

CHAPTER 6.00 – HUMAN RESOURCES

APPOINTMENT OR EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

6.17*

Any person desiring employment shall file a completed application on the form provided by the Superintendent.

I. Qualifications

- A. Must be of good moral character.
- B. Must have attained the age of eighteen (18) years, with the exception of students employed by the Board.
- C. Must not be ineligible for employment under 1012.315, F.S., if applying for an instructional, administrative or any other position requiring direct contact with students.

II. Certificate Requirements

Each applicant for an instructional or a certificated administrative position shall hold or be eligible for a certificate, have a receipt from the Florida Department of Education acknowledging that an application has been filed and that issuance of the certificate is pending, or have the proper license to perform services.

- A. To be considered for a position, an applicant shall be duly qualified for that position in accordance with state law, regulations of the Florida Department of Education, and the approved job description. If it appears that the applicant is eligible for proper certification, appointment may be made subject to the conditions set forth in the annual contract of employment as approved by the School Board.
- B. Any person not holding a valid Florida certificate at the time of employment shall be required, upon initial employment, to make application to the Florida Department of Education for such a certificate through the Human Resource office of the District. When such certificate is received, it must be filed with the office of the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources. If the Department of Education declines to issue a certificate, the person's employment shall be terminated immediately. Failure to file such certificate, except for good cause as determined by the Superintendent, shall result in the termination of employment.

III. Interviews and Appointments

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- A. When interviews are conducted by interview teams, including those with community representatives, the team shall reasonably reflect the community's diverse racial, ethnic, and gender composition.
- B. The Superintendent or designee shall monitor and ensure that appointments and assignments are consistent with the District's intent of maintaining a diverse work force.

IV. Initial Employment

- A. Any offer of employment with the School District is conditioned on submission of fingerprints as required by Florida Statute and a background investigation by the Superintendent or designee and District Background Security Check (BSC) Committee. After a job offer, but prior to beginning employment with the District, all candidates for all positions must undergo a criminal and employment background check (including verification of work authorization status through the E-Verify system) to determine suitability for employment. The application for employment shall inform applicants they are subject to criminal background checks, and advise applicants that failure to be truthful on the application about prior criminal history will be grounds for ineligibility or dismissal from employment.
- B. As a condition of employment and prior to beginning work, an applicant who has received a conditional job offer must undergo background screening as required by Florida Statute by fileing a complete set of fingerprints taken by an authorized law enforcement officer or an employee of the District trained to take fingerprints. The fingerprints shall be processed by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The applicant shall be required to pay for full costs of processing at the time of fingerprinting.
- C. A Background Security Check (BSC) committee shall be established to review the criminal history of all persons nominated for initial employment. The BSC committee shall obtain criminal background information for applicants through requests to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The BSC committee shall include, but not be limited to, the director of human resources, the District EEO Officer, and a representative of the County Sheriff's Department.
- D. When the fingerprint or background check reports are returned, the Committee shall review both the application and the report(s) concerning the individual. The BSC committee will compare the information provided

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by the new employee with the information received from the FDLE and/or the FBI pursuant to Florida Statute.

- E. The Superintendent or designee shall conduct employment history checks of applicants for instructional, administrative or any other positions requiring direct contact with students. The employment history check shall include, but not be limited to, screening through the use of educator screening tools described in law and contact with each previous employer. All findings shall be documented. If the Superintendent is unable to contact a previous employer, he/she shall document all efforts to contact the previous employer. For all other applicants, the BSC committee or its designee shall contact or attempts to contact all prior employers for a minimum of the past ten (10) years and all private or public educational institutions by which the applicant was previously employed while age eighteen (18) or older. The committee shall document all attempts to contact previous employers.
- F. No applicant who has received a conditional job offer shall begin work before his or her fingerprints are processed, the criminal and pre-employment investigation is completed, and a determination is rendered as to suitability for employment.
- G. Based upon the facts of an application, criminal background check or other valid or reliable data sources, applicants who are, or have been convicted of certain serious offenses may be denied employment by the School District. As used in this section the term conviction is defined as a finding of guilt, a plea of guilty, or a plea of *nolo contendere*, or a verdict of guilty. The withholding of adjudication or the entry of an order sealing or expunging the record requiring a pre-trial intervention or pre-trial diversion shall not be considered an exception to this section. Other information derived from the pre-employment investigation, which indicates the applicant may not be suitable for employment by the School District, may be grounds for denying employment to an applicant.
- H. An applicant shall be disqualified from employment in any position requiring direct contact with students if he/she is ineligible for employment under 1012.315, F.S.
- I. Drug Testing - Evidence of a negative drug screening on each new employee shall be received by the school district prior to effective date of appointment.
- J. Any instructional or educational support persons under contract to the School District to operate student programs, including student teachers,

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persons participating in short-term teacher assistance experiences or field experiences who have direct contact with students must meet the requirements of IV.A., B., E. and F. Such persons may not be in direct contact with students if ineligible under 1012.315, F.S.

V. Fairness and Impartiality in the Supervision of Employees

A. Basis for Implementation:

The impartial hiring and promoting of qualified personnel to provide the best human resources available to educate and provide support services to our students is critical to the success of our school district. In performing the duties of interviewing, evaluating, promoting, hiring, or disciplining persons hired or being considered for hire in our school district, administrative persons must be void of any bias, or appearance of bias, for or against the employees within the school site or department they administer. Any such bias, or appearance of bias, increases the potential for allegations of improperly awarding bonuses, unfairly promoting individuals, waiving disciplinary action, and providing special privileges not being equally availed to all employees. Recognizing the components of fairness and impartiality must be standards within the human resource policies under which we govern, a policy concerning having two or more employees related to one another in the same school site or department is adopted.

- B. It shall be against the policies of the SRCSD for any employee related to another employee to be employed in a position at the same school site, or within the same department, if either employee holds a supervisory position at that site or department. The employee referenced as related for purposes of this policy shall be termed a relative.

C. Definitions for purposes of implementing this policy:

Supervisory position – any position in a school or department of the SRCSD that includes as a part of the duties and responsibilities of that position, the direct supervision of any other employee under the employment of the SRCSD.

Relative – The terms “related” or “relative” as used in this policy refer to the following family relationships: father, grandfather, mother, grandmother, son, grandson, daughter, granddaughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, husband, wife, former spouse, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law,

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stepfather, stepmother, stepson, stepdaughter, stepbrother, stepsister, half-brother, or half-sister.

- D. In the event of a change of family status which would place an employee into violation of this policy, it will be the responsibility of the employee to notify Human Resources of this change in family status.
- E. Recommendations that do not fall within the guidelines of this policy must be approved by the School Board.
- F. Implementation of this policy shall begin January 17, 2008.

It is the intent of the School Board that all existing conditions as of January 16, 2008 be in compliance by January 17, 2013. Any conditions not in compliance with this policy on January 17, 2013 must be approved by the School Board.

VI. Current Employees

- A. Whenever a personnel investigation of a complaint against an employee is required, a criminal background check may be conducted as part of the investigation.
- B. If it is discovered during the period of employment that a regular employee has a prior criminal record and that the employee was requested to provide this information at the time of hire, but did not do so, the employee may be subject to disciplinary action, including dismissal for submitting false information on the employment application, or otherwise having misled the District.
- C. If it is discovered during the period of employment that an employee has a prior criminal record and no falsification of an application or attempt to mislead occurred, the record shall be reviewed by the BSC committee. The committee shall consider all information, including any mitigating conditions, and report findings of fact, possible mitigating circumstances and recommendations for action to the Superintendent. The employee shall have the opportunity to respond in writing to the findings and recommendation. The Superintendent shall review the record, recommendation and response before taking appropriate action. Appeal of the Superintendent's action shall follow collective bargaining agreements or School Board Policy, as appropriate.
- D. Instructional personnel and noninstructional or contractual personnel who have direct contact with students or have access to or control of school

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funds must meet the screening requirements described in law every five (5) years. Personnel whose fingerprints have not been maintained by the Department of Law Enforcement are required to be refingerprinted.

- E. An employee whose criminal record after employment would disqualify him/her from employment shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

VII. Acceptance of Appointment

Failure to signify acceptance of appointment within ten (10) days after receipt of the official notice of appointment shall be considered a rejection of the offer and the position shall be declared vacant.

VIII. Reconsideration and Appeal

- A. Applicants who have been denied employment, and probationary employees who have been denied permanent employment, on the basis of their criminal record and/or background check, may request reconsideration by the BSC committee only if they present new information not previously available to the committee.
 - B. Applicants who have been denied employment, and probationary employees who have denied permanent employment, because of their criminal record, drug screening and/or background check, may appeal to the Superintendent. Applicants and probationary employees shall receive written notice of the right to appeal the decision by the BSC committee to the Superintendent. Their appeal must be in writing, and may respond to the findings and decision of the BSC committee. If new information is to be submitted, the applicant must first request reconsideration by the BSC committee. The Superintendent's decision shall be final.
 - C. School Board personnel who have been terminated because of their criminal record or employment background investigation shall receive written notice of the right to appeal such a decision consistent with the collective bargaining agreements and District policy. The final decision for termination shall be made by the School Board.
- IX. The District shall ensure that all aspects of the recruitment and selection process are job-related and are consistent with business necessity so as to ensure equal employment opportunity. Neither the District nor its agents shall engage in any discrimination with respect to employment in violation of any state or federal laws. Applicants shall be informed of the complaint procedure that may be used should they allege discrimination.

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