Series 4000: District Employment

4200 Employee Conduct and Ethics

4205 Hiring and Background Checks

The District is committed to prohibiting unlawful discrimination in its hiring practices consistent with Policy 4101. Hiring decisions are based on qualifications, skills, knowledge, abilities, education, certifications/licenses, experience, demeanor, and other criteria the Board may deem relevant. In making hiring decisions, the Board or designee will consider enrollment, operational requirements, financial needs, and the District's best interests.

A. Advertising and Posting

Vacancies may be posted on a designated website or other location and distributed to appropriate employee groups or relevant professional associations. The posting may outline general duties, qualifications, pay range, work experience, and hours. Vacancies may be posted for at least 14 calendar days unless a different time period is specified in a collective bargaining agreement. Applications must be submitted to the central office unless otherwise designated. The District may establish an online application process. Postings will comply with applicable collective bargaining agreements.

B. Hiring

The Board will determine the hiring process for the Superintendent. For all other positions, the Superintendent or designee will determine the process to consider and interview qualified applicants. The Superintendent or designee is authorized to hire non-exempt staff, temporary, and substitute employees. Teachers, Non-Teaching Professionals, Supervisors, and Administrators that the Superintendent or designee recommends for hire are subject to Board approval.

The District will not consider an applicant for employment unless the applicant provides the District with the following:

1. written consent for the criminal records division of the Michigan State Police to conduct the criminal history check required by Revised School Code Section 1230 and the criminal records check required by Revised School Code Section 1230a;

2. a signed statement that complies with Revised School Code Section 1230b(1); and

3. other required application materials.

Falsification or misrepresentation of credentials, qualifications, references, or application materials will be grounds for disqualification or discipline, including discharge.

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C. Background Checks for Employees, Contractors, and Volunteers

1. The District will conduct a background check on a selected applicant upon an offer of employment or before a person is assigned to regularly and continuously work under contract in any of its schools. The Superintendent or designee will receive and review the results of the background check before the District employs or allows the person to regularly and continuously work under contract in any of its schools, unless otherwise permitted by law.

2. "Regularly and continuously work under contract" means any of the following:

   a. to work at school on a more than intermittent or sporadic basis as an owner or employee of an entity that has a contract with the District to provide food, custodial, transportation, counseling, or administrative services or to provide instructional services to pupils or related and auxiliary services to special education pupils;

   b. to work at school on a more than intermittent or sporadic basis as a person under a contract with the District to provide food, custodial, transportation, counseling, or administrative services, or to provide instructional services to pupils or related and auxiliary services to special education pupils.

3. "School" means in a classroom, elsewhere on District property, or on a school bus or other school-related vehicle.

4. The background check will include:

   a. a criminal history check pursuant to Revised School Code Section 1230;

   b. a criminal records check pursuant to Revised School Code Section 1230a;

   c. an unprofessional conduct check pursuant to Revised School Code Section 1230b; and

   d. if a certification is required for the position, such as a teaching certificate or administrator certificate, District verification that the person's certification is valid.

   The background check may include any other matters the District deems relevant, such as verifying references, school transcripts, and prior employment, as may be permitted by law.

   If the criminal history check report, criminal records check report, or any other report discloses that the person has been convicted of a listed offense as defined in MCL 28.722, and the District verifies the conviction using public records, the District must not employ the person or allow the person to regularly and continuously work under contract in any of its schools. If any of the reports disclose that the person was convicted of a felony as defined in MCL 761.1, and the felony is not a listed offense, and the District verifies the

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conviction using public records, the District must not employ the person or allow the person to regularly and continuously work under contract in any of its schools unless the Superintendent and the Board each specifically approve the employment or assignment in writing.

Employment offers are contingent on the Superintendent's or designee's review of the background check results.

All the information the District obtains via the criminal history check report, criminal records check report, or any other report that discloses that the person has been convicted of a listed offense will be maintained pursuant to 4205-AG-1.

5. Confidentiality

All the information the District obtains via the criminal history check report, criminal records check report, or any other report that discloses that the person has been convicted of a listed offense are to be considered confidential and will not be released except pursuant to 4205-AG-1(C)(5). Violation of confidentiality is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to $10,000.

Notification from the Michigan Department of Education or Michigan State Police about a District employee's criminal conviction is exempt from FOIA for the first fifteen (15) days until the information is verified. Once verified, only information regarding physical or sexual abuse may be released. The employee may release the information with written authorization.

D. Other Post-Offer Considerations

The District will not make disability-related medical inquiries or inquire about an applicant's disability-related requested accommodation(s) until after a conditional job offer is made, consistent with Policy 4105. Based on the physical and mental demands of a position, an examination and/or drug test may be required following a conditional offer of employment. The examination will be performed by a health care provider identified by the Superintendent or designee at the District's expense.

Legal authority: MCL 28.722; MCL 380.1230, 380.1230a, 380.1230b; MCL 761.1

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