

NEBO SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION: G - Personnel

POLICY TITLE: Employee Conduct and Discipline

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY
- 2. DEFINITIONS
- 3. ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE
- 4. Causes for Disciplinary Action
- 5. INVESTIGATION
- 6. EMPLOYEE SEARCHES
- 7. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS
- 8. ORDERLY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES
- 9. PRE- AND POST-DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

1. PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

- 1.1. The Nebo School District Board of Education recognizes that students and employees should have the opportunity to learn and work in an environment that is safe, conducive to student learning, and free from unnecessary disruption. Every employee must respect other people, perform their job duties, and avoid conduct prohibited by law or District policy.
- **1.2.** This policy outlines expectations for employee conduct and provides orderly procedures for administrative leave, discipline, and termination of employees. The Board hereby delegates to the District administration the responsibility for establishing and following such procedures.

2. **DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1. "At-will employee" means an individual employed by the District whose employment may be terminated at any time, with or without cause. Any person employed at less than 0.5 FTE or twenty (20) hours per week in any position is an at-will employee in that position. Moreover, an employee who has retired from the Utah Retirement System and is later rehired is an at-will employee. At-will employees are not eligible for career employee status. The termination procedures outlined in section 8 below do not apply to at-will employees, and at-will employees are not entitled to the pre- and post-disciplinary hearings outlined in section 9 below.
- **2.2.** "Career employee" means an employee of the District who has obtained a reasonable expectation of continued employment based upon UTAH CODE ANN., § 53G-11-503 and District practice, policy, or employee handbook. An employee must work for Nebo School District on at least a half-time basis for at least three (3) consecutive years to obtain career employee status.
- **2.3. "Contract term"** means the one-year period during which a career or provisional employee is engaged by the District under a contract of employment, whether verbal or written. Unless expressly identified otherwise, this period is from July 1 through June 30.

- **2.4.** "**Termination**" means termination of the employment status or position of an employee, including failure to renew or continue the employment contract of a career employee beyond the current school year.
- **2.5. "Employee"** means a career employee, provisional employee, temporary employee, or atwill employee of Nebo School District but does not include the District Superintendent or the District Business Administrator.
- 2.6. "Provisional employee" means an individual, other than a career employee, a Temporary employee, or an at-will employee, who is employed by Nebo School District on at least a half-time basis. Provisional employees do not include Classified employees employed at less than twenty (20) hours per week or Certified or Administrative employees employed at less than 0.5 FTE. Provisional employees are hired on individual one-year contracts and have no expectation of continued employment beyond the current one-year contract term. Provisional employees may be terminated during the contract term only for cause and according to the procedures outlined in this policy. The contract of a provisional employee may be non-renewed with or without cause.
- 2.7. "Temporary employee" means an individual employed on a temporary basis as defined in an employment agreement or memorandum of understanding with the employee or the employee's association, District practice, or policy. Temporary employees are At–Will employees and have no expectation of continued employment. They may be terminated at any time with or without cause. The orderly dismissal procedures outlined in Section 8 below do not apply to Temporary employees, and Temporary employees are not entitled to the preand post-disciplinary hearings outlined in Section 9 below.
- **2.8.** "Unsatisfactory performance" means a deficiency in performing work tasks which may be: (a) due to insufficient or undeveloped skills, or a lack of knowledge or aptitude; and (b) remediated through training, study, mentoring, or practice. Unsatisfactory performance does not include conduct designated in Section 4 below as a cause for disciplinary action.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE

- **3.1.** The District may place any employee on paid administrative leave for health, safety, investigative, or other concerns. Administrative leave may be invoked when the employee's continued presence at work may negatively impact students, the school environment, or the operation of the school, or may otherwise be harmful to students or to the District. The decision to place an employee on administrative leave, and the terms of such leave, is at the sole and absolute discretion of the District and must be authorized by the Director of Human Resources.
- 3.2. Administrative leave may be invoked when further investigation is deemed necessary or desirable in order to make an informed decision concerning the employment or discipline of an employee. If the District determines that allegations of misconduct against an employee are more likely true than not, the employee should not be placed on administrative leave but instead should be suspended without pay, in which case the disciplinary procedures outlined in this policy must be followed.

4. CAUSES FOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Disciplinary action, up to and including nonrenewal of a career employee's contract or termination during the contract term of a career employee or provisional employee, may be taken against any employee for any of the following:

- **4.1.** Violation of District policy; contract; or state or federal law, rule, or regulation, reasonably related to the employee's job.
- **4.2.** Conduct that may be harmful to students or to the District.
- **4.3.** Improper or unlawful physical contact with students.

- **4.4.** Dishonesty.
- **4.5.** Theft.
- **4.6.** Dangerous or disorderly conduct.
- **4.7.** Unethical conduct.
- **4.8.** Child sexual or physical abuse.
- **4.9.** Commission or conviction, including entering a plea of guilty or no contest, of a felony or misdemeanor reasonably related to the employee's job.
- **4.10.** Discrimination or harassment.
- **4.11.** Sexual conduct not otherwise prohibited under <u>Policy JDCB/GBEBB</u>, <u>Sexual Harassment</u>, but that may, upon examination of the circumstances, include the following:
 - **4.11.1.** Unwelcome leering, sexual flirtations or propositions, or any unwelcome sexual invitations or requests for sexual activity;
 - **4.11.2.** Sexual slurs, epithets, name calling, threats, verbal abuse, derogatory comments, or sexually degrading descriptions;
 - **4.11.3.** Graphic verbal comments about an individual's body, overly personal conversations, or any unwelcome communication (whether written, verbal, or sent by electronic or other means) that is sexually suggestive, sexually degrading, or implies sexual motives or intentions;
 - **4.11.4.** Sexual jokes, notes, stories, drawings or pictures, gestures, or the display or distribution of pornographic or other sexually oriented material;
 - **4.11.5.** Displaying words, pictures, or symbols on clothing that are sexually explicit or have an underlying sexual connotation, or wearing clothing in a sexually revealing or suggestive manner;
 - **4.11.6.** Spreading sexual rumors;
 - **4.11.7.** Massaging, grabbing, fondling, stroking or brushing the body;
 - **4.11.8.** Touching oneself or another individual's body or clothing in a sexual way or any other offensive physical pranks or hazing;
 - **4.11.9.** Exposing or causing the exposure or accentuation of undergarments, genitalia, or other body parts of oneself or another normally or intended to be covered either by the individual or in accordance with Nebo School District Policy JDG, Student Dress and Grooming, including but not limited to mooning, streaking, flashing, pantsing, skirt-flipping, taking sexually suggestive photos or videos, etc.
 - **4.11.10.** Purposefully cornering or blocking normal movements or stalking;
 - **4.11.11.** Displaying sexually suggestive objects or performing/showing unwelcome and offensive skits, assemblies, and sexually suggestive productions; or
 - **4.11.12.** Engaging in the improper use of school computers and the Internet, including, but not limited to, accessing, downloading, or uploading pornography; sharing Internet pornography or e-mails with students; creating or maintaining websites with sexual content; participating in sexual discussions with students by means of email, Internet chat rooms, instant messaging, or any other form of electronic communication.

- **4.12.** Use of District property for personal gain.
- **4.13.** Negligent or willful damage to District property.
- **4.14.** Falsification of information supplied to the District (such as applications, employment data, reports, required documents, test data, etc.).
- **4.15.** Neglect of duty, including but not limited to, unauthorized absences, excessive tardiness, excessive absences, abuse of benefits (including sick leave, health insurance, etc.), and failure to supervise students.
- **4.16.** Insubordination or failure to comply with directives from supervisors within the scope of employment.
- **4.17.** Failure to maintain certification/licensure.
- **4.18.** Use, possession, sale, distribution, or being under the influence of any of the prohibited substances identified and defined in Nebo School District Policy GBCC, Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace, while on school or District property; at a school or District sponsored activity; or at any time while on duty, supervising students, or otherwise acting within the scope of employment as defined by that policy.
- **4.19.** Failure to adhere to all state and District instructions and protocols in managing and administering standardized tests to students consistent with UTAH CODE ANN. § 53E-4-312 and UTAH ADMIN. CODE R277-404.

5. INVESTIGATION

- **5.1.** Commencing an Investigation
 - **5.1.1.** An investigation should begin when an administrator becomes aware of alleged conduct that may constitute a cause for disciplinary action as outlined in section 4.
 - 5.1.2. An investigation under this policy will be conducted by a school or district administrator or another individual appointed by the Superintendent. An administrator shall notify the Director of Human Resources and other applicable directors upon commencing an investigation into conduct that may result in disciplinary action.
 - **5.1.3.** If the alleged conduct involves or is related to a complaint of discrimination or harassment based on race, color, religion, sex (including sexual harassment under Title IX), national origin, disability, or any other classification protected by law, the administrator shall notify and consult with the Director of Human Resources, the District Civil Rights Coordinator, and any other applicable director, in determining who will conduct the investigation.
 - **5.1.4.** The investigator should begin each investigation by documenting the type of conduct being investigated and creating an investigation file.
 - 5.1.5. The investigator shall refer the matter to law enforcement authorities or the Utah State Division of Child and Family Services, where appropriate or required by law. The investigator must continue to conduct the investigation even if the matter has been referred to another agency. The investigator should coordinate with the other agency and may adjust timelines and procedures accordingly.

5.2. Investigative Procedures

5.2.1. The procedures outlined in this section may be simplified at the discretion of the investigator, consistent with the due process requirements in Section 9.

- **5.2.2.** Both school-level and District-level investigations should include the following steps. If an investigation is reassigned to a new investigator after it has begun, the new investigator shall gather all evidence and information from the previous investigator. The new investigator may, but is not required to, repeat interviews or other investigative procedures conducted by the previous investigator.
- **5.2.3.** Conduct Interviews

The investigator should interview the employee, anyone who witnessed the alleged conduct, and anyone who may provide additional relevant information. A record should be made of the interviews.

- **5.2.4.** Preservation of Evidence
 - **5.2.4.1.** In addition to the interviews described above, the investigator should gather and preserve all other evidence, including video footage from surveillance cameras, photos, physical evidence, documents, correspondence, and any relevant electronic information such as text messages, videos, and social media postings.
 - **5.2.4.2.** Evidence should be preserved in the investigative file.
- **5.2.5.** Evaluation of Evidence
 - **5.2.5.1.** The investigator shall consider all the evidence, including the credibility of all statements, and determine which facts are true. The determination may be outlined as findings of fact in a written report. In determining findings of fact, the investigator should consider the following:
 - **5.2.5.1.1.** Credibility of statements made by the persons interviewed;
 - **5.2.5.1.2.** Corroborating evidence;
 - **5.2.5.1.3.** The details and consistency of each person's account;
 - **5.2.5.1.4.** Evidence of any past violations of District policy;
 - 5.2.5.1.5. Evidence of any false complaints; and
 - **5.2.5.1.6.** Any other relevant information.
 - **5.2.5.2.** The investigator applies the findings of fact to the causes for disciplinary action outlined in section 4 and makes conclusions as to whether any policy provision has been violated. The conclusions may be outlined in a written report.

5.3. Report

- **5.3.1.** The investigator may prepare a written report of the investigation. A copy of a report shall be maintained by the employee's administrative supervisor and the Director of Human Resources. A report should include the following:
 - **5.3.1.1.** A list of specific sections of Nebo School District policies that are alleged to have been violated or that the alleged conduct, if true, would violate.
 - **5.3.1.2.** A detailed description of the investigation, including names and dates of individuals interviewed; receipt of written statements; and evidence considered, including video and audio recordings, correspondence, etc.
 - **5.3.1.3.** Findings of fact. This section should describe with sufficient detail the events and actions found by the investigator to be true.

- **5.3.1.4.** Conclusions, based on a preponderance of the evidence, as to whether Nebo School District policy was violated. If the investigator concludes that a policy violation has occurred, this section should refer to the specific policy provision and describe how the facts constitute a violation. This section should conclude whether each allegation is substantiated, unsubstantiated, or inconclusive.
- **5.3.1.5.** If allegations are substantiated but the investigator is not authorized under District policy to impose discipline on the employee, the investigator's report must include recommendations to address policy violations, including disciplinary action and training.
- **5.3.1.6.** If allegations are substantiated and the investigator is authorized under District policy to impose discipline, the investigator's report and decision must include actions taken or that will be taken, including disciplinary action and training.

5.4. Appeal of Decision.

Employees who have been disciplined as a result of an investigation under this policy may appeal in accordance with the grievance procedures outlined in the applicable employee handbook.

6. EMPLOYEE SEARCHES

- **6.1.** In order to protect against the unauthorized use and removal of District property, and to preserve a safe environment for all students and employees, the Board of Education recognizes that supervisors and administrators must have the authority to conduct reasonable searches of employees and the workplace.
- **6.2.** In general, supervisors and administrators may access areas where employees have no reasonable expectation of privacy, and such access is not considered a search. Evidence of a policy or contract violation in plain sight may be seized by the supervisor or administrator.
- **6.3.** An administrator may conduct a reasonable search of an area in which an employee has a reasonable expectation of privacy for noninvestigatory, work-related purposes, ¹ as well as for investigations of work-related misconduct. ² Such areas may include an employee's personal property which has been brought onto district property. A search of an area in which the employee has a reasonable expectation of privacy must conform to the requirements outlined in subsections 6.4 and 6.5.
- **6.4.** In addition to the other requirements outlined in this section, searches of specific areas are subject to the following.

6.4.1. Offices and Rooms

6.4.1.1. Employees do not typically have an expectation of privacy in classrooms, offices, closets, conference rooms, or other areas of District property (collectively "rooms") which are open or unlocked. However, an employee may have an expectation of privacy in a room to which the employee has been given keys and which the employee has locked. Such locked areas may be searched consistent with the reasonableness requirements of subsection 6.5.

6.4.2. Cabinets and Drawers

¹ City of Ontario v. Quon, 560 U.S. 746 (2010).

² O'Connor v. Ortega, 480 U.S. 709 (1987).

- **6.4.2.1.** Employees do not typically have an expectation of privacy in communal cabinets, cupboards, drawers, or other storage areas of District property which are open, unlocked, or otherwise regularly accessible to others. However, an employee may enjoy an expectation of privacy in a storage area to which the employee has been given keys and which the employee has locked. Such locked areas may be searched consistent with the reasonableness requirements of subsection 6.5.
- **6.4.3.** Electronic Devices and Systems
 - **6.4.3.1.** Consistent with Nebo School District Policy CG, Computer, Email, and Internet Use, employees have no expectation of privacy in their use of District computer systems and equipment. The District may monitor all computer, email, and internet activity.
 - **6.4.3.2.** An employee maintains an expectation of privacy in the personal use of electronic devices as permitted by Policy CG, including files, communications, and other private or personal information.
- **6.5.** The search must be justified at its inception and reasonable in its scope.
 - **6.5.1.** A search is justified at its inception "when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the employee is guilty of work-related misconduct, or that the search is necessary for a noninvestigatory work-related purpose." ³
 - 6.5.2. A search is reasonable in scope when the means and method of the search are reasonably related to the objective of the search and are not excessively intrusive in light of the nature of the suspected violation.⁴
- **6.6.** Documentation of Searches. Administrators must thoroughly document the details of any search conducted of an employee's person or property, especially in the case of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, weapons, or other items of criminal or significant importance. Documentation should be made at the time of the search, or as soon as possible thereafter, maintained in an investigative or personnel file, and provide the following information:
 - **6.6.1.** the reasonable suspicion giving rise to the search and its scope;
 - **6.6.2.** the name of the administrator(s) conducting / witnessing the search;
 - **6.6.3.** the date, time, and location of the search;
 - **6.6.4.** the area searched:
 - **6.6.5.** a list of all items found during the search and a statement as to their confiscation and/or safekeeping; and
 - **6.6.6.** a recommendation as to whether further investigation or disciplinary action should be taken.

7. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

The District may proceed with one or more of the following disciplinary actions against an employee for any conduct listed in Section 4 above. The District may elect to exclude any or all of the following actions and proceed directly with termination for cause. Proceeding with any of the following disciplinary actions does not prejudice the right of the District to include additional disciplinary actions or proceed with termination for cause on the same facts that gave rise to the initial disciplinary action.

³ O'Connor v. Ortega, 480 U.S. 709 (1987).

⁴ New Jersey v. T. L. O., 469 U.S. 325, (1985).

Prior to taking any disciplinary action beyond a verbal directive and written summary, the District must provide career employees and provisional employees with notice of the reasons for the action and an opportunity to be heard.⁵ In addition, employees against whom disciplinary action beyond a verbal directive and written summary is taken may, within the limits set in the paragraphs below, appeal the disciplinary action through the grievance procedure outlined in the applicable employee handbook.

- 7.1. Verbal directive and written summary A verbal directive may be used by the immediate supervisor or a Human Resources administrator to notify the employee that the employee's conduct is in question and to assist the employee in correcting the conduct. The person issuing the verbal directive shall create and maintain a written summary of the directive. The written summary is not placed in the employee's personnel file at the District Office, but the person issuing the directive must keep a copy of the written summary in a separate school or department file to document attempts to assist the employee in correcting the conduct in question.
- 7.2. Written warning and directive A written warning, which gives the employee notice that his/her conduct is in violation of policy, may be issued by the immediate supervisor or District administrator. This warning does not prejudice the right of the District to proceed with termination for cause on the same set of facts that gave rise to the warning or new facts should any misconduct continue. A copy of the written warning shall be placed in the employee's personnel file at the District Office. An employee may appeal a written warning through one stage of the grievance process but not beyond a Level One.
- 7.3. Written reprimand and directive A written reprimand, which rebukes the employee and warns that his/her contract is in danger of being terminated, may be issued by the immediate supervisor or District administrator. This reprimand does not prejudice the right of the District to proceed with termination for cause on the same set of facts that gave rise to the reprimand or new facts should any misconduct continue. A copy of the written reprimand shall be placed in the employee's personnel file at the District Office. An employee may appeal a written reprimand through two stages of the grievance process but not beyond a Level Two.
- 7.4. Probation The Superintendent or his/her designee may place the employee on probation. Probation is a period during which the employee's compliance with District policy, contract, or law is subject to critical and frequent examination and evaluation. The employee may lose certain privileges, benefits, and/or responsibilities during the probation, and additional terms and conditions may be imposed on the employee. Probation may be imposed in lieu of more severe disciplinary action based on the employee's admission of wrongdoing and demonstrated commitment to compliance. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of probation may subject the employee to further disciplinary action. The Superintendent or designee retains sole authority for determining the length and terms and conditions of the probation. Probation shall not prejudice the right of the District to proceed with termination for cause on the same facts that gave rise to the probation or new facts should any misconduct continue. A written record of the probation shall be placed in the employee's personnel file at the District Office. An employee may appeal a probation through two stages of the grievance process but not beyond a Level Two.
- 7.5. <u>Disciplinary transfer</u> The Superintendent or his/her designee may transfer the employee to a new location or new assignment. Disciplinary transfer of an employee shall not prejudice the right of the District to proceed with additional disciplinary action, including termination for cause on the same facts that gave rise to the transfer or new facts should any misconduct continue. A written record of the transfer shall be kept in the employee's personnel file at the District Office. An employee may appeal a disciplinary transfer through two stages of the grievance process but not beyond a Level Two.
- **7.6.** Suspension The Superintendent or his/her designee may place the employee on suspension without pay. Suspension is a period in which the employee is prohibited from reporting to work

⁵ Cleveland Board of Education v. Loudermill, 470 U.S. 532 (1985).

or performing any employment responsibilities. A suspended employee receives no compensation for the period of suspension. The Superintendent or designee retains sole authority for determining the duration of the suspension. An employee may be suspended pending further investigation when allegations of misconduct are more likely true than not. An employee may be suspended for the purpose of awaiting the outcome of criminal charges pending against the employee. The fact that criminal charges against an employee may be resolved in favor of the employee shall not preclude the District from initiating further disciplinary action, including termination, against the employee based all or in part upon the same facts that gave rise to the criminal charges. Suspension of an employee shall not prejudice the right of the District to proceed with termination for cause on the same facts that gave rise to the suspension or new facts should any misconduct continue. A written record of the suspension shall be kept in the employee's personnel file at the District Office. An employee may appeal a suspension through two stages of the grievance process but not beyond a Level Two.

- 7.7. Reduction in pay or hours The Superintendent or his/her designee may reduce the pay or hours of the employee. The reduction in pay or hours shall not prejudice the right of the District to proceed with additional disciplinary action, including termination for cause on the same facts that gave rise to the reduction or new facts should any misconduct continue. A written record of the reduction shall be kept in the employee's personnel file at the District Office. An employee may appeal a reduction in pay or hours through two stages of the grievance process but not beyond a Level Two.
- 7.8. Termination for cause An employee may be terminated if other disciplinary action fails to cause correction of the employee's misconduct or if the seriousness of the misconduct warrants termination without prior corrective action. An employee may not be terminated for cause without first being offered due process as outlined in section 9 below. An employee who has been terminated from employment may appeal such action within the grievance procedure as provided in the applicable handbook.
- **7.9.** Other disciplinary actions The District may take other disciplinary actions not specified in this policy. An employee may appeal other disciplinary action not otherwise specified in this policy through two stages of the grievance process but not beyond a Level Two.

8. ORDERLY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

- **8.1.** Non-Renewal or termination of career employee Contract for unsatisfactory performance
 - **8.1.1.** The District may terminate or non-renew a career employee's contract for unsatisfactory performance. If the District intends to do so, the District shall:
 - **8.1.1.1.** Provide the career employee with written documentation of the deficiencies in performance and discuss the deficiencies with the employee;
 - **8.1.1.2.** Provide written notice that the career employee's contract is subject to nonrenewal or termination if, following completion of a Plan of Assistance as described in subsection 8.1.2 below, the employee's performance is determined to still be unsatisfactory;
 - **8.1.1.3.** Develop and implement a Plan of Assistance as described in subsection 8.1.2 below to allow the career employee an opportunity to improve performance;
 - **8.1.1.4.** Reevaluate the career employee's performance as part of the Plan of Assistance; and
 - **8.1.1.5.** If the career employee's performance remains unsatisfactory, give notice of intent to non-renew or terminate the contract in accordance with subsection 8.3 below.

- **8.1.2.** Prior to Terminating or non-renewing the contract of a career employee for unsatisfactory performance, the District shall develop and implement a Plan of Assistance to allow the career employee an opportunity to improve performance.
 - **8.1.2.1.** The Plan of Assistance will identify:
 - **8.1.2.1.1.** Specific, measurable, and actionable deficiencies;
 - **8.1.2.1.2.** The available resources for improvement; and
 - **8.1.2.1.3.** A course of action to improve the career employee's performance.
 - **8.1.2.2.** The period of time for implementing the Plan of Assistance:
 - **8.1.2.2.1.** Begins when the career employee receives the written notice provided under paragraph 8.1.1.2 above and should be sufficient to successfully complete the plan.
 - **8.1.2.2.2.** Will not exceed one-hundred twenty (120) school days unless:
 - **8.1.2.2.2.1.** The career employee is on leave and the leave was approved and scheduled before the written notice was provided; or
 - **8.1.2.2.2.2.** The leave is otherwise specifically approved by the Board of Education.
 - **8.1.2.2.3.** May continue into the next school year.
 - **8.1.2.2.4.** Ends when the District either: (a) determines that the career employee has successfully remediated the deficiency; or (b) gives notice of intent to non-renew or terminate in accordance with subsection 8.3 below.
- **8.1.3.** The District may terminate the contract of a career employee whose performance is found satisfactory following successful completion of a Plan of Assistance if within the three-year period after the initial documentation of unsatisfactory performance for the same deficiency the career employee's performance is again found to be unsatisfactory. The District will then provide notice in accordance with subsection 8.3 below.
- **8.2.** Non-Renewal or Extension of provisional employee Contract
 - 8.2.1. Non-Renewal
 - **8.2.1.1.** The Department of Human Resources may choose not to offer a subsequent contract to (i.e., non-renew the contract of) a provisional employee. The District is not required to provide a cause for not offering a subsequent contract to a provisional employee.
 - **8.2.1.2.** If the District intends to not offer a contract for a subsequent contract term to a provisional employee, the District shall give notice of that intention to the employee at least sixty (60) calendar days before the end of the employee's contract term.
 - **8.2.1.3.** In the absence of the notice required in paragraph 8.2.1.2, a provisional employee is considered employed for the next contract term with a salary based upon the applicable salary schedule. When a provisional employee completes the required number of years of service, as provided below, the provisional employee becomes a career employee.

8.2.1.3.1. Provisional employees, regardless of immediate prior experience at another school district, must work for Nebo School District on at least a half-time basis for three (3) consecutive years to obtain career employee status as defined in this policy and in the Public Education Human Resource Management Act, UTAH CODE ANN. § 53G-11-501.

8.2.2. Extension

- **8.2.2.1.** The Department of Human Resources may extend the provisional status of an employee in one-year increments for up to two (2) additional years, for a total of five (5) years as a provisional employee. Circumstances under which an employee's provisional status may be extended include the following:
 - **8.2.2.1.1.** Any unsatisfactory rating on an employee performance evaluation, that may include Utah Effective Teaching Standards, Student Learning Objectives or student growth measurements, Stakeholder Input Survey, EMS Performance Rating, etc.; or
 - **8.2.2.1.2.** Receipt of complaint or expression of concern from a parent, coworker, supervisor, or member of the community that creates uncertainty about the employee's professionalism, performance, or character.

8.3. Termination During the contract term

- **8.3.1.** The District may terminate the employment of a career or provisional employee for cause at any time.
- **8.3.2.** If the District intends to terminate a career or provisional employee's contract during the contract term for cause or non-renew a career employee's contract for cause, the District shall give the employee a written notice of intent at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the proposed date of termination. The notice shall be served by personal delivery or certified mail addressed to the employee's last-known address and shall state the date of termination and the detailed reasons for termination.
- **8.3.3.** The notice shall advise the employee that the employee has a right to a fair hearing and that the hearing is waived if it is not requested within fifteen (15) calendar days after the notice of termination was either personally delivered or mailed. The notice shall state that failure of the employee to request a hearing constitutes a waiver of that right and that the District may then proceed with termination without further notice.
- **8.3.4.** The District shall provide a written notice of termination, which shall include findings of fact upon which the termination is based.

9. PRE- AND POST-DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS

Upon being apprised of employee misconduct or violation of District or school policy that may lead to disciplinary action, an administrator shall follow the investigation procedures outlined in section 5.

9.1. Required Pre-Disciplinary Hearing

9.1.1. An employee must be provided minimal due process prior to discipline beyond a verbal directive. The supervisor shall give the employee notice of the allegations, evidence of the misconduct, and the opportunity to respond. The notice and informal hearing must precede the imposition of disciplinary action.⁶ The notice and informal

⁶ Cleveland Board of Education v. Loudermill, 470 U.S. 532 (1985).

hearing under this paragraph is provided through the investigation process outlined in section 5.

9.1.2. Should the disciplinary action involve termination, the notice and informal hearing shall be referenced in any further correspondence to the employee related to the termination. Notice requirements and other specific procedures related to termination shall be followed as outlined in this policy, the applicable employee handbook, and other applicable District policies.

9.2. Required Post-Disciplinary Hearing (Grievance)

- **9.2.1.** An employee receiving discipline beyond a verbal directive may request a grievance hearing to dispute the discipline. Procedures for requesting and holding such hearings are outlined in the applicable employee handbook.
- 9.2.2. Notice requirements shall be followed as outlined in section 8 above and in the applicable employee handbook. Terminated employees are typically entitled to representation. At a hearing before the Board of Education or a hearing officer or panel, employees may call and cross examine witnesses. Other specific hearing procedures may be set by the District.

10. REPORTING TO STATE AND FEDERAL AGENCIES

- **10.1.** The District will report employee conduct to authorized state and federal agencies as required by law.
- **10.2.** UTAH ADMIN. CODE R277-217 requires the District to report educator misconduct to the Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission (UPPAC) as described in this subsection.
 - **10.2.1.** The District shall notify UPPAC if an educator is determined, pursuant to a judicial or administrative proceeding or internal District investigation, to have violated the educator standards described in UTAH ADMIN. CODE R277-217.
 - **10.2.2.** The Superintendent or designee shall notify UPPAC and the educator of any allegation from a parent that an educator's conduct violated UTAH ADMIN. CODE R277-217 within 30 days of receiving the allegation.
 - **10.2.3.** For each allegation referred to UPPAC under this policy, the District shall notify UPPAC of the following:
 - **10.2.3.1.** the findings of the District's internal investigation or administrative proceedings;
 - **10.2.3.2.** criminal charges filed by a prosecuting agency;
 - **10.2.3.3.** the District's internal disciplinary action or decision not to take action, and the evidence supporting the decision; and
 - **10.2.3.4.** any evidence that may be relevant if UPPAC chooses to investigate the matter.

EXHIBITS

None

REFERENCES

UTAH CODE ANN. § 53E-4-312 UTAH CODE ANN. § 53G-11-501, et seq.

UTAH ADMIN. CODE R277-217

UTAH ADMIN. CODE R277-404

City of Ontario v. Quon, 560 U.S. 746, (2010)

Cleveland Board of Education v. Loudermill, 470 U.S. 532 (1985)

New Jersey v. T. L. O., 469 U.S. 325, (1985)

O'Connor v. Ortega, 480 U.S. 709 (1987)

Nebo School District Policy CG, Computer, Email, and Internet Use

Nebo School District Policy GCPF, Reduction in Force
Nebo School District Policy GBCC, Alcohol and Drug-Free Workplace

Nebo School District Policy JDCB/GBEBB, Sexual Harassment

Nebo School District Policy JDG, Student Dress and Grooming

Nebo School District Certified Employee Handbook

Nebo School District Classified Employee Handbook

Nebo School District Management Team Handbook

FORMS

Investigator Checklist Complaint Response Witness Statement Investigation Classification Investigation Report and Decision

HISTORY

Revised: 12 February 2025 - changed title to "Employee Conduct and Discipline," revised purpose and definitions; added requirement related to testing ethics; clarified disciplinary appeals; added section on reporting to outside agencies such as UPPAC. Revised: 12 July 2023 - added section on investigations; added documentation requirements for employee searches; clarified employment status of certain employee groups; made technical changes.

Revised: 8 July 2020 - updated consistent with simultaneous updates to NSD policies GBEB and new JDCB/GBEBB, as required by updates to Title IX regulations.

Revised: 10 June 2015 - expanded section on nonrenewal or extension of provisional contract; made technical changes.

Revised: 8 January 2014 - added section on employee searches; made technical changes

Revised: 10 April 2013 - aligned definitions with employee agreements; revised causes for discipline; revised appeal process; modified disciplinary actions; made technical changes.

Revised: 4 April 2012 - updated consistent with state law repeal of Orderly School Termination Procedures Act and new Public Education Human Resource Management Act, including addition of termination for unsatisfactory performance.

Adopted or Revised: 9 May 2001.