



HR News

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Semi-Annual Reminders

Human Resources would like to provide you with information on several important APS policies and regulations, as well as other types of district information. It is your responsibility to be familiar with all district policies and regulations and to abide by them.

District policies are accessible online. In addition to policies and regulations, there is other information available online on a variety of topics. Human Resources strongly encourages everyone to become familiar with its websites. HR also publishes the HR News, which is announced via the Superintendent's Bulletin. Please take the time to read each issue for important information that may affect your job.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Exhibit AC.1-E

The Aurora Public Schools is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, religion, ancestry, sex or need for special education services, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Career and technical education opportunities will be offered without regard to these protected classes.

In adhering to this policy, the Aurora Public Schools abides by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Age Discrimination Act and Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Questions, complaints or requests for additional information regarding the ADA, (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990) Section 504 and Title IX may be forwarded to the designated ADA, Section 504 compliance coordinator.

Name and Title: Dion Arguelles, Director of Employee Relations
 Office Address: 1085 Peoria Street
 Aurora, Colorado 80011
 Phone Number: (303)344-8060, ext. 28020
 Days/Hours Available: Monday-Friday, 7:30 am - 4:30 pm



Nondiscrimination/Nonharassment of Employees

Policy GBAA

The Aurora Public Schools is committed to the policy that no otherwise qualified employee shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any district program or activity on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, genetic information, marital status, gender, age, disability or sexual orientation.

As part of this policy, the district is committed to maintaining a working environment for employees that is free from harassment based on an individual's race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, genetic information, gender (with or without sexual conduct), sexual orientation, age, disability or protected activity (opposition to prohibited discrimination or participation in the statutory complaint process). All such harassment, by district employees, students and third parties, is strictly prohibited. All members of the district community, employees, and students are required to promptly report conduct that could be in violation of this policy.

Reporting Suspected Discrimination and/or Harassment

Any employee who believes that he or she may have experienced unlawful discrimination or harassment, or who believes that he or she has observed unlawful discrimination or harassment taking place, shall report this information immediately to his or her immediate supervisor. If the complaint involves the employee's immediate supervisor, the employee may report to the supervisor or administrator at the next level or may report directly to the chief personnel officer or a human resources director.

Discipline, Suspension & Dismissal of Classified Employees

Policy GDQD

The board of education authorizes the superintendent to compose and implement regulations related to the suspension, discipline and termination of classified employees. Such regulations are designed to treat employees fairly while at the same time maintaining a productive and efficient workforce.

The conduct described below illustrates the kinds of behavior that could result in varying degrees of disciplinary action:

- A. Failure to carry out instructions or failure to perform a job in a satisfactory manner
- B. Insubordination
- C. Discourteous, offensive or abusive conduct or language
- D. Dishonesty
- E. Possessing, using, or distributing or being under the influence of alcohol, marijuana or any illegal drugs
- F. Excessive absences or tardiness
- G. Abusing sick leave privileges
- H. Failing to notify a supervisor prior to absence
- I. Falsifying district records of any kind
- J. Engaging in a work stoppage
- K. Failing to follow safety regulations or practices
- L. Provoking, instigating, or participating in a fight or scuffle
- M. Being convicted of a criminal offense

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- N. Carelessness with or intentionally damaging property
- O. Temporarily or permanently removing, possessing or using district property without authorization
- P. Threatening, intimidating or coercing others
- Q. Horseplay or practical jokes that can or do result in injury damage to property
- R. Failing to report situations that could be injurious to personnel or equipment
- S. Possessing, on district property, any object that can be considered a weapon
- T. Making false, vicious or malicious statements about another employee or the district
- U. Engaging in conduct, on/off the job, which adversely affects the employee's ability to do his/her job or which reflects adversely on the district

Computer and E-mail Policy

Policy EGAEA

The e-mail and computer systems of the Aurora Public Schools constitute a system which is to be used by district employees to accomplish the business purposes of the school district. Anyone using this system should be aware that computer files and e-mail messages are not confidential.

Both retrieval authorized by district policy and unauthorized retrieval may occur. In addition, e-mail messages may constitute public records under the Colorado Open Records Act. Consequently, employees should utilize some other method of creating, storing and conveying confidential, private or personal information they wish to remain confidential. By using this system, users agree to abide by the e-mail policy and regulation and confirm that they have read and understand the terms of that policy.

Internet Social Networks

While employees are free to utilize blogs and social network sites during your non-work time and on their personal computers, any blog or Internet communication that:

- Contains content that indicates the employee's involvement in criminal conduct, or
- Contains inappropriate online conduct that negatively affects the employee's performance, or
- Seriously diminishes the reputation or standing in the community of the employee or district, or
- Divulges confidential district or student-related information, may subject the employee to discipline or termination.

We also caution against posting or sending personal, private or sensitive photos via the web or cell phones. Sensitive information (such as personal photos) that may be contained in a cell phone or laptop may be accessible to a wide audience if the phone or laptop is lost or stolen. Once these pictures are in cyberspace, it is nearly impossible to control access to them.

Parents entrust us with the duty to impart basic societal values and qualities of good citizenship to their children. When using Internet social networks or cell phone functions, please remember that we act as role models for our students and must fulfill our professional duties at all times.



facebook



Reporting Child Abuse/Child Protection

Policy JLF

The Colorado Child Protection Act of 1987 states that certain persons, among them any school official or employee, who has reasonable cause to know or suspect that a child has been abused or neglected, are required to make an immediate oral report (or cause a report to be made) to the county department of human services in which the child resides, or to local law enforcement (in instances of non-interfamilial abuse).

The oral report must be followed promptly by a written report. It is not the responsibility of school personnel to make a determination if abuse or neglect has occurred. Human services or local law enforcement will make that decision.

If you are uncertain as to whether reasonable cause exists, you should nevertheless make a report to human services or law enforcement and allow those agencies to determine whether an investigation is warranted. Even if suspected abuse involves a case which is very old, and even if the suspected perpetrator is also a minor, a report must be made.

Legal Notice Posters

By law, each site is required to display employment notices which address certain legal issues, including wage and hour requirements. Please verify that you have such notices at your site, and that they are in a place that is readily accessible to all employees.

Please contact Dion Arguelles, Director of Employee Relations, at ext. 28020 if you do not have the posters.

The required notices are:

- Federal Minimal Wage - Rights Under the Fair Labor Standards Act
- Equal Employment is the Law
- Rights under the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993
- Your Rights under USERRA (Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act)
- Colorado Civil Rights Commission Notice to Workers re: Unemployment Insurance

Family Medical Leave Act Update

Policy GDCCF

The language in the Federally Mandated Family and Medical Leave policy has been updated to reflect changes in regard to spouses, partners in a civil union and/or domestic partners who both work in APS.

A. Spouses, partners in a civil union and/or domestic partners who are both employed by the District in the same school and/or department shall be entitled to a total of 12 weeks of leave, rather than 12 weeks each, per year.

In the past this policy has covered any partners working in the district, and is now specific to those working in the same school and/or department.

Tuesday P.M Meetings

Whenever possible, please avoid scheduling regular meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons as this is the time when the Aurora Education Association schedules its meetings.



NCLB Requirements - Licensed

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires teachers in core content areas to be “highly qualified” for their assignments. In Colorado, teachers are considered “highly qualified” when they possess an initial or professional teaching license or an interim or alternative authorization with an endorsement in the content area in which they are teaching.

The Colorado Department of Education offers options for meeting the “highly qualified” criteria.

Option #1— Demonstrate content expertise via the PLACE/Praxis II or 24 semester hours (secondary only) **AND** possess one of the following CDE license or authorizations:

- Initial or professional teacher license with an endorsement for the area(s) being taught OR
- Interim authorization with an endorsement in the area being taught OR
- Alternative authorization, with an endorsement in the area being taught

For teachers who have an initial or professional license or an interim or alternative authorization, but are teaching outside of their area of endorsement:

Option #2—pass the PLACE or PRAXIS II exam in the additional content area(s) being taught OR

Option #3—possess 24 semester hours of credit in the additional content area(s) being taught

Hours will be verified by the Division of Human Resources and must be relevant to the acquisition of knowledge and skills in the non-endorsed content area being taught. Note: Elementary teachers must pass the content exam to be “highly qualified” (Option #2). Twenty-four hours of elementary content no longer meets the “highly qualified” criteria.

NCLB Requirements - Classified

The federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires Title 1 classified staff with direct, classroom, instructional support responsibilities to meet “highly qualified” standards as defined in the act.

In APS, our goals are not only to meet the NCLB requirements but also to train and support classified staff with instructional responsibilities in their roles as we increase student achievement.

To those ends, we chose to develop a training and assessment program as our NCLB compliance plan. All classified staff with instructional responsibilities are required to take these classes, not just employees at Title 1 schools.

The classes content includes conditions of learning, positive behavior support, diverse learners, reading, writing and math. Probationary employees are given one year to complete the training as a condition of employment.

Transferring to a NCLB Required Position (Non-Probationary Staff)

Non-probationary classified employees who have not completed NCLB courses but who are interested in transferring to a position that requires NCLB, must pass the Accuplacer Exam (given through the Classified HR Office) and sign a compliance plan that acknowledges the requirement to complete the NCLB certification program within one year of the new position. If the employee fails to pass the NCLB training, he/she must agree to be placed in a non-NCLB required position for which they are qualified.

The classified NCLB [2014-15 class schedule](#) is available on the HR website. We recommend that you check the schedule at various times throughout the year as changes may occur.

Note: The compliance plan is only required if the employee is selected for the position.