



2018 - 2019

Employee  
Handbook

MERCER COUNTY SCHOOLS

# 2018 - 2019 Employee Handbook

---

Mr. Dennis Davis, Superintendent  
Mercer County Board of Education  
530 Perryville Rd.  
Harrodsburg, KY 40330  
Phone 859.733.7000 • Fax 859.733.7004  
[www.mercer.kyschools.edu](http://www.mercer.kyschools.edu)

As required by law, the Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, genetic information or disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to its facilities to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

# Table of Contents

Table of Contents	i
Introduction	1
<b>WELCOME</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>DISTRICT MISSION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>FUTURE POLICY CHANGES</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CENTRAL OFFICE PERSONNEL</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SCHOOL CALENDAR 2018-2019</b>	<b>5</b>
General Terms of Employment	6
<b>EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>HARASSMENT/DISCRIMINATION</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>HIRING</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>TRANSFER OF TENURE</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>JOB RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK AND TESTING</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>CONFIDENTIALITY</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>INFORMATION SECURITY BREACH</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>SALARIES AND PAYROLL DISTRIBUTION</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>HOURS OF DUTY</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>SUPERVISION RESPONSIBILITIES</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>BULLYING</b>	<b>10</b>
Benefits and Leave	11
<b>INSURANCE</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>SALARY DEDUCTIONS</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>CAFETERIA PLAN</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>HOLIDAYS</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>ANNUAL LEAVE</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>LEAVE POLICIES</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>PERSONAL LEAVE</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>SICK LEAVE</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>SICK LEAVE DONATION PROGRAM</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>FML BASIC LEAVE ENTITLEMENT</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>MATERNITY LEAVE</b>	<b>16</b>

<b>EXTENDED DISABILITY LEAVE</b> _____	16
<b>EDUCATIONAL LEAVE</b> _____	16
<b>EMERGENCY LEAVE</b> _____	17
<b>JURY LEAVE</b> _____	17
<b>MILITARY/DISASTER SERVICES LEAVE</b> _____	17
Personnel Management _____	18
<b>TRANSFER</b> _____	18
<b>EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE</b> _____	18
<b>RETIREMENT</b> _____	18
<b>EVALUATIONS</b> _____	18
<b>TRAINING/IN-SERVICE</b> _____	19
<b>PERSONNEL RECORDS</b> _____	19
<b>RETENTION OF RECORDINGS</b> _____	19
Employee Conduct _____	20
<b>ABSENTEEISM/TARDINESS/SUBSTITUTES</b> _____	20
<b>STAFF MEETINGS</b> _____	20
<b>POLITICAL ACTIVITIES</b> _____	20
<b>DISRUPTING THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS</b> _____	20
<b>PREVIEWING STUDENT MATERIALS</b> _____	21
<b>CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES</b> _____	21
<b>DRUG-FREE/ALCOHOL-FREE SCHOOLS</b> _____	21
<b>DRUG-TESTING</b> _____	22
<b>WEAPONS</b> _____	23
<b>TOBACCO PRODUCTS</b> _____	23
<b>USE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY</b> _____	24
<b>USE OF PERSONAL CELL PHONES/TELECOMMUNICATION DEVICES</b> _____	24
<b>HEALTH, SAFETY AND SECURITY</b> _____	24
<b>ASSAULTS AND THREATS OF VIOLENCE</b> _____	25
<b>CHILD ABUSE</b> _____	25
<b>USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION</b> _____	25
<b>CIVILITY</b> _____	25
<b>GRIEVANCES/COMMUNICATIONS</b> _____	26
<b>GIFTS</b> _____	26
<b>OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT OR ACTIVITIES</b> _____	26
<b>REQUIRED REPORTS</b> _____	26
<b>CODE OF ETHICS FOR CERTIFIED SCHOOL PERSONNEL</b> _____	29
Acknowledgement Form _____	31
<b>EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING FOR DRUG/ALCOHOL TESTING</b> _____	32

# Introduction

## Welcome

Welcome to Mercer County Schools.

The purpose of the handbook is to acquaint you with general Board of Education policies that govern and affect your employment and to outline the benefits available to you as an employee of the District.

Because this handbook is a general source of information, it is not intended to be, and should not be interpreted as, a contract. It is **not** an all-encompassing document and may not cover every possible situation or unusual circumstance. If a conflict exists between information in this handbook and Board policy or administrative procedures, the policies and procedures govern. It is the employee's responsibility to refer to the actual policies and/or administrative procedures for further information. Complete copies of those documents are available at the Central Office and in the Principal's office. Policies and procedures also are available online via the District's web site or through this Internet address: <http://policy.ksba.org/m14>. Any employee is free to review official policies and procedures and is expected to be familiar with those related to his/her job responsibilities. Employees and students who fail to comply with Board policies may be subject to disciplinary action. **01.5**

School council policies, which are also available from the Principal, may also apply in some instances. **02.4241**

In this handbook, **bolded policy codes** indicate related Board of Education policies. If an employee has questions, s/he should contact his/her immediate supervisor or Central Office.

## District Mission

The goal of the Mercer County Schools is to promote excellence in a positive academic, social and extra-curricular environment which emphasizes equity, diversity, safety and respect. The Mercer County School District provides a diverse, challenging, and supportive academic curriculum for all students. Mercer County Schools strive to remove barriers to student learning by incorporating teaching strategies and materials which address the different learning styles reflected in the diversity of the community. Mercer County Schools continues its commitment to educational equity and the valuing of diversity by exposing all students to different cultures and by promoting positive interaction with diverse groups.

## Future Policy Changes

Although every effort will be made to update the handbook on a timely basis, the Mercer County Board of Education reserves the right, and has the sole discretion, to change any policies, procedures, benefits, and terms of employment without notice, consultation, or publication, except as may be required by contractual agreements and law. The District reserves the right, and has the sole discretion, to modify or change any portion of this handbook at any time.

## Central Office Personnel

Person/Address	Telephone/E-mail	Fax
<b>Superintendent</b> <b>Dennis Davis</b> 530 Perryville Rd. Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330	859-733-7000 Dennis.Davis@Mercer.kyschools.us	(859) 733-7004
<b>Curriculum, Assessment,                      Instruction, Federal Programs, &amp;                      Professional Development</b> <b>Nate Bordeaux</b> 530 Perryville Rd. Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330	859-733-7000 Nate.Bordeaux@Mercer.kyschools.us	(859) 733-7004
<b>Special Education</b> <b>Stephanie Rogers</b> 530 Perryville Rd. Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330	859-733-7000 Stephanie.Rogers@Mercer.kyschools.us	(859) 733-7004
<b>Facilities</b> <b>Kerry Anness</b> 738 Tapp Rd. Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330	859-733-7220 Kerry.Anness@Mercer.kyschools.us	(859) 733-7224
<b>Finance and Business</b> <b>Amber Minor</b> 530 Perryville Rd. Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330	859-733-7000 Amber.Minor@Mercer.kyschools.us	(859) 733-7004
<b>Food Service and Nutrition</b> <b>Marsha Rogers</b> 961 Moberly Rd. Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330	859-733-7000 Marsha.Rogers@Mercer.kyschools.us	(859) 733-7004

Person/Address	Telephone/E-mail	Fax
<b>Pupil Personnel &amp; School Health, Homebound, &amp; Safe Schools</b> <b>Esther Hayslett</b> 530 Perryville Rd. Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330	859-733-7000 Esther.Hayslett@Mercer.kyschools.us	(859) 733-7004
<b>Pupil Transportation</b> <b>Mike Preston</b> 600 Don Robinson Rd. Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330	859-733-7240 Mike.Preston@Mercer.kyschools.us	(859) 733-7244
<b>Chief Informational Officer</b> <b>Tim Berger</b> 961 Moberly Road Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330	859-733-7200 Tim.Berger@Mercer.kyschools.us	(859) 733-7204

## School Administrators

Person/Address	Telephone/E-mail	Fax
<b>Mercer County Elementary School</b> <b>Lee Ann Divine, Principal</b> 741 Tapp Road Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330	859-733-7040 Leeann.Divine@Mercer.kyschools.us	(859) 733-7044
<b>Mercer County Intermediate School (MCIS)</b> <b>Dana Cobb, Principal</b> 1101 Moberly Rd. Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330	859-733-7080 Dana.Cobb@Mercer.kyschools.us	(859) 733-7104
<b>Kenneth D. King Middle School</b> <b>Terry Gordon, Principal</b> 937 Moberly Rd. Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330	859-733-7060 Terry.Gordon@Mercer.kyschools.us	(859) 733-7064
<b>Mercer Central</b> <b>Jaziel Guerra, Principal</b> 530 Perryville Rd. Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330	859-733-7120 Jaziel.Guerra@Mercer.kyschools.us	(859) 733-7004
<b>Mercer County Sr. High School</b> <b>Spencer Tatum, Principal</b> 1124 Moberly Road Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330	859-733-7160 Spencer.Tatum@Mercer.kyschools.us	(859) 733-7164
<b>Mercer Day Treatment Program</b> <b>Jaziel Guerra, Principal</b> 530 Perryville Rd. Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330	859-733-7120 Jaziel.Guerra@Mercer.kyschools.us	(859) 733-7004
<b>Hughes Jones Harrodsburg Area Technology Center</b> <b>Tony Webb, Principal</b> 661 Tapp Road Harrodsburg, Ky. 40330	859-734-9329 Tony.Webb@Mercer.kyschools.us	(859) 734-9329



# School Calendar 2018-2019

18/19

<b>Mercer County</b> 08/03/2018 through 06/14/2019	<b>MERCER COUNTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</b> 2018-2019 Calendar Year	<b>Calendar Report</b> 01/31/2018 // 05:42:54 PM
---	---	---

### Legend

- Non-instructional day
- Non school day
- Shortened Days

### Key Dates

- Fr, Aug 3 ..... Non-instructional Day, Professional Day
  - Mo, Aug 6 ..... Non-instructional Day, Opening
  - Tu, Aug 7 ..... Non-instructional Day, Planning
  - Mo, Sep 3 ..... Non-instructional Day, Holiday
  - Fr, Oct 5 ..... Non-instructional Day, Professional Day
  - Mo, Oct 8 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - Tu, Oct 9 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - We, Oct 10 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - Th, Oct 11 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - Fr, Oct 12 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - We, Nov 21 ..... Non-instructional Day, Professional Day
  - Th, Nov 22 ..... Non-instructional Day, Holiday
  - Fr, Nov 23 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - Th, Dec 20 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - Fr, Dec 21 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - Mo, Dec 24 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - Tu, Dec 25 ..... Non-instructional Day, Holiday
  - We, Dec 26 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - Th, Dec 27 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - Fr, Dec 28 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - Mo, Dec 31 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - Tu, Jan 1 ..... Non-instructional Day, Holiday
  - We, Jan 2 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - Mo, Jan 31 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - Mo, Feb 18 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - Fr, Mar 29 ..... Non-instructional Day, Professional Day
  - Mo, Apr 1 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - Tu, Apr 2 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - We, Apr 3 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - Th, Apr 4 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - Fr, Apr 5 ..... Non-instructional Day, Planning
  - Th, May 16 ..... Non-instructional Day, Closing
  - Fr, May 17 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
  - Mo, May 20 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
  - Tu, May 21 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
  - We, May 22 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
  - Th, May 23 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
  - Fr, May 24 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
  - Mo, May 27 ..... Non school Day, Break
  - Tu, May 28 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
  - We, May 29 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
  - Th, May 30 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
  - Fr, May 31 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
  - Mo, Jun 3 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
  - Tu, Jun 4 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
  - We, Jun 5 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
  - Th, Jun 6 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
  - Fr, Jun 7 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
  - Mo, Jun 10 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
  - Tu, Jun 11 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
  - We, Jun 12 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
  - Th, Jun 13 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
  - Fr, Jun 14 ..... Non school Day, Makeup
- Shortened Dates**
- We, Dec 19 ..... - 01:30 PM 300 minutes
  - We, May 15 ..... - 01:30 PM 300 minutes

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## Section

# 1

## General Terms of Employment

### Equal Opportunity Employment

The Mercer County Board of Education is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The District does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, race, national origin, religion, sex, or genetic information as required by law.

Reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities will be made as required by law.

If considerations of sex, age or disability have a bona fide relationship to the unique requirements of a particular job or if there are federal or state legal requirements that apply, then sex, age or disability may be taken into account as a bona fide occupational qualification, provided such consideration is consistent with governing law.

If you have questions concerning District compliance with state and federal equal opportunity employment laws, contact Central Office. **03.113/03.212**

### Harassment/Discrimination

The Mercer County Board of Education intends that employees have a safe and orderly work environment in which to do their jobs. Therefore, the Board does not condone and will not tolerate harassment of or discrimination against employees, students, or visitors to the school or District, or any act prohibited by Board policy that disrupts the work place or the educational process and/or keeps employees from doing their jobs.

Any employee who believes that he or she, or any other employee, student, or visitor to the school or District, is being or has been subjected to harassment or discrimination shall bring the matter to the attention of his/her Principal/immediate supervisor or the District's Title IX/Equity Coordinator as required by Board policy. The District will investigate any such concerns promptly and confidentially.

## GENERAL TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

No employee will be subject to any form of reprisal or retaliation for having made a good-faith complaint under this policy. For complete information concerning the District's position prohibiting harassment/discrimination, assistance in reporting and responding to alleged incidents, and examples of prohibited behaviors, employees should refer to the District's policies and related procedures. **03.162/03.262**

The following have been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination under Title IX and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973:

*Title IX Coordinator Name:* Charlie Cox  
*Telephone:* 859-733-7160  
*Address:* 1124 Moberly Rd., Harrodsburg, Ky.

*Section 504 Coordinator Name:* Stephanie Rogers  
*Telephone:* 859-733-7000  
*Address:* 530 Perryville Rd., Harrodsburg, Ky.

**01.1**

Employees wishing to initiate a complaint concerning discrimination in the delivery of benefits or services in the District's school nutrition program should go to the link below or mail a written complaint to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410, or email, [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

[http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html)

**07.1**

## Hiring

Except for substitute teachers working on less than a full-time basis, all certified personnel are required to sign a written contract with the District. All regular full-time and part-time classified employees also shall receive a contract.

A list of all District job openings is available at the Central Office.

For further information on hiring, refer to policies **03.11/03.21**.

## Transfer of Tenure

All teachers who have attained continuing-contract status from another Kentucky district serve a one (1)-year probationary period before being considered for continuing-contract status in the District. **03.115**

## Job Responsibilities

Every employee is assigned an immediate supervisor. All employees receive a copy of their job description and responsibilities for review. Immediate supervisors may assign other duties as needed. Employees should ask their supervisor if they have questions regarding their assigned duties and/or responsibilities. **03.132/03.232**

A fundamental element of the job is to come to work and to fulfill the contracted days.

All employees are expected to use sound judgment in the performance of their duties and take reasonable and commonly accepted measures to protect the health, safety, and well-being of others, as well as District property. In addition, employees shall cooperate fully with all investigations conducted by the District as authorized by policy or law. **03.133/03.233**

**Certified Employees:** All teachers in the District shall review records of assigned students to determine whether an IEP or 504 plan is in place.

## Criminal Background Check and Testing

Applicants, employees, and student teachers must undergo records checks and testing as required by law.

New hires and student teachers assigned within the District must have both a state and a federal criminal history background check and a letter from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services documenting the individual does not have a substantiated finding of child abuse or neglect.

An employee shall report to the Superintendent if the employee has been found by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to have abused or neglected a child, and if the employee has waived the right to appeal such a substantiated finding or the finding has been upheld upon appeal. **03.11/03.21**

Link to DPP-156 Central Registry Check and more information on the required Cabinet Letter:

<http://manuals.sp.chfs.ky.gov/chapter30/33/Pages/3013RequestfromthePublicforCANChecksandCentralRegistryChecks.aspx>

## Confidentiality

In certain circumstances employees will receive confidential information regarding students' or employees' medical, educational or court records. Employees are required to keep student and personnel information in the strictest confidence and are legally prohibited from passing confidential information along to any unauthorized individual. Employees with whom juvenile court information is shared as permitted by law shall be asked to sign a statement indicating they understand the information is to be held in strictest confidence.

### *Access to be Limited*

Employees may only access student record information in which they have a legitimate educational interest. **03.111/03.211/ 09.14/09.213/09.43**

## Information Security Breach

Information security breaches shall be handled in accordance with KRS 61.931, KRS 61.932, and KRS 61.933 including, but not limited to, investigations and notifications.

Within seventy-two (72) hours of the discovery or notification of a security breach, the District shall notify the Commissioner of the Kentucky State Police, the Auditor of Public Accounts, the Attorney General, and the Education Commissioner. **01.61**

## Salaries and Payroll Distribution

Checks are issued according to a schedule approved annually by the Board. Employees shall participate in direct deposit of payroll checks. Payments for extra services, hazardous duty, and supervision shall be made on the same date and at the same time as are regular salaries. At the end of the school year, employees who have completed their duties may request to be paid their remaining salary before the end of the fiscal year (June 30). **03.121/03.221**

**Certified Personnel:** Salaries for certified personnel are based on a single-salary schedule reflecting the school term as approved by the Board in keeping with statutory requirements. Compensation for additional days of employment is prorated on the employee's base pay.

Determination of and changes to certified employees' rank and experience are determined in compliance with Policy **03.121**. No later than forty-five (45) days before the first student attendance day of each year or June 15<sup>th</sup>, whichever comes first, the Superintendent will notify certified personnel of the best estimate of their salary for the coming year.

**Classified Personnel:** Classified personnel may be paid on an hourly or salary basis, as determined by the Board. **03.221**

## Hours of Duty

**Certified Employees:** Certified employees are not allowed to leave their job assignment during duty hours without the express permission of their immediate supervisor.

Each full-time teacher is provided with a duty-free lunch period each day during the regularly scheduled student lunch period. **03.1332**

## **Supervision Responsibilities**

While at school or during school-related or school-sponsored activities, students must be under the supervision of a qualified adult at all times. All District employees are required to assist in providing appropriate supervision and correction of students. **09.221**

Employees are expected to take reasonable and prudent action in situations involving student welfare and safety, including following District policy requirements for intervening and reporting to the Principal or to their immediate supervisor those situations that threaten, harass, or endanger the safety of students, other staff members or visitors to the school or District. Such instances shall include, but are not limited to, bullying or hazing of students and harassment/discrimination of staff, students or visitors by any party.

The Student Discipline Code shall specify to whom reports of alleged instances of bullying or hazing shall be made. **03.162/03.262/09.422/09.42811**

## **Bullying**

"Bullying" is defined as any unwanted verbal, physical, or social behavior among students that involves a real or perceived power imbalance and is repeated or has the potential to be repeated:

1. That occurs on school premises, on school-sponsored transportation, or at a school-sponsored event; or
2. That disrupts the education process. **09.422**

## Section

# 2

## Benefits and Leave

### Insurance

The Board provides unemployment insurance, workers' compensation and liability insurance for all employees. In addition, the state of Kentucky provides group health and life insurance to employees who are eligible as determined by Kentucky Administrative Regulation. **03.124/03.224/03.1241/03.2241**

### Salary Deductions

The Mercer County School District makes all payroll deductions required by law. Employees may choose from the following optional payroll deductions:

- Health/life insurance program;
- Tax Sheltered Annuity program;
- Credit Union;
- State approved deferred compensation plan;
- United Way;
- Mercer County Foundation for Education;
- State-designated Flexible Spending Account (FSA) and Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) plans;
- Membership dues in professional/job-related organizations, when thirty percent (30%) of eligible members request deductions.

Deductions for membership dues of an employee organization, association, or union shall only be made upon the express written consent of the employee. This consent may be revoked by the employee at any time by written notice to the employer. **03.1211/03.2211**

### Cafeteria Plan

The District offers employees a cafeteria plan of benefits. Employees may contact the Central Office for a list of benefits that are offered. **03.1213/03.2212**

## **Expense Reimbursement**

Provided the Superintendent/designee has given prior approval to incur necessary and appropriate expenses, school personnel are reimbursed for travel that is required as part of their duties or for school-related activities approved by the Superintendent/designee. Allowable expenses include mileage, gasoline used for Board vehicles, tolls and parking fees, car rental, fares charged for travel on common carriers (plane, bus, etc.), food (as authorized by policy and/or procedure), and lodging. Itemized receipts must accompany requests for reimbursement.

Employees must submit travel vouchers within thirty (30) days of travel and will not be reimbursed without proper documentation. Should employees receive reimbursement based on incomplete or improper documentation, they may be required to reimburse the District. **03.125/03.225**

## **Holidays**

All certified employees and classified employees are paid for four (4) annual holidays (Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day) as indicated in the school calendar. Employees who have a base contract of 188-215 days shall receive two (2) additional paid holidays (Martin Luther King Day and Memorial Day). Employees who have a base contract of 216 or more days shall receive three (3) additional paid holidays (Martin Luther King Day, Memorial Day and 4<sup>th</sup> of July). A fourth holiday will be given on Presidential Election Day for classified employees. **03.122/03.222**

## **Annual Leave**

**Certified Employees:** Certified administrators employed on a two hundred thirty-five (235) day contract or greater (full-time) shall be granted annual leave after the first twelve (12) months of full-time employment. Annual leave shall be taken in half or full day increments not to exceed five (5) days in a calendar month and shall not be taken while school is in session unless prior approval is received from the Superintendent. Annual leave days shall be permitted to carry over and accumulate a maximum of sixty (60) days. For further information on annual leave, refer to policy. **03.122**

## **Leave Policies**

In order to provide the highest level of service, employees are expected to be at work and on time every day. However, when circumstances dictate, the Board provides various types of leave under which absences may be authorized. Employees who must be absent should inform their immediate supervisor as soon as possible.

Listed below is general information regarding several types of leave available to employees. Please note that in many cases a written request, submitted for approval before leave begins, is required.



Employees on extended leave, including those on professional leave serving in charter schools, who plan to return the next school year must notify the Superintendent/designee in writing of their intention to return to work by April 1.

Authorization of leave and time taken off from one's job shall be in accordance with a specific leave policy. Absence from work that is not based on appropriate leave for which the employee is qualified may lead to disciplinary consequences, up to and including termination of employment.

Employees shall not experience loss of income or benefits, including sick leave, when they are assaulted while performing assigned duties and the resulting injuries qualify them for workers' compensation benefits. **03.123/03.223**

For complete information regarding leaves of absence, refer to the District's *Policy Manual*.

## **Personal Leave**

**Certified Personnel:** Full-time employees are entitled to two (2) days of paid personal leave each school year. Part-time employees or employees who work for less than a full year are entitled to a prorata part of the authorized personal leave days. Your supervisor must approve the leave date, but no reasons will be required for the leave. Other limitations are set out in Policy. **03.1231**

**Classified Employees:** Classified employees scheduled for a minimum of twenty (20) hours per week shall receive two (2) personal leave days per year which they must request by submitting a leave request form at least three (3) working days in advance to the immediate supervisor. **03.2231**

Unused personal leave days will be transferred and credited to the employee's accumulated sick leave account on June 30<sup>th</sup>. **03.1231/03.2231**

## **Sick Leave**

All certified and classified full-time employees are entitled to ten (10) days of paid sick leave each school year. Sick leave days not taken during the school year they were granted accumulate without limit for all employees. **03.1232/03.2232**

See the "Retirement" section for information about reimbursement for unused sick leave at retirement.

**Certified Personnel:** Part-time certified employees or employees who work for less than a full year are entitled to a prorata part of the authorized sick leave days. **03.1232**

**Classified Employees:** Part-time classified employees scheduled to work at least four (4) hours per day shall be entitled to five (5) days of sick leave with pay per year. **03.2232**

## **Sick Leave Donation Program**

Employees who have accumulated more than fifteen (15) days of sick leave may request to donate sick leave days to another employee authorized to receive the donation. Employees may not disrupt the workplace while asking for donations.

Applications to donate sick leave should be returned to the Finance/Payroll Department.

Any sick leave that is not used will be returned on a prorated basis to the employees who donated days. **03.1232/03.2232**

## **Family and Medical Leave**

Employees are eligible for up to twelve (12) workweeks of family and medical leave each school year, if they have been employed by the District for twelve (12) months, have worked at least 1,250 hours during the twelve (12) months preceding the start of the leave, and otherwise qualify for family and medical leave for one of the reasons below:

1. For the birth and care of an employee's newborn child or for placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care;
2. To care for the employee's spouse, child or parent who has a serious health condition, as defined by federal law;
3. For an employee's own serious health condition, as defined by federal law, that makes the employee unable to perform her/his job.
4. To address a qualifying exigency (need) defined by federal regulation arising out of the covered active duty or call to active duty involving deployment to a foreign country of the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent who serves in a reserve component or as an active or retired member of the Regular Armed Forces or Reserve in support of a contingency operation; and
5. To care for a covered service member (spouse, son, daughter, parent or next of kin) who has incurred or aggravated a serious injury or illness in the line of duty while on active duty in the Armed Forces that has rendered or may render the family member medically unfit to perform his/her duties or to care for a covered veteran with a serious injury or illness as defined by federal regulations.

When family and medical military caregiver leave is taken based on a serious illness or injury of a covered service member, an eligible employee may take up to twenty-six (26) workweeks of leave during a single twelve-month period.

Paid leave used under this policy will be subtracted from the twelve (12) workweeks to which the employee is entitled. Employees should contact their immediate supervisor as soon as they know they will need to use Family and Medical Leave. **03.12322/03.22322**

Following is a summary of the major provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) provided by the United States Department of Labor.

## **FML Basic Leave Entitlement**

FMLA requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to eligible employees for the following reasons:

- For incapacity due to pregnancy, prenatal medical care or child birth;
- To care for the employee's child after birth, or placement for adoption or foster care;
- To care for the employee's spouse, son or daughter, or parent, who has a serious health condition; or
- For a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the employee's job.

**Military Family Leave Entitlements** - Eligible employees whose spouse, son, daughter, or parent is on covered active duty or call to active duty or call to covered active duty status may use their 12-week leave entitlement to address certain qualifying exigencies. Qualifying exigencies may include attending certain military events, arranging for alternative childcare, addressing certain financial and legal arrangements, attending certain counseling sessions, and attending post-deployment reintegration briefings.

FMLA also includes a special leave entitlement that permits eligible employees to take up to 26 weeks of leave to care for a covered servicemember during a single 12-month period. A covered servicemember is: 1) a current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness\*; or 2) a veteran who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable at any time during the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered veteran, and who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a serious injury or illness.\*

\*The FMLA definitions of "serious injury or illness" for current servicemembers and veterans are distinct from the FMLA definition of "serious health condition".

**Benefits and Protections** - During FMLA leave, the employer must maintain the employee's health coverage under any "group health plan" on the same terms as if the employee had continued to work. Upon return from FMLA leave, most employees must be restored to their original or equivalent positions with equivalent pay, benefits, and other employment terms.

Use of FMLA leave cannot result in the loss of any employment benefit that accrued prior to the start of an employee's leave.

**Eligibility Requirements** - Employees are eligible if they have worked for a covered employer for at least one year, for 1,250 hours over the previous 12 months\*, and if at least 50 employees are employed by the employer within 75 miles.

\*Special hours of service eligibility requirements apply to airline flight crew employees.

**Definition of Serious Health Condition** - A serious health condition is an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves either an overnight stay in a medical care facility, or continuing treatment by a health care provider for a condition that either prevents the employee from performing the functions of the employee's job, or prevents the qualified family member from participating in school or other daily activities.

Subject to certain conditions, the continuing treatment requirement may be met by a period of incapacity of more than 3 consecutive calendar days combined with at least two visits to a health care provider or one visit and a regimen of continuing treatment, or incapacity due to pregnancy, or incapacity due to a chronic condition. Other conditions may meet the definition of continuing treatment.

**Use of Leave** - An employee does not need to use this leave entitlement in one block. Leave can be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically necessary. Employees must make reasonable efforts to schedule leave for planned medical treatment so as not to unduly disrupt the employer's operations. Leave due to qualifying exigencies may also be taken on an intermittent basis.

**Substitution of Paid Leave for Unpaid Leave** - Employees may choose or employers may require use of accrued paid leave while taking FMLA leave. In order to use paid leave for FMLA leave, employees must comply with the employer's normal paid leave policies.

**Employee Responsibilities** - Employees must provide 30 days advance notice of the need to take FMLA leave when the need is foreseeable. When 30 days notice is not possible, the employee must provide notice as soon as practicable and generally must comply with an employer's normal call-in procedures.

Employees must provide sufficient information for the employer to determine if the leave may qualify for FMLA protection and the anticipated timing and duration of the leave. Sufficient information may include that the employee is unable to perform job functions, the family member is unable to perform daily activities, the need for hospitalization or continuing treatment by a health care provider, or circumstances supporting the need for military family leave. Employees also must inform the employer if the requested leave is for a reason for which FMLA leave was previously taken or certified. Employees also may be required to provide a certification and periodic recertification supporting the need for leave.

**Employer Responsibilities** - Covered employers must inform employees requesting leave whether they are eligible under FMLA. If they are, the notice must specify any additional information required as well as the employees' rights and responsibilities. If they are not eligible, the employer must provide a reason for the ineligibility.

Covered employers must inform employees if leave will be designated as FMLA-protected and the amount of leave counted against the employee's leave entitlement. If the employer determines that the leave is not FMLA-protected, the employer must notify the employee.

**Unlawful Acts by Employers** - FMLA makes it unlawful for any employer to:

- Interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of any right provided under FMLA; and
- Discharge or discriminate against any person for opposing any practice made unlawful by FMLA or for involvement in any proceeding under or relating to FMLA.

**Enforcement** - An employee may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor or may bring a private lawsuit against an employer.

FMLA does not affect any Federal or State law prohibiting discrimination, or supersede any State or local law or collective bargaining agreement which provides greater family or medical leave rights.

## **Maternity Leave**

Employees may use up to thirty (30) days of sick leave immediately following the birth or adoption of a child.

The parent of a newborn or an employee who adopts a child may also request an unpaid leave of absence not to exceed the remainder of the school year in which the birth or placement occurred. Thereafter, leave may be extended in increments of no more than one (1) year.

Employees eligible for family and medical leave are entitled to up to twelve (12) workweeks of unpaid leave to care for the employee's child after birth or placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care. Leave to care for an employee's healthy newborn baby or minor child who is adopted or accepted for foster care must be taken within twelve (12) months of the birth or placement of the child. **03.1233/03.2233**

## **Extended Disability Leave**

Unpaid disability leave for the remainder of the school year is available to employees who need it. Thereafter, leave may be extended by the Board in increments of no more than one (1) year.

The Superintendent may require an employee to secure a medical practitioner's verification of a medical condition that will justify the need for disability leave. **03.1234/03.2234**

## **Educational Leave**

**Certified Employees:** The Board may grant unpaid leave for a period no longer than two (2) consecutive years for educational or professional purposes. Leave may be granted for full-time attendance at universities or other training or professional activities. Leave will not be granted for part-time educational activities and recipients must have attained continuing -contract status.

The Board shall grant a two (2) year unpaid leave to employees under continuing service contracts who have been offered employment with a charter school.

A teacher with continuing status shall notify the District of the teacher's intent to work in a converted charter school.

A teacher working in a converted charter school shall notify the District of the teacher's intent to return to employment the next school year by April 15 of each year of the granted leave.

Written application for educational/professional leave must be made at least sixty (60) days before the leave is to begin. **03.1235**

**Classified Employees:** Upon recommendation by the Superintendent, the Board may grant short-term paid leaves to classified employees for training necessary to enhance skills required for their jobs or in anticipation of a different position within the school system. **03.2235**

## **Emergency Leave**

Full-time employees are entitled to three (3) days of emergency leave with pay each school year. Part-time employees and employees who work for less than a full year are entitled to a prorata part of the authorized emergency leave days.

Approved reasons for taking emergency leave include: bereavement, personal disasters, and legal/court appearances. **03.1236/03.2236**

## **Jury Leave**

Any employee who serves on a jury in local, state or federal court will be granted paid leave (minus any jury pay, excluding expense reimbursement) for the period of her/his jury service.

Employees who will be absent from work to serve on a jury must notify their immediate supervisor in advance. **03.1237/03.2237**

## **Military/Disaster Services Leave**

Military leave is granted under the provisions and conditions specified in law. As soon as they are notified of an upcoming military-related absence, employees are responsible for notifying their immediate supervisor.

The Board may grant disaster services leave to requesting eligible employees. **03.1238/03.2238**

## Section

# 3

## Personnel Management

### Transfer

Employees who wish to request a voluntary transfer should contact their immediate supervisor for assistance.

Employees charged with a felony offense may be transferred to a second position with no change in pay until such time as they are found not guilty, the charges are dismissed, their employment is terminated, or the Superintendent determines that further personnel action is not required. **03.1311/03.2311**

### Employee Discipline

Termination and nonrenewal of contracts are the responsibility of the Superintendent. **03.17/03.27/03.2711**

Certified employees who resign or terminate their contracts must do so in compliance with KRS 161.780.

### Retirement

Employees who decide to retire should give the Superintendent/designee notice as far in advance as possible, but no later than two (2) weeks before retirement. Retirement benefits are solely a matter of contract between the employee and her/his retirement system (the Teacher's Retirement System or the County Employee's Retirement System).

The Board compensates employees only upon initial retirement for each unused sick day at the rate of thirty (30) percent of the daily salary, based on the employee's last annual salary. **03.175/03.273**

### Evaluations

All employees are given an opportunity to review their evaluations and an opportunity to attach a written response to the evaluation. Any employee who believes that s/he was not fairly evaluated may appeal his/her evaluation in accordance with Policy. **03.18/03.28**

## Training/In-Service

The Board provides a high quality, personalized, and evidence-based program for professional development and staff trainings.

**Certified Personnel:** Unless an employee is granted leave, failure to complete and document required professional development during the academic year will result in a reduction in salary and may be reflected in the employee's evaluation. **03.19**

## Personnel Records

One (1) master personnel file is maintained in the Central Office for each employee. The Principal/supervisor may maintain a personnel folder for each person under his/her supervision. Employees may inspect their personnel files. **03.15/03.25**

## Retention of Recordings

Employees shall comply with the statutory requirement that school officials are to retain any digital, video, or audio recording as required by law. **01.61**

## Section

# 4

## Employee Conduct

### Absenteeism/Tardiness/Substitutes

Employees are expected to notify their immediate supervisor when they must be tardy or absent. Certified employees requiring substitute teachers shall notify the person in charge of substitute teachers before the opening of school or if possible, the night before. Other staff in positions requiring substitutes must contact their immediate supervisor to request a substitute for the day.

### Staff Meetings

Unless they are on leave or have been excused by the administrator who called the meeting, staff members shall attend called meetings.**03.1335**

### Political Activities

Employees shall not promote, organize, or engage in political activities while performing their duties or during the work day. Promoting or engaging in political activities shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Encouraging students to adopt or support a particular political position, party, or candidate; or
- Using school property or materials to advance the support of a particular political position, party, or candidate. **03.1324/03.2324**

In addition, KRS 161.164 prohibits employees from taking part in the management of any political campaign for school board.

### Disrupting the Educational Process

Any employee who participates in or encourages activities that disrupt the educational process may be subject to disciplinary action, including termination.

Behavior that disrupts the educational process includes, but is not limited to:



- conduct that threatens the health, safety or welfare of others;
- conduct that may damage public or private property (including the property of students or staff);
- illegal activity;
- conduct that interferes with a student's access to educational opportunities or programs, including ability to attend, participate in, and benefit from instructional and extracurricular activities; or
- conduct that disrupts delivery of instructional services or interferes with the orderly administration of the school and school-related activities or District operations.

**03.1325/03.2325**

## **Previewing Student Materials**

Except for current events programs and programs provided by Kentucky Educational Television, teachers shall review all materials presented for student use or viewing before use. This includes movies and other videos in any format. **08.234**

## **Controversial Issues**

Teachers who suspect that materials or a given issue may be inappropriate or controversial shall confer with the Principal prior to the classroom use of the materials or discussion of the issue. **08.1353**

## **Drug-Free/Alcohol-Free Schools**

Employees must not manufacture, distribute, dispense, be under the influence of, purchase, possess, use, or attempt to obtain, sell or transfer any of the following in the workplace or in the performance of duties:

1. Alcoholic beverages;
2. Controlled substances, prohibited drugs and substances, and drug paraphernalia; and or any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana or any other controlled substance as defined by federal regulation.
3. Substances that "look like" a controlled substance. In instances involving look-alike substances, there must be evidence of the employee's intent to pass off the item as a controlled substance.

In addition, employees shall not possess prescription drugs for the purpose of sale or distribution.

Employee who violate the terms of the District's drug-free/alcohol-free policy may be suspended, non-renewed or terminated. Violations may result in notification of appropriate legal officials.

Employees who know or believe that the District’s alcohol-free/drug-free policies have been violated must promptly make a report to the local police department, sheriff, or Kentucky State Police. **09.423**

Any employee convicted of any criminal drug statute involving illegal use of alcohol, illicit drugs, prescription drugs, or over-the-counter drugs shall, within five (5) working days after receiving notice of a conviction, provide notification of the conviction to the Superintendent.

Teachers are subject to random or periodic drug testing following reprimand or discipline for misconduct involving illegal use of controlled substances. **03.13251/03.23251**

## **Drug-Testing**

Mercer County Board of Education employees are subject to the drug testing policy for any and all safety sensitive job(s) they hold in the district; whether in the certified/classified pool or the transportation drug testing pool.

### *Pre-Employment*

All applicants to whom an offer of employment has been extended shall be required to submit to a urinalysis test for the detection of the illegal use of drugs as part of the current pre-employment process. Pre-employment testing does not apply to those who were in the random drug-testing pool the previous school year.

### *Random Screening/Testing*

Due to the “safety-sensitive” nature of work performed by District employees and the potential impact of that work on children, the Board has established a random drug/alcohol-testing program for employees in positions where a single mistake by such employee can create an immediate threat of serious harm to students and fellow employees.

Safety-sensitive positions requiring random drug testing may be but are not limited to: Principal, Assistant Principal, teacher, traveling teacher, teacher aide, substitute teacher, paraprofessionals (i.e., coaches and assistant coaches), school secretary and any staff that may assist with supervision of students at any time during the school year or assist in implementation of student safety protocol district-wide at any time during the school year. Testing of school bus drivers and other transportation employees is covered under other policies/regulations.

The Mercer County Board of Education has identified certain classified and certified positions that are subject to the substance testing policy(ies) for the District. The testing under these policies shall be in addition to any other policies of the District or per federal and/or state law (i.e., those subject to testing per transportation of District personnel and/or students will be in both testing “pools”.) District employees, whether for certified or classified positions, may be subject to being included in both pools for testing as required under the policies of the District. The effective date of the removal of any respective District employee from the respective testing pool shall be determined based on the terms of each respective position.

Many certified and classified positions will have safety sensitive job requirements as defined in the District Policies. All employees of the Mercer County School District are subject to all District policies, including but not limited to the Drug Free Alcohol Free Schools’ policies (03.13251 & 03.23251) as set forth by the Mercer County Board of Education.

*Reasonable Suspicion Testing*

When the supervisor observes or is notified of behaviors or events that lead the supervisor to believe that the employee is in violation of this policy, the supervisor shall notify the RDTC. **03.13251/03.23251**

## **Weapons**

Except where expressly and specifically permitted by Kentucky Revised Statute, carrying, bringing, using or possessing any weapon or dangerous instrument, including pocket knives and/or hunting knives, in any school building, on school grounds, in any school vehicle, or at any school-sponsored activity is prohibited. Policy 05.48 applies to students, staff members, and visitors to the school. NOTE: Job Duties which may require staff to carry a pocket knife or other tools may include maintenance, mechanic, custodial, transportation, shop, agriculture, or technology. Except for authorized law enforcement officials, including peace officers and police as provided in KRS 527.070 and KRS 527.020, the Board prohibits carrying concealed weapons on school property. Staff members who violate this policy are subject to disciplinary action, including termination.

Employees who know or believe that this policy has been violated must promptly make a report to the local police department, sheriff, or Kentucky State Police. **05.48**

## **Tobacco Products**

Federal law and Board policy prohibit the use of any tobacco product, including alternative nicotine and vapor products as defined in KRS 438.305, in any buildings or vehicles owned or operated by the Board, on school-owned property, and during school-related student trips. **03.1327/03.2327**

Bus drivers shall not use tobacco products while on the bus. **06.221**

## **Use of School Property**

Employees are responsible for school equipment, supplies, books, furniture, and apparatus under their care and use. Employees shall immediately report to their immediate supervisor any property that is damaged, lost, stolen, or vandalized.

No employee shall perform personal services for themselves or for others for pay or profit during work time and/or using District property or facilities.

Employees may not use any District facility, vehicle, electronic communication system, equipment, or materials to perform outside work. These items (including security codes and electronic records such as e-mail) are District property.

Employees may not use a code, access a file, or retrieve any stored communication unless they have been given authorization to do so. Employees cannot expect confidentiality or privacy of the information in their e-mail accounts. Authorized District personnel may monitor the use of electronic equipment from time to time.

Employees who drive any Board-owned vehicle and/or transport students must annually provide the Superintendent/designee with a copy of their driving record. Employees who receive a traffic citation during the year must report the citation to the Superintendent/designee before driving a Board-owned vehicle or transporting students. Employees assigned full-time use of Board-owned vehicles shall be on call twenty-four (24) hours a day to perform services required by their job responsibilities and, except for commuting to and from work or an occasional minimal detour for personal reasons, employees shall not use Board-owned/leased vehicles for personal use.

IRS requirements for reporting taxable income shall apply for any personal use of Board-owned/leased vehicles or telecommunication devices such as cell phones.

**03.1321/03.2321**

## **Use of Personal Cell Phones/Telecommunication Devices**

Due to privacy concerns, and except for emergency situations, personally owned recording devices are not to be used to create video or audio recordings or to take pictures while on duty or working with students except with prior permission from the Principal/designee or immediate supervisor. Such devices include, but are not limited to, personal cell phones and tablets.

For exceptions, see Board Policies **03.13214/03.23214**.

## **Health, Safety and Security**

It is the intent of the Board to provide a safe and healthful working environment for all employees. Employees should report any security hazard or conditions they believe to be unsafe to their immediate supervisor.

In addition, employees are required to notify their supervisor immediately after sustaining a work-related injury or accident. A report should be made within 24 hours of the occurrence and prior to leaving the work premises, UNLESS the injury is a medical emergency, in which case the report can be filed following receipt of emergency medical care.

For information on the District's plans for Hazard Communication, Bloodborne Pathogen Control, Lockout/Tagout, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and Asbestos Management, contact your immediate supervisor or see the District's *Policy Manual* and related procedures.

Employees shall notify the Principal, supervisor or other administrator of an existing emergency. **03.14/03.24/05.4**

## **Assaults and Threats of Violence**

Employees shall immediately report any threats they receive (oral, written or electronic) to their immediate supervisor.

Under provisions of state law (KRS 158.150) and regulation (702 KAR 5:080), school personnel may remove threatening or violent students from a classroom or from the District's transportation system pending further disciplinary action. However, before the need arises, employees should familiarize themselves with policy and procedures that are required. **09.425**

## **Child Abuse**

Any school personnel who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child under eighteen (18) is dependent, abused or neglected, or a victim of human trafficking shall immediately make a report to a local law enforcement agency, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services or its designated representative, the Commonwealth's Attorney or the County Attorney. **09.227**

## **Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion**

Use of physical restraint and seclusion shall be in accordance with Board policy and procedure. **09.2212**

## **Civility**

Employees should be polite and helpful while interacting with parents, visitors and members of the public. Individuals who come onto District property or contact employees on school business are expected to behave accordingly. Employees who fail to observe appropriate standards of behavior are subject to disciplinary measures, including dismissal.

In cases involving physical attack of an employee or immediate threat of harm, employees should take immediate action to protect themselves and others. In the absence of an immediate threat, employees should attempt to calmly and politely inform the individual of the provisions of Policy **10.21** or provide him/her with a copy. If the individual continues to be discourteous, the employee may respond as needed, including, but not limited to: ending a conversation or meeting; asking the individual to leave the school; calling the Principal/immediate supervisor for assistance; and/or calling the police.

As soon as possible after any such incident, employees should submit a written incident report to their immediate supervisor. **10.21**

## **Grievances/Communications**

The Superintendent/designee has developed specific procedures to assist employees in making a complaint. For full information refer to Policy **03.16/03.26** and related procedures.

Grievances are individual in nature and must be brought by the individual employee. The Board shall not hear grievances or complaints concerning simple disagreement or dissatisfaction with a personnel action. **03.16/03.26**

## **Gifts**

Any gift presented to a school employee for the use of the school must have the prior approval of the Superintendent or his designee. Any gift so approved and accepted on behalf of the school becomes the property of the Board of Education. Gifts and donations made to the District shall be reported annually to the Board. **03.1322/03.2322**

## **Outside Employment or Activities**

Employees may not perform any duties related to an outside job during their regular working hours. **03.1331/03.2331**

District email accounts shall not be used for personal monetary gain. **08.2323**

## **Required Reports**

Although you may be directed to make additional reports, the following reports are required by law and/or Board policy:

- Within seventy-two (72) hours of the discovery or notification of a security breach, the District shall notify the Commissioner of the Kentucky State Police, the Auditor of Public Accounts, the Attorney General, and the Education Commissioner. **01.61**
- An employee shall report to the Superintendent if the employee has been found by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to have abused or neglected a child, and if the employee has waived the right to appeal such a substantiated finding or the finding has been upheld upon appeal. **03.11/03.21**

## EMPLOYEE CONDUCT

- Report to the immediate supervisor damaged, lost, stolen, or vandalized school property or if District property has been used for unauthorized purposes. **03.1321/03.2321**
- If you know or believe that the District's alcohol-free/drug-free policies have been violated, promptly make a report to the local police department, sheriff, or Kentucky State Police. This is required if you know or have reasonable cause to believe that conduct has occurred which constitutes the use, possession, or sale of controlled substances on the school premises or within one thousand (1,000) feet of school premises, on a school bus, or at a school sponsored or sanctioned event. **03.13251/03.23251/09.423**
- Upon the request of a victim, school personnel shall report an act of domestic violence and abuse or dating violence and abuse to a law enforcement officer. School personnel shall discuss the report with the victim prior to contacting a law enforcement officer.

School personnel shall report to a law enforcement officer when s/he has a belief that the death of a victim with whom s/he has had a professional interaction is related to domestic violence and abuse or dating violence and abuse. **03.13253/03.23253/09.425**

- Report potential safety or security hazards to the Principal and notify your supervisor immediately after sustaining a work-related injury or accident. **03.14/03.24, 05.4**
- Report to the Principal/immediate supervisor or the District's Title IX Coordinator if you, another employee, a student, or a visitor to the school or District, is being or has been subjected to harassment or discrimination. **03.162/03.262, 09.42811**
- If you suspect that financial fraud, impropriety or irregularity has occurred, immediately report those suspicions to Principal or the Superintendent. If the Superintendent is the alleged party, employees should address the complaint to the Board chairperson. **04.41**
- Report to the Principal any student who is missing during or after a fire/tornado drill or evacuation. **05.41 AP.1/05.42 AP.1**
- When notified of a bomb threat, scan the area noting any items that appear to be out of place, and report same to Principal/designee.
- If you know or believe that the District's weapon policy has been violated, promptly make a report to the local police department, sheriff, or Kentucky State Police. This is required when you know or have reasonable cause to believe that conduct has occurred which constitutes the carrying, possession, or use of a deadly weapon on the school premises or within one thousand (1,000) feet of school premises, on a school bus, or at a school sponsored or sanctioned event. **05.48**
- District bus drivers taking medication either by prescription or without prescription shall report to their immediate supervisor and shall not drive if that medication may affect the driver's ability to safely drive a school bus or perform other driver responsibilities. **06.221**

- District employees who know or have reasonable cause to believe that a student has been the victim of a violation of any felony offense specified in KRS Chapter 508 (assault and related offenses) committed by another student while on school premises, on school-sponsored transportation, or at a school-sponsored event shall immediately cause an oral or written report to be made to the Principal of the school attended by the victim.

The Principal shall notify the parents, legal guardians, or other persons exercising custodial control or supervision of the student when the student is involved in such an incident.

Within forty-eight (48) hours of the original report of the incident, the Principal also shall file with the Board and the local law enforcement agency or the Department of Kentucky State Police or the County Attorney a written report containing the statutorily required information. **09.2211**

- Notify the Principal as soon as possible when you use seclusion or physical restraint with a student, but no later than the end of the school day on which it occurs, and document in writing the incident by the end of the next school day. **09.2212**
- If you know or have reasonable cause to believe that a child under eighteen (18) is dependent, abused or neglected, or a victim of human trafficking you shall **immediately** make a report to a local law enforcement agency or Kentucky State Police, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services or its designated representative, the Commonwealth's Attorney or the County Attorney. (See **Child Abuse** section.) **09.227**
- District employees shall report to the Principal or to their immediate supervisor those situations that threaten, harass, or endanger the safety of students, other staff members, or visitors to the school or District. Such instances shall include, but are not limited to, bullying or hazing of students and harassment/discrimination of staff, students or visitors by any party. In serious instances of peer-to-peer bullying/hazing/harassment, employees must report to the alleged victim's Principal, as directed by Board Policy 09.42811.

In certain cases, employees must do the following:

1. Report bullying and hazing to appropriate law enforcement authorities as required by policy 09.2211; and
  2. Investigate and complete documentation as required by policy 09.42811 covering federally protected areas. **09.422**
- Report to the Principal any threats you receive (oral, written or electronic). **09.425**



## Code of Ethics for Certified School Personnel

SOURCE: 16 KAR 1:020

Section 1. Certified personnel in the Commonwealth:

- (1) Shall strive toward excellence, recognize the importance of the pursuit of truth, nurture democratic citizenship, and safeguard the freedom to learn and to teach;
- (2) Shall believe in the worth and dignity of each human being and in educational opportunities for all;
- (3) Shall strive to uphold the responsibilities of the education profession, including the following obligations to students, to parents, and to the education profession:
  - (a) To students:
    1. Shall provide students with professional education services in a nondiscriminatory manner and in consonance with accepted best practice known to the educator;
    2. Shall respect the constitutional rights of all students;
    3. Shall take reasonable measures to protect the health, safety, and emotional well-being of students;
    4. Shall not use professional relationships or authority with students for personal advantage;
    5. Shall keep in confidence information about students which has been obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law;
    6. Shall not knowingly make false or malicious statements about students or colleagues;
    7. Shall refrain from subjecting students to embarrassment or disparagement; and
    8. Shall not engage in any sexually related behavior with a student with or without consent, but shall maintain a professional approach with students. Sexually related behavior shall include such behaviors as sexual jokes; sexual remarks; sexual kidding or teasing; sexual innuendo; pressure for dates or sexual favors; inappropriate physical touching, kissing, or grabbing; rape; threats of physical harm; and sexual assault.
  - (b) To parents:
    1. Shall make reasonable effort to communicate to parents information which should be revealed in the interest of the student;
    2. Shall endeavor to understand community cultures and diverse home environments of students;
    3. Shall not knowingly distort or misrepresent facts concerning educational issues;
    4. Shall distinguish between personal views and the views of the employing educational agency;
    5. Shall not interfere in the exercise of political and citizenship rights and responsibilities of others;
    6. Shall not use institutional privileges for private gain, for the promotion of political candidates, or for partisan political activities; and

7. Shall not accept gratuities, gifts, or favors that might impair or appear to impair professional judgment, and shall not offer any of these to obtain special advantage.

(c) To the education profession:

1. Shall exemplify behaviors which maintain the dignity and integrity of the profession;
2. Shall accord just and equitable treatment to all members of the profession in the exercise of their professional rights and responsibilities;
3. Shall keep in confidence information acquired about colleagues in the course of employment, unless disclosure serves professional purposes or is required by law;
4. Shall not use coercive means or give special treatment in order to influence professional decisions;
5. Shall apply for, accept, offer, or assign a position or responsibility only on the basis of professional preparation and legal qualifications; and
6. Shall not knowingly falsify or misrepresent records of facts relating to the educator's own qualifications or those of other professionals.

Section 2. Violation of this administrative regulation may result in cause to initiate proceedings for revocation or suspension of Kentucky certification as provided in KRS 161.120 and 704 KAR 20:585.

# Acknowledgement Form

**2018-2019 School Year**

I acknowledge that I have read or received a copy of the Mercer County Staff Handbook. The Mercer County Staff Handbook is available on the Mercer County website, [www.mercer.kyschools.us](http://www.mercer.kyschools.us) and a printed copy can be provided upon request from the Mercer County Central Office.

I understand and agree that I am to review this handbook in detail and to consult District and school policies and procedures with my Principal/supervisor if I have any questions concerning its contents.

I understand and agree:

1. that this handbook is intended as a general guide to District personnel policies and that it is not intended to create any sort of contract between the District and any one or all of its employees;
2. that the District may modify any or all of these policies, in whole or in part, at any time, with or without prior notice; and
3. that in the event the District modifies any of the policies contained in this handbook, the changes will become binding on me immediately upon issuance of the new policy by the District.

*I understand that as an employee of the District I am required to review and follow the policies set forth in this Employee Handbook and I agree to do so.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Employee Name (please print)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of Employee*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

Return this signed form to the Central Office.

# Employee Acknowledgement of Understanding for Drug/Alcohol Testing

I acknowledge that I have read the applicable Drug Free/Alcohol Free Schools Policy (03.13251 or 03.23251 and related administrative procedures 03.13251 AP.1 and 03.13251 AP.11). Drug Free/Alcohol Free Schools Policies are available at the Mercer County website [www.mercer.kyschools.us](http://www.mercer.kyschools.us) and a printed copy can be provided upon request from the Mercer County Central Office.

I understand that the Board randomly drug and alcohol tests all employees in safety sensitive positions and that I may be selected at random for a drug and/or alcohol test if I am in a safety sensitive position. Furthermore, I acknowledge and understand that additional safety sensitive duties may be assigned at any time during the school year that may include: safety-related needs of the students, directly or indirectly, supervision or assistance of students, and implementation of school and district student-related safety protocol. (See Board Policy 03.13251/03.23251)

I understand that the Board may also require that I be tested for drugs or alcohol at any time if Board officials have reason to believe that I am under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol. I authorize the release of the results of the test to authorized officials of the Board and its designated or professional representatives.

I recognize that if I test positive for illegal drugs or alcohol or adulterate a test sample, I will be subject to discipline up to and including termination of my employment. I also understand that my failure or refusal to cooperate fully and participate in the Board's drug and alcohol testing program, sign any required document, or submit to a drug or alcohol screening test if I am selected I will be subject to discipline up to and including termination of my employment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Sign)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date