

QUALIFICATIONS OF TEACHERS

The school board shall employ teachers on a professional basis without regard to age, race, color, sex, or national origin.

Every teacher employed in this school system must possess a valid license or certificate and shall execute a written contract with the board. Teacher contracts shall be considered for renewal on or before April 15 each year.

The principal and the superintendent shall consider applications. Selected applicants shall be interviewed by the administration and a recommendation shall be made to the board who shall make the final employment determination.

Starting with the 2002-2003 school year, school districts receiving Title I funds must ensure that teachers hired after the first day of school in a program supported by such funds are "highly qualified". By the end of the 2005-2006 school year, all teachers within this school district are required to be "highly qualified". The No Child Left Behind Act defines "highly qualified" as an elementary or secondary school teacher who has obtained full state certification and has not had certification requirements waived on an emergency, temporary, or provisional basis.

Elementary teachers who are new to the profession must hold at least a bachelor's degree and have demonstrated, by passing a rigorous state test, subject knowledge and teaching skills in reading, writing, mathematics, and other areas of the basic elementary curriculum. Middle and high school teachers, new to the profession, will be deemed to be highly qualified if the individual teacher holds at least a bachelor's degree and has demonstrated a high level of competency in each of the academic subjects in which the individual teaches by passing a rigorous state academic subject test in each such academic subject; or has successfully completed a grade degree with coursework that is equivalent to an undergraduate major, or advanced certification or credentialing for each academic subject that the individual teaches.

Veteran teachers currently employed by the district will be identified as highly qualified if they:

1. Hold at least a bachelor's degree; and
2. Have met the applicable standard for a teacher who is new to the profession, which includes an option for a test; or
3. Demonstrates competence in all the academic subjects in which the teachers teach, based upon a high objective uniform state standard of evaluation.

Additional qualifications and terms of employment for teachers may be found in the standard teacher contract. Specific duties may be found in the teacher job description found elsewhere in this manual. Nothing in this policy manual shall be construed as limiting or expanding the terms of the employment contract.

LEGAL REF.: P.L. 107-110, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001

CROSS REF.: GCB, Sub-codes (All relate to compensation)
GCPD, Suspension and Dismissal of Professional Staff Members

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