause for termination to a certificated staff member. The board will consider the termination of a classified staff member based upon the recommendation of the superintendent. The notice of termination will include notice of any appeal rights the employee may have and notice of the appeal processes.

A. Release from Contract

A certificated staff member may be released from contract under the following conditions:

1. A letter requesting release will be submitted to the superintendent's office. If accepted by the board at its next meeting, the staff member will be released from contract.
2. A release from contract may be granted by the board to allow a staff member to accept another position prior to or during the school year provided a satisfactory replacement can be obtained.
3. A release from contract may be granted by the board in case of illness or other personal matters which make it a substantial hardship for the staff member to continue his/her employment in the district.
4. Each request will be determined upon its own merits. The needs of the district and continuity of the educational program offered to students will receive primary consideration in the board's decision.

B. Resignation

In order to permit proper staff planning and to minimize inconvenience to others who may be affected, certificated staff who plan to resign at the end of their contract period are requested to notify the superintendent of their resignation or retirement by April 1 (or the district may insert alternate date).

Those staff who are not contractually obligated to complete the current school year should notify the superintendent as early as possible of their intent to resign and no less than 30 days prior to their last working day.

C. Retirement

Staff will participate in the retirement programs under the Federal Social Security Act and the Washington State Teachers' Retirement System or the Public Employees' Retirement System. Payroll deductions will be made and paid into the respective retirement programs in the manner prescribed by law.

Staff who become eligible to retire under the controlling retirement system and who intend to retire at the end of the current school year should notify the superintendent prior to April 1st of that year.

Those staff intending to retire who are not contractually obligated to complete the current school year should notify the superintendent as early as possible and no less than 30 days prior to their retirement date. Because of their contribution to the children of the district, retiring staff will be given appropriate recognition. The district office may assist them in making arrangements for their retirement benefits.

D. Probation, Non-renewal or Termination

The employment contracts of individual certificated staff may be non-renewed at the end of the staff member's contract period by action of the superintendent. Such non-renewals may be based upon unsatisfactory performance or changes in the district's financial circumstances and/or staffing needs. Except for "provisional employees," non-renewals for unsatisfactory performance will be preceded by a probationary period.

The superintendent will establish procedures to assist those certificated staff whose performance, through the evaluation process, does not meet minimum requirements.

Beginning with the 2015-16 school year, evaluation results for certificated classroom teachers, certificated principals and assistant principals must be used as one of multiple factors in making human resource and personnel decisions. Human resource decisions include but are not limited to: employee assignment, including the consideration of an agreement to an assignment by an appropriate teacher, principal and superintendent and reduction in force. The district will not be limited in its ability to collectively bargain how the multiple factors will be used in making human resource and personnel decisions, but the evaluation results must be a factor.

The failure of any evaluator to evaluate or supervise or cause the evaluation or supervision of certificated classroom teachers, certificated support personnel or administrators in accordance with the revised evaluation system, when it is his or her specific duty to do so, will be sufficient cause for the non-renewal of any such evaluator's contract under RCW 28A.405.210 or the discharge of such evaluator under RCW 28A.405.300.

E. Program and Staff Reductions

Program and staff reductions may be required as a direct result of enrollment decline, failure of a special levy election or other events resulting in a significant reduction in revenue, or termination or reduction of funding of categorically-funded projects. The board will, after a review of such indicators as test results, community surveys, informal and formal statements of support and/or opinion and the district's statement of philosophy, identify those educational programs and services which will be reduced, modified or eliminated.

When the reduction, modification or elimination of programs and/or services necessitates a reduction in staff, the board will retain staff members based upon service in the state of Washington and qualifications and experience necessary for the retained position.

A staff member who receives notice of non-renewal of contract due to enrollment decline or loss of revenue may, in his/her request for a hearing, stipulate that initiation of the arrangements for a hearing officer will occur within 10 days following July 15, rather than the day the staff member submits the request for a hearing.

The superintendent will develop procedures to implement this policy except that any collective bargaining agreement in effect will supersede this policy.

Cross References:

5240 - Evaluation of Staff

5006 - Certification Revocation

Legal References:

RCW 28A.400.300 Hiring and Discharging Employees —
Written leave policies — Seniority and leave benefits, retention
upon of employees transferring between school districts and
other educational employers

RCW 28A.400.320 Mandatory termination of classified
employees — Appeal — Recovery of salary or compensation by
district

RCW 28A.400.340 Notice of discharge to contain notice of right
to appeal if available

RCW 28A.405.100 Minimum criteria for the evaluation of
certificated employees - Revised four-level evaluation systems
for classroom teachers and principals - Procedures - Steering
committee - Models - Implementation - Reports

RCW 28A.405.140 Assistance for teacher may be required after
evaluation

RCW 28A.405.210 Conditions and contracts of employment —
Determination of probable cause for non-renewal of contracts —
Nonrenewal due to enrollment decline or revenue loss — Notice
— Opportunity for hearing

RCW 28A.405.220 Conditions and contracts of employment —
Non-renewal of provisional employees — Notice — Procedure

RCW 28A.405.300 Adverse change in contract status of
certificated employee — Determination of probable cause —
Notice — Opportunity for hearing

RCW 28A.405.310 Adverse change in contract status of
certificated employee, including non-renewal of contract —
Hearings — Procedure

RCW 28A.405.470 Crimes against children — Mandatory termination of certified — employees — Appeal— Recovery of salary or compensation by district

RCW 28A.410.090 Revocation of authority to teach — Criminal basis — Complaints — Investigation — Process

RCW 41.32.240 Membership in system

RCW 41.33.020(6) Terms and provisions of plan

RCW 41.40.023 Membership

Chapter 41.41 RCW State Employees' Retirement — Federal Social Security

WAC 180-44-060 Drugs and alcohol — Use of as cause for dismissal

Chapter 181-86 WAC Policies and procedures for administration of certification proceedings

WAC 181-87 Acts of Unprofessional Conduct

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