

## SECTION A: FOUNDATIONS AND BASIC COMMITMENTS

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AA	School District Legal Status
ABA	Community Involvement in Decision Making (Also KC)
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## SCHOOL DISTRICT LEGAL STATUS

The United States Constitution grants the individual states responsibility for public education.

The Ohio General Assembly is under mandate by the Ohio Constitution to provide for the organization, administration and control of the public school system supported by public funds. The Ohio Constitution also mandates a State Board of Education (SBOE) and a Superintendent of Public Instruction, the respective powers and duties of which are prescribed by State law.

The Ohio General Assembly has also established a State Department of Education (through which policies and directives of the SBOE and Superintendent of Public Instruction are administered) and has established specific types of school districts.

The Coldwater Exempted Village School District is classified as an exempted village school district governed by a locally elected Board of Education.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]

[Re-adoption date: February 14, 2017]

LEGAL REFS.: U.S. Const. Amend. X  
Ohio Const. Art. VI, 2; 3; 4  
ORC 3311.01; 3311.02; 3311.03; 3311.04; 3311.05  
3311.16 through 3311.19

CROSS REFS.: BBA, School Board Powers and Duties  
BBB, School Board Elections  
LBB, Cooperative Educational Programs

*NOTE: A statement under this code would usually be statutory and informational, not a “policy” in the strict sense of the word. The statement above presents statutory information relating to Ohio school districts.*

*A local district should cite Ohio Revised Code Section (RC) 3311.03; a city district should cite RC 3311.02; an exempted village school district should cite RC 3311.04. Joint vocational school districts (JVSD) should refer to RC 3311.16 through 3311.19, and educational service centers should refer to RC 3311.05.*

*Senate Bill (SB) 3 (2016) revised several of the requirements made by House Bill 59 (2013), impacting the governance structure of JVSD boards. Members are to be appointed to a JVSD board for a three-year term and no longer are limited to two consecutive terms. SB 3 also removed specific qualifications board members must meet. A member must be appointed by the appointing district in accordance with the JVSD plan and the member may be:*

- a current elected board member of a JVSD member school board or*
- an individual who has experience or knowledge regarding the labor needs of the state and region with an understanding of the skills, training and education needed for current and future employment opportunities in the state.*

*Preference may be given to qualified individuals who have served on a JVSD business advisory committee. SB 3 also allows any JVSD board to submit an application to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for approval to revise its membership plan to stagger the members’ terms of office.*

*HB 59 also removed some of the supervisory tasks an ESC previously managed for a local school district.*

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

Community participation in the schools is essential to promote and maintain the quality of education for all students.

In addition to electing fellow citizens to represent them on the Board, all citizens may express ideas, concerns and judgments about the schools to the administration, to the staff, to any appointed advisory bodies and ultimately to the Board. Ideas should be addressed to the responsible individual in an appropriate fashion.

Residents may be invited by the Board to act as advisors, individually and in groups, in such areas as:

1. clarifying general ideas and attitudes held by residents in regard to the schools;
2. assisting in developing Board policies under which the District is to be managed;
3. assisting in establishing administrative arrangements and regulations designed to help implement these policies;
4. determining the purposes of curriculum and special services to be provided for students;
5. evaluating the extent to which these purposes are being achieved by present policies and/or
6. studying a specific problem or set of closely related problems about which a decision must be made.

The Board gives consideration to the advice it receives from individuals and community groups. Final authority for all decisions rests with the Board.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 121.22  
OAC 3301-35-04

CROSS REFS.: AD, Development of Philosophy of Education  
AFA, Evaluation of School Board Operational Procedures (Also BK)  
BCE, Board Committees  
BCF, Advisory Committees to the Board  
BCFA, Business Advisory Council to the Board  
IF, Curriculum Development

## STAFF INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

The District maintains an environment that supports personal and organizational performance excellence by allowing all employees the opportunity to develop and use their full potential to achieve District goals and objectives.

There should be an exchange of ideas and pertinent information among all elements of a school district. Morale is enhanced when employees are assured that their voices are heard by those in positions of administrative authority.

All employees have the opportunity to bring their ideas and/or concerns to the Board through the recognized administrative channels. Final authority for all decisions rests with the Board.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]

LEGAL REF.: OAC 3301-35-05

CROSS REFS.: AD, Development of Philosophy of Education  
BCE, Board Committees  
BCF, Advisory Committees to the Board  
BF, Board Policy Development and Adoption  
CCB, Staff Relations and Lines of Authority  
CE, Administrative Councils, Cabinets and Committees  
DBD, Budget Planning (Five-Year Forecast)  
GCD, Certificated Staff Hiring  
GDD, Classified Staff Hiring  
IF, Curriculum Development

CONTRACT REFS.: Teachers' Negotiated Agreement  
Classified Staff Negotiated Agreement

## STUDENT INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

Students share responsibility for developing a climate in the school that is conducive to learning. Through participation in the decision-making process, students can be an important resource for the improvement of the school, the educational system and the community. Periodically, students may be asked to review Board policies and school rules and regulations. Final authority for all decisions rests with the Board.

A student may be elected to serve on the Board as a representative for the student body, in an advisory capacity only, to better facilitate communication between the Board and the students, to increase awareness of the democratic process within the District and to improve the opportunity for participation in the decision-making process.

The student must be a high school student elected by the student body to serve for a one-year term.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]

LEGAL REF.: OAC 3301-35-04

CROSS REFS.: AD, Development of Philosophy of Education  
BCE, Board Committees  
BCF, Advisory Committees to the Board  
JF, Student Rights and Responsibilities  
Student Handbooks

## NONDISCRIMINATION

The Board's policy of nondiscrimination extends to students, staff, job applicants, the general public and individuals with whom it does business and applies to race, color, national origin, ancestry, citizenship status, religion, sex, economic status, age, disability or military status.

The Board does not discriminate on the basis of legally acquired genetic information.

The Board does not permit discriminatory practices and views harassment as a form of discrimination. Harassment is defined as intimidation by threats of or actual physical violence; the creation, by whatever means including the use of electronic communications devices, of a climate of hostility or intimidation; or the use of language, conduct or symbols in such a manner as to be commonly understood to convey hatred, contempt or prejudice or to have the effect of insulting or stigmatizing an individual.

Employees or students who engage in discrimination of another employee or student shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Permission, consent or assumption of risk by an individual subjected to discrimination does not lessen the prohibition contained in this policy.

No one shall retaliate against an employee or student because he/she files a grievance; assists or participates in an investigation, proceeding or hearing regarding the charge of discrimination of an individual; or because he/she has opposed language or conduct that violates this policy.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]



LEGAL REFS.: Civil Rights Act, Title VI; 42 USC 2000d et seq.  
Civil Rights Act, (Amended 1972), Title VII; 42 USC 2000e et seq.  
Education Amendments of 1972, Title IX; 20 USC 1681 et seq.  
Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375  
Equal Pay Act; 29 USC 206  
Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008; 42 USC 2000ff et seq.  
Rehabilitation Act; 29 USC 794  
Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; 20 USC 1400 et seq.  
Age Discrimination in Employment Act; 29 USC 623  
Immigration Reform and Control Act; 8 USC 1324a et seq.  
Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008; 42 USC 12101 et seq.  
Ohio Const. Art. I, Section 2  
ORC Chapter 3323  
Chapter 4112  
OAC 3301-35-02

CROSS REFS.: ACA, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex  
ACAA, Sexual Harassment  
ACB, Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability  
EDE, Computer/Online Services (Acceptable Use and Internet Safety)  
GBA, Equal Opportunity Employment  
IGAB, Human Relations Education  
IGBA, Programs for Students with Disabilities  
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities  
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)  
JFCF, Hazing and Bullying (Harassment, Intimidation and Dating Violence)  
Staff Handbooks  
Student Handbooks

CONTRACT REFS.: Teachers' Negotiated Agreement  
Classified Staff Negotiated Agreement

NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX/  
SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The U.S. Department of Education has published regulations for implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits sex discrimination in federally assisted education programs.

Title IX states, in part: “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.”

The Board ensures compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the regulations promulgated through the U.S. Department of Education.

All persons associated with the District, including, but not limited to, the Board, administration, staff, students, and third parties are expected to conduct themselves at all times so as to provide an atmosphere free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment. Sex discrimination and sexual harassment, whether verbal or nonverbal, occurring inside or outside of District buildings, on other District-owned property or at school-sponsored social functions/activities, is illegal and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. The District may have an obligation to investigate and/or respond to sexual harassment occurring off school grounds, when the harassment creates a hostile environment within the school setting. Sexual harassment is strictly prohibited by this policy.

The District takes measures to eliminate harassment, prevent its recurrence and remedy its effects, and will implement interim measures as deemed necessary.

Definition of Sexual Harassment: Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature may constitute sexual harassment when:

1. submission to such conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of a person’s employment or status in a class, educational program or activity;
2. submission to, or rejection of, such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment or education decisions affecting such individual or
3. such conduct is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive and has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual’s work or educational performance by creating an intimidating, hostile or abusive environment, or by interfering with one’s ability to participate in or benefit from a class or educational program or activity.

Sexual violence is a form of sexual harassment and refers to physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will, or where a person is incapable of giving consent. Examples of sexual violence include but are not limited to, rape, sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual abuse, and sexual coercion.

Sexual harassment includes gender-based harassment, which refers to unwelcome conduct based on an individual's actual or perceived sex, (including harassment based on gender identity and nonconformity with sex stereotypes), and not necessarily involving conduct of a sexual nature.

Examples of sexual harassment-type conduct may include, but are not limited to, unwanted sexual advances; demands for sexual favors in exchange for favorable treatment or continued employment; grooming; repeated sexual jokes, flirtations, advances or propositions; verbal abuse of a sexual nature; graphic verbal commentary relating to an individual's body, sexual prowess or sexual deficiencies; coerced sexual activities; any unwanted physical contact; sexually suggestive or obscene comments or gestures; or displays in the workplace of sexually suggestive or obscene objects or pictures. Whether any act or comment constitutes sexual harassment-type conduct is often dependent on the individual recipient.

All of these types of harassment are considered forms of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX.

The Board has developed informal and formal discrimination and harassment complaint procedures. The procedures provide for a prompt and equitable investigation and resolution of complaints of sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct. The Board also has identified disciplinary measures that may be imposed upon the offender. Nothing in this policy or procedure prevents an individual from pursuing action through State and/or Federal law, contacting law enforcement, or from filing a complaint with the United States Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, the Ohio Civil Rights Commission or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The Board designates the following individual to serve as the District's Title IX Coordinator:

Title: Sandy Hartings – Supervisor of Student Services  
Address: 310 North Second Street, Coldwater, OH 45828  
Phone number: 419-678-2611  
Email: hartings.sandy@coldwatercavs.org

The Title IX Coordinator serves as the grievance officer and coordinates the District's efforts to comply with and carry out responsibilities under Title IX, including any complaint under Title IX. He/She is vested with the authority and responsibility for investigating all sexual harassment complaints in accordance with the procedures set forth in the accompanying regulation and staff and student handbooks. Any investigatory responsibilities of the Title IX Coordinator may be delegated to a designee trained in Title IX compliance and procedures.

Confidentiality/Retaliation

Sexual harassment matters, including the identity of both the reporting party and the responding party, are kept confidential to the extent possible, consistent with the Board's legal obligations to investigate. Although discipline may be imposed against the responding party upon a finding of guilt, the District prohibits retaliation for an individual's participation in, and/or initiation of a sex discrimination/sexual harassment complaint investigation, including instances where the complaint is not substantiated. The District takes reasonable steps to prevent retaliation and takes strong responsive action if retaliation occurs.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]

[Re-adoption date: November 8, 2016]

[Re-adoption date: November 21, 2017]

LEGAL REFS.: Civil Rights Act, Title VI; 42 USC 2000d et seq.  
Civil Rights Act, Title VII; 42 USC 2000e et seq.  
Education Amendments of 1972, Title IX; 20 USC 1681 et seq.  
Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375  
Equal Pay Act; 29 USC 206  
Ohio Const. Art. I, Section 2  
ORC Chapter 4112

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination  
GBA, Equal Opportunity Employment  
GBD, Board-Staff Communications (Also BG)  
GBH, Staff-Student Relations (Also JM)  
IGDJ, Interscholastic Athletics  
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities  
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)  
JFCF, Hazing and Bullying (Harassment, Intimidation and Dating Violence)  
JHG, Reporting Child Abuse  
Staff Handbooks  
Student Handbooks

CONTRACT REFS.: Teachers' Negotiated Agreement  
Support Staff Negotiated Agreement

*NOTE: Federal law requires the investigation of all complaints of sexual harassment, including sexual violence. The board must appoint, a Title IX Coordinator for the district and make this person known to the entire school community — staff, students and visitors.*

*Identification of the district's sex discrimination and sexual harassment policies and Title IX Coordinator should occur in, but not be limited to, staff directories, staff handbooks, student handbooks and on the district's website.*

## NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX/SEXUAL HARASSMENT GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

The Board has created informal and formal discrimination and harassment grievance procedures, providing for a prompt and equitable investigation and resolution of complaints of sex discrimination, including sexual misconduct. All students and District employees are encouraged to fully cooperate when asked to participate in an investigation.

Members of the school community and third parties are encouraged to promptly report incidents of sex discrimination or sexual harassment. Complaints may be filed with any District employee, or directly with the Title IX Coordinator. District employees are required to report these incidents to the Title IX Coordinator upon becoming aware of an incident, and failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

Complaints of sex discrimination or sexual harassment must be filed as soon as possible after the alleged incident, as delays in filing complaints can make it difficult to investigate. Both the informal and formal grievance procedures are completed in a timely manner, unless extenuating circumstances exist. Periodic updates are provided to the parties as appropriate during the investigation.

The Title IX Coordinator determines whether or not, by "a preponderance of the evidence," the alleged victim's allegations are true. "A preponderance of the evidence" means that evidence must show the alleged discrimination/sexual harassment was more likely than not to have occurred.

Pending the final outcome of an informal or formal investigation, the District institutes interim measures to protect the reporting and/or responding parties and informs him/her of available support services. Interim measures may include, but are not limited to: a District-enforced no contact order, modification of work or class schedules academic modifications and/or counseling. These measures should ensure that both parties continue to have equal access to all district programs and activities and the safety of all parties is protected.

If the Title IX Coordinator or designee is the responding party or the reporting party, the Board designates an alternate investigator and retains final decision-making authority.

All matters involving sexual harassment complaints remain confidential to the extent possible.

### Informal Procedure for Addressing Complaints

An informal grievance procedure can be used when the Title IX Coordinator deems it appropriate and/or when the parties involved (reporting party and responding party) agree that an informal process is appropriate and sufficient. The informal process is not used when the alleged discrimination or harassment may constitute sexual violence or any other criminal act.

The Title IX Coordinator gathers enough information during the informal process to understand and resolve the complaint. The Title IX Coordinator proposes an informal solution based on this fact-gathering process, which may include, but not be limited to: requiring the responding party to undergo training on harassment/discrimination, requiring all students and staff to undergo such training, and instituting protective mechanisms for the reporting party.

#### Formal Procedure for Addressing Complaints

While the formal grievance procedure may serve as the first step toward the resolution of a charge of sex discrimination or sexual harassment, it also is available when the informal procedure fails to resolve the complaint.

Through the formal grievance procedure, the Title IX Coordinator attempts to resolve the complaint in the following way:

1. The Title IX Coordinator promptly communicates with the reporting party in order to obtain a clear understanding of that party's statement of the alleged facts. The statement is put in writing by the Title IX Coordinator and signed by the reporting party, where possible, as a testament to the statement's accuracy.
2. The Title IX Coordinator communicates with the responding party in order to obtain his/her response to the complaint. The response is put in writing by the Title IX Coordinator and signed by the responding party, where possible, as a testament to the statement's accuracy.
3. The Title IX Coordinator communicates with the parties and witnesses (if any) as necessary to gather all of the relevant facts. The dates of any meetings and the facts gathered are all put in writing. The investigation is prompt and equitable, and allows both parties an equal opportunity to present witnesses and other evidence.
4. At the conclusion of the investigation, the Title IX Coordinator prepares a written report summarizing: the evidence gathered during the investigation and whether the allegations were substantiated; whether any Board policies or student or employee codes of conduct were violated; any recommendations for corrective action. The investigation report indicates if any measures must be instituted to protect the reporting party. Such measures may include, but are not limited to extending any interim measures taken during the investigation. The report also informs the reporting party of available support services, which at a minimum includes offering school counseling services if the reporting party is a student.

Notice of Outcome

Both the reporting party and the responding party are provided written notice of the outcome of the complaint.

If either party disagrees with the decision of the Title IX Coordinator, he/she may appeal to the Superintendent. After reviewing the record made by the Title IX Coordinator, the Superintendent may attempt to gather further evidence necessary to decide the case and to determine appropriate action to be taken. The decision of the Superintendent is final.

Disciplinary Action

Any disciplinary action is carried out in accordance with Board policies, student and employee codes of conduct, State and Federal law, and, when applicable, the negotiated agreement. When recommending discipline, the Title IX Coordinator considers the totality of the circumstances involved, including the ages and maturity levels of those involved. The Title IX Coordinator and the Superintendent determine if a recommendation for expulsion for responding student or discharge for a responding employee should be made. If this recommendation is made and a hearing is required, the hearing shall be held in accordance with Board policy, State law and/or the negotiated agreement. Both parties shall have an equal right to attend the hearing, have a representative and parent (if student) present, present evidence, and question witnesses.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]

[Re-adoption date: November 8, 2016]

[Re-adoption date: November 21, 2017]

*NOTE: Federal law requires the investigation of all complaints of sexual harassment. Boards of education must have a procedure by which complaints may be reported and investigated. This procedure is provided to assist boards in meeting the requirements of law. Keep the procedural language in its entirety, edit to meet the district's needs or replace with the district's complaint procedures.*



SEXUAL HARASSMENT COMPLAINT FORM

Date of Report \_\_\_\_\_

Reporting Party Name \_\_\_\_\_

Position or Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Building \_\_\_\_\_

Date and Time of Alleged Harassment \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Alleged Harassment \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Accused (Responding Party) \_\_\_\_\_

Position or Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Building \_\_\_\_\_

Description of the Incident(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Witnesses, if any, and Involvement \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your Reaction \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Reporting Party \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: This type of form can be a helpful tool during a Title IX investigation. Districts may choose to use this form as it appears or customize it to better reflect district procedures. Districts should also consider creating a form to document administrative follow-up.*

## NONDISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF DISABILITY

The Board maintains that discrimination against a qualified person with a disability solely on the basis of disability is unfair. To the extent possible, a qualified person with a disability should be in the mainstream of life in a school community. In addition, the District is the recipient of federal funds and therefore must be in compliance with all laws and regulations that deal with individuals with disabilities.

Accordingly, employees of the District comply with the law and Board policy to ensure nondiscrimination on the basis of disability. The following is expected.

1. No one discriminates against qualified persons with a disability in any aspect of school employment solely on the basis of disability.
2. Facilities, programs and activities are made available to qualified persons with a disability.
3. Free appropriate public education at elementary and secondary levels, including nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities, are provided to qualified persons with a disability.
4. No one excludes any qualified person with a disability, solely on the basis of disability, from participation in any preschool education, day care, adult education or career-technical education program.
5. Each qualified person with a disability is provided with the same health, welfare and other social services that are provided to others.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]

LEGAL REFS.: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; 20 USC 1400 et seq.  
Rehabilitation Act of 1973; 29 USC 794  
Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008; 42 USC 12101 et seq.  
ORC Chapter 3323  
Chapter 4112

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination  
GBA, Equal Opportunity Employment  
IGBA, Programs for Students with Disabilities  
IGDJ, Interscholastic Athletics  
JB, Equal Educational Opportunities  
JFC, Student Conduct (Zero Tolerance)  
JFCF, Hazing and Bullying (Harassment, Intimidation and Dating Violence)  
Staff Handbooks  
Student Handbooks

## DEVELOPMENT OF PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

The Board's philosophy of education gives direction to the educational program and daily operations of the District.

Periodically, the Board and the Superintendent evaluate the philosophy of education. Suggestions from both the staff and community are considered.

The Board and Superintendent revise or confirm the existing philosophy or write a new statement of philosophy. The philosophy of education is adopted or re-adopted by the Board.

All building and curriculum philosophies reflect and extend the Board's philosophy. The Superintendent disseminates the Board's philosophy of education to all staff members and directs that it be published in all handbooks.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]

LEGAL REFS.: OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-03; 3301-35-04; 3301-35-05

CROSS REFS.: ABA, Community Involvement in Decision Making (Also KC)  
ABB, Staff Involvement in Decision Making (Also GBB)  
ABC, Student Involvement in Decision Making (Also JFB)  
ADA, Educational Philosophy  
BF, Board Policy Development and Adoption  
BFG, Policy Review and Evaluation

## EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The Board is committed to providing a program of education that is consistent with the following tenets.

1. Education contributes to the continuous improvement of our democratic society and the cultures it encompasses through the development of concerned, contributing and patriotic citizens.
2. The dignity and worth of the individual is respected. Each individual is given the opportunity to participate in our society to the best of his/her ability.
3. The educational program is conducive to the optimum intellectual, physical, social and emotional development of all youth.
4. Basic knowledge, skills, understandings and appreciations are necessary for full-life functioning.
5. All youth are introduced to the humanities and the arts and provided the opportunity to pursue further studies in these areas.
6. The immediate and projected personal and societal needs of our youth receive continuous appraisal.
7. The development of self-appraisal skills, decision making techniques and self-discipline by our youth helps them in assuming the responsibility for setting realistic immediate and long-range personal, academic and career goals.
8. The development of moral and ethical values on the part of youth is an important aspect of personal maturity for which the parents assume the primary responsibility. However, the schools strive to reinforce their efforts.
9. Continuous physical, mental and emotional growth and development is promoted through the maintenance of appropriate educational programs for youth.
10. Self-realization and self-expression are encouraged.
11. The educational program meets or exceeds the State Board of Education standards.
12. The development and implementation of a program of continuous evaluation based upon stated goals and objectives are necessary for effective program revision and improvement.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]

LEGAL REFS.: OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-03

CROSS REFS.: AD, Development of Philosophy of Education  
AE, School District Goals and Objectives  
IA, Instructional Goals  
Continuous Improvement Plan

## SCHOOL DISTRICT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Develop Mastery of Basic Skills. The District promotes the acquisition of basic comprehension, communication and computation skills to the greatest extent possible for each student. Efforts are made to offer each student opportunities to master the basic skills needed to pursue his/her chosen goals.
2. Gain Knowledge and Experience in Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities and Fine Arts. The District provides opportunities and encouragement for students to gain knowledge and experience in the sciences, humanities and arts.
3. Develop a Positive Self-Image. The District attempts to respond to each student's need to develop a positive self-image and enhances his/her ability to determine, understand and examine his/her own capabilities, interests and goals.
4. Develop Skills of Constructive and Critical Thinking. The District fosters skills of constructive and critical thinking in order to enable each student to deal effectively with conditions and problems in an independent, self-fulfilling and responsible manner.
5. Develop Skills Appropriate to a Technological Society. The District provides students with information necessary to function in a rapidly changing workplace.
6. Develop Respect for Others and the Law. The District promotes the development of students to enable them to become mature, responsible citizens with respect for the rights of others and the law.
7. Gain Lifelong Learning Skills. The District promotes an eagerness for learning that encourages each student to continue to benefit from educational opportunities beyond formal schooling.
8. Gain Understanding of Value Systems, Cultures and Heritage. The District provides an opportunity for each student to gain knowledge and understanding of social skills so that he/she is prepared to participate responsibly and successfully in a pluralistic society.
9. Gain Understanding of Economic Roles in Society. The District encourages each student to gain a critical understanding of his/her role as a producer and consumer of goods and services and of the principles involved in the production of goods and services.

10. Gain Knowledge and Understanding of the Environment. The District encourages student development of an appreciation for the maintenance, protection and improvement of the physical environment.
11. Develop Positive Health Habits and Physical Skills. The District helps students develop good habits concerning care of the body and avoidance of harmful effects of drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Lifelong physical fitness, including lifetime recreational skills, is promoted.
12. Develop Within the Community a Sense of Pride in the Schools. The District highlights the strengths of the education program and invites the community to participate in school functions.
13. Continual Evaluation and Revision of Curriculum. The District provides, through the evaluation process, a curriculum that is pertinent to student and community needs.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]

LEGAL REFS.: OAC 3301-35-02; 3301-35-04

CROSS REFS.: ABA, Community Involvement in Decision Making (Also KC)  
ADA, Educational Philosophy  
DBD, Budget Planning (Five-Year Forecast)  
IA, Instructional Goals  
IAA, Instructional Objectives  
KA, School-Community Relations Goals  
Continuous Improvement Plan



## COMMITMENT TO ACCOMPLISHMENT

Evaluation of District operations is a chief responsibility of the Board and is the only means of determining whether the educational goals adopted are being achieved.

The evaluation program may include, but is not limited to, the following areas:

1. curriculum and instruction;
2. students, dropouts and graduates;
3. school personnel;
4. buildings and equipment;
5. business operations and
6. operations of the Board.

Appraising the success of the instructional program is particularly important. Only through an awareness of the strengths and shortcomings of the program can the Board and Superintendent have a sound basis for making improvements. The improvements are made by the Superintendent through the implementation of policies adopted by the Board.

The Board:

1. assesses the District's operations and achievement of goals by information gathered from the Superintendent and Treasurer;
2. evaluates the Superintendent and Treasurer and
3. evaluates itself according to its established goals and purposes.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.22; 3313.60  
3319.01; 3319.02  
OAC 3301-35-03; 3301-35-04; 3301-35-05

CROSS REFS.: AE, School District Goals and Objectives  
AFA, Evaluation of School Board Operational Procedures (Also BK)  
AFB, Evaluation of the Superintendent (Also CBG)  
AFBA, Evaluation of the Treasurer (Also BCCB)  
AFC, Evaluation of Certificated Staff (Also GCN)  
AFD Evaluation of Classified Staff (Also GDN)  
AFE, Evaluation of Instructional Programs (Also IM)  
AFI, Evaluation of Educational Resources

## EVALUATION OF SCHOOL BOARD OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

The Board plans and carries through an annual appraisal of its functioning as a board. This appraisal considers the broad realm of relationships and activities inherent in Board responsibilities.

The appraisal process and instrument are determined by the Board. The following are areas of Board operations and relationships representative of those in which objectives may be set and progress appraised.

1. Board meetings;
2. policy development;
3. fiscal management;
4. long-range/strategic planning;
5. Board role in educational program development;
6. Board member orientation;
7. Board member development;
8. Board officer performance;
9. Board-Superintendent relationships;
10. Board-Treasurer relationships;
11. Board-staff relationships;
12. Board-community relationships;
13. legislative and governmental relationships and
14. management team development and utilization.

The Superintendent and others who regularly work with the Board are asked to participate in establishing objectives and reviewing progress.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]

CROSS REFS.: ABA, Community Involvement in Decision Making (Also KC)  
AF, Commitment to Accomplishment  
BA, Board Operation Goals  
BCB, Board Officers  
BCCD, Board-Treasurer Relationship  
BCD, Board-Superintendent Relationship (Also CBI)  
BD, School Board Meetings  
BF, Board Policy Development and Adoption  
BG, Board-Staff Communications (Also GBD)  
BHA, New Board Member Orientation  
DA, Fiscal Management Goals  
KA, School-Community Relations Goals

## EVALUATION OF SCHOOL BOARD OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

Boards of education expect a high level of performance from those who are employed to run the schools. Stakeholders also expect a high level of performance from those who are elected to govern the schools.

Each Board should set aside some time on a regular basis to compare individual assessments of how well the governing body is functioning. It is important for the Board to establish a plan to regularly analyze its method of operation. The results of evaluation should be used in setting goals for improved operations in the future.

### SELF-EVALUATION INSTRUMENT

Using the numbering system below, rate each item: 1 - ineffective; 2 - somewhat ineffective; 3 - somewhat effective; 4 - effective; 5 - highly effective.

Board Meetings - Official action can be taken only when the Board is in session. Therefore, each meeting must be organized for maximum efficiency.

<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	The Board of Education:
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	reads agenda and background materials well in advance of meeting.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	makes public feel welcome; provides agenda, minutes and related materials.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	assures that meeting time, place and facilities are convenient for Board, staff and public.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	does not present new issues of complex nature for immediate action.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	does not abuse privilege of tabling important issues.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	demonstrates knowledge and use of good parliamentary procedure.

- | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> | The Board of Education:  |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--|
| _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | makes distinction between Board's role and function of administrators. |
| _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | expects staff input and Superintendent's recommendation on key issues. |
| _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | equally applies the public participation policy to all speakers.       |
| _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | makes the most productive use of meeting time.                         |
| _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | conducts all meetings in accordance with the "Sunshine Law."           |
| _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | selects officers on basis of ability.                                  |
| _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | has procedure for submitting agenda items.                             |

Board-Community Relations - As elected officials, Board members have the responsibility to be representative, to be responsive and to be effective agents of change. The Board of Education:

- |       |       |       |       |       |   |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | actively seeks input from the community in establishing goals and objectives.                             |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | gives full support and cooperation to parent and community organizations with student- centered missions. |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | establishes a close working relationship with other units of government.                                  |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | is actively involved in state and federal education legislation.  |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | maintains effective two-way communication between District officials and residents of the District.       |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | ensures the best possible relationship between District officials and the media.                          |

- | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> | The Board of Education:   |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---|
| _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | makes best use of facilities and resources in meeting needs of the community.                 |
| _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | provides leadership in securing maximum community support for a good educational program.     |
| _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | approves an annual budget within resources that can be certified in the "fiscal certificate." |

Board-Administrator Relations - The Board of Education:

- |       |       |       |       |       |   |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | evaluates the performance of both the Superintendent and Treasurer on a regular basis and pursuant to State law.                |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | assures that the Superintendent complies with Board policies regarding annual staff evaluations.                                |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | works and plans with District administrators in the spirit of mutual trust and confidence.                                      |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | recognizes the Superintendent as the chief executive officer and educational leader of the District.                            |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | provides District administrators opportunity for professional growth.   |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | avoids interference with duties which are the responsibility of District administrators.  |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | solicits input from the Superintendent in developing and maintaining a comprehensive and legally compliant Board policy manual. |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | addresses potential problems between the Board and District administrators promptly as issues arise.                            |

- |          |          |          |          |          |  |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--|
| <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> | The Board of Education:  |
| _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | defends District administrators from unjust and unfounded criticism. |
| _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | utilizes the management team concept of operating the District.      |

Board-Staff Relations – The Board seeks maximum input from staff on educational issues while retaining decision-making authority and responsibility for the operation of the District. The Board of Education:

- |       |       |       |       |       |  |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | approves job descriptions for all positions.   |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | adopts appropriate personnel policies in the areas of employment evaluation, reduction in force and related matters. |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | encourages professional growth through staff development, in-service programs, visitations and conferences.          |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | refers complaints to appropriate District administrators for discussion and resolution.                              |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | preserves and maintains management rights in all labor relations agreements.   |

Instructional Program - The Board of Education:

- |       |       |       |       |       |   |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | provides equal access to curriculum as well as cocurricular and extracurricular activities to all students.               |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | approves all curriculum changes including course additions and deletions.   |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ | balances the overall needs of students and community with efforts of special interest groups to influence the curriculum. |



<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	The Board of Education:
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	encourages suggestions for curriculum improvement from students, staff and community.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	safeguards the privacy of student records.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	encourages a positive approach to student discipline.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	safeguards the rights of students to due process.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	provides policies that implement the educational standards of the State Board of Education.

Personal Qualities - Maximum results as a school board member will be achieved only if high ethical standards of conduct are maintained in all personal, business and public activities. As a Board of Education member, I:

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	am courteous and respectful of fellow Board members.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	keep the education and welfare of children as my primary concern.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	represent the best interests of all stakeholders rather than special interest groups.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	understand the need for compromise; abide by decisions of the majority.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	channel complaints and potential problems through proper administrative channels.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	have made the time commitment necessary to become an informed and effective Board member.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	reach decisions on the merits of issues and the best available evidence.
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	participate in in-service programs at regional, state and national levels.

- |          |          |          |          |          |  |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--|
| <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>4</u> | <u>5</u> | As a Board of Education member, I:   |
| _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | do not individually or unilaterally make decisions or commitments on the Board's behalf.                                   |
| _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | am open and honest with other Board members and administrators, share information and avoid "surprises" whenever possible. |
| _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | _____    | am familiar with and abide by the OSBA Board Member Code of Ethics.  |

Additional Comments:

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## EVALUATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Board evaluates the performance of the Superintendent in order to assist both the Board and the Superintendent in the proper discharge of their responsibilities and to enable the Board to provide the District with the best possible leadership.

Through evaluation of the Superintendent, the Board strives to:

1. clarify the role of the Superintendent as seen by the Board;
2. develop harmonious working relationships between the Board and Superintendent;
3. provide administrative leadership for the District and
4. identify strengths and weaknesses of the Superintendent's performance.

Criteria for the evaluation of the Superintendent are based upon the Superintendent's job description and relate directly to each of the tasks described. The job description and any revisions thereto are developed in consultation with the Superintendent and adopted by the Board.

The Board evaluates the abilities and services of the Superintendent at least once a year.

The evaluation of the Superintendent's abilities and performance is written and made available to and discussed with the Superintendent. The Board considers the evaluation of the Superintendent in acting to renew or nonrenew his/her contract.

This evaluation procedure does not create an expectancy of continued employment. Nothing contained herein prevents the Board from making any final determination regarding the renewal or nonrenewal of the Superintendent's contract.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3319.01; 3319.16

CROSS REFS.: AF, Commitment to Accomplishment  
BDC, Executive Sessions  
CBC, Superintendent's Contract  
CBI, Board-Superintendent Relationship (Also BCD)

## EVALUATION OF THE TREASURER

The Board evaluates the performance of the Treasurer in order to assist both the Board and the Treasurer in the proper discharge of their responsibilities and to enable the Board to provide the District with the best possible leadership.

The objectives of the Board's evaluation of the Treasurer are to:

1. promote professional excellence to improve the skills of the Treasurer;
2. improve the quality of District business practices and
3. provide a basis for the review of the Treasurer's performance.

Criteria for the evaluation of the Treasurer are based upon the Treasurer's job description and relate directly to each of the tasks described. The job description and any revisions thereto are developed in consultation with the Treasurer and adopted by the Board.

The evaluation of the Treasurer's abilities and performance is written and made available to and discussed with the Treasurer. The Board considers the evaluation of the Treasurer in acting to renew or nonrenew his/her contract.

Evaluation criteria are reviewed as necessary or as requested by the Treasurer, but not less frequently than annually. Any proposed revision of the evaluation criteria is provided to the Treasurer for his/her comments before its adoption.

This evaluation procedure does not create an expectancy of continued employment. Nothing contained herein prevents the Board from making any final determination regarding the renewal or nonrenewal of the Treasurer's contract.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3313.22  
3319.16

CROSS REFS.: AF, Commitment to Accomplishment  
BCCA, Incapacity of the Treasurer  
BCCC, Treasurer's Contract  
BCCD, Board-Treasurer Relationship  
BDC, Executive Sessions

EVALUATION OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF  
(Ohio Teacher Evaluation System)

A determination of the efficiency and effectiveness of the teaching staff is a critical factor in the overall operation of the District. The Board evaluates teachers in accordance with State law and the standards-based statewide teacher evaluation framework adopted by the State Board of Education (SBOE).

The Board directs the Superintendent/designee to implement this policy in accordance with State law. The requirements of this policy prevail over any conflicting provisions of collective bargaining agreements entered into on or after September 24, 2012.

Notwithstanding Ohio Revised Code Section (RC) 3319.09, this policy applies to any person employed under a teacher license issued under RC 3319, or under a professional or permanent teacher's certificate issued under former RC 3319.222, and who spends at least 50% of the time employed providing content-related student instruction. This teacher evaluation policy does not apply to substitute teachers or instructors of adult education.

Credentialed Evaluators

Evaluations carried out under this policy are conducted by persons holding evaluator credentials established by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). Evaluators must complete state-sponsored evaluation training and pass the online credentialing assessment. The Board adopts a list of approved credentialed evaluators chosen from ODE's list.

Effectiveness Rating

Teachers are assigned an effectiveness rating of Accomplished, Skilled, Developing or Ineffective. This rating will be determined based on 50% teacher performance and 50% student growth measures. Student growth will be determined through multiple measures.

Annually, the Board submits to the ODE the number of teachers assigned an effectiveness rating, aggregated by the teacher preparation programs from which, and the years in which, the teachers graduated. The name of, or any personally identifiable information about, any teacher reported in compliance with this provision cannot be required.

Teacher Performance Calculation

Teachers are evaluated via two formal observations and periodic classroom walk-throughs. The teacher performance measure is based on the Ohio Standards for the Teaching Profession. The Superintendent/designee selects/develops evaluation tools to calculate teacher performance. The Board directs the Superintendent/designee to develop procedures for these evaluation tools.

### Student Growth Calculation

For the purpose of this policy, student growth means the change in student achievement for an individual student between two or more points in time. Student growth is evaluated by a combination of: (1) Value-added data or an alternative student academic progress measure if adopted under RC 3302.03(C)(1)(e); (2) ODE-approved assessments and/or (3) Board-determined measures. When available, value-added data or an alternative student academic progress measure if adopted under RC 3302.03(C)(1)(e) shall be included in the multiple measures used to evaluate student growth in proportion to the part of the teacher's schedule of courses or subjects for which the value-added progress dimension is applicable.

If a teacher's schedule is comprised only of courses or subjects for which value-added data is applicable, the entire student academic growth factor of the evaluation for such teachers shall be based on the value-added progress dimension.

Value-added data based on the results of state assessments administered in the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years will not be used to assess student academic growth. Such data also will not be used when making dismissal, retention, tenure or compensation decisions. The Board may administer ODE-approved assessments and/or local measures of student growth using state-designed criteria and guidance for teachers of subjects where value-added scores from state assessments are not available. Evaluations for teachers of grade levels and subject areas for which the value-added progress dimension is applicable, and where no other measure is available to determine student academic growth, shall be based solely on teacher performance.

Students with 45 or more excused or unexcused absences during the full academic year will not be included in the calculation of student academic growth. Data from Board-determined multiple measures will be converted to a score of: (1) Least Effective, (2) Approaching Average, (3) Average, (4) Above Average or (5) Most Effective student growth levels.

### Professional Growth and Improvement Plans

Teachers with a final summative rating of Accomplished must develop professional growth plans and choose their credentialed evaluators from the Board-approved evaluator list.

Teachers with a final summative rating of Skilled must develop professional growth plans collaboratively with their credentialed evaluators from the Board-approved evaluator list and will have input on their credentialed evaluator.

Teachers with a final summative rating of Developing must develop professional growth plans with their credentialed evaluators. The Superintendent/designee approves the professional growth plan and assigns the credentialed evaluator.

Teachers with a final summative rating of Ineffective must develop an improvement plan with their credentialed evaluators. The Superintendent/designee approves the improvement plan and assigns the credentialed evaluator.

### Evaluation Time Line

District administrators evaluate teachers annually. Annual evaluations include two formal observations at least 30 minutes each and periodic classroom walk-throughs. Teachers, who are on limited or extended limited contracts pursuant to State law and under consideration for nonrenewal, receive at least three formal observations during the evaluation cycle.

All teacher evaluations are completed by May 1. Teachers evaluated under this policy are provided with a written copy of their evaluation results by May 10.

The Board evaluates teachers receiving effectiveness ratings of Accomplished on those teachers' most recent evaluations carried out under this policy, and whose student growth measures are at least average or higher every three years. Such evaluations are completed by May 1 of the evaluation year. Teachers evaluated on this basis are provided a written copy of their evaluation results by May 10 of the evaluation year. In years when an evaluation will not take place, one observation is carried out and at least one conference with the teacher is held.

The Board evaluates teachers receiving effectiveness ratings of Skilled on those teachers' most recent evaluations carried out under this policy, and whose student growth measures are at least average or higher every two years. Biennial evaluations conducted under this policy are completed by May 1 of the evaluation year. Teachers evaluated on a biennial basis are provided a written copy of their evaluation results by May 10 of the evaluation year. In years when an evaluation will not take place, one observation is carried out and at least one conference with the teacher is held.

### Testing for Ineffective Teachers in Core Subjects

Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, teachers of core subject areas, as defined by State law, who have received a rating of Ineffective for two of the three most recent school years must register for and take all written examinations of content knowledge selected by ODE.

### Retention and Promotion

The Board uses evaluation results for retention and promotion decisions. The Board adopts procedures for use by District administrators in making retention and promotion decisions based on evaluation results.

Seniority shall not be the basis for making retention decisions, except when choosing between teachers who have comparable evaluations.

*Unless using the alternative framework, 50% of the teacher's evaluation must be based on student growth measures. Student growth must be based on multiple measures, including value-added data where it is available. Local boards of education may administer assessments chosen from the ODE assessment list for teachers of subjects where value-added scores are not available, and/or local measures of student growth using state-designed criteria and guidance. The multiple measures designated by the board for teachers may vary based on subject level and grade taught and should be determined at the district level. The board-determined measures should be consistent for teachers teaching the same subject and/or grade level. The remaining 50% of the evaluation is based on teacher performance measured by the Ohio Standards for the teaching profession.*

*Districts may choose to use the alternative Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) framework. Under the alternative framework 50% of the teacher's evaluation is based on teacher performance, 35% is based on student growth measures and the remaining 15% will be based on one or any combination of the following components, as determined by the board: student surveys, teacher self-evaluations, peer review evaluations, student portfolios or any other component determined appropriate by the board except that the board may not use the teacher performance or student growth measures.*

*House Bill 64 (2015) prohibits the use of value-added data based on the results of state assessments administered in the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years for the student growth measure. Such data also cannot be used when making dismissal, retention, tenure or compensation decisions. The board may however, enter into a memorandum of understanding with the teachers' union to use such data.*

*In November 2015, the State Board of Education (SBOE) revised the OTES framework language on professional growth and improvement plans and the ability for teachers to choose their credentialed evaluator. These are now tied to a teacher's final summative rating. The SBOE framework also allows a district to place a teacher on an improvement plan at any time based on deficiencies in any individual component of the evaluation system subject to collective bargaining.*

*Evaluations conducted pursuant to these requirements must be carried out by a person who holds a credential established by ODE. The board adopts a list of approved credentialed evaluators chosen from the ODE's list.*

*Districts may choose to evaluate teachers receiving effectiveness ratings of Accomplished on their most recent evaluations every three years and teachers receiving effectiveness ratings of Skilled on their most recent evaluations every two years. If the district chooses to do this, policy language should be included. Districts may choose to place limits on this language, for instance, limiting to only*



*teachers on continuing contracts or teachers not in the last year of a limited contract. Districts should consult with board counsel when making this determination.*

*Districts may choose to evaluate teachers receiving effectiveness ratings of Accomplished on the most recent evaluations through one formal observation and the completion of a board-approved project. If the district chooses to do this, policy language should be included.*

*Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, boards also can elect to not evaluate teachers who: 1) were on leave for 50% or more of the school year as calculated by the board or 2) have submitted a notice of retirement that has been accepted by the board no later than December 1 of the school year in which the evaluation would have been conducted.*

*Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, boards also can elect to not evaluate a teacher who is participating in the teacher residency program for the year during which the teacher takes, for the first time, at least half of the performance-based assessment prescribed by the SBOE for resident educators.*

*The SBOE adopted a revised teacher evaluation framework in September 2014 that revised the student growth measure levels to five different levels. The revisions also removed the final summative rating grid. Final summative ratings are now calculated on a points system through eTPES.*

*Boards are required to use teacher evaluation results for promotion and retention decisions and for removing poorly performing teachers. These procedures are required to appear in board policy, but will be unique to each district. Boards should develop these procedures with district administrators and adopt them into board policy as a regulation, which should be coded as AFC-1-R (also GCN-1-R).*

*Boards are required to allocate financial resources to support professional development. While ODE's model policy suggests that the allocation should appear in board policy, neither the law nor the framework requires the addition of such specific language. Boards wishing to do so may include the allocation of financial resources in the regulation language.*

EVALUATION OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF  
(Administrators Both Professional and Support)

The Superintendent institutes and maintains a comprehensive program for the evaluation of administrative personnel. Administrative personnel are all persons issued contracts in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code. Evaluations should assist administrators in developing their professional abilities in order to increase the effectiveness of District management.

The purpose of administrator evaluations is to assess the performance of administrators, to provide information upon which to base employment and personnel decisions and to comply with State law. All administrators are evaluated annually. In the year an administrator's contract does not expire, the evaluation is completed by the end of the contract year, and a copy is given to the administrator.

In the year an administrator's contract does expire, two evaluations are completed, one preliminary and one final. The preliminary evaluation is conducted at least 60 days prior to June 1 and prior to any Board action on the employee's contract. A written copy of the preliminary evaluation is given to the administrator at this time. Evaluations are considered by the Board in determining whether to re-employ administrators.

The final evaluation includes the Superintendent's intended recommendation for the contract of the employee. A written copy of the final evaluation must be provided to the employee at least five days prior to the Board's action to renew or nonrenew the employee's contract. The employee may request a meeting with the Board prior to any Board action on his/her contract. The employee may have a representative of his/her choice at the meeting.

The evaluation measures the administrator's effectiveness in performing the duties included in his/her written job description and the specific objectives and plans developed in consultation with the Superintendent.

Evaluation criteria for each position are in written form and are made available to the administrator. The results of the evaluations are kept in personnel records maintained in the central office. The evaluated administrator has the right to attach a memorandum to the written evaluation. Evaluation documents, as well as information relating thereto, are accessible to each evaluatee and/or his/her representative.

This evaluation procedure does not create an expectancy of continued employment. Nothing contained herein prevents the Board from making any final determination regarding the renewal or nonrenewal of an administrator's contract.

### Ohio Principal Evaluation System (OPES)

Procedures for evaluating principals and assistant principals are based on principles comparable to the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System, but are tailored to the duties and responsibilities of principals and assistant principals and the environment in which they work. Principals and assistant principals are evaluated under the above system, with the inclusion of the following components.

Principals and assistant principals are assigned an effectiveness rating of Accomplished, Skilled, Developing or Ineffective. This rating will be determined based on 50% measures of principal or assistant principal performance and 50% student growth measures. Student academic growth is determined through multiple measures.

Principals and assistant principals are evaluated via two formal observations and periodic building walk-throughs. The 50% principal and assistant principal performance measure is based on the Ohio Standards for Principals. Proficiency on the standards includes consideration of professional goal setting, communication and professionalism, and skills and knowledge.

Student academic growth is evaluated by a combination of: (1) Value-added data; (2) Ohio Department of Education (ODE)-approved assessments and/or (3) Board-determined measures. When available, value-added data shall be included in the multiple measures used to evaluate student growth.

Value-added data based on the results of assessments administered in the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years will not be used to assess student academic growth. Such data also will not be used when making dismissal, retention, tenure or compensation decisions.

The principal's performance rating is combined with the results of student growth measures to produce a summative evaluation rating according to ODE requirements.

The Superintendent/designee evaluates all principals and assistant principals annually. Annual evaluations include two formal observations at least 30 minutes each and periodic building walk-throughs.

The Board allocates financial resources to support professional development in compliance with State law and the State Board of Education's evaluation framework.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]

[Re-adoption date: March 10, 2015]

[Re-adoption date: November 17, 2015]

File: AFC-2 (Also GCN-2)

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3319.02; 3319.03; 3319.04; 3319.111; 3319.16; 3319.17; 3319.171;  
3319.22  
OAC 3301-35-05

CROSS REFS.: AF, Commitment to Accomplishment  
GBL, Personnel Records

EVALUATION OF CERTIFICATED STAFF  
(Administrators Both Certificated and Classified)

To assist administrators in the development of their professional abilities, to provide information for employment decisions and to comply with mandates of State law, the following procedures are employed by the Superintendent/designee in evaluating administrative personnel.

1. An initial meeting is held by the Superintendent prior to the school year with the administrators to discuss specific measurable objectives and plans for their achievement. A statement of these objectives and plans is submitted by each administrator to the Superintendent/designee at a time specified. These objectives and plans are written and maintained in each administrator's personnel file.
2. The evaluator employs the evaluation criteria, which are designed to measure the administrator's effectiveness in performing the duties set forth in his/her written job description. All administrators will be evaluated prior to the end of their contract year. The evaluator will also assess the administrator's progress in meeting plans and objectives set for that school year. Areas of outstanding, satisfactory and poor performance will be noted. The Superintendent/designee will meet with each administrator to discuss the written evaluation. The evaluatee is given a copy of the evaluation and has an opportunity to discuss it with the evaluator at this second meeting.
3. An ongoing dialogue concerning the administrator's objectives will continue and the evaluator and evaluatee will meet as needed or requested.
4. For those employees whose contracts are expiring at the end of the current school year, two evaluations must be completed. A written copy of the preliminary evaluation must be received by the employee at least 60 days prior to any Board action on the employee's contract. A final evaluation must include the Superintendent's intended recommendation for the contract of the employee. A written copy of the final evaluation must be provided to the employee at least five days prior to the Board's action to renew or nonrenew the employee's contract.
5. The employee may request a meeting with the Board prior to any Board action on his/her contract. The employee may have a representative of his/her choice at the meeting.
6. Principals, assistant principals and other administrators are automatically re-employed for a period of one year, or for two years if such person has been employed by the District for three or more years, if they are not evaluated according to State law or provided a meeting, if requested, to discuss their renewal or nonrenewal.

7. All evaluation criteria, procedures and written job descriptions are reviewed annually by the Superintendent/designee and revised as necessary.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]

## EVALUATION OF SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Professional school counselors offer students access to high-quality services that support students' academic, career and social/emotional development. The Board evaluates school counselors in accordance with State law and the standards-based statewide counselor evaluation framework adopted by the State Board of Education (SBOE). The framework is aligned with the Ohio Standards for School Counselors.

The Board directs the Superintendent/designee to implement this policy in accordance with State law. The policy becomes operative at the expiration of any collective bargaining agreement covering school counselors that is in effect on September 29, 2015. The requirements of this policy prevail over any conflicting provisions of collective bargaining agreements entered into on or after September 29, 2015.

Annually, the Board submits to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) a report regarding implementation of this policy. The name of, or any personally identifiable information about, any counselor reported in compliance with this provision cannot be required.

### Effectiveness Rating

School counselors are assigned an effectiveness rating of Accomplished, Skilled, Developing or Ineffective. Each school counselor is evaluated based on multiple factors including performance on all areas identified by the standards for school counselors and the ability to produce positive student outcomes using metrics in order to determine the holistic final summative rating of effectiveness according to ODE requirements. The choice of metrics for student outcomes will be determined locally and will include information from the school or school district's report card when appropriate.

### Evaluation Time Line

District administrators evaluate school counselors annually except as otherwise appropriate for high performing school counselors. Annual evaluations include two formal observations of at least 30 minutes each and informal observations. Counselors will be provided with a written report of the evaluation.

The Board evaluates school counselors receiving effectiveness ratings of Accomplished on the counselors' most recent evaluations carried out under this policy, and whose metric of student outcomes for the most recent school year for which data is available is skilled or higher on the evaluation rubric every three years. In years when an evaluation will not take place, one observation is carried out and at least one conference with the counselor is held.

The Board evaluates school counselors receiving effectiveness ratings of Skilled on the counselors' most recent evaluations carried out under this policy, and whose metric of student outcomes for the most recent school year for which data is available is skilled or higher on the evaluation rubric every two years. In years when an evaluation will not take place, one observation is carried out and at least one conference with the counselor is held.

#### Professional Growth and Improvement Plans

School counselors with a final summative rating of Accomplished must develop a professional growth plan.

School counselors with a final summative rating of Skilled must develop a professional growth plan collaboratively with their evaluator.

School counselors with a final summative rating of Developing must develop a professional growth plan with their evaluator. The Superintendent/designee approves the professional growth plan.

School counselors with a final summative rating of Ineffective must develop an improvement plan with their evaluator. The Superintendent/designee approves the improvement plan.

The District has discretion to place a school counselor on an improvement plan at any time based on deficiencies in any individual component of the evaluation system.

#### Retention and Promotion

The Board uses evaluation results for retention and promotion decisions for school counselors beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. The Board adopts procedures for use by District administrators in making retention and promotion decisions based on evaluation results.

#### Poorly Performing Counselors

The Board uses evaluation results for removing poorly performing counselors beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. The Board adopts procedures for removing poorly performing school counselors based on evaluation results.

#### Professional Development

The Board allocates financial resources to support professional development in compliance with State law and the SBOE's evaluation framework.



[Adoption date: July 12, 2016]

[Re-adoption date: February 14, 2017]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC 3319.113; 3319.61  
3302.03  
Chapter 4117  
OAC 3301-35-05

CROSS REFS.: AF, Commitment to Accomplishment  
GBL, Personnel Records  
GCB, Professional Staff Contracts and Compensation Plans

CONTRACT REF.: Teachers' Negotiated Agreement

*NOTE: By September 30, 2016, the board must adopt a standards-based counselor evaluation policy that conforms to the State Board of Education (SBOE) framework for evaluation of counselors developed under Ohio Revised Code Section (RC) 3319.113. The requirements of the RC prevail over any conflicting bargaining agreement entered into on or after September 29, 2015. The SBOE framework is aligned with the standards for school counselors adopted under RC 3319.61. The policy must include implementation of the framework beginning with the 2016-2017 school year and procedures for using the evaluation results for decisions regarding retention and promotion of counselors and removal of poorly performing counselors beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.*

*The policy becomes operative at the expiration of any collective bargaining agreement covering school's counselors that is in effective on September 29, 2015 and must be included in any collective bargaining agreement renewal or extension.*

*Boards are required to use counselor evaluation results for promotion and retention decisions and for removing poorly performing counselors beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. These procedures are required to appear in board policy, but will be unique to each district. Boards should develop these procedures with district administrators and adopt them into board policy as a regulation, which should be coded as AFCA-R (Also GCNA-R).*

*Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, boards can elect to not evaluate school counselors who: 1) were on leave for 50% or more of the school year as calculated by the board or 2) have submitted a notice of retirement that has been accepted by the board no later than December 1 of the school year in which the evaluation would have been conducted.*

## EVALUATION OF CLASSIFIED STAFF

Regular evaluation of all classified staff is intended to bring about improved services and to provide a continuing record of the service of each employee and evidence on which to base decisions relative to assignment and re-employment.

The Superintendent establishes a continuing program of performance evaluation for the classified staff. The program includes written evaluations and a means of making the results known to the evaluated employee.

The services of all classified staff employees are evaluated. Procedures used in the evaluation process are subject to Board approval or in accordance with the negotiated agreement and/or State law.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]

LEGAL REFS.: ORC Chapter 124  
Chapter 4117  
3319.081  
OAC 3301-35-05

CROSS REFS.: AF, Commitment to Accomplishment  
GBL, Personnel Records

CONTRACT REF.: Classified Staff Negotiated Agreement

## EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

The Board believes that accountability for student performance and progress is a shared responsibility of teachers, administrators, parents and the Board. Individual student progress and the instructional efforts of the District are evaluated systematically. It is the responsibility of the Superintendent and the instructional staff to report periodically to the Board on the progress the District is making towards the attainment of its instructional goals.

The Board directs the Superintendent to develop and implement a systematic plan for the continuous evaluation of the instructional program against the goals established by the Board. The Superintendent/designee employs such tests and methods as may be deemed appropriate in the Superintendent's/designee's sound professional judgment. The assessment program follows the evaluation procedures set forth in the courses of study and curriculum guides.

The purposes of the evaluation process are to:

1. monitor the progress of individual students;
2. identify strengths and weaknesses of existing instructional programs;
3. provide data for decision-making regarding additions to, modification of or deletions from the existing instructional programs;
4. report to the public the relationship between the stated instructional goals of the District and student achievement and
5. all other relevant data that the Superintendent deems necessary.

The Superintendent is instructed to remain informed relative to current research and successful practices and to employ the best and most reliable methods and measures in the evaluative process. The results of the testing programs are used as a part of the evaluation.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]

LEGAL REFS.: OAC 3301-35-03; 3301-35-04; 3301-35-06; 3301-35-07

CROSS REFS.: AF, Commitment to Accomplishment  
IA, Instructional Goals  
IAA, Instructional Objectives  
IL, Testing Programs

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## EVALUATION OF EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

The Superintendent evaluates the effectiveness of the educational resources used by the District to achieve the District's educational goals and objectives.

The individual resource areas are assessed yearly while the overall program is assessed every three years according to professionally recognized criteria and procedures.

Following are the educational resources listed in the State Board of Education standards.

1. Certificated and classified staff are recruited, employed, assigned, evaluated and provided in-service education without unlawful discrimination.
2. Instructional materials and equipment support attainment of objectives specified in courses of study.
3. Facilities accommodate the enrollment and the philosophy of education and educational goals of the school.
4. Student health and safety are safeguarded by an organized program of school health services designed to identify student health problems and to coordinate school and community health resources for students.
5. Student cumulative records are maintained.
6. Student admission, placement and withdrawal are processed according to established procedures.
7. Student attendance and conduct are administered according to established objectives and procedures.
8. School guidance services are provided for students in accordance with a written plan adopted by the Board.
9. Student activity programs are operated in accordance with the Board's philosophy of education and educational goals and safeguard the interest of the school, participants and spectators. Schools will not sponsor interscholastic athletics for students in kindergarten through sixth grade.
10. A planned community relations program is implemented to encourage citizen participation in, and support for, the educational program.

[Adoption date: October 22, 2013]

LEGAL REFS.: OAC 3301-35-03; 3301-35-04

CROSS REFS.: AC, Nondiscrimination  
AF, Commitment to Accomplishment  
FA, Facilities Development Goals  
IA, Instructional Goals  
IF, Curriculum Development  
IGD, Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities  
IK, Academic Achievement  
IKE, Promotion and Retention of Students  
JEC, School Admission  
JEDA, Truancy  
JHF, Student Safety  
JO, Student Records  
KA, School-Community Relations Goals