

# Instructional

Master Contract

# Negotiations

2025-2028

2025-2026 School Year

**United School Employees of Pasco**

Jeff Larsen, President

813-996-2119

and

**Pasco County Schools**

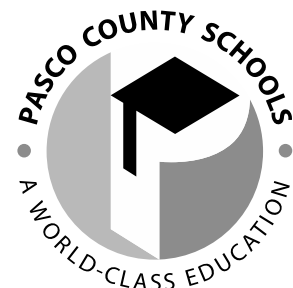
Dr. John Legg, Superintendent

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## ARTICLE I – RECOGNITION

### SECTION A

The District School Board of Pasco County, hereinafter called the "Board", recognizes the United School Employees of Pasco, hereinafter called the "Union", as the exclusive bargaining representative of all teachers in the school district known and designated as Pasco County School District. Instructional bargaining unit members as provided for in this contract is defined by the positions listed in Addendum C of this Agreement and any new instructional position established for which the Board and Union have mutually agreed should be included or Public Employees Relations Commission (PERC) has rendered a decision of inclusion and there is no pending appeal. Addendum C will be revised each school year by mutual agreement of the Board and the Union.

As defined above, this would mutually amend the educational employees listed as included and exclude those listed as excluded by the PERC in the April 17, 1975, Order of Certification.

### SECTION B

When a new job description/position title is approved by the Board, the Union will have the right to request in writing that the position be included or excluded from the bargaining unit, stating the reasons for said inclusion or exclusion. The Superintendent shall respond within five (5) days. If the Union request is denied, the Superintendent shall state in writing the reasons for rejection in his/her response. In the event of a disagreement on the issue of any specific job description/position title, PERC shall be petitioned for a ruling on the inclusion or exclusion of the position. Any person placed in a contested position shall upon a ruling by PERC for inclusion in the addition of bargaining unit receive all rights granted under this Agreement from the time of initial placement.

### SECTION C

The Union recognizes the Board as the duly constituted legislative body and agrees to bargain collectively only with the chief executive officer of the Board or his/her designee.

### END OF ARTICLE I

## ARTICLE II – DEFINITIONS

### SECTION A

The term teacher shall refer to personnel named as such in Article I, Section A, of this Agreement and all other personnel who may be included as members of the bargaining unit under the provisions of Article I, Section B, of this Agreement.

### SECTION B

The term Union or USEP shall refer to the United School Employees of Pasco and all duly authorized representatives thereof.

### SECTION C

The term day shall refer to the working day for teachers.

### SECTION D

The term district shall refer to the school district of Pasco County.

### SECTION E

The term Board shall refer to the District School Board of Pasco County.

### SECTION F

The term Superintendent shall refer to the Superintendent of Schools of Pasco County or his/her designee.

### SECTION G

The term principal shall refer to the head of any school or work location and/or function division or group or his/her designee.

### SECTION H

The term school shall mean all buildings on the school site and shall include any work location to which teachers are assigned to carry out their teaching responsibilities and which is under the jurisdiction of the District School Board of Pasco County.

### SECTION I

The term building shall refer to each individual permanent building on the school site.

### SECTION J

The term Agreement shall mean the full and complete agreements between the Union and the Board, duly ratified and signed as set forth in this document.

### SECTION K

The term year shall refer to the school year.

### SECTION L

The term extracurricular shall refer to any scheduled assignment for which supplementary pay is granted.

## **SECTION M**

The term Union representative or USEP representative shall refer to a duly authorized agent of the Union.

## **SECTION N**

The term cost center shall mean any function group or division or school that receives monies allocated by the Board.

## **SECTION O**

The term preplanning shall mean those days designated as teacher planning days scheduled prior to the first day of school for students.

## **SECTION P**

The term student day(s) shall mean the day(s) and hours set for students to attend school.

## **SECTION Q**

The term planning days shall mean those days designated as teacher planning days and scheduled prior to, during, or after the school year.

## **SECTION R**

The term academic quarter shall mean the normal school grading period of approximately forty-five (45) student days.

## **SECTION S**

The term Union President or USEP President shall refer to the President of the United School Employees of Pasco or his/her designee.

## **END OF ARTICLE II**

### **ARTICLE III - UNION RIGHTS**

#### **SECTION A - Implementation**

1. The Board shall make available to the Union any and all public information, statistics, and records concerning the school district, which the Union may deem to be relevant to negotiations or necessary for the proper enforcement of this Agreement. The word "public", as used in this section, shall refer to any documents, reports, statistics, studies, and other such information in the form in which they are regularly kept. Materials prepared in multiple form for distribution to the public and/or media shall be provided to the Union at no cost. If additional information is requested by the Union and said material does not exist in multiple form, the Union shall pay for the actual cost of duplication of such material, not to exceed fifteen (15) cents per sheet.
2. Teachers serving on committees, councils, or other advisory groups shall be selected by the Superintendent from a list of recommended representatives elected by a majority vote of the teachers in each school, department, and/or grade level, whichever is applicable. No subject which is properly a matter of negotiations shall be considered by any teacher committee not authorized by this Agreement.
3. The principal of the school shall meet at mutually agreed times during the school year with the representatives of the Union, at the request of the Union, to discuss questions and problems as well as matters relating to the implementation of this Agreement. Such meeting shall not be construed to replace the grievance procedure for any matter normally the subject of a grievance.
4. The Union shall appear on the Board agenda at all Board meetings as a regular agenda item. Further, the Union representative shall be recognized upon request to speak on issues before the Board in the same manner as any other individual. The agenda and all supporting data will be provided on the District agenda management system.
5. Duly authorized representatives of the Union may visit schools to investigate employee complaints and/or communicate with teachers. Upon arrival at the school, Union representatives shall make their presence known to the school principal or his/her designee. If the principal does not approve the representatives' visit at that particular time, he/she will explain the reason to the representatives. Such visits shall not be carried out during pupil contact time of the involved teacher(s).
6. Whenever teachers are scheduled by the Board or its agents to participate during working hours in conferences, meetings, or in negotiations respecting the Collective Bargaining Agreement, they shall be granted the necessary time and shall suffer no loss in pay.
7. Each year upon reaching a tentative Agreement in negotiations and prior to ratification, a district meeting shall be conducted by USEP for Union representatives during the school day for the purpose of explanation of the tentative Agreement and contract ratification procedures. Each school shall be allowed to send up to two (2) representatives selected by the USEP president. The representatives attending the district meeting shall be granted one-half (1/2) day leave and shall suffer no loss in pay. The cost of substitutes shall be paid for by the Board.
8. A roster of all teachers assigned to a school or schools shall be provided to the Union representative of said school by September 10, and revised rosters shall be provided when issued. The Board and Union agree that an electronic directory of all personnel will be available on the district's network. This directory will list employees alphabetically by school or department and will be updated regularly. Employees will have the opportunity to opt out of having their personal contact information listed in the directory. The availability of this directory will replace the distribution of a paper copy of a directory distributed in prior years. Copies of this directory shall not be distributed to any outside parties for commercial or solicitation purposes, except as required by law.
9. The Union will distribute the agreement to each employee covered by this Agreement at each worksite. Following ratification, all Agreements and addenda will be available on the Board's and Union's respective websites.

10. The Board shall grant leave without pay to the Union president and up to three (3) teachers designated by the Union for the purpose of engaging in Union activities. The leaves shall count toward accruing seniority and Pasco continuous service. The teachers on leave may participate in all group fringe benefit plans provided by the Board by making their own and the Board's regular contribution to all benefits requiring such contribution. The leaves of absence shall be for a period of up to one (1) year at a time except for the president's leave which shall be for the term of office and automatically be renewed each year. At the conclusion of the leaves, the teachers shall be returned to the teaching positions held at the commencement of the leaves if such positions exist.
11. The Board will allow Union representatives time off to attend local, state, or national workshops, conferences, conventions, and other related activities for up to fifteen (15) days per school year. Further, the Board agrees that additional days may be granted if the Union reimburses the district for the full costs of the required substitute(s). However, if said days used by the Union representatives are planning or staff development days, the Union will not be charged for substitute(s) for such days.
12. Professional leave shall be granted for teachers to attend statewide conferences, conventions, and/or related activities held on the statewide conference day in October and to attend Board-approved, USEP-sponsored staff development on district-wide staff development days with prior approval of the principal. Teachers will not be released on district-wide staff development days to attend USEP-sponsored staff development when it conflicts with a required staff development activity scheduled by the principal. Up to twenty-three (23) teachers shall be granted Union leave to attend the Florida Education Association (FEA) Convention or the FEA Leadership Conference. The Board shall pay the cost of the required substitutes for such teachers. Such Union leave shall be in addition to the leave days authorized under paragraph 11 of this section.

**SECTION B - Payroll Deduction:** *(Effective July 1, 2023, the practice of payroll deduction was suspended by act of the legislature.)*

1. Upon authorization by any teacher, the Board agrees to deduct at no cost to the teacher the amount of dues certified by the Union as the amount required of all members and remit the amount so deducted to the Union. The Board will be authorized to make said deduction upon receiving authorization.
  - a. All funds collected by the Board as a result of dues deductions shall be remitted by the Board to the Union within ten (10) days of the deduction.
  - b. Dues deductions shall be continuous from year to year so long as the employee organization remains the certified bargaining agent for the unit.
  - c. Authorizations are revocable by the employees with thirty (30) days notice to both the Board and the Union.
2. The Board shall supply to the Union a list of those teachers from whom said payroll deductions have been made after each pay period.
3. The Union shall indemnify and save the Board harmless from any and all claims, demands, suits, and causes of action of any kind whatsoever arising from Board actions to comply with the provisions of this section.”

**SECTION C - Use of Facilities**

1. The Union may use school building facilities for meetings upon prior approval of the school principal. Approval will be withheld only for good and sufficient reason, which shall be stated to the person making the request. In each school, for a maximum of five (5) times per year, a meeting called by the Union for that school's teachers may be scheduled during fifteen (15) minutes of the teacher workday provided that such a schedule does not interfere with student contact time. Further, two (2) additional meetings not to exceed two (2) hours each may be held during the school day for the purpose of contract explanation and/or ratification.
2. The Union shall have the right to conduct regularly scheduled Building Representative Council meetings in school building facilities.
3. The Union may use school building facilities for countywide or area meetings, upon prior approval of the school principal. Approval will be withheld only for good and sufficient reason, which shall be stated to the person making the request. The meetings are to be conducted after the teacher's working day is completed.
4. The Union may be charged the customary fee for custodial services made necessary by use described in paragraphs 2 and 3 above.
5. The Union shall have the right to use the school mailboxes and electronic network for the purpose of communicating with teachers. The electronic network shall not be used for internal or external political activities.
6. The Union shall have the right to post notices of activities and matters of Union concern on bulletin boards specifically assigned exclusively for use by the Union. Said bulletin boards shall not be less than 12 square feet in size, at least one (1) of which shall be provided in each school. Further, said bulletin boards shall be in a readily visible area.
7. The Union shall receive written notice on or before August 1 of any district orientation meeting for incoming teachers. Further, the Union shall be given a place on the agenda of any district orientation program for incoming teachers. Should a school have an orientation meeting for new teachers, the school Union representative upon request shall be given a place on the agenda of one (1) meeting selected by the principal.
8. The Board will provide the Union with a list of newly hired teachers within seven (7) days of the teachers' appointments by the Board.

**END OF ARTICLE III**

## ARTICLE IV - FAIR PRACTICES

### SECTION A

1. The Board hereby agrees that every teacher shall have the right freely to organize, join, and support the Union including, but not limited to, the displaying of union materials, buttons, pins, apparel, etc. Any such items will be consistent with school and/or district attire and rules. The Board and the Union agree that they will not directly or indirectly discourage, deprive, or coerce any teacher in the enjoyment of any rights conferred by this Agreement.
2. Further, the Board and the Union, including their agents, mutually agree not to discriminate against any teacher in regard to any of the rights, guarantees, or privileges afforded teachers under the terms of this Agreement.

### SECTION B

Nothing contained herein shall be construed to deny or restrict rights to any teacher he/she may have under the Florida School Laws or other applicable laws and regulations.

### END OF ARTICLE IV

## ARTICLE V – SENIORITY

### SECTION A

1. Seniority shall be the length of continuous service of a teacher in the school system. Continuous service shall be determined in reference to unbroken service in the district with each year in which a teacher has been under contract for at least one (1) day more than one-half (1/2) the normal contract length for the position counted as one (1) year of service with the following exception: If a teacher takes ten (10) or more successive days of unpaid leave, these days shall be deducted from the contract length, and if this deduction reduces the contract length to less than one (1) day more than one-half (1/2) the normal contract length for the position, the year shall not be counted.
2. If it becomes necessary to establish precedence among teachers with the same seniority, the beginning date of employment shall be used. Leave duly authorized and granted in accordance with provisions of this Agreement shall not constitute a break in service.

### SECTION B

The Monday following each pay date, the Board shall provide to the Union an electronic file containing an alphabetical list of the names of all teachers employed in the district. Said list shall also contain demographics, USEP dues, and total number of years of continuous service in the district as determined by the District School Board of Pasco County. Teacher seniority lists will be posted in each school when notification is given that an involuntary transfer from that school is planned. The Union shall provide the district with a secure FTP site to transmit the data.

### END OF ARTICLE V

## ARTICLE VI - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

### SECTION A - Definitions

1. A grievance is a complaint by a teacher or by a group of teachers that there has been a violation, misinterpretation, or misapplication of this Agreement and shall be subject to settlement under all provisions of this article.
2. When a complaint arises alleging that:
  - (a) a policy or practice is improper or unfair; or
  - (b) there has been a deviation from a misinterpretation or misapplication of a practice or policy; or
  - (c) there has been unfair or inequitable treatment by reason of an act or condition contrary to existing policy or practice. Such complaint shall be subject to settlement under all provisions of this article excluding Step Five.

### SECTION B - General Application

1. With regard to items of the Agreement covering Union rights, the Union shall have the right to present, process, or appeal a grievance at any level in its own behalf. This means that the Union has the right to file grievances in its own name when the grievance alleges a violation, misinterpretation, or misapplication of this Agreement.
2. The Union has the right to represent the teacher at any level of the procedure. The teacher shall have the right to be represented by legal counsel or any person(s) he/she deems necessary at any step of this procedure.
3. A grievance shall be first filed at the level where the alleged action(s) occurred that led to the filing of the complaint and processed in accordance with all subsequent steps thereafter as outlined in this article.
4. No decision or adjustment of a grievance shall be contrary to any provision of this Agreement existing between the parties hereto.
5. The Union shall have the right to be present at all meetings after Step One regarding a grievance regardless of the party filing the grievance.

6. Failure to communicate the decision of a grievance at any step of this procedure within the specified time limit shall permit the Union to submit an appeal at the next step of this procedure. However, time limits, as specified, may be extended at any time by mutual agreement in writing.
7. In the event that a grievance is filed at such time that it cannot be processed through all of the steps in the grievance procedure by the end of the school year, the time limits set forth herein shall be reduced to the extent possible so that Steps One to Three of the procedure may be completed prior to the end of the school year.
8. No reprisal of any kind shall be taken by or against any participant in the grievance procedure by reason of such participation. No entry of any kind concerning a teacher's participation in a grievance shall be entered into his/her personnel file.
9. All parties agree that these proceedings shall be kept as confidential as may be appropriate at each level of the procedure.
10. Whenever meetings for resolving grievances are scheduled during the school day, the Union representative and/or grievant will be allotted released time without loss of pay, and a substitute shall be provided by the Board.
11. No member of the bargaining unit shall be represented by another employee organization.

### **SECTION C - Procedure**

**Step One:** Any teacher who feels that he/she may have a grievance may first discuss the grievance with the principal, either directly or accompanied by the Union representative, with the object of solving the matter informally.

**Step Two:** In the event that the matter is not resolved informally, the formal grievance stated in writing may be submitted to the immediate supervisor at the level of filing, the Union, and the Superintendent, with one copy for the grievant. A formal grievance shall be filed as soon as possible after the action giving rise to the grievance but no later than twenty (20) days after the grievant knew or could reasonably have been expected to know of the occurrence giving rise to the grievance.

- a) Within five (5) days after the receipt of the formal grievance, the principal shall hold a formal hearing on the grievance.
- b) The grievant and the Union representative shall be given at least one (1) day's written notice of the hearing.
- c) Within five (5) days after the hearing, the principal shall communicate his/her decision in writing together with supporting reasons.
- d) The principal shall furnish one (1) copy to each grievant, one (1) copy to the Union representative and one (1) copy to the Union president.

**Step Three:** If the grievance is not resolved satisfactorily, the grievant and/or Union may appeal within five (5) days to the Superintendent of Schools. The appeal shall be in writing and shall include a copy of the original appeal and the decision arrived at in Step Two.

- a) Within ten (10) days after the receipt of the appeal, the Superintendent shall hold a hearing on the grievance.
- b) The grievant, the Union representative, and the principal shall be given at least two (2) days written notice of the hearing. Said notice shall contain the time and place of such hearing.
- c) The grievant shall be present at the hearing unless there is mutual agreement that no facts are in dispute and that the sole question before the Superintendent is one of interpretation of a provision of the Agreement between the parties thereof or of what is established policy or practice.
- d) Within five (5) days after the hearing on the appeal, the Superintendent shall communicate his/her decision in writing together with supporting reasons. The Superintendent shall furnish one (1) copy to each grievant, one (1) copy to the Union representative and one (1) copy to the Union president.

**Step Four:** If the grievance is not resolved satisfactorily, the Union may appeal the grievance within five (5) days to the Board. The appeal shall be in writing and shall include a copy of the original appeal and the decision at Steps Two and Three. The Union may waive this step for any grievance filed. If this step is waived, the grievance may be appealed directly to Step Five upon mutual agreement of the Board and the Union if no satisfactory resolution has been reached at Step Three.

- a) Within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the appeal, the Board shall hold a hearing.
- b) The grievant, the Union representative or representatives, the principal, the Superintendent, and the president of the Union shall be given written notice at least two (2) days prior to the hearing.
- c) Within fifteen (15) days after the hearing on the appeal, the Board shall communicate its decision in writing together with its supporting reasons. The Board shall furnish one (1) copy to each grievant, one (1) copy to the Union representative and one (1) copy to the Union president.

**Step Five:** If a grievance involving the application or interpretation of this Agreement is not resolved satisfactorily at Step Four, the grievant, through the Union, may appeal within five (5) days directly to the American Arbitration Association for binding arbitration.

- a) The arbitrator shall be selected through procedures and governed by the rules established by the American Arbitration Association.
- b) The decision and award of the arbitrator shall be in writing and shall set forth opinions and conclusions on the issues submitted to him/her at the time of the hearing.
- c) The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding.

- d) The cost of filing for arbitration through the American Arbitration Association, the fee and expenses of the arbitrator and any court reporter shall be borne by the losing party. Any other costs connected with arbitration shall be borne by the party incurring the costs.
- e) Nothing in the foregoing shall be construed to empower the arbitrator to make any decisions amending, changing, subtracting from, or adding to the provisions of this Agreement.

**END OF ARTICLE VI**

**ARTICLE VII - WORKING CONDITIONS**

**SECTION A – Contracts**

- 1. Annual Contract
  - a. A teacher is an annual contract teacher until such time as he/she obtains continuing contract or professional service contract in the school district. Teachers employed on an annual contract basis are considered to be on a probationary status.
- 2. Temporary Contract
  - a. A teacher is a temporary contracted employee if he/she is employed after the beginning of the school year.
  - b. It is expressly understood and agreed that neither the temporary contract teacher nor the School Board owes any further contractual obligation to each other after the termination date specified in the individual teacher's contract.
- 3. Professional Service Contract and Continuing Contract
  - a. A teacher will be eligible to receive a professional service contract (PSC) as provided by Florida Statute 1012.33(3)(a).
  - b. If a teacher has previously held a PSC in the district or from another district within the state, the teacher may be granted a PSC upon recommendation for his/her second year of employment in the district.
  - c. A continuing contract (CC) is not subject to being issued after July 1, 1984. If a teacher has previously held a continuing contract within the state and is employed or reemployed, the teacher may be granted a PSC upon recommendation for his/her second year of employment in the district.
- 4. Positions which the district is obligated to provide to outside agencies or for nonrecurring special grants will be considered non-continuous employment positions.
  - a. Any teacher new to the district or returning, after a break in service employed in a non-continuous position, will be informed that the district owes no further obligation to him/her should his/her position be eliminated. Such a teacher will be given written notice of his/her non-continuous employment status and be required to sign confirmation of notification each year. The Board will provide to the Union a copy of the confirmation of notification signed by teachers filling non-continuous positions.
  - b. A teacher transferring from a regular teaching position to a non-continuous position will be placed in a position for which he/she is qualified in the judgment of the Superintendent should his/her non-continuous position be eliminated.

**SECTION B - Resignations**

- 1. Any teacher who resigns from his/her position during the term of his/her individual contract shall be released from employment by the Board without prejudice provided that said teacher has given notice of such intent at least ten (10) calendar days prior to the termination date. However, as provided by 1012.335, Florida Statutes, any teacher in the one (1) year probationary contract period may resign upon immediate notice. Such resignation will not be a breach of contract.

**SECTION C - Dismissal**

- 1. Any teacher who is suspended, discharged, returned to annual contract status, shall be notified in writing of the reason for such action. However, as provided by 1012.335, Florida Statutes, any teacher in the one (1) year probationary contract period may be terminated without cause.
- 2. Any teacher who is nonreappointed on annual contract shall be notified in writing by April 1 of his/her contractual status for the next school year.
- 3. For the purposes of dismissal, return to or continuation of annual contract status, and suspension, the procedures in Florida Statutes shall prevail.
- 4. All recommendations regarding individual contract status or for continued employment shall be based primarily upon information contained in the teacher's official file except when positions are filled by teachers in their one (1) year probationary contract period as provided by 1012.335, Florida Statutes.
- 5. Any teacher required to attend a meeting called by the administration for the purpose of a reprimand which will become part of the teacher's record or for action leading to suspension or for an investigatory interview shall have the right of Union representation at such a meeting. If during a meeting as described above, the teacher believes that the discussion could lead to disciplinary action, the teacher may ask that the meeting be delayed or rescheduled until Union representation can be provided. This section shall not be interpreted to apply to conferences relating to observation or evaluation of instruction.
- 6. The district supports the concept of "progressive discipline" and encourages its application when appropriate.

7. A teacher will be advised immediately if the Board has initiated or is cooperating with the Education Practices Commission in an investigation of said teacher.

#### **SECTION D - Promotional Vacancies**

1. Whenever a promotional vacancy shall occur in a professional position in the school district for which certification is required, the Board shall publicize the same by giving written notice to the Union and by providing for appropriate posting in all schools.
2. A teacher who desires to apply for any such vacancy shall file his/her application with the District Office.
3. When in judgment of the Board qualifications and ability are relatively equal, preference in filling vacancies within the bargaining unit shall be given to the employee with the greatest length of service in the school district.
4. The Board agrees to give full consideration to the professional background and attainments of applicants for administrative openings.

#### **SECTION E - Transfers and Reassignments**

1. All job advertisements/vacancy notices shall be available on the District's website.
2. Teachers who desire a change in grade or subject assignment or who desire to transfer to another building or position shall file a written statement of such desire on the appropriate form. One (1) copy of the form shall be filed with the District Office and one (1) copy may be filed with the Union if the teacher so desires. Such request shall be reviewed by the principals at least once each year and will remain valid for a period of twelve (12) months following date of application.
3. Teachers who desire to transfer to a specific position(s) in another school(s) shall make their interest known to the receiving principal within the advertised period.
4. No assignment of teachers to a specific position in the school district shall be made until all pending requests for reassignment or transfer to that position have been given due consideration. District seniority shall be given due consideration in assignments for voluntary transfers.
5. Teachers who have requested transfers or reassignments shall be notified in writing of the administration's action on said transfer or reassignment as soon as possible.

#### **SECTION F - Involuntary Transfers**

1. Staff Reduction
  - a) Involuntary transfers may occur due to staff reduction in a department and/or grade level within a school or the closing of an existing facility. The Board shall notify the Union within ten (10) days after the determination that involuntary transfers must occur. Teachers shall not be subject to involuntary transfer to an alternative school for disruptive students.
  - b) In case of staff reduction in a school, volunteers will be transferred first to positions for which they are qualified in the judgment of the Superintendent and are willing to accept. Involuntary transfers will then be assigned to positions for which they are qualified in the judgment of the Superintendent. Teachers who are being involuntarily transferred by the District for reasons of staff reduction in a school shall be placed on a list, which will be provided to the union, and have priority on assignment to open positions over all voluntary transfers and outside applicants.
  - c) If during the initial placement process, no in-field placements are available, the teacher may accept an assignment that places them out-of-field or they may request to remain on the list until such time as a position becomes available in their current area of assignment. If the teacher chooses to remain on the list, they shall continue to have priority on assignment to the next available and statutorily allowable position(s) within their area of assignment over all voluntary transfers and outside applicants, and the District has the right to advertise and fill vacancies in all other areas of assignment. On July 1<sup>st</sup>, all teachers remaining on the placement list will be assigned to positions for which they are qualified in the judgement of the Superintendent, which includes an out-of-field placement.
  - d) Involuntary transfers as described in paragraph "a" shall be based on seniority in Pasco County. The teacher with the least amount of seniority among those assigned to the school in which the reduction occurs, within the area of assignment affected, shall be first transferred. In grades Pre-K (K)-5 "area of assignment" shall mean: Pre-K and K, or elementary grades 1-5. The District and Union agree to meet at the beginning of each school year to review, if necessary, the areas of assignment used when the involuntary transfer process is initiated.
  - e) Teachers transferred under this provision shall not be again subject to involuntary transfer during the same school year in which the transfer occurs.
  - f) Should a position become available at the same school from which a teacher was involuntarily transferred due to a staff reduction, the teacher shall have the opportunity to return to such school, subject to all of the following conditions:
    1. The same or similar position needs to be filled no later than the end of the school year following the school year of the transfer.
    2. The position is in the same area of assignment from which the teacher was transferred.
    3. The teacher is certified for the position.
    4. The teacher is qualified for the position in the judgment of the Superintendent.
    5. In cases in which more than one teacher has been involuntarily transferred from the same area of assignment, at the same school, and meet the above conditions, the teacher with the most seniority shall first be given the option to return.

- g) Should it become necessary to reduce the number of staff members at an alternative school for disruptive students the school principal after receiving the recommendations relative to the program needs from the staff, will determine the teacher(s) to be transferred. Teachers selected for involuntary transfers shall be given notice of the involuntary transfers and the reason therefore in writing.
  - h) The procedures described in paragraphs "a" through "e" are not intended to apply to individual involuntary transfers related to performance or other problems.
2. Teacher Replacing a Teacher on Extended Leave
- A regular employed teacher on annual contract, professional service contract, or continuing contract who transfers to an open position replacing a teacher on extended leave shall be subject to an involuntary transfer should the person on leave return to his/her position. Upon accepting such position, the teacher will be notified in writing that he/she may be subject to such transfer. This does not apply to a person newly hired to the District to replace a person on leave as governed by Article VIII, Section A-6 (a).
3. Performance Problems
- Before recommending an involuntary transfer based upon any performance problems, the Superintendent or his designee shall give notice of the performance problem(s) and time to address and respond to the concerns, and unless extenuating circumstances exist, the instructional bargaining unit member will be offered assistance and time to address and resolve the concerns. In addition, the following procedures shall apply:
- a) Instructional bargaining unit members affected by recommendations for such an involuntary transfer which have been proposed for the upcoming year will be notified on or before May 1, unless extenuating circumstances exist.
  - b) A conference will be held, if requested by the instructional bargaining unit members, between the instructional bargaining unit member and the Superintendent and/or his/her designee to discuss the reasons for recommending a transfer, and to allow the instructional bargaining unit members the opportunity to present his/her side of the matter and his/her position regarding being transferred. Any instructional bargaining unit member attending a conference will have the right of Union representation upon the instructional bargaining unit member's request. A written report of the conference with an instructional bargaining unit member concerning a recommended transfer will be given to the instructional bargaining unit member within ten (10) working days of the conference.
  - c) The instructional bargaining unit members will receive written notice of the recommendation of the Superintendent of a transfer and will have the opportunity to appear at the School Board meeting at which the transfer will be presented for approval. Instructional bargaining unit members affected by involuntary transfer shall be notified in writing on or before July 1 as to their assignment for the upcoming year except in an emergency.
  - d) The recommendation of the Superintendent and notice of transfer will be placed in the instructional bargaining unit member's official file, along with any conference report as described above concerning an instructional bargaining unit member to be used for official purposes in regard to a transfer, which report will be placed in the instructional bargaining unit member's official file according to provisions of Article VII, Section Q of the Instructional Master Contract.
  - e) None of the above shall apply to, restrict, or interfere with (1) investigation of a complaint to an outside agency or in the criminal justice system, or (2) the Superintendent's discretion and authority, as provided under Section 1012.27, Florida Statutes, and Florida Administrative Code Rule 6B 4.4005 to transfer any employee during an emergency and report the transfer to the School Board at the next regular meeting, or (3) involuntary transfers as provided for in Article VII, Section F, subsections 1, 2 and 5 of the Instructional Master Contract, and (4) none of the above shall restrict or interfere with the Superintendent's authority as provided under Section 1012.27, Florida Statutes, and Florida Administrative Code Rule 6B-4.005 to recommend transfer of instructional bargaining unit members or the School Board's authority as provided in Section 1012.27, Florida Statutes, to act on the Superintendent's recommendations.
  - f) At an alternative school for disruptive students, teachers whose performance is judged to be unsatisfactory by the school principal shall be subject to involuntary transfer twenty five (25) days after the principal has provided the teacher with an opportunity to improve his/her performance and the performance continues to be below expectations. Any such transfer shall be according to the criteria in State Board Rules, 6B-4.005 and the Instructional Master Contract, Article VII, Section F(5). The reason for such transfer shall be discussed with the teacher and, upon the teacher's request, with a Union representative prior to the transfer. At an alternative school for disruptive students the salary of a teacher who is involuntarily transferred to another school shall not be reduced for the remainder of the school year.
  - g) Individuals involuntarily transferred for performance or other problems shall also have priority on assignments to open positions over all voluntary transfers.
4. Teachers affected by involuntary transfers shall be notified in writing on or before July 1 as to their assignments for the oncoming year except in an emergency.
5. Physical Education and/or Driver Education Teachers
- Any teacher initially employed as a physical education or driver's education teacher with a coaching responsibility and who subsequently resigns from the coaching responsibility may be transferred to another school to continue the basic teaching contract. All teachers employed after July 1, 1997, in this category will be notified in writing at the time of employment.

## **SECTION G - Reduction in Force**

1. Should it become necessary to reduce the number of teachers in the District, the Board shall notify the union that such a reduction in force is required. Annual contract teachers shall be reduced first as determined by the Superintendent unless special certification for a specific assignment is needed.
2. If continuing contract or professional service contract teachers are to be affected by a reduction in force, certification and seniority within the district shall be the controlling factors. Seniority for purpose of reduction in force as it affects continuing contract or professional service contract teachers shall be based on seniority going from the least senior to the most senior.
3. The Board shall maintain a list of teachers affected by a reduction in force for a two (2) year period and will exhaust this list within the limits of certification before hiring new teachers for a two (2) year period. The Board will provide the Union with a copy of this list and regular updates. It shall be the duty of a teacher to ensure that the Board has current information regarding place of residence and telephone number. The Board shall rehire from the PSC and CC list based upon certification and seniority. Seniority being from the longest years of continuous service in the district to that of the least years of continuous service in the district.
4. Teachers shall be notified via telephone when a position has become available for which the teacher is qualified in the judgment of the Superintendent. The District shall attempt to contact the teacher at least three (3) times per day over a three (3) day period. A busy signal shall not count as an attempt to reach the teacher. In the event a teacher cannot be reached after these attempts, he/she shall be placed at the bottom of the list and notified of this action by certified mail. In the event a teacher cannot be reached after following this procedure a second time, the Board shall be released from any future rehire obligations.
5. Once a teacher is offered a position, he/she shall have forty-eight (48) hours to accept the position. Should a teacher fail to respond within this timeframe or decline the position offered, the Board shall be released from any further rehire obligations.
6. Upon return to employment, the teacher shall be placed on the salary schedule and appropriate contract as if he/she were on an unpaid leave of absence.
7. Any teacher whose position is lost as a result of a reduction in force may apply for unemployment compensation benefits. The district shall not contest a teacher's application for such benefits. However, once a teacher has been offered a teaching position with the district, the district will notify the appropriate agency that the teacher has been offered employment.

## **SECTION H - Evaluation**

1. During the first two (2) weeks of school, all teachers shall be provided information regarding the assessment instrument. This shall include an explanation and discussion of the assessment process. In the event a teacher is employed after the two (2) week period, said instrument and explanations shall be presented upon employment.
2. As required by Florida Statute 1012.34, an evaluation will consist of three (3) components:
  - a) Status Score – based on administrator observation of the FEAPs standards, and the standards will be scored in accordance with Florida Statute 1012.34 (2)(e).
  - b) Deliberate Practice Score – an assessment of the deliberate practice plan cycle and its components.
  - c) Student Performance Measure Score – scored in accordance with Florida Statute 1012.34(3)(1)(a).
3. All agreed to procedures and processes including, but not limited to, evaluation categories, scoring rubrics timelines, and forms shall be contained in a document entitled *Pasco County Evaluation Guidelines*. After each school year, a workgroup comprised of District and USEP shall examine current year data, and changes in Florida statutes pertaining to Instructional Evaluation to inform recommendations for modifications for the following school year. Any modifications recommended by the workgroup that impact mandatory subjects of collective bargaining shall be referred to the District and USEP bargaining teams who will then determine whether such changes shall be placed in Article VII, Section H of the Instructional Master Contract or in the *Pasco County Evaluation Guidelines*.
4. Within ten (10) school days following an observation or classroom visit for the purpose of evaluation, an administrator shall provide definitive feedback to the teacher on their strengths and/or areas where improvement is needed. The feedback will include a face-to-face conference if requested by the teacher or administrator.
5. All teachers will receive at least one summative evaluation per school year. Beginning teachers and/or teachers new to the District will receive at least the number of summative evaluations required by law. The final status score and the deliberate practice score shall be completed by April 30. Should the administrator responsible for providing the final status and deliberate practice scores not meet the date designated above for the completion of the assessment, the administrator will inform the teacher of the reason for the delay.
6. At the completion of the status score and deliberate practice scores and again upon the completion of the summative evaluation, the teacher shall receive and electronically acknowledge receipt of the scores and summative evaluation. The electronic acknowledgement shall not indicate agreement with the results of the scores or evaluation but only acknowledges that he/she has read the report.
7. A teacher shall be given the opportunity to include his/her comments in writing concerning the scores and/or the summative evaluation report. These comments shall be placed in the teacher's personnel file.
8. In the event a teacher is not performing effectively and prior to issuing an overall summative evaluation score of "Unsatisfactory" or "Needs Improvement", the administrator will advise the teacher of the specific deficiencies in his/her performance and shall give the

teacher sufficient time and assistance to undertake an effort to overcome these deficiencies. Upon issuance of an overall summative evaluation score of “Unsatisfactory” or “Needs Improvement”, the evaluating administrator shall comply with the following NEAT process:

- a) Notify the teacher that deficiencies exist.
  - b) Provide a full and complete explanation of deficiencies and suggested corrections.
  - c) Provide administrative and supervisory assistance.
  - d) Provide reasonable time for correction for deficiencies.
  - e) Conduct additional observations to monitor for improvement.
9. Upon issuance of an overall summative evaluation score of “Unsatisfactory” or a second consecutive summative score of “Needs Improvement,” the teacher shall be provided an opportunity to receive support through the Teacher Assistance Team Program. The Teacher Assistance Team will consist of a teacher mutually selected by the President of USEP and the Director or Supervisor of Employee Relations, a representative of USEP, the principal, a representative of the Employee Relations Department, and other persons and/or resources needed to assist the teacher in need of professional performance improvement. Teachers providing assistance through this program should have a mentoring background, appropriate content area expertise, participated in related training, and be willing to participate in any additional training required for serving on a team. Service and/or participation on a Teacher Assistance Team is entirely voluntary and teachers providing assistance through the Teacher Assistance Team will receive a supplement up to the amount specified in Addendum B. A representative of USEP and a representative of the Employee Relations Department shall determine the exact amount and timing of the supplement to be paid based on the length and complexity of the assignment.
  10. Evaluation of lesson plans will be done by administrators only; however, this does not preclude analysis of lesson plans for non-evaluative purposes by other staff members.
  11. As provided by law, administrators are expected to maintain confidentiality regarding the formal evaluation of teacher performance. The summative evaluation will be maintained in the employee’s personnel record.
  12. A teacher shall not be assigned a position for which he/she is not certified except in cases of emergency. If the Board requires a teacher to accept such an assignment, the fact that the teacher is not certified in the subject area will be noted on any evaluation document and taken into consideration in the assessment of the teacher.
  13. All teachers will be observed for evaluation purposes at least once during the school year. All official observations conducted by district employees shall be made only by school or district-level administrators.
  14. The Board and the Union agree that teachers and administrators are expected to adhere to the evaluation process as articulated in the *Pasco County Evaluation Guidelines*, designated evaluation forms and documents. Any issues or concerns related to adherence to the evaluation process and/or procedures will be subject to the grievance procedure articulated in Article VI – Grievance Procedure through Step 5. Any complaint that would be resolved via Article VI Section A-2 of the Grievance Procedure shall continue to be limited to Step Four. Any issues or concerns related to the scoring of an evaluation or a teacher’s summative evaluation results may be directed to the observing/evaluating administrator(s) but are not subject to the grievance procedure.

#### **SECTION I – Staff Development Training**

1. Each school principal will select a representative to coordinate staff development activities at that school. Said coordinators shall be selected from a list of no more than five (5) faculty members who have expressed an interest in coordinating staff development activities and elected by a majority vote of the teachers as nominees for staff development coordinator from their respective schools except that this number may be reduced in schools of fewer than ten (10) teachers. This person will be made known to the faculty during preplanning.
2. The President of United School Employees of Pasco may elect to serve as co-chairperson of the Professional Staff Development Subcommittee of the District HRTD Committee.
3. When appropriate, teachers may serve as instructors for staff development components. The total compensation paid to teachers serving as instructors shall be established after consideration of the duration, complexity and expectations for planning and delivering school, regional or district-wide staff development. Such compensation guidelines will be established by the Professional Development Staff Subcommittee of the District HRTD Committee and presented to the Superintendent and USEP President for approval. Upon approval, such guidelines will be submitted for ratification. Until such guidelines are established and ratified, instructors shall receive one and one-half (1 1/2) times their regular hourly rate of pay for each meeting hour taught. Teachers shall be paid for necessary mileage in performing his/her duties as instructor under this section. Such mileage payment shall be in accordance with Article X, Section A-4, of this Agreement.
4. Attendance at staff development training components shall be voluntary except when assigned by the Teacher Assistance Team and for those components required to implement additional programs or goals established by the Board, the Legislature, or federal grants. Effective with the 2007-2008 school year, alternative school teachers may be required to attend up to two (2) days of staff development outside their work calendar payable at their regular rate of pay. In such instances, alternative school teachers will receive a minimum of thirty (30) calendar days notice if the staff development occurs after the start of the school year. If the staff development occurs prior to the start of the school year, alternative school teachers will receive notice at least thirty (30) workdays prior to the end of the previous school year. Teachers hired new to an alternative school will be notified at the time of hire of any required staff development

to occur prior to the start of that school year. Required staff development shall be reasonable in nature, duration, and scope including any follow-up activities to protect as much time as possible within the teacher workday for adequate lesson preparation and other tasks necessary to effectively fulfill their teaching responsibilities. Further, such required staff development shall be relevant and in accordance with Florida's Professional Development Protocol Standards. The Board shall strive to strike a balance among district, school, and individual teacher staff development interests and needs.

5. Nonattendance at voluntary staff development training components shall not be used as a criterion for assessment, transfer, promotion, dismissal, nonrenewal, suspension, or discharge. Further, no teacher shall be required to attend staff development components after the regular school day.
6. Florida Statute 1003.56 and State Board Rules 6A-1.0503, 6A-4.0244 and 6A-6.0907 require teachers who are assigned limited English proficient students to be properly trained and/or acquire the certification endorsement: English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).
7. The District School Board of Pasco County shall provide the necessary training to any teacher who is assigned a limited English proficient student so that the teacher complies with the requirements in Florida Statute and State Board Rules.
8. The Board recognizes that communication, education, and training are critical factors which directly impact the successful implementation of instructional program change and student performance. Prior to implementation, a conscientious effort will be made to provide an explanation of the change to those teachers who are affected. Teachers expected to implement such programs may be provided the opportunity to receive staff development training. Economics permitting, such training may be scheduled during work hours.
9. Teachers within a specific field shall have first opportunity to attend staff development training program components related to their field. All staff development training components offered within any given calendar month shall be posted in each school by the fifteenth (15th) of the preceding month.
10. Master staff development points may be used for the purpose of recertification, and each group of twenty (20) points shall be equivalent to one (1) semester hour for this purpose.
11. To receive compensation for the staff development activity, the teacher must be enrolled for the duration of the time the staff development activity is offered unless the participant is forced to withdraw due to illness which is verified by a licensed physician, or other verifiable emergency. To receive staff development points the teacher must successfully complete all requirements, including any follow up activities and/or projects, as reported by the activity leader. Such requirements, including any make-up policies, will be given in writing and announced at the first training class/session.

#### **SECTION J - Academic Freedom**

Academic freedom shall be guaranteed to all teachers, and no arbitrary limitations shall be placed upon study, investigation, presentation, and interpretation of facts and ideas except as may be limited by requirements of applicable laws, regulations which have the effect of law, curriculum content requirements, and the age and educational development level of the child.

#### **SECTION K - Political Activity**

1. All teachers shall have the freedom of political action when not engaged in their teaching assignments or other assigned responsibilities during the school day provided such action is within the laws of the United States of America and the State of Florida and their teaching positions are not used for their political advantage.
2. The right of all teachers to work and to vote for the party and candidate of their choice shall never be questioned, abridged, or denied by either the Board or the Union.
3. All teachers shall be entirely free from political domination, coercion, or the pretended necessity of making political contributions of money or other things of value or engaging in any political work or activity against their wishes under the assumption that failure to do so will in any way affect their status as employees of the school system or as members of the Union.

#### **SECTION L - School Day**

1. The normal workday for teachers shall be seven and one-half (7 1/2) hours each day including lunch. However, the normal workday for teachers at an alternative school for disruptive students shall be eight (8) hours each day including lunch.
2. Each teacher shall be ensured of a duty-free lunch period except when students are being supervised on a field trip. The lunch period shall be equal in length to the time scheduled for the student lunch period at that school. Except on days when periods are shortened for assemblies or early dismissal, the teacher lunch period shall be at least thirty (30) minutes in length.
3. No teacher shall be required to teach more than four (4) consecutive hours without a relief period.
4. Notification of staff development, faculty and/or district wide meetings which teachers are required to attend shall be given to all involved teachers at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the meeting except in case of emergency.
5. Except in emergencies or when mutually agreed by teachers, faculty meetings will not extend beyond normal duty hours.

#### **SECTION M - Teacher Work Year**

1. The teacher work year shall be one hundred ninety-six (196) days. Six (6) of these days shall be paid holidays, making the teachers' work calendar 196 days including paid holidays.

2. At the Board's discretion, contracts beyond 196 days may be issued and, in such cases, the additional days are paid at the daily rate established by the teacher's placement on salary schedule #55 and #55A. This provision does not apply to Summer School, rates for which are fixed by Addendum A of this Agreement.
3. Juvenile Justice Programs - Florida Statute 1003.01(11)(a), requires the district to provide 240 days of instruction for students in the district's Juvenile Justice Programs. In order to provide these additional services to students in such programs, additional days must be provided for teachers beyond their regular contracts. Therefore, teachers assigned to such programs will have the following additional rights:
  - a) The right of first refusal of any and all additional days at the center to which the teacher is assigned. Any teacher choosing not to accept additional days shall not be penalized.
  - b) The right to earn up to two (2) additional sick leave days per year at the rate of one (1) day for each twenty (20) additional days worked, if such additional days are consecutive with the teacher's regular contract.
  - c) The right to utilize accumulated sick leave during additional days.

#### **SECTION N - Non-Teaching Duties**

1. When available, paraprofessionals shall be assigned to assist instructional staff.
2. Non-teaching tasks and assignments shall be kept to a minimum.
  - a) Non-teaching duties shall be assigned fairly and shall be approximately the same with respect to the nature, duration and length of the duties.
  - b) Teachers shall be informed of the proposed non-teaching duties within the school.
  - c) Teachers shall be given an opportunity to request specific duty assignments.
  - d) Exempting extenuating circumstances, the master duty schedule shall be distributed to all teachers by the last teacher workday in the preplanning week.

#### **SECTION O - Facilities**

1. Where facilities permit, the Board shall provide, at no cost to the teacher, paved, off-street parking facilities for all teachers. Parking facilities for teachers shall be planned in conjunction with new school construction.
2. The Board will make available in each school at least one (1) room of appropriate size, adequately furnished and vented, which shall be reserved as an employee lounge.
3. At least one (1) telephone shall be made available in each school for teacher use. The location of this telephone and those designated for teacher use in new schools shall provide as much privacy as possible. The Board shall not be required to install new telephones or move existing ones in order to comply with this language.
4. The Board shall make adequate restrooms available exclusively for employee use.
5. The Board agrees to provide reserved dining areas in each school for the use of teachers. Teachers shall be permitted to take food from the school cafeteria during lunchtime to areas designated by the principal.
6. Teachers shall have operable typing and duplicating facilities to aid them in the preparation of instructional materials. When possible, said equipment shall be located in a central workroom and/or workspace.
7. The Board shall make available at each school site conference area(s) which shall be used primarily for teacher conferences and educational evaluations.
8. The Board shall provide for teachers a lockable space in a desk or cabinet.
9. Teachers shall not be required to work in a school when there are no operable restroom facilities.

#### **SECTION P - Materials**

1. It is recognized that it is the responsibility of the Board to provide adequate teaching materials, supplies, textbooks, and operable audiovisual equipment and facilities. However, the Board will provide for teacher input into the purchase of any new textbook through either surveys, meetings, or committees.
2. No teacher shall be required to provide materials listed in paragraph 1 above.
3. The Board shall provide when available from the publisher a copy of the teacher's edition for his/her individual use of all texts used in each course he/she is teaching.

#### **SECTION Q - Teacher Files**

1. No material related to a teacher's conduct, service, character, or personality shall be placed in the files unless the teacher has had an opportunity to read the material. The teacher shall acknowledge that he/she has read such material by affixing his/her signature on the actual copy to be filed, with the understanding that such signature merely signifies that he/she had read the material to be filed and does not necessarily indicate agreement with the content.
2. The teacher shall have the right to provide a written answer to any material in the teacher's file, and said answer shall be attached to the file copy and placed in the official file. Official files shall be maintained only at the District Office.

3. Communications of a nonprofessional nature (i.e. letters from parents) shall not be placed in a teacher's file nor shall any anonymous information be placed in said file.
4. A teacher may request placement in his/her file of any such material pertinent to his/her professional career, performance, or qualifications. If the material that the teacher wishes to place in his/her file is not prohibited by this Agreement, the material shall be placed in his/her official file.
5. Official grievances filed by any teacher under the grievance procedure outlined in this Agreement shall not be placed in the personnel file of any teacher nor shall they be used in any recommendation for job placement.
6. The teacher shall have the right to see and to receive copies of any material in his/her personnel file upon identifying himself/herself in person or upon written request. Cost of duplication, not to exceed fifteen (15) cents per sheet, shall be paid by the teacher. Review of the file shall be in the presence of the Custodian of Records, or the appropriate designee.
7. Upon written authorization by the teacher, the Union shall have the right to see the teacher's personnel file.
8. All documents maintained concerning a teacher to be used for official purposes shall be kept in the teacher's official file.
9. Evaluations or changes in evaluations shall not be inserted into a teacher's file for any prior school year after September 1 following that school year.

#### **SECTION R - Classroom Interruptions**

There shall be no unnecessary classroom interruptions including but not limited to those caused by the intercommunications system.

#### **SECTION S - Teaching Assignments and Duties**

1. As soon as possible but no later than thirty (30) calendar days before the first day of classes, a teacher shall be informed in writing of any change in his/her assignment for the next school year. If no notification is given, the teacher shall be given the same grade level or subject area as was assigned during the previous year except where the principal is unable to fill a vacancy or where a resignation or other emergency necessitates a change of teacher assignment, in which case the teacher shall be notified of any resulting change in assignment as soon as possible. However, teachers in an alternative school for disruptive students may be subject to changes in assignment of students during the school year. At the end of their first year, teachers who volunteered to teach at an alternative school shall have the right to return to their previous instructional position.
6. a. Medications and Routine Non-Invasive Medical Procedures
 

Teachers (other than the school nurse or those authorized by the principal) shall not administer medication or perform routine non-invasive medical procedures as part of their daily work responsibilities while located at the school site. Should a teacher take a student away from the school site, the teacher, upon mutual agreement with the principal will administer the approved medication or perform routine non-invasive medical procedures if the principal judges it to be safe for the student. Teachers (other than school nurses) who volunteer to give medication or perform routine non-invasive medical procedures must be trained by a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse, a licensed physician or a certified physician assistant. Those teachers who administer medication must sign the "Medication Administration at School Training Manual for School Personnel". Such training shall be provided by the Board. A routine non-invasive medical procedure is defined as that procedure which a health assistant would perform if the student were at the school site.
- b. Invasive Medical Procedures
 

Teachers (other than school nurses) shall not perform invasive medical services that require special medical knowledge, nursing judgment, and nursing assessment. The procedures include, but are not limited to:

  1. sterile catheterization,
  2. nasogastric tube feeding, and
  3. cleaning and maintaining a tracheostomy and deep suctioning of a tracheostomy.
- c. Invasive Medical Health-Related Services
 

Teachers (other than school nurses) shall not be required to perform invasive health related services. However, should a teacher volunteer to perform such services, the district must provide the teacher with child-specific training by a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse, a licensed physician or a certified physician assistant. All procedures shall be monitored periodically by the school nurse. Those procedures include, but are not limited to:

  1. cleaning intermittent catheterization,
  2. gastrostomy tube feeding,
  3. monitoring blood glucose, and
  4. administering emergency injectable medication.

For all invasive medical services not listed in (b) or (c) above, a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse, a licensed physician, or a certified physician assistant shall determine if the service could be safely administered by a teacher and approval must be granted by the appropriate district supervisor.
3. Exceptional Student Education (ESE)

- a. When an ESE/basic education-team model is planned, the principal will, if possible, give the staff an opportunity for input. Such input may include a teacher's desire to participate.
  - b. The regular classroom teacher shall be notified as soon as possible of the placement of an ESE staffed student in his/her classroom, unless it is determined by the school staffing committee that such notification would not enhance the student's education.
  - c. Should an Exceptional Student be placed in a classroom other than one designated as an exceptional child classroom, materials, technology, equipment and/or other teaching aids purchased with ESE funds for such student, shall be shared and/or utilized (if practical and readily accessible) for the instruction of that student in the classroom. Such sharing and utilization should be mutually coordinated between the teachers and acceptable to the principal.
4. Upon mutual agreement between the principal and teacher, compensatory time shall be granted to those teachers who serve on a committee or team which has obtained the approval of the principal to meet beyond the teacher workday. Terms and conditions relating to the implementation of such compensatory time shall be mutually agreed upon by the principal and teacher prior to the committee or team meeting after hours.
  5. Any assignment(s) beyond the teacher workday, including but not limited to evening school and extracurricular assignments, shall not be obligatory. Any teacher choosing not to accept such assignments shall not be penalized or discriminated against in any way. However, teachers at an alternative school for disruptive students may be required to attend emergency staff meetings, parent conferences, and scheduled open houses beyond the teacher workday.
  6. Teacher Leaders (including department heads, grade chairpersons, team coordinators, learning community leaders, team leaders and professional learning community facilitators, as defined during negotiations regarding supplements) shall be selected by the principal with serious consideration given to recommendations from all teachers in those departments, teams and/or grades. Such Teacher Leaders (as defined above) shall receive additional pay for said assignments according to Addendum B of this Agreement. No teacher shall be required to perform the duties of a supplemented position without compensation. Any teacher choosing not to accept such assignments shall not be penalized or discriminated against in any way. The school's organizational pattern for the upcoming year shall be presented to the faculty by June 1.
  7. All teachers assigned to teach at more than one school shall have one school designated as a home-base school.
  8. All teachers assigned to teach at more than one school on the same day shall be reimbursed for all mileage between the home-base school and other assigned schools at the rate established in Article X, Section A-4, of this Agreement. Travel time, as assigned, between schools shall not be construed as lunch or planning time.
  9. No teacher shall be required to attend meetings regarding commercial and/or political solicitation. Attendance at any such presentations shall be voluntary and shall be separate from faculty meetings.
  10. A teacher who teaches in schools held on double session or extended-day schedule shall receive full pay for the session in which said teacher is assigned. Further, no teacher in such a school shall be required to teach any class to which he/she is not regularly assigned.
  11. Following appointment by the Board, the teacher will be provided with the following:
    - a. Annual salary amount and pay rate.
    - b. Certification requirements, if requested.
    - c. Duty hours and teaching assignment.
    - d. Opportunity to inspect classroom/work area.
  12. Planning time for teachers shall be defined as that time in which teachers may be assigned to do one or more of the following:
    - a. Plan for classroom activities.
    - b. Confer with parents.
    - c. Meet with grade-level or subject area team members on matters related to curriculum and student progress.
    - d. Attend and participate in staffings.
    - e. Complete Southern Association accreditation activities.
    - f. Attend administrative meetings related to their performance and/or student concerns.
  13. Middle and high school teachers shall be given at least one class period of at least fifty (50) minutes for each day students are in attendance and the regular class schedule is in effect. However, a teacher in an alternative school for disruptive students shall receive his/her fifty (50) minute planning period during the teacher workday. In addition, teachers shall be given a minimum additional fifty (50) planning minutes each week either before or after the student day.
  14. Elementary school teachers shall be given no less than 300 minutes of planning time each full week of student attendance and the regular class schedule is in effect. A total of 150 minutes of this time shall be assigned by the principal during the student day each full week of student attendance when the regular schedule is in effect. Of this 150 minutes, a period of at least 30 minutes will be scheduled on four (4) different student days during each full week. 150 minutes shall be assigned each full week as stipulated in paragraph 15 of this section.
  15. Elementary, middle, and high school teachers will receive at least one hundred and fifty (150) minutes of planning time each week students are in attendance and the regular class schedule is in effect to plan for their specific classroom activities. At the elementary school level, the one hundred fifty (150) minutes of planning time for teachers to plan for their specific classroom activities shall be

implemented before or after the student day in two (2) fifty minute periods and as assigned by the principal. This time may be altered as a result of the following:

- a. parent conferences;
- b. required meetings to implement changes due to state or federal mandate;
- c. voluntary participation in professional activities;
- d. personal activities; or,
- e. emergencies.

Teachers will be informed when planning time is scheduled prior to the week it occurs.

16. In cases where special teachers (art, music, physical education) are used, the regular teacher will not be required to remain in the classroom at the same time the special teacher is present. This time will be used as a preparation/planning time by the regular teacher.
17. Planning time for non-classroom instructional staff shall be equal in length to that of classroom teachers at their school but may be scheduled at different times each week and before or after the student day to ensure that access to their services is not denied.
18. Required staff development or lengthy faculty meetings shall be kept to a minimum on teacher planning days.
19. During the five (5) teacher planning days prior to students returning for a new school year, teachers shall be provided at least sixteen (16) hours to plan for personal classroom activities. Principals will schedule this time in at least two (2) hour blocks. However, sixteen (16) hours may be reduced as a result of the following:
  - a. an emergency, which may include required meetings to implement state or federal mandates;
  - b. voluntary participation in professional activities; or
  - c. personal activities
20. Principals will give priority to scheduling time during the planning day at the end of each quarter for teachers to prepare student report cards and plan for classroom activities. Staff development on these days will be voluntary.
  - a. Grades will be due no earlier than the end of the third workday following the close of the grading periods one, two and three.
  - b. Teachers who instruct seniors will be notified of the end of the year grade reporting procedures for seniors no later than the beginning of the fourth quarter.
  - c. Final grades for quarter four (4) will be due no earlier than the start of the second workday following the close of the grading period for grades six (6) through eleven (11).
21. Subject to available funds, principals will be encouraged to provide at least one-half (1/2) day of released time or the equivalent in compensatory time or an after hour stipend per semester for teachers who are responsible for planning instructional units. The principal must pre-approve the activity and the request for compensation. The manner for which time will be made available to the teacher will be mutually agreed to by the principal and teacher(s) involved.
22. When possible, teachers will be provided a minimum of three (3) days notice to submit student assessment reports.
23. Teacher participation on teams and departments is a necessary and important function, and committee participation gives teachers opportunities to provide input and participate in school-based decisions relative to school activities. Committee participation will be kept to a minimum to allow as much planning time as possible so that adequate lesson preparation is achieved.

#### **SECTION T - Parent-Teacher Conferences**

1. Except in the event of unusual circumstances, parent-teacher conferences shall be arranged by the principal, his/her designee, or the teacher, in accordance with the following guidelines:
  - a. Consultation with the teacher(s) involved and the establishment of time and date of said conference with all parties involved. Normally, such consultation will take place at least two (2) days prior to the conference.
  - b. Notification of the purpose of the conference if not instigated by the notified teacher(s).
  - c. Notification to the teacher(s) of the confirmed conference date.
2. Released time shall be granted to teachers when needed for parent conferences provided the conference is arranged by the school principal or his/her designee in accordance with the provisions of this section. At an alternative school for disruptive students, if it becomes necessary to schedule a parent conference after the regular workday of the teacher, the principal and teacher will meet and mutually agree upon the date and time of the conference.

#### **SECTION U - Student Discipline**

1. A Discipline Committee shall exist at each school site. The committee will be the vehicle for all staff to offer constructive recommendations to enhance school-wide behavior. Teachers will be encouraged to participate as members of the committee. The membership of the committee should be representative of the school-wide community. At a faculty meeting, the principal shall ask for teacher volunteers for the committee. The chairperson of the committee shall be elected by the members of the committee. A survey of the faculty will be conducted by the Discipline Committee of each school during the school year for the purpose of identifying issues and actions that will enhance school-wide behavior. Furthermore, the committee shall develop a school-wide plan to enhance student behavior, which shall be in compliance with the Code of Student Conduct.

The plan shall be presented to the principal for approval and to the faculty for a vote. Prior to the vote, a teacher, upon his/her request, will be provided a copy of the plan. The committee shall meet periodically during the school year to review the plan and to consider adjustments for improving the plan. The committee is encouraged to facilitate the sharing among faculty members of effective interventions/preventions and to develop a program to manage students more effectively.

2. While on duty, a teacher has a general responsibility for student control and a major responsibility for controlling those students under his/her direct supervision. The Board recognizes its responsibility to give full support and assistance to teachers in maintaining the appropriate discipline necessary to insure that effective teaching and learning takes place in an orderly and disciplined classroom without the distraction caused by disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive, uncontrollable, and disruptive students. Teachers and administrators need to work together mutually supporting each other in a manner to maintain proper student behavior and to promote a safe educational environment.
3. Teachers have the responsibility and authority to establish and maintain classroom order within the frameworks of Board and school policies. Should it become necessary for a teacher to use reasonable force to maintain classroom/school order, the teacher shall follow the guidelines as provided in the Code of Student Conduct.
4. If, in the opinion of the teacher, and within the guidelines of the school's plan and the Code of Student Conduct, a student is disrupting regular classroom activities, the teacher may report the action to the principal. The teacher may also submit a recommended course of action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct for the principal's consideration. The teacher's recommendation shall be in writing and be within the guidelines of the school's plan and the Code of Student Conduct. The principal shall employ the teacher's recommended consequence or a more serious disciplinary action; or the principal may determine that a lesser disciplinary action is appropriate. If the principal determines that disciplinary action other than that recommended by the teacher is appropriate, the principal should consult with the teacher before taking disciplinary action. If the principal determines that the student has not violated the student code of conduct, the principal may not impose any discipline. The principal shall notify the teacher of any decision regarding discipline, or lack thereof, and interventions provided to a student to address the behavior. If the principal deviates in any way from the teacher's recommendation, the principal must provide the reasons for any such deviation in writing to the teacher.

Any teacher shall have the right to send a student to the office whenever the student is involved in a serious disturbance in the classroom. The teacher will notify the office immediately when this action is taken. Such notification shall include a personal verbal and/or written explanation of the disturbance. Students removed from class for a Level 3 offense as described by the Code of Student Conduct shall not be returned for the remainder of that class period or a minimum of thirty (30) minutes for schools which do not have set time periods for classes. Should this not be possible, the principal shall consult with the teacher prior to returning the student to class.

5. Student disciplinary infractions shall be reported on the appropriate referral form approved for the school. The school administration shall make such forms readily available. At the discretion of the teacher, he/she may retain a copy of the form. Upon referral by the teacher, serious disturbance behavioral problems are the principal's responsibility for appropriate disciplinary action. Final action shall be taken within five (5) days unless there are extenuating circumstances. A copy of the discipline form with principal's action noted shall be returned to the teacher as soon as possible, but not more than five (5) days from the date of the referral.
6. A teacher may request that a disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive, uncontrollable, or disruptive student be removed from his/her class for the remainder of the school year under any of the following circumstances:
  - a. who has been documented by the teacher to repeatedly interfere with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in the class or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn;
  - b. whose behavior the teacher determines is so disobedient, disrespectful, violent, abusive, uncontrollable, or disruptive that it seriously interferes with the teacher's ability to communicate effectively with the students in the class or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn; or
  - c. who has threatened personal harm or property damage against the teacher or the teacher's family.

Upon such request the principal may not return the student to that teacher's class without the teacher's consent unless the committee established herein determines that such placement is the best or only alternative. The teacher and the Placement Review Committee must render decisions within five (5) days of the removal of the student from the classroom. Placement options, however, are limited by program eligibility requirements, School Board policies, and state and federal laws. If the Placement Review Committee's decision is contrary to the decision of the teacher to withhold consent to the return of the removed student to the teacher's class, the teacher may appeal the committee's decision to the Superintendent. The request to appeal to the Superintendent must be in writing and filed within three (3) workdays of notification to the teacher of the committee's decision.

7. At the beginning of the school year, each principal shall notify each teacher in the school about the availability, the procedures, and the criteria for the Placement Review Committee. At the beginning of the school year, each school shall establish a Placement Review Committee to determine placement of a student when a teacher withholds consent to the return of a student to the teacher's class. Before selecting members to the committee, the principal and faculty will determine the size of the committee. The ratio of the number of members selected by the teachers and the number selected by the principal shall be approximately 2:1, if the number of volunteers and/or nominees exceeds the approximate two-thirds (2/3) number designated to be selected by teachers, an election will be held to determine which teachers fill the positions. The chairperson of the Placement Review Committee shall be elected by the members of the committee. The chairperson shall serve as a member of the school's discipline committee. A convened Placement Review

Committee must include at least two (2) teachers, one (1) selected by the faculty and one (1) selected by the teacher who has removed the student, and one (1) member of the school's staff who is selected by the principal. The teacher selected by the teacher who has removed the student may or may not be a current member of the school's committee.

8. The Board shall make available training and assistance to teachers in classroom management, violence prevention, conflict resolution, verbal aggression diffusion, and related areas. The dates and topics of such training shall be provided to the Union and posted at each school on the bulletin board and/or faculty calendar.
9. Should Florida Statute 1003.32(2) modify any requirements set forth in 6, 7, and/or 8 above, then such contract language shall be modified according to the statutes.
10. Students who are referred to the administration by a teacher because of possible learning disabilities or emotional, behavioral, or other related problems shall be dealt with as quickly as possible.
11. Within the first two (2) weeks of school each year, the school administration will provide each teacher with a copy and explanation of the Code of Student Conduct. The administration will provide access to Florida Statutes 1006.09, 1003.32, and 1006.11. Teachers will have all rights and responsibilities regarding student discipline as specified in the Code of Student Conduct and including that which is required under Florida Statutes. The Board, Superintendent, and principal shall fully support teachers in their efforts to follow and enforce the Student Code of Conduct.
12. The Board recognizes that teacher safety is a priority. Reasonable efforts shall be taken by the Board to ensure this safety. Any case of battery upon or an assault against a teacher in the performance of his/her duties shall be reported promptly to the principal or immediate supervisor. In such case, the legal assistance specified in Article IX, Section C (1), shall be provided if necessary, and the teacher maintains the right to report such action to legal authorities. Violence against school personnel by students will be enforced as specified in the Code of Student Conduct. Teachers who are involved in such cases shall not lose regular salary for any time lost from their duties when their presence is required before a judicial body. In case of disability, the Board agrees to continue the teacher's contractual salary until said employee is eligible for Workers' Compensation benefits. The Board agrees to follow the provisions of Florida Statute 1012.63 in regard to illness-in-line-of-duty leave.
13. The Union president or his/her designee will serve as a member of the District Student Code of Conduct Committee and will be responsible for recommending to the Chairperson the instructional bargaining unit members to serve on the committee. The chairperson of this committee will provide members of this committee with an agenda prior to the meeting date.
14. The Union president or his/her designee will serve as a member of the Superintendent's Task Force on Discipline.

#### **SECTION V - Miscellaneous**

1. No teacher shall be required to transport student(s) or equipment in his/her vehicle. In the event a teacher agrees to transport students or equipment, the Board shall maintain excess insurance coverage for such activities.
2. No teacher shall be required to present evidence of health, including but not limited to health certificates and tuberculosis skin test results, as a condition of continued employment except as provided in Florida Statutes, State Board of Education Rules, and applicable Department of Education rules and regulations.
3. The Board agrees that every attempt will be made to employ qualified substitutes when regular and special teachers (including art, music, and physical education) are absent. Substitutes need not be employed when guidance counselors are absent. Further, the Board and Superintendent reserve the right to arrange for substitutes. The Union president or his/her designee will serve as a member of the Substitute Task Force, which shall explore ways to recruit and retain qualified substitutes.
4. Acceptance of student/intern assignment shall be strictly voluntary.
5. Teachers may attend free of charge all athletic events within the district.
6. All teachers shall be given an equal opportunity to apply for part-time positions in the homebound program. Compensation shall be as provided in Addendum A of this Agreement.
7. Observations of a teacher's class by persons other than school administrative/supervisory personnel shall be allowed only after consent has been granted by the building principal and notice has been given to the teacher involved.

#### **SECTION W - School Improvement**

1. School Advisory Councils

The composition of and procedures for teacher membership on School Advisory Councils (SACs) shall be in accordance with the guidelines provided by the district. For the purpose of teachers serving on SACs the term "teacher" shall refer to all employees who occupy positions which are defined as members of the instructional bargaining unit. The date, time, and location of a school's SACs meeting shall be published in advance. If a SAC meeting is held during the student day, release time shall be granted to one (1) USEP-designated representative at the school site to attend the SAC meeting. USEP and the Board may mutually agree to share the cost of the substitute.

2. Upon the Union president's request, the Superintendent and/or his/her designee shall meet with the Union president on mutually agreeable date(s) and time(s) for the purpose of facilitating the communication of information regarding school accountability and improvement.

## **SECTION X - Job Sharing**

Job sharing is the employment of two (2) teachers performing the duties and responsibilities of one (1) classroom teaching position. Job sharing is not designed to be permanent part-time employment or to provide opportunity for teachers to work for another employer.

Two (2) teachers who wish to share one (1) position must first request and obtain the approval of their principal. Upon approval of the principal, the request for job sharing must be sent to the Director of Employee Relations and the president of USEP for approval. If approved, two (2) teachers may participate in the job-sharing program for the next school year. Upon approval of the principal, the two (2) teachers may request to extend job sharing. Job sharing will be approved in one-year periods.

Reasons for a teacher requesting to job share may include the following:

- a. Childcare.
- b. Medical condition of the teacher or immediate family member. Immediate family shall mean husband, wife, child, father, mother, brother, sister, or other close relative or member of his/her household.
- c. Advanced study leading toward a higher degree.
- d. College work leading toward certification in a critical shortage area.
- e. Special circumstances and/or conditions as approved by the Director of Employee Relations and the president of USEP.

Teachers approved for job sharing must agree to the following conditions of employment:

- a. Each teacher must work four (4) hours per day. The schedule of duties and assignments shall be made by the principal. Any changes must be approved by the principal.
- b. Each teacher shall be entitled to four (4) one-half (1/2) days of sick leave as of the first day of the school year and thereafter earn one-half (1/2) day of sick leave for each month of employment for a total of five (5) days during the 196-day contract. Each teacher shall be allowed up to six (6) one-half (1/2) days of personal leave each year.
- c. Each teacher shall receive the appropriate contributions for the Florida Retirement System and social security.
- d. Each teacher's salary will be one-half (1/2) of his/her salary based upon degree and experience.
- e. For the purposes of seniority and credit on the salary schedule, assignments for each teacher will constitute more than one-half (1/2) of the school year thus entitling each teacher to one (1) year of service.
- f. One (1) teacher will receive full benefits, health and flexible benefits, as provided by the district. The other teacher will sign a waiver of such benefits.
- g. Should one (1) of the two (2) teachers job sharing have to vacate his/her position during the year due to unavoidable circumstances, the remaining teacher will assume that position. However, in cases where a replacement for the vacating job sharing teacher can be found who is approved by the principal, the Director of Employee Relations and the president of USEP, the teaching position may continue as a job sharing position.
- h. Upon return from an approved job sharing position of no more than one (1) year, a teacher shall be placed in the same instructional position held upon applying for said job sharing position if such position exists. Any teacher who is hired for the purpose of replacing a teacher who is job sharing will be notified upon employment that he/she will not be reappointed at the expiration of his/her contract.
- i. Other working conditions and benefits as stipulated in the Instructional Master Contract may not be applicable and subject to waiver based upon the needs of the students and school. Such waivers shall be agreed to by the Director of Employee Relations and the President of USEP.

## **SECTION Y - Charter Schools**

1. As soon as the Board is aware that an existing school is considering converting to a charter school, or the Board is considering the construction of a new facility for the purpose of establishing a charter school or an application is made to the Board to establish a charter school, the Union will be informed. The Board shall continue to recognize the Union's collective bargaining rights as provided by Florida Statute.
2. The Union and Board agree that upon request, the Board shall grant a teacher who possesses a continuing, professional service, or annual contract a leave of absence without pay to teach in a Charter School as defined in Florida Statute 1002.33(12). This leave shall be for a period of one (1) year and shall be renewed each year thereafter upon notification by the teacher to the Supervisor of Charter Schools by April 1 of the preceding school year. This leave provision will apply only if Florida Statute requires such. Should the statute be revised and omit the leave requirement, this leave provision will become null and void.

## **SECTION Z - Tobacco Free Policy**

1. Effective July 1, 2016, all school grounds, School Board facilities, campuses, property, and all Board vehicles, including golf carts and school buses, whether owned or leased by the Board, shall be tobacco free and free of the use of tobacco at all times. This includes the use of tobacco in motor vehicles with the exception of those moving vehicles entering or exiting the work site(s).
2. For purposes of this policy, "use of tobacco" shall mean all uses of tobacco, including cigars, cigarettes, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, or any other matter or substances that contain tobacco and the possession of papers used to roll cigarettes. The "use of

tobacco” shall also include the use of electronic, vapor, look alike, clove, or any other substitute forms of cigarettes or any smoking devices.

3. The district shall continue to promote smoking cessation through its Health and Wellness Centers and/or other local health agencies that may offer similar programs.

#### **SECTION AA – Electronic Device Committee**

The District and Union agree that a committee should be formed each year and authorized to investigate reports of damage and/or theft/loss of District assigned electronic devices and determine staff liability.

In accordance with the staff policy regarding electronic devices, staff are financially responsible for repair costs or depreciated value due to negligence on or off campus. The Electronic Device Committee will be chaired by the District’s Risk Manager with voting rights. The committee should be composed of:

1. Director of Human Resources or his/her designee.
2. Director of Employee Relations or his/her designee
3. Director of Technology and Information Services or his/her designee.
4. 3 Voting Members designated by the President of the Union.

Other individuals may be invited to these committee meetings as needed to provide clarification as requested by the Committee Chair and/or the Union President. These other individuals are not voting members.

#### **END OF ARTICLE VII**

### **ARTICLE VIII - LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

#### **SECTION A - Rules Governing**

1. Any teacher on approved leave shall retain seniority rights. No approved leave shall be considered a break in service for any reason, but seniority shall not be accrued during that time except in the case of sabbatical leave or military leave.
2. Any teacher(s) on approved leave with pay shall be eligible for all benefits including but not limited to retirement and retention of contract status.
3. During any approved leave of absence, the teacher shall have the right to participate in all group fringe benefit plans provided by the Board. During the period of FMLA leave, the Board will pay the portion of the insurance premium which it normally paid prior to the leave, such as major medical, surgical, dental, vision, life, and flexible benefits. In the event said leave is unpaid, the teacher shall be permitted to make his/her own and the Board's regular contributions to all benefits requiring such contributions.
4. Any teacher on approved, extended leave shall be placed on the appropriate salary step upon return; however, those teachers returning from sabbatical leave or military leave shall be advanced to the appropriate position on the salary schedule as if they had been in actual service in the district.
5. A teacher may not be eligible for more than two (2) extended unpaid leaves within a five (5) year period with the exception of military leave, civic participation leave, FMLA leave and/or that provided for in Article III, Section A (10).
6. With the exception of FMLA leave, extended unpaid leaves shall not be granted for two or more consecutive years except as follows: the Board may grant a consecutive leave if the second leave is for reasons of illness which is supported by a statement from a licensed medical physician which states that the illness will prevent the teacher from performing his/her regular assigned duties or for child rearing as stipulated in Article VIII, Section C (1) of this Agreement. In the event that a consecutive leave is granted, the teacher will return to a similar position but will not be insured of returning to the same position held upon applying for said leave.
  - a. Upon return from any approved leave of no longer than one (1) year, a teacher on continuing contract, professional service contract, or annual contract shall be placed in the same instructional position held upon applying for said leave if such position exists. Any teacher who is hired for the purpose of replacing a teacher on leave will be notified upon employment that he/she will not be reappointed at the expiration of his/her contract.
  - b. When a regular employed teacher on annual contract, professional service contract or continuing contract replaces a teacher on leave, the provisions of Article VII, Section F-2 shall apply. However, in the event the teacher on leave resigns his or her position or is approved for an extension of leave prior to the end of the school year, the teacher on annual contract, professional service contract or continuing contract occupying the position shall be offered to continue in the position.
7. A teacher who is absent without leave on a temporary basis shall not be subject to loss of pay and/or subject to reprimand or dismissal if said absence is beyond the individual's control and the teacher is unable to notify the immediate supervisor and said teacher is eligible for paid leave during his/her absence. Upon request by the immediate supervisor, reasonable documentation, if the situation permits, and/or explanation will be furnished by the teacher at the earliest possible time.
8. When a teacher receives an unpaid leave of absence after the beginning of the second semester that extends to the end of the school year, the number of days remaining to be paid to the teacher shall be divided by the number of days in the teacher regular payroll check to determine the number of pay periods for which the school district will pay benefits.

## SECTION B - Paid Leaves

### 1. Sick Leave

- a. Each teacher employed on a full-time basis shall be credited with four (4) days of sick leave on the first employment day of each contract year and one (1) day of sick leave for each month thereafter, to be credited at the end of the month and which shall not be used prior to the time it is credited to the teacher.
- b. The number of sick leave days earned during any one (1) year shall be equal to one (1) day for each contracted month of employment completed. Teachers contracted for a period of 30-89 days shall receive one (1) day of sick leave for each contracted month of employment completed. Such leave shall be credited as earned.
- c. Any teacher hired prior to July 1, 2013, or on or after July 1, 2023, who has accrued sick leave outside of the district but in the State of Florida shall be credited on a day-for-day basis with all accrued leave. Said leave shall be credited in the same manner as sick leave earned within the district. Any teacher hired on or after July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2023, will not be credited for sick leave accrued outside of the district.
- d. Sick leave shall be cumulative from year to year. There shall be no limit placed upon number of days a teacher may accrue.
- e. Sick leave accumulated by a teacher prior to an approved leave of absence shall be credited to the teacher upon return. Teachers are required to use all paid leaves before being permitted to commence unpaid sick leave.
- f. On each pay date, each teacher shall receive an accumulated balance of his/her total number of sick leave hours.
- g. Sick leave may be used either for personal illness or emergencies as defined below:
  1. Personal illness of the teacher.
  2. Death or illness in the immediate family. Immediate family shall mean husband, wife, child, father, mother, brother, sister, or other close relative or member of his/her household.
  3. Extended illnesses and/or disability related to pregnancy if leave request is accompanied by a physician's statement of disability.
- h. Sick leave will be deducted in full day, half-day or one hour increments. When possible, teachers are expected to schedule sick leave to be used in one hour increments before or after the student day so as not to affect student contact time. This paragraph will be effective October 1, 2013.
- i. Transfer of Sick Leave to Family Member
  1. Effective July 1, 2001, an employee may transfer a minimum of 1/2 day of his/her accrued sick leave to his/her spouse, child, parent, or sibling who is also employed by the district, providing the recipient:
    - a. is absent for a qualifying reason as stated above in item g); and
    - b. has used all of his/her accumulated sick leave.
  2. Eligibility begins with the first day the teacher (recipient) is absent and has no accrued paid days. Transferred days requested will be applied consecutively beginning on the first day of eligibility. The request must be filed with the Department of Human Resources no later than the last day of the next pay period immediately following the pay period in which the first day of eligibility occurred.
  3. The transferred days cannot:
    - a. be used intermittently during the extended absence,
    - b. be used for personal leave with pay,
    - c. be used for any "terminal value", or
    - d. establish or continue eligibility for the Sick Leave Bank.
  4. Transferred days will be returned to the donor if unused by the recipient.
  5. Sick leave transferred under this provision may apply toward the number of required paid or unpaid days needed to meet the requirements for the withdrawal of days from the Sick Leave Bank.
  6. Any days transferred under this provision will be counted toward the teacher's annual 12-week entitlement under provisions of Article VIII, Section C-7,a) Family and Medical Leave, if applicable.
  7. Days transferred under this provision will be paid at the rate of pay of the recipient.
- j. Voluntary Employee Sick Leave Donation
  1. Beginning October 1, 2015, employees may request the donation of sick time from other District employees through the Voluntary Employee Sick Leave Donation Program. This program will allow an employee with a documented major condition to request additional paid sick time after they have exhausted their own accrued and credited paid time. The purpose of this program is to provide an opportunity for employees to voluntarily donate sick leave to an employee who, or whose spouse, minor child, or dependent child who is under legal guardianship of the employee, is experiencing a major medical emergency, illness, accident, or injury and has already exhausted all other available paid leave.
  2. To receive donated sick time the employee must:
    - a. have one or more years of continuous service in the district;

- b. have exhausted his/her own accrued and credited paid time, including vacation;
  - c. complete and submit to the Office for Human Resources and Educator Quality all required request form(s) and supporting documentation.
  - d. have a documented major medical emergency, illness, accident or injury or whose spouse, minor child, or dependent child who is under legal guardianship of the employee, has a documented major medical emergency, illness, accident or injury.
  - e. have not received formal discipline for attendance in the previous twelve (12) months.
3. To donate sick time an employee must:
- a. retain eight hours of accrued and credited sick time after donating;
  - b. complete and submit to the Office of Human Resources and Educator Quality all required request form(s) and supporting documentation.
4. The transferred days cannot:
- a. be used for personal leave with pay;
  - b. be used for any "terminal value;"
  - c. establish or continue eligibility for the Sick Leave Bank;
  - d. be retracted by the donor.
5. Sick time must be donated in increments of days of the recipient. Days transferred under this provision will be paid at the rate of pay of the recipient. The maximum number of days an employee can receive is one hundred (100). Should an employee receive days through the Sick Bank the combined maximum number of days will be one hundred (100), with donated days being used prior to Sick Bank hours. The maximum number of days an employee can donate to an individual employee is one hundred (100).
6. The Office for Human Resources and Educator Quality will send an electronic request for each employee who is seeking to receive donated sick leave. Employees must disclose their name. Employees may choose to have the electronic request sent District-wide or to employees of the requesting employee's school or department. Employees will have the option to disclose the major medical emergency, illness, accident or injury.
7. Donations from eligible employees who are family members of the receiving employee will be processed before all other pending donations. A family member is defined as a spouse, child, parent, or sibling of the employee.
8. Any days transferred under this provision will apply toward the employee's entitlement for Family and Medical Leave, if applicable, and any other leave(s) to which the employee is entitled.

**2. Illness-In-Line-of Duty Leave**

- a. A teacher shall be entitled to illness-in-line-of-duty leave not to exceed ten (10) days during any school year because of personal injury received in the discharge of duty or because of illness from any contagious or infectious disease contracted in school work. ILD leave shall be granted only after investigation and approval. Such leave shall be non-cumulative from year to year without approval from the ILD committee as described below.
- b. A teacher may seek additional ILD leave for an illness or injury incurred and approved in a prior school year if the teacher's additional care is approved in his/her workers' compensation claim and he/she submits medical documentation supporting such need. Such additional ILD leave may be granted not to exceed ten (10) days during any school year only if the ILD committee reviews and approves an additional leave request.
- c. In the case of sickness or injury occurring under said circumstances, the Board may grant additional leave.
- d. No leave granted under this provision shall be charged to accrued sick leave.
- e. The Board and Union agree that a committee shall be authorized to investigate and approve reports of illness/injury-in-line-of-duty and make recommendations to improve safety conditions and the use of Workers' Compensation benefits. An administrator with voting power shall chair this committee. In addition, the Union and Board shall name an equal number of voting members.

**3. Personal Leave**

Teachers shall be allowed up to six (6) days of personal leave at full compensation during each year of their employment. Such leave will not be cumulative and shall be deducted from accrued sick leave when used. Such leave shall not be used for recreational purposes. Teachers shall not be required to give reasons on leave forms.

**4. Judicial Leave**

- a. A teacher absent from work shall be paid his/her regular salary by the Board provided:
  - 1. he/she has been served a summons and required to report to jury duty;
  - 2. he/she has been issued a subpoena by an authorized agency and required to appear within the state of Florida; or
  - 3. he/she has been issued a subpoena by an authorized agency of the federal government and required to appear.
- b. Such time shall not be deducted from sick leave accumulation.
- c. The teacher shall not be required to sign over to the Board any money received for such service.

This section is not applicable when the teacher is a primary party to legal action unrelated to his/her employment.

## 5. Professional Leave

- a. Professional leave not to exceed thirty (30) days per applicant for each occasion may be granted for the purpose of attending conferences, workshops, institutes, school visitations, and other meetings related to education.
- b. When possible, requests to the Board for such leave shall be at least five (5) days in advance so that proper arrangements for substitutes can be made.
- c. The Board may reimburse the teacher for expenses incurred, i.e., transportation, lodging, meals, and registration or other fees. However, if the teacher is asked by the Superintendent to attend as a representative of the district, expenses shall be reimbursed within limits prescribed by the Board.
- d. When professional leave is granted, the teacher shall not suffer loss of salary, and the days shall not be deducted from accumulated sick leave or annual personal leave.

## 6. Sabbatical Leave

After seven (7) years of satisfactory service in the Pasco County Public School System, a sabbatical leave of absence may be granted for the purpose of completing a doctorate or for other purposes if mutually agreed to by the Union and the Superintendent. The following conditions will prevail:

- a. No more than one (1) teacher at a time shall be placed on sabbatical leave during any school year.
- b. To be eligible, a teacher must be enrolled in a program approved for certification purposes by the Florida Department of Education and have completed enough of the required work to be eligible to complete the degree during the sabbatical period. If the degree is not finished within two (2) years after the last day of the sabbatical leave, the teacher shall reimburse the Board within two (2) years for the full amount of the leave plus eight percent (8%) interest. This condition may be waived by the Superintendent due to extraordinary circumstances.
- c. Teachers on sabbatical leave will be paid 55 percent of the salary which would have been drawn during the time of the leave. Seniority shall be taken into consideration when granting sabbatical leave; however, a teacher making application for his/her first sabbatical leave shall be given preference over one who has previously been granted sabbatical leave. In the event that more than one applicant meets the criteria explained above, the Union and the Superintendent shall mutually select the teacher to receive the sabbatical.
- d. Sabbatical leave may be allowed if satisfactory arrangements can be made for smooth operation of the school system.
- e. Any teacher granted a sabbatical leave with remuneration shall file with the Superintendent a schedule of courses to be taken and shall complete all such courses and receive passing grades therein or shall reimburse the Board for the full amount of the remuneration paid to him/her for the period of the leave plus eight percent (8%) interest. Changes in said schedule of courses may be made upon mutual consent of the Superintendent and the teacher.
- f. Any teacher granted sabbatical leave with remuneration is required to serve at least three (3) years in the county after termination of the leave. In the event such teacher should accept other employment instead of servicing Pasco for the full three (3) years as specified above, he/she would have to reimburse the Board as follows:
  1. Zero (0) years of return service - the full amount of the sabbatical.
  2. One (1) year of return service - two-thirds (2/3) of the amount of the sabbatical.
  3. Two (2) years of return service - one-third (1/3) of the amount of the sabbatical.All monies owed would be due within two (2) years of the date of the termination. Eight percent (8%) interest would be charged on the unpaid balance on the yearly anniversary of the termination date.
- g. Application for the sabbatical leave shall be filed with the Director of Employee Relations by April 1.

## 7. Sick Leave Bank

Beginning with the 1979-80 school year, a Sick Leave Bank shall be established for the purpose of providing sick leave with pay during periods of personal illness, or injury not otherwise compensated by the Board or Worker's Compensation. The intent of the Bank is to provide income protection for participating members of the bargaining unit. Bargaining unit members shall become eligible to participate in the Sick Leave Bank after one (1) year of employment in the school district and accrual of at least one (1) day of unused sick leave.

- a. All participating members shall contribute one (1) day of sick leave in the first month of the employee's eligibility. Each member of the bargaining unit will sign a statement either accepting or declining enrollment in the Sick Leave Bank. Applications for membership and/or use of the Bank may be obtained from the bargaining unit member's primary worksite.
- b. Participating members shall contribute one (1) additional day each time the Bank is depleted but not more than once per year. The Bank shall be considered depleted when there are fewer than 200 sick days.
  1. If a member elects to withdraw from membership, he/she shall be removed from membership and may reapply during the next official enrollment period. Upon reapplying, initial membership requirements must again be met.
  2. If a member does not have one Sick Leave day to contribute, his/her membership shall be suspended until he/she has earned one Sick Leave day to contribute.

- c. The Bank shall be directed by an administrative committee and chaired by the Assistant Superintendent for Administration or his/her designee. This committee shall:
  - 1. Process all applications and approve/disapprove withdrawal of days based upon illness, or injury, subject to the criteria established by this committee.
  - 2. Define “catastrophic” and may develop other definitions, guidelines and rules for the purpose of administering the Bank.
  - 3. Investigate any alleged abuse of the Sick Leave Bank, and upon a finding of wrongdoing, report such to the Superintendent. If such wrongdoing is substantiated, the employee shall reimburse the district all wages and benefits paid to the employee.
  - 4. Be governed by rules established by the committee.
    - The composition of this committee shall be as follows:
      - 1. The Assistant Superintendent for Administration or his/her designee.
      - 2. The Supervisor of Student Services responsible for school nurses.
      - 3. Four (4) instructional bargaining unit members participating in the Instructional Sick Leave Bank who are mutually selected by the Assistant Superintendent for Administration or his/her designee and the Union president.
      - 4. The president of the Union or his/her designee.
      - 5. The Director of Employee Relations or his/her designee.
- d. Participating members will be eligible to withdraw up to 100 days per twelve (12) month period from the Bank, in amounts approved by the committee. The twelve (12) month period will start on the first date that a member receives a day from the Sick Leave Bank. The awarding of days is subject to the following conditions:
  - 1. The need must arise from the member’s own personal illness or injury. If the personal illness or injury is catastrophic, a member may receive up to 100 days. If the personal illness or injury is less than catastrophic, a member may receive up to 50 days. In no event may a member receive more than 100 days within a twelve (12) month period from the Bank.
  - 2. The member has exhausted all accumulated sick leave.
  - 3. The member has been absent in either a paid or nonpaid leave status for at least ten (10) consecutive days or for ten (10) non-consecutive days occurring within a ninety (90) day period that are related to the same illness or injury as substantiated by proper medical documentation. No member shall receive reimbursement from the Sick Leave Bank for any unpaid days that fall within the ten (10) day eligibility period.
  - 4. The member has submitted an application and the statement completed by a licensed physician and/or a licensed mental health professional describing the illness or injury to the Chairperson of the Sick Leave Bank Committee, who will process the request and report his/her findings to the Sick Leave Bank Committee.
  - 5. In the event a member has a preexisting condition on the date of enrollment, there shall be a ninety (90) day waiting period before eligibility based upon disability due to that particular illness.
  - 6. Any days granted from the Sick Leave Bank will be counted toward the teacher’s annual twelve-week entitlement under the provisions of Article VIII, Section C-7, a), Family and Medical Leave.
- e. The Union shall be provided with a monthly report consisting of:
  - 1. The number of participating members.
  - 2. The names of applicants requesting Sick Leave Bank days.
  - 3. The number of days expended and remaining in the Bank.

**8. National Board of Professional Teaching Standards Certification Leave**

In an effort to advance the teaching profession and improve student learning, the United School Employees of Pasco and the District School Board of Pasco County agree to support and encourage Pasco teachers seeking high and rigorous standards through participation in the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification program.

To assist teachers who have applied for NBPTS certification according to state and district guidelines fulfill the program requirements and activities, the district shall grant the following:

- a. Up to three (3) days of professional leave as specified in Article VIII, Section B-5, provided such leave is coordinated with the principal and forwarded to the Manager of Human Resources.
- b. Up to six (6) days of personal leave as specified in Article VIII, Section B-3, provided the teacher has not used all six (6) personal days already this year, has accrued a sufficient number of sick leave hours, and has coordinated such leave request with the principal.

## **SECTION C - Unpaid Leaves**

### **1. Child Rearing Leave**

- a. A leave of absence without pay for a period of up to one (1) year shall be granted for child rearing. Said leave shall be granted in connection with childbirth, adoption, or death of the other parent.
- b. Requests for such leave shall be made in writing to the office of the Superintendent, when possible, at least thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of the leave.

### **2. Military Leave**

All teachers drafted for military service or called to active duty with reserve components shall be granted a leave of absence without pay except as provided in Section 115.07, Florida Statutes. A copy of the military orders shall be attached to the leave form. Effective July 1, 1987, the "annual period" referred to in Section 115.07, Florida Statutes, shall be from July 1 through June 30.

### **3. Advanced Study and Education Service Leave**

Upon request, the Board may grant a teacher leave of absence without pay for advanced study or educational experience for a period not to exceed one (1) year when such study or experience is directly related to the teacher's subject field. Such leave may include requests for acquiring experience in and knowledge of a teacher's field of study as an employee in industrial or private employment if the employer certifies to the district that the experience is in the teacher's instructional field. Normally this leave will be granted only after two (2) or more continuous years of service in the district.

### **4. Civic Participation Leave**

- a. Upon request, a teacher shall be granted civic participation leave without pay.
- b. Such leave includes, but is not limited to, the following: election or appointment to a constitutional office in a federal, state, county, or municipal government or subdivision thereof.
- c. The teacher shall notify the Board in writing of his/her intention of accepting such office or assignment and shall keep the Board informed of his/her status at annual intervals thereafter. Such leave shall be renewed yearly, upon application, for a period equal to the term of office to which said teacher has been elected or appointed.

### **5. Health Leave**

Upon request, a teacher shall be granted a leave of absence without pay for up to one (1) year for reasons of poor health as certified by a licensed medical physician. With the exception of FMLA leave, such leave shall not be granted more than once in any five (5) year period; however, subsequent leave may be approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee upon the employee documenting extenuating circumstances.

### **6. Extended Personal Leave**

- a. Upon request, a teacher with two (2) or more continuous years of service in the district shall be granted a leave of absence for up to one (1) year without pay for other reasons than those stated in C-1, C-2, C-3, C-4, or C-5, provided that the primary purpose shall not be to engage in gainful employment.
- b. The reason for such request shall be stated in the application for leave.

### **7. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)**

- a. Family Medical Leave begins as soon as an individual discloses a qualifying event, at which time the Board will grant an eligible employee (as defined in Part C of this section) up to a total of twelve weeks of leave in a twelve-month period for one or more of the following reasons:
  1. the birth of a child of the employee and care following the child's birth,
  2. the adoption of a child by the employee including the events and process leading to the adoption, and care following the adoption,
  3. the placement and/or care of the child in the foster care of the employee,
  4. the care of a child, spouse, or parent of the employee who has a serious health condition (as defined in Part A(5)): When an employee takes FMLA leave for the care of a child, spouse, or parent of the employee which results in the death of such child, spouse, or parent of the employee, the Board will provide unpaid leave and benefits for a maximum of five calendar days from the date of the death of such child, spouse, or parent of the employee. For the purposes of this paragraph: (a) the term "spouse" means a husband or wife as defined or recognized under state law for purposes of marriage; (b) the term "parent" means a biological parent or an individual who stands or stood in loco parentis to an employee when the employee was a child -- this term does not include parents "in law"; (c) the terms "son" or "daughter" mean a biological, adopted, or foster child, a stepchild, a legal ward, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis, who is either under age 18, or age 18 or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability.
5. the treatment of a serious health condition which prevents the employee from performing his/her job. A "serious health condition" means an illness, injury, impairment or physical or mental condition that involves:
  - a. any period of incapacity or treatment in connection with or consequent to in-patient care (i.e., an overnight stay in a hospital, hospice or residential medical care facility);

- b. any period of incapacity requiring absence from work, school, or other regular daily activities, of more than three calendar days, that also involves continuing treatment by (or under the supervision of) a healthcare provider; or
- c. continuing treatment by (or under the supervision of) a healthcare provider for a chronic or long-term health condition that is incurable or so serious that, if not treated, would likely result in a period of incapacity of more than three calendar days; or for prenatal care.

Voluntary or cosmetic treatments which are not medically necessary are not "serious health conditions" unless inpatient hospital care is required.

- b. The twelve-month period for entitlement under this section will be measured from July 1 through June 30.
- c. In order to be eligible, the employee must have been employed by the Board for at least one year, and the employee must actually have received pay for 1,250 or more hours from the Board during the twelve-month period immediately preceding the unpaid leave. Holidays, earned sick leave, and vacation time for which the employee has been paid but has not worked shall be included in the calculation above. Sick Leave Bank, Workers' Compensation, suspension with pay, and sabbatical leave time will not be counted.
- d. Leave, except for certain exceptions described in Part (e) for instructional employees, commences upon the absence of the employee from work and ends on the day and time the employee reports back to work.
- e. Instructional employees are subject to additional rules and procedures with regard to leave periods associated with Family and Medical Leave. For the purposes of Family and Medical Leave, "instructional employees" are defined as those employees who are included in the instructional bargaining unit and whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group, or an individual setting.

If an eligible instructional employee requests intermittent or reduced leave which is based upon planned medical treatment and this leave would be for more than 20% of the total number of working days over the period the leave would extend, the Board may require the employee to choose either to:

- 1. take leave for periods of a particular duration, not greater than the duration of the planned treatment; or
- 2. transfer temporarily to an available alternative position for which the employee is qualified, which has equivalent pay and benefits and which better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the employee's regular position.

Intermittent or reduced leave under this provision will begin no sooner than the first day where leave is granted and end no later than the last day where leave is granted and will include all dates granted between the beginning and ending dates.

If an instructional employee takes leave near the end of a semester, the Board may require the employee to stay out on leave until the end of the semester according to the following guidelines:

- 1. ***Leave beginning more than five weeks before the end of the semester.*** The Board may require the instructional employee to continue taking leave until the end of the semester if:
  - a. the leave will last at least three weeks, and
  - b. the employee would return to work during the three week period before the end of the semester.
- 2. ***Leave beginning less than five weeks before the end of the semester.*** If an employee begins leave for a purpose other than the employee's own serious health condition during the five week period before the end of the semester, the Board may require the instructional employee to continue taking leave until the end of the semester if:
  - a. the leave will last more than two weeks, and
  - b. the employee will return to work during the two-week period before the end of the semester.
- 3. ***Leave beginning with less than three weeks before the end of the semester.*** If an employee begins leave for a purpose other than the employee's own serious health condition during the three week period before the end of the semester, and the leave will last more than five working days, the Board may require the employee to continue taking leave until the end of the semester.

All leave taken under Part (e) will count against the employee's twelve-week entitlement. If the instructional employee's twelve weeks of leave entitlement under the FMLA run out before the leave period is completed, the Board will continue health benefits, restore the employee to his/her previous position unless the employee's position has been affected by reduction in force and/or layoff, and provide other FMLA entitlement throughout the whole period of the leave.

- f. Leave for the birth, adoption or placement of a child with an employee as described in Subparagraphs a-1, a-2, and a-3, must conclude within one year from the date of the birth, adoption or placement of the child.
- g. The leave mentioned in this section is subject to the following restrictions and privileges:
  - 1. An employee will use all available unused earned paid sick time concurrently with FMLA unless he/she elects to go unpaid during the time of FMLA.
  - 2. The decision to go unpaid during the time of FMLA will remain in effect for the full duration of the FMLA leave, is non-revokable, and must be declared within five days of receiving notification that the FMLA leave is approved.
  - 3. The employee will be restored to his/her former position unless the employee's position has been affected by reduction in force and/or layoff.
  - 4. The Board shall require materials documenting the reason for the leave before granting a leave of absence under this section.

5. It is the responsibility of the employee to obtain the necessary documentation and to furnish the documentation to the Board.
6. The Board may request verification of a medical condition for which leave has been granted under this section at any reasonable interval, but not more often than once every thirty days, unless:
  - a. the employee requests an extension of leave;
  - b. circumstances described by the original documentation have changed significantly (i.e., the duration of the illness, the nature of the illness, complications); or
  - c. the employer receives information that casts doubt upon the continuing validity of the documentation.
7. If the Board pays the employee contributions missed by the employee while on leave, the employee will be required to reimburse the Board for delinquent payments (on a payroll deduction schedule) upon return from leave. The employee will be required to sign a written statement at the beginning of the leave period authorizing the payroll deduction for delinquent payments. If an employee fails to return to work for the Board after FMLA leave, the Board shall take necessary steps to recover its share of the health benefit premium payments made on the employee's behalf during a period of unpaid FMLA leave unless the employee's position has been affected by reduction in force and/or layoff.
8. An employee may continue coverage by continuing to pay the employee's portion of the premiums, including dependent coverage, while on leave.
9. The employee must notify the Board as soon as practicable once the employee knows that a leave will be needed. For a foreseeable leave, such as for birth, adoption or planned medical treatment, the employee must provide at least 30 days notice to the Board. In all cases, the employee must furnish a request to the Board on a form provided by the Board.
10. Prior to the employee's return to work from an employee disability, the employee shall submit medical certification of the employee's fitness to return to work.
11. The Board retains the right to implement reasonable rules and regulations with regard to the use of leaves of absence within the requirements of the FMLA. This includes but is not limited to requiring a second opinion, at the Board's discretion, from a Board-paid doctor with regard to a medical disability, and the use of forms for requests for leave, physician documentation and fitness to return to work.
12. In the event that the Board exercises its right to a second medical opinion and the opinion conflicts with the first doctor's opinion in the medical certification, then a third opinion may be required by a Board-paid physician mutually agreed upon by the Board and employee. This third opinion will be final and binding upon the Board and the employee.
- h. Intermittent Leave or Reduced Leave -- An eligible employee who is entitled to a twelve-week leave under the provisions of this section may take that leave on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule in certain cases. An intermittent leave schedule is one in which the employee may take the allowable leave intermittently, or in blocks of days at a time, as needed. A reduced leave schedule is one in which the employee's daily or weekly hours are reduced, as needed. Leave will be granted intermittently or on a reduced leave basis in the case of the serious health condition of the employee or of the child, spouse or parent of the employee, provided that it is medically necessary and that a certification from a physician is obtained. The amount of Family and Medical Leave used where an employee takes leave intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule will be determined in accordance with the applicable regulations of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, currently §825.205 of the Interim Regulations.
- i. Effect of Leave on Board-Paid Benefits -- During the period of leave governed by this section, the Board will pay the portion of the insurance premium which it normally paid prior to the leave, such as major medical, surgical, dental, vision, life, and flexible benefits.

**END OF ARTICLE VIII**

**ARTICLE IX - SAFETY AND HEALTH**

**SECTION A - Safety**

1. It shall be the responsibility of the Board to ensure that teachers will not have unsafe, hazardous, or unsanitary working conditions. No teacher shall be required to work under unsafe, hazardous, or unsanitary conditions. Further, teachers shall report to the principal any condition felt to be unsafe, hazardous, or unsanitary.
2. The Board agrees that periodic inspections will be performed for fire and safety, and specified modifications resulting from said inspections will be made. Required modifications shall be scheduled by the Board, with those presenting a clear and present danger being scheduled first.
3. The Board shall indemnify and save harmless all teachers from any claims, demands, suits, and causes of action of any kind whatsoever arising out of unsafe and/or hazardous conditions within the school.
4. Safety Promotion Program
  - a. District Safety Committee
    - i. The Union president or his/her designee will be appointed as a member of the District Safety Committee.
    - ii. At least one member of the committee shall be a teacher. The teacher(s) on the District committee shall be selected from the lists of teachers who serve on worksite committees.

- iii. When meetings are held during duty hours, teacher committee members will be released without charge to sick or vacation leave.
- b. Worksite Safety Committee
  - i. At least one member of the Worksite Safety Committee shall be a teacher at the worksite.
  - ii. When meetings are held during duty hours, teacher committee members will be released without charge to sick or vacation leave.

### **SECTION B - Workers' Compensation**

Any teacher employed by the Board and injured while performing his/her duty shall be protected as provided by the Workers' Compensation Act.

#### **1. Injury and Illness**

- a. In the event a teacher is injured in the discharge of duty and/or suffers from an illness arising out of such injury and/or contracts an infection or disease resulting from teacher-pupil contact time, said teacher shall be entitled to illness-in-the-line-of-duty leave for a period not to exceed ten (10) days. In addition, the Board may grant additional leave for such term as deemed appropriate.
  - b. During the course of absences under this section, the teacher shall receive an amount not to exceed his/her normal compensation and shall be entitled to continue full benefits for the school year in which the injury occurred. Benefits are to include but are not limited to credit for seniority, salary increase and contributions to the Florida Retirement System as provided by FRS. In addition, payments shall be made to teachers for damage to dentures, eyeglasses, prosthetic devices, and artificial limbs when the damage results from an accident occurring in the normal course of employment.
  - c. When a teacher is absent from his/her teaching responsibilities as a result of any provision in this section, there shall be no deduction made for sick leave allowance credited to such teacher.
2. Any teacher who has any claim for compensation while absent under this section shall file a claim in the manner prescribed in Florida Statute 1012.63(2) by the end of each month during which such absence has occurred. The Board shall approve such claims and authorize the payment thereof provided that the Board shall satisfy itself that the claim correctly states the facts and that such claim is entitled to payment in accordance with the provisions of this section.

### **SECTION C – Assault, Battery, Threat, and Disability**

- 1. In an effort to minimize the potential incidents of assault and/or battery in the educational setting, teachers will be notified by the principal, or the principal's designee, when a student with a known history of committing assault and/or battery is placed in his/her class.
- 2. If requested, a teacher shall be provided with training and other assistance to improve skills in classroom management, violence prevention, conflict resolution and any other related areas per Florida Statute 1003.32.
- 3. Any assault, battery, or threat against a teacher shall be promptly reported by the involved teacher to the worksite supervisor. A teacher who is involved in such cases shall not lose regular salary and benefits for any time lost from their duties when their presence is required before a judicial body. In case of any assault and/or battery upon, or threat against, a teacher in the course of his/her employment, the Board shall make available legal counsel to advise the teacher of his/her rights and obligations with respect to such threat, assault and/or battery as set forth in 1003.32, Florida Statutes and to the extent that a conflict of interest would not otherwise prevent the Board's counsel from advising the teacher. Nothing contained in this section shall prohibit a teacher from contacting the proper legal authorities and filing charges against a student or person who assaulted and/or battered the teacher. No punitive action shall be taken by any administrator against any teacher who exercises his/her legal rights under this section. In addition, any threat of personal injury or property damage made by a student toward a teacher shall be assessed through the district's Violence Intervention Procedures for Elementary or Secondary Schools to determine the credibility of such threat. As part of the threat assessment procedures, if a teacher is the targeted victim or witness, he/she would be interviewed and input obtained regarding context of the threat. Upon completion of the threat assessment process, one of the Threat Assessment Team members will share the resolution of the threat assessment and "need-to-know" components of the safety plan with the involved teacher. In addition, the student shall be removed from the teacher's class and shall not have direct contact with the teachers during school hours or on school property until the threat assessment is concluded. If the threat is made by a person not under the jurisdiction of the school board, the teacher will not be required to meet with that person until the matter has been investigated and documented by the principal and the teacher has been notified of the results of that investigation. The teacher has the right to have an administrator present at any future meetings with the person making the threat.
- 4. Any student found to have committed assault or battery against a teacher will be subjected to disciplinary action as provided in the Code of Student Conduct. The Board and the Union understand that, in certain situations, the IDEA, 20 U.S.C. § 1401. *et seq.*, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act. 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and any and all related federal, state and local laws and regulations will control the rights and remedies available against students with disabilities.
- 5. Compensation for death or disability shall be paid in accordance with the provisions of the Workers' Compensation Law.

## **SECTION D - Personal Property**

1. The Board shall budget a sum of \$2000.00 each year to a reimbursement account to reimburse any eligible teacher upon proof of claim for clothing and/or personal property destroyed or damaged as a result of any assault or vandalism upon said teacher in the course of fulfilling his/her employment responsibilities or from any act by the teacher for the purpose of preventing injury to persons or damage to property located on the school site during the times when the teacher is on said site at any school-related activity.

No claim covered under other provisions of this Agreement shall be paid from this account.

If any portion of this account is not expended in any year of this Agreement, an amount equal to the unexpended sum shall be budgeted in addition to the \$2000.00 for the following year.

2. If said clothing and/or personal property is insured, the employee must submit a claim to the appropriate insurance company. In the event of full reimbursement for such claim, the Board shall make no payment. If the insurance company reimburses all but the deductible amount specified in the employee's policy, the Board will pay an amount equal to the deductible amount not to exceed \$500. If the claim is for less than the deductible amount specified or the clothing or personal property is not insured, the Board will pay an amount equal to the current value of the property not to exceed \$500.
3. To be eligible for reimbursement as described in paragraph 1, the teacher must report the damage to the worksite supervisor as soon as possible and complete the Comprehensive Accident-Injury/Loss form and submit it to the worksite supervisor.

The reimbursement of damaged or vandalized personal property (other than motor vehicle) is limited to those items that the teacher uses to perform his/her job and/or duty responsibilities.

In the event the claim is for vandalism to the teacher's personal vehicle, a copy of his/her automobile insurance policy declaration page and an estimate for repair must be included with the Comprehensive Accident/Injury/Loss Form.

Payment of the claim is subject to the approval by USEP President and Director of Employee Relations.

## **SECTION E - Liability**

The Board agrees to maintain liability coverage of not less than that currently in force as stipulated in the agreement(s) with the pertinent insurance carriers for the duration of this Agreement. Any teacher who has any claim under provisions of said policy may file such claim with the Board. The Board shall process all claims filed in accordance with this section provided that the claim falls within the incidents covered under such policy.

## **END OF ARTICLE IX**

# **ARTICLE X - SALARY AND TEACHER WELFARE**

## **SECTION A - Salary Schedule and Remunerations**

1. All teachers shall be paid according to the applicable performance pay or grandfathered pay plan, established by the economic proposal of this agreement and the rules governing its application.
2. The placement schedule contained in Addendum A will be used to establish the starting salary for teachers hired on or after July 1, 2025.
3. Each teacher assigned to a supplemented activity shall receive a written statement of the additional responsibilities for which he/she is responsible and the amount of the supplement to be awarded for such.
4. Employees shall be reimbursed for the use of a privately owned vehicle for official travel at the Internal Revenue Service's published business mileage rate in effect at the start of the District's fiscal year on July 1st.
5. Payroll statements shall contain gross salary for each pay period, an itemized accounting of payroll deductions/reductions made during each pay period, net salary figures per pay period, accrued sick leave, and vacation time.
6. The Board agrees to provide each teacher with his/her W-2 form on or before January 31.
7. All payroll deductions/reductions approved by the Board and authorized by the teacher shall be made by the Board at no cost to said teacher. Such deductions/reductions shall be remitted to the proper agencies within five (5) days after the payroll date in which the deduction/reductions are made.
8. Underpayment and Overpayment
  - a. In the event any teacher feels that he/she has been underpaid, the following procedures shall be followed:
    - i. Said teacher shall notify the Superintendent or his/her designee of alleged underpayment and the supporting reasons for the allegation.
    - ii. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall investigate the above allegation and notify the teacher in writing, providing an explanation and/or verification of the allegation within ten (10) days of the complaint.
    - iii. In the event that an underpayment has been verified, the teacher shall receive the full amount of underpayment in the paycheck issued immediately following the verification date.
  - b. Any unreported underpayment shall be corrected as soon as possible, with underpayments being corrected by the payroll date following discovery.
  - c. In the event any teacher is overpaid by the Board, the following procedure shall be in effect:

- i. Notification of said overpayment shall be provided in writing to the teacher. Said notification shall contain the supporting reasons for and dates of overpayment.
- ii. The teacher shall reimburse the Board the full amount of verified overpayment on a basis mutually agreeable to the teacher and the Superintendent or his/her designee. Said repayment shall not extend beyond the oncoming fiscal year.

**SECTION B - Fringe Benefits**

1. Health Insurance

The Board agrees to contribute \$9,442 per eligible employee toward the cost of the benefits package for the 2025 insurance plan year.

2. Retirement

The Board agrees to comply with the Florida Retirement System’s rules and regulations relative to employee contributions.

**SECTION C – Payroll Deduction for Additional Benefits**

- 1. The parties agree that the Union will be provided with two (2) payroll deduction slots in addition to the dues deduction slot. These slots will be used for Union-designated programs to include but not be limited to purchasing additional insurance, annuity, or other related benefits; voluntary Political Action Committee (PAC) donations; or other Union-sponsored voluntary deduction programs for bargaining unit members.
- 2. The Union agrees to reimburse the Board for any actual start-up or programming cost incurred which are normally charged to other groups who benefit from payroll deduction services.
- 3. A single payment will be remitted after each pay period to a depository designated by the Union for each of the two (2) additional payroll deduction slots.

**SECTION D – Early Retirement Monthly Benefit**

Effective June 30, 2018, no instructional employee or retiree will be permitted to begin receiving an early retirement benefit under this section. Any instructional employee or retiree already receiving a benefit under this section will continue to receive any benefit to which he/she is entitled.

**SECTION E – Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP)**

- 1. Effective July 1, 1998, employees who qualify for the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) may elect to participate in that program as provided by the procedures set forth by the district and by Florida Statute 121.091. An employee’s salary, benefits, terms, and conditions of employment, as specified in this Agreement will remain in full force during the employee’s participation in the DROP. An employee can void his/her DROP participation at the DROP termination date, re-enroll in FRS and continue in his/her current position in the district, by making such request in writing to the Board at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to his/her original DROP termination date. An employee may resign his/her employment with the Board and terminate his/her participation in DROP prior to the original DROP termination date by submitting an amended resignation to the Board.
- 2. Employees who elect to enter DROP and elect to receive a lump-sum payment of accrued vacation (annual) leave earned in accordance with Board policy upon beginning participation in DROP, shall have said lump-sum payment paid into a Board-approved 401(a) Qualified Retirement Plan and/or an Employer Paid 403(b) Plan subject to annual contribution limits. Employees who receive a lump-sum payment of accrued (annual) leave upon termination of DROP and termination of employment shall have said lump-sum payment paid into a Board-approved 401(a) Qualified Retirement Plan and/or an Employer Paid 403(b) Plan subject to annual contribution limits.
- 3. Effective July 1, 1999, employees who enter the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) and are eligible for one hundred percent (100%) of their accumulated terminal sick leave in accordance with the Meritorious Attendance Incentive Pay, Article X, Section G of the Instructional Master Contract, shall have their accumulated terminal sick leave paid into a Board-approved 401(a) Qualified Retirement Plan and/or an Employer Paid 403(b) Plan subject to annual contribution limits and according to the following.
- 4. The initial payment will be made on June 30<sup>th</sup> following the employee’s DROP effective date. Subsequent payments shall be made each June 30<sup>th</sup> following the employee’s DROP effective date anniversary.

Payment	Payment Date	Maximum Percentage of Accumulated Terminal Sick Leave Days
1	June 30	23.3%
2	June 30	25.6%
3	June 30	36.0%
4	June 30	50.8%
5 or more	June 30	86.1%

Final

Upon Separation

100.0%

5. The rate of pay used to calculate the amount to be placed in the 401(a) Qualified Retirement Plan and/or an Employer Paid 403(b) Plan shall be the employee's rate of pay upon entering DROP or the employee's rate of pay on each payment date. The employee must elect the rate of pay option upon entering DROP. The rate of pay used for the Employer Paid 403(b) Plan is the same rate of pay used in the 401 (a) Qualified Retirement Plan.
6. The 401(a) Qualified Retirement Plan and the Employer Paid 403(b) Plan allows participating employees to defer federal income tax and permanently avoid the payment of Social Security tax and Medicare tax on eligible plan contributions.
7. Employees/DROP participants do not have access to these funds until after they terminate their employment.
8. Employees of the Board who enter the Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) remain eligible for Sick Leave Bank participation. However, terminal sick leave days that have been paid to the Board approved 401(a) Qualified Retirement Plan and/or an Employer Paid 403(b) Plan shall be treated as if those days still remain in the employee's accumulated terminal sick leave balance when determining commencement of sick leave bank benefits, so long as the employee has met the requirements of the Sick Leave Bank appropriate to his/her bargaining unit contract.

Fund Withdrawal: Employees under fifty-five (55) years of age.

9. All participating employees who are under fifty-five (55) years of age at the time of termination and choose at the time of termination to take a cash distribution in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of their respective balance from the Board approved 401(a) Qualified Retirement Plan and/or an Employer Paid 403(b) Plan and are assessed a ten percent (10%) withdrawal penalty, shall be reimbursed 2.35% of the withdrawal by the Board. This reimbursement is an amount equal to the difference between the ten percent (10%) withdrawal penalty and the current Social Security and Medicare combined tax contribution rate of 7.65%. If the withdrawal penalty and/or Social Security and Medicare tax rates change, the Board and Union agree to renegotiate the reimbursement rate. If a fee is charged to process the IRS 1099 form, the Board will reimburse these same employees the one-time administrative fee.
10. Upon separation of service or a June 30<sup>th</sup> payment of accumulated sick leave and maximizing the 401(a) Qualified Retirement Plan contribution, any remaining terminal pay for accrued sick leave or vacation leave, subject to Board and State limitations, will be deposited in an Employer Paid 403(b) Plan. The Employer Paid 403(b) Plan is similar to the 401(a) Qualified Retirement Plan except for contribution limits.

#### **F – Retiree Healthcare Premium**

1. Teachers who retire after January 1, 1997, the Board agrees to contribute the same amount toward the retiree's health premium each year as it does towards the regular employee's premium. This contribution will begin upon retirement and continue until the retiree is eligible to receive Medicare Benefits. This contribution is contingent upon the retiree meeting all of the following conditions:
  - a. 30 years of service under the FRS or at least 25 years of service under FRS and is at least age 50 at retirement;
  - b. at least 20 years of service in the district;
  - c. contributes his/her health insurance subsidy received from the State of Florida toward the cost of this medical premium; and,
  - d. continues to participate in a Board-sponsored health plan after his/her retirement.
2. Effective July 1, 2000, if a teacher retires as a result of full disability, funds from the insurance funds retained earnings will be used to contribute the same amount toward the retiree's health premium (medical, dental, and vision) each year as the Board does toward the premium of a regular employee. The contribution will begin upon retirement and continue until the retiree receives Medicare benefits or until twenty-four (24) months have elapsed from the date of retirement, whichever comes first.

This condition is contingent upon the retiree meeting all of the following conditions:

- a. the teacher must have completed at least ten (10) years of creditable service under the Florida Retirement System (FRS);
  - b. the teacher must have completed at least ten (10) years of service in the district;
  - c. the teacher must be approved for full disability retirement under FRS and have provided the district with proof of application for full disability retirement under the Social Security Administration;
  - d. the teacher must contribute his/her health insurance subsidy received from the State of Florida toward the cost of the health premium; and
  - e. continues to participate in a Board-sponsored health plan after his/her retirement.
3. The Board agrees to contribute the same amount toward the retiree's life insurance premium each year as it does toward the premium of an active, regular employee. To receive Board contribution towards life insurance, the retiree must be eligible for Board-paid health premiums.
  4. Any employee hired or rehired on or after January 1, 2014, will not be eligible for the benefits provided for in this section. Any employee hired prior to January 1, 2014, will continue to be eligible for the benefits provided for in this section.

## SECTION G – Meritorious Attendance Incentive Pay

### 1. Retirement Incentives

The District School Board of Pasco County will provide meritorious attendance incentive pay to members of the bargaining unit at normal retirement (retirement under any established retirement plan with full or reduced benefits as provided by law) or to the bargaining unit member's beneficiaries if service is terminated by death. Meritorious attendance incentive pay shall be determined as follows:

- a. During the first three (3) years of service in a Florida school district, the daily rate of pay multiplied by 35 percent (35%) times the number of days of accumulated sick leave credited with the District School Board of Pasco County.
- b. During the next three (3) years of service in a Florida school district, the daily rate of pay multiplied by 40 percent (40%) times the number of days of accumulated sick leave credited with the District School Board of Pasco County.
- c. During the next three (3) years of service in a Florida school district, the daily rate of pay multiplied by 45 percent (45%) times the number of days of accumulated sick leave credited with the District School Board of Pasco County.
- d. During and after the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) year of service in a Florida school district, the daily rate of pay multiplied by 50 percent (50%) times the number of days of accumulated sick leave credited with the District School Board of Pasco County.
- e. During and after the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) year of service in the Pasco school district, the daily rate of pay multiplied by 75 percent (75%) times the number of days of accumulated sick leave credited with the District School Board of Pasco County.
- f. During and after the twentieth (20<sup>th</sup>) year of service in the Pasco school district, the daily rate of pay multiplied by 100 percent (100%) times the number of days of accumulated sick leave credited with the District School Board of Pasco County.
- g. Payment of meritorious incentive pay shall be made no later than thirty (30) days after completion of all the following steps:
  1. Written statement regarding disposition of accrued sick leave.
  2. Last day of employment.
  3. Board action on termination.
- h. The Board will provide a 401(a) Qualified Retirement Plan and/or an Employer Paid 403(b) Plan that defers federal income tax and permanently avoids the payment of Social Security and Medicare tax on meritorious attendance incentive pay for those employees retiring under the Florida Retirement System (FRS) with full or reduced benefits and who meet the following:

Years of Service	Minimum Accumulated Sick Leave Balance
Ten (10) years creditable FRS service	240 hrs.
During and after the 15 <sup>th</sup> year of service in the Pasco County School District	160 hrs.
During and after the 20 <sup>th</sup> year of service in the Pasco County School District	120 hrs.

Subject to annual plan contribution limits and the requirements specified above, payment to a Board-approved 401(a) Qualified Retirement Plan and/or an Employer Paid 403(b) Plan shall be credited in the name of the employee upon retirement.

### **Fund Withdrawal: Employees under fifty-five (55) years of age.**

All participating employees who are under fifty-five (55) years of age at the time of termination and choose at the time of termination to take a cash distribution in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of their respective balance from the Board-approved 401(a) Qualified Retirement Plan and/or an Employer Paid 403(b) Plan and are assessed a ten percent (10%) withdrawal penalty, shall be reimbursed 2.35% of the withdrawal by the Board. This reimbursement is an amount equal to the difference between the ten percent (10%) withdrawal penalty and the current Social Security and Medicare combined tax contribution rate of 7.65%. If the withdrawal penalty and/or Social Security and Medicare tax rates change, the Board and Union agree to renegotiate the reimbursement rate. If a fee is charged to process the IRS 1099 form, the Board will reimburse these same employees the one-time administrative fee.

1. Teachers who retire under the Florida Retirement System (FRS) with full or reduced benefits as provided by law and who receive a lump-sum payment of accrued vacation leave earned in accordance with Board policy and who meet the participation requirements provided in Article X, Section G-1h) of this Agreement, shall have said lump-sum payment of accrued vacation leave paid into a Board-approved 401(a) Qualified Retirement Plan and/or an Employer Paid 403(b) Plan subject to annual contribution limit and subject to the same fund withdrawal penalty reimbursement as provided in Article X, Section G-1h) of this Agreement.

### 2. Plan Contributions

Upon separation of service and maximizing the 401(a) Qualified Retirement Plan contribution, any remaining terminal pay for accrued sick leave or vacation leave, subject to Board and State limitations, will be deposited in an Employer Paid 403(b) Plan. The Employer Paid 403(b) Plan is similar to the 401(a) Qualified Retirement Plan except for contribution limits.

### 3. Separation Incentives

If employment is terminated for any reason other than retirement or death, members of the bargaining unit shall receive one-half (1/2) the percentage of all accumulated sick leave as stipulated in the schedule in Article X, Section G, paragraphs 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, and 1f. This language shall not apply to employees who choose to transfer their accumulated sick leave to another Florida school district.

#### **SECTION H – Group Medical Benefits Recovery Incentive Program (Indemnity – PPO and HMO Programs)**

The District School Board of Pasco County agrees to establish a Group Medical Benefits Recovery Incentive Program. This program is designed to provide a cash incentive to employees who discover and arrange for the recovery by the group medical benefits carrier/administrator of overcharges made on their own or insured dependents' medical bills which in turn result in benefit dollars saved by the employees' Group Medical Benefits Plan. This program will be in effect only when the medical benefits carrier/administrator agrees to its provisions.

1. The cash incentive paid to an insured employee who discovers an overcharge on a medical bill for that employee or his/her dependent and paid as an allowable charge by the School Board group medical benefits carrier/administrator shall be fifty percent (50%) of the amount of the over-charge that is recovered by the group medical benefits carrier/administrator as a result of direct negotiations between the employee and the provider and shall be limited to a maximum of 1,000 dollars for each overcharge. No refund shall be made to the insured employee until the group medical benefits carrier/administrator receives the actual refund from the provider of service.
2. For purposes of the cash incentive, only hospital expenses, clinical laboratory charges, physician fees, and other eligible medical expenses covered by the Group Medical Benefits Plan shall be considered in determining the amount payable to insured employees under this program.
3. The employee shall contact the Union to obtain a Request for Reimbursement form and procedures. After the overcharge has been recovered, the group medical benefits carrier/administrator shall disburse a check to the employee in the amount of the cash incentive. Cash incentives are considered income to employees for tax purposes and subject to being reported on their federal income tax return.
4. The Board shall not get involved in resolving any differences between the employee and the medical providers of service with respect to disputed charges. Insured employees shall be solely responsible for handling such disputes.

#### **SECTION I – Employee Assistance Program (EAP)**

An Employee Assistance Program (EAP) will be provided for the purpose of offering employees, upon their request, short-term counseling and/or assistance with referrals for appropriate services. The program will also promote programs for wellness, nutrition, exercise, and stress reduction.

Participation or nonparticipation in the EAP shall be voluntary and shall not be a factor in any adverse employment action by the District. All personally identifiable information relating to an employee as a result of an employee's participation in the EAP shall be held in the strictest confidence by the director and staff of the EAP and such shall not be made a part of or otherwise noted in the employee's personnel file.

The Insurance Committee cited in Article X, Section B(1)(b) shall evaluate and recommend services which shall include, but not be limited to, the cost and funding source, availability, accessibility, utilization, and its effectiveness toward meeting the needs of the employees.

The USEP President maintains the right to review and approve any EAP materials and attend any meetings intended for the promotion of the EAP to bargaining unit members.

#### **SECTION J – School Choice Preference Employee Request**

Preference shall be given to the child(ren) of an employee (i.e., any child in his/her custodial care) to attend school at the employee's assigned worksite, or within the feeder pattern, unless the following prevents granting the request:

- a. The appropriate educational program does not exist at that site, or
- b. Other extenuating circumstances (i.e., expulsion, serious disciplinary infractions, class size requirements, etc.) exist that may be cause for the child(ren)'s nonattendance.

The employee may appeal any denied request to the Office for Leading and Learning, or designee. The decision of the appeal shall be final.

**END OF ARTICLE X**

## ARTICLE XI – SUMMER SCHOOL

### SECTION A – Filling of Positions

1. Announcements of summer school dates will be posted in each school in the district and given to the Union on or before May 1. Tentative job openings will be announced by the last student day.
2. When it is judged that professional qualifications and ability are substantially equal among applicants for summer school teaching positions, district seniority shall prevail.
3. Summer school assignments shall be voluntary. Any teacher choosing not to accept such assignments shall not be penalized.
4. When filling summer school teaching positions, teachers within the bargaining unit shall be given priority over other applicants.

### SECTION B – Length of the Summer School Day/Term

1. An employee who teaches one (1) instructional session per day shall be employed for no less than 120 hours and no more than 160 hours per summer school session.
2. An employee who teaches two (2) instructional sessions per day will be employed for no less than 225 hours and no more than 300 hours during the summer school session.
3. The school principal will make every effort to schedule a teacher employed to teach summer school with preparation time each day.

### SECTION C – Compensation and Contingencies

1. Summer school teachers shall be paid at the rate established in Addendum A of this Agreement, and the Board will make the normal contributions for social security and state retirement.
2. The Board will notify the Union of the summer school pay dates, along with the number of days to be paid for in each check, no later than the last working day for teachers in the current school year.
3. A teacher employed for one (1) instructional session per day will be allotted one-half (1/2) day paid sick leave per month. A teacher employed in summer school for two (2) instructional sessions per day will be allotted one (1) paid sick leave day for each full month of employment.
4. The allotted summer school sick days shall be accrued on a cumulative basis. Sick days earned during the regular school year may be used during the summer school session. On one occasion, one day, (the number of hours worked daily in summer session) may be used as a personal day charged to sick leave provided:
  - a. the employee has not used all 6 personal days from the previous school year;
  - b. the employee has accrued a sufficient number of sick leave hours;
  - c. the nature of the absence is that of an emergency; and
  - d. the reason for the absence is explained to the principal or his/her designee.

**END OF ARTICLE XI**

## ARTICLE XII – RULES GOVERNING THIS AGREEMENT

### SECTION A – Conformity to Law

In the event that any provision of this Agreement shall at any time be said to be contrary to law by a court of competent jurisdiction from whose final judgment or decree no appeal has been taken within the time provided for doing so, such provision shall be void and inoperative to the extent that it violates the law; however, all other provisions of this Agreement shall continue in effect. Substitute action, if any, shall be subject to appropriate negotiation and agreement between the parties.

### SECTION B

With regard to matters which are proper subjects of collective bargaining in that they relate to matters of hours, wages or conditions of employment and within the duration period of this Agreement, changes in existing policies, rules, or regulations or any new policy, rule, or regulation may be the subject of negotiations upon mutual consent of the Superintendent and the Union.

### SECTION C

The articles in this Agreement supersede and override conflicting items in individual teacher contracts or Board policies. Further, the Board agrees that said policies shall be amended to conform to the provisions of this Agreement.

### SECTION D

Whenever any notice is required to be given either party to this Agreement by the other party, either shall do so by registered letter at the following address:

If to the Union: P.O. Box 1098  
Land O' Lakes, FL 34639  
If to the Board: 7227 Land O' Lakes Boulevard  
Land O' Lakes, FL 34638

**END OF ARTICLE XII**

ARTICLE XIII – DURATION

1. This Agreement shall remain in full force and effect until midnight, ~~June 30, 2028~~ June 30, 2027, and shall be renewed automatically from year to year thereafter unless written notice to modify or amend is given by either party at least ninety (90) days before the aforementioned expiration date. In the event such notice is given, negotiations shall commence within a reasonable time after notification.
2. During any reopening of negotiations for changes to take effect during the term of the Agreement, the existing provisions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect until modified sections are executed.
3. This agreement may be reopened upon request of either party if any item is affected by legislature or by mutual consent of both parties.
4. This Agreement may be reopened for the ~~2026-2027 and 2027-2028~~ 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years and each subsequent school year on Article X, Addendum A, salaries, items affected by legislation, mutual consent of both parties, and all currently established Memorandums of Understanding. The Union and the Board may each select a total of three (3) additional items to reopen for negotiations.
5. The agreements contained herein constitute the full and complete Agreement between the Union and the Board and shall not be changed, altered, modified, or amended by either party except as provided in paragraphs 2 and 3 above.



Chairperson for the Board



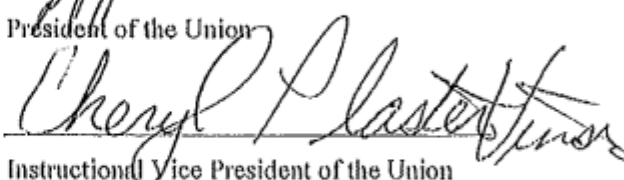
Superintendent of Schools



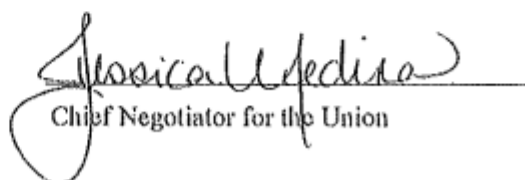
Chief Negotiator for the Board



President of the Union



Instructional Vice President of the Union



Chief Negotiator for the Union

END OF ARTICLE XIII

**ADDENDUM A**  
**INSTRUCTIONAL SALARIES**

**Rules Governing Instructional Salaries**

**1. Instructional Salaries**

- a. Instructional Pay Plans - All teachers shall be paid according to the applicable performance pay or grandfathered pay plans, established by the economic proposal of this agreement and the rules governing its application. Both plans utilize the Instructional Salary Range, which consists of a minimum and maximum base salary. The attached placement schedule will be used to establish the starting salary for teachers hired on or after July 1, 2024.
- b. Extended School Year Program Schedule / Summer School Schedule - Teachers employed for the Extended School Year Program Summer School will be paid at their regular base hourly rate, exclusive of all supplements except those provided for advanced degrees, as determined by their placement within the instructional salary range in the Instructional Master Contract in effect for the preceding school year.
- c. Part-Time Adult Education - Teachers regularly employed as full-time teachers in the district shall be paid their regular hourly rate as provided by subsection nine (9) of this section, exclusive of supplements, for a part-time adult education instructional assignment which is F.T.E. supported. This rate will not be applicable to fee supported courses.
- d. Part-Time Homebound Instruction - Teachers regularly employed as full-time teachers in the district shall be paid their regular hourly rate as provided by subsection nine (9) of this section, exclusive of all supplements except those provided for advanced degrees, for a part-time homebound instructional assignment.
- e. After-Hour Required ESE Activities - Teachers who attend any required ESE activities after regular work hours related to IEP development and/or ESE Matrix Computation shall be paid at their regular hourly rate, exclusive of all supplements except those provided for advanced degrees. Such time must be pre-approved by the school principal.
- f. After-Hour Staff Development Activities - If payment is provided, teachers who participate in after-hour training will be paid at the rate of \$25.00 per hour pursuant to Addendum A-1.
- g. After-Hour Instructional Programs - Effective June 6, 2002, a teacher employed in any after-hour program for the purpose of instructing students, will be compensated at his/her regular rate of pay, exclusive of all supplements except those provided for advanced degrees. In the event funds provided for an after-hour instructional program couldn't support the regular hourly rate, the Board will notify the Union and discuss the salary exceptions.
- h. Noncertificated - Noncertificated bargaining unit members shall be paid according to the performance pay or grandfathered pay plan and the rules governing its application.
- i. After-Hour Project Work – Teachers regularly employed as full-time teachers in the district shall be paid for voluntary after-hours project work, as mutually agreed in advance by the teacher and the district, as provided in Addendum A-1.
- j. School Psychologist - School psychologists shall be paid according to the school psychologist placement schedule and salary range.

**2. Differentiated Pay**

The Board's salary schedules for instructional personnel allow for and provide differentiated pay as required in the Florida Statute 1012.22.

Differentiated pay is provided as listed below:

- Supplements for Title I eligible or DDD/F schools as provided in the economic proposal;
- Supplements for Critical shortage area as provided in the economic proposal;
- Supplements for advanced degrees;
- Academic Supplements listed in Addendum B;
- Athletic Supplements listed in Addendum B;
- Supplements to instructional positions identified in Addendum C;

Compensation for additional teaching assignment beyond the regular teaching assignment as listed in Addendum A (These additional teaching assignments include Part-Time Adult Education, Part-Time Homebound Instruction, After-Hour ESE Activities,

After-Hour Instructional Programs, and After-Hour Project Work) Extended School Year Assignments; Additional compensation for teachers working at a school covered by Memorandum of Understanding specific to it in individual circumstance, i.e.

### 3. Teaching/Related Creditable Work Experience

Pay for newly employed teachers shall be determined according to the instructional placement schedule as follows:

- a. Effective July 1, 2022, all teachers shall be given year-for-year experience on the District's New Hire Placement Schedule for each year of full-time teaching service for which the teacher held a valid teaching certificate and received a satisfactory evaluation.
- b. Effective July 1, 2022, all teachers holding professional licensure required for his/her position with the District shall be given year-for-year experience on the District's New Hire Placement Schedule for each year of full-time experience where such licensure was required and work related to his/her position with the District was performed.
- c. Any teacher employed in Pasco County whose teaching was interrupted due to active military service shall be granted experience for a maximum of four (4) years as if he/she had been teaching within the District.
- d. A Teacher-Headstart-Noncertified or Teacher-Prekindergarten-Noncertified shall be granted one (1) year for every two (2) years of experience to a maximum of seven (7) years credit when he/she earns a bachelor's degree and is eligible to receive a state teaching certificate. Such experience must be earned while serving in such capacity and within the district.
- e. In no event shall any experience credited to any teacher currently employed be diminished by the provisions of the above paragraphs.
- f. To receive experience credit, a teacher must submit evidence of such experience, according to the procedures established by the Office for Human Resources and Educator Quality. The time-period to submit such documentation shall not be less than ninety (90) days from the date of hire.

### 4. Advanced Degree/18 Hour Credit

Instructional personnel who wish to receive additional compensation for an advanced degree or eighteen (18) semester hours successfully completed after the conferral date of a Bachelor's or Master's degree, must submit to the Office for Human Resources and Educator Quality according to procedures established by the department:

- one (1) set of official transcripts,
- the appropriate form,
- and in the case of a Specialist of Education degree, verification of being awarded the Specialist of Education degree and/or unconditional admission to candidacy for the Doctorate degree.

A representative from the Office for Human Resources and Educator Quality will acknowledge receipt of the form and transcripts to the applying employee.

Instructional personnel will receive the appropriate salary supplement once the advanced degree or additional semester hours and applicable certification are verified. The supplement for advanced degrees shall be retroactive to the first pay period following the date of eligibility according to the requirements listed below, or the beginning of the school year in which the supporting documentation is submitted, whichever is later, and an adjustment will be made in subsequent paychecks.

Instructional personnel who successfully complete eighteen (18) hours of credit after the conferral date of their bachelor's or master's degree will receive a salary supplement retroactive to the first pay period following the term during which the last course which establishes eligibility is completed, or the beginning of the school year in which the supporting documentation is submitted, whichever is later.

Credit hours under this agreement refer to semester hours. Quarter hours will be equated to semester hours by making a quarter hour equal to two-thirds (2/3) of a semester hour.

It is understood that it is the responsibility of the employee to initiate the above action. A representative from the Office for Human Resources and Educator Quality will acknowledge receipt of the form and transcripts to the applying employee.

Retroactive action applies during the school year in which the form is submitted. For this purpose, a form accompanied with transcripts must be submitted to the Office for Human Resources and Educator Quality no later than June 30. In case of extenuating circumstances, the June 30 deadline may be extended at the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Advanced degree supplements will be paid at the following rates, which are based upon a 196 day school year:

- a) Bachelors +18 - \$800 total
- b) Masters Degree - \$2,700 total
- c) Masters + 18 - \$3,400 total
- d) Education Specialist - \$4,400 total
- e) Doctoral Degree - \$5,400 total

**5. Full Year of Experience**

A teacher under employment for one day more than one half the number of days of any given school year that contains at least 196 days shall receive a full year of experience credit in determining the teacher’s pay, including initial placement on the instructional salary range and eligibility for pay increases. Any adult education teacher who works a total of 750 hours or more during a school term (July 1 - June 30) will be granted one (1) year of experience for pay purposes.

**6. Pay Dates**

For the 2025-2026 school year, all instructional employees shall be paid in twenty-six (26) pay cycles. All 196-day instructional employees hired after July 1, 2018, and those hired prior to July 1, 2018, who chose to move to the 26-pay cycle will be paid their first paycheck on August 29, 2025, with the rest at two (2) week intervals year-round.

For the instructional employees with balloon pay, those on a 196-day contract shall receive their first paycheck on August 29, 2025, subsequent paychecks will be issued at two (2) week intervals thereafter, five (5) paychecks on June 5, 2026, and a final paycheck on June 18, 2026, less any unpaid leave time from the final pay period.

Instructional employees who work 206 days shall receive their first paycheck on August 29, 2025, subsequent paychecks will be issued at two (2) week intervals and will receive four (4) paychecks on July 3, 2026.

**7. Termination Pay Dates**

A teacher who terminates his/her employment during the school year shall receive all pay owed him/her within twenty (20) days of the termination date except that as stipulated in Article X, Section G 1g) of this Agreement.

**8. Daily Rate Calculation**

A teacher's daily rate of pay shall be determined by the following formula: (total salary for days contracted as determined by placement on the instructional salary range/total days contracted) + (required and advanced degree supplements/days contracted).

A required supplement is that which is attached to a regular full-time teaching position requiring an eight (8) hour workday. All other supplements are excluded from the above formula. Any other supplement which a teacher receives is excluded from the above calculation.

**9. Hourly Rate Calculation**

When it is necessary that a teacher be paid his/her hourly rate, such rate will be calculated using the following formula (total salary as determined by placement on the instructional salary range, exclusive of all supplements except as otherwise noted, divided by the number of contracted days, divided by number of contracted hours.) A typical teacher contract is for 196 days, 7.5 hours per day.

**10. Marchman 1.2 Salary Rate**

Instructors employed at Marchman Technical Education Center prior to July 1, 1997, will continue to receive compensation at the rate of 1.2 as long as their current teaching assignment remains the same.

**11. East Pasco Education Academy and West Pasco Education Academy**

Instructors at East Pasco Education Academy and West Pasco Education Academy who work an eight (8) hour day will be paid their regular hourly rate as provided by subsection nine (9) of this section and be compensated for the additional one-half (1/2) hour. Instructional employees at these worksites who serve in 8-hour supplemented positions shall be compensated at their hourly rate for the additional one-half (1/2) hour instead of receiving the required supplement(s) listed in Addendums B and C.

**12. Teachers Providing an Additional Period of Instruction**

Teachers who agree to provide an additional period of instruction beyond what is expected of other teachers at his/her school shall be paid a supplement of \$6,855 annually, or \$3,427.50 on a semester basis. Effective July 1, 2014, full time teachers employed at Marchman not covered by item 10 above will also be compensated at this amount.

Salary Range (196 Days/7.5 Hrs)	Min*	Max
	\$51,000.00	\$81,000.00

*The "Total Salary" listed below represents the Base Salary + Salary Referendum Supplement. Amounts will be adjusted to reflect employee's contracted work schedule.*

New Hire Placement Schedule						
Years	Total Salary (New Salary Referendum Rate Effective 11/1/25) 196 Days 7.5 Hrs	Base salary 196 Days 7.5 Hrs	Salary Referendum Supplement (New Rate Effective 11/1/25) 196 Days 7.5 Hrs	Total Salary (New Salary Referendum Rate Effective 11/1/25) 230 Days 7.5 Hrs	Total Salary (New Salary Referendum Rate Effective 11/1/25) 245 Days 7.5 Hrs	Total Salary (New Salary Referendum Rate Effective 11/1/25) 196 Days 8 Hrs

0	\$51,000.00	\$48,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$59,846.94	\$63,750.00	\$54,400.00
1	\$51,100.00	\$48,000.00	\$3,100.00	\$59,964.29	\$63,875.00	\$54,506.67
2	\$51,450.00	\$48,000.00	\$3,450.00	\$60,375.00	\$64,312.50	\$54,880.00
3	\$52,050.00	\$48,000.00	\$4,050.00	\$61,079.08	\$65,062.50	\$55,520.00
4	\$52,275.00	\$48,000.00	\$4,275.00	\$61,343.11	\$65,343.75	\$55,760.00
5	\$52,450.00	\$48,000.00	\$4,450.00	\$61,548.47	\$65,562.50	\$55,946.67
6	\$52,625.00	\$48,000.00	\$4,625.00	\$61,753.83	\$65,781.25	\$56,133.33
7	\$52,800.00	\$48,000.00	\$4,800.00	\$61,959.18	\$66,000.00	\$56,320.00
8	\$53,225.00	\$48,000.00	\$5,225.00	\$62,457.91	\$66,531.25	\$56,773.33
9	\$53,400.00	\$48,000.00	\$5,400.00	\$62,663.27	\$66,750.00	\$56,960.00
10	\$53,575.00	\$48,000.00	\$5,575.00	\$62,868.62	\$66,968.75	\$57,146.67
11	\$53,750.00	\$48,000.00	\$5,750.00	\$63,073.98	\$67,187.50	\$57,333.33
12	\$53,925.00	\$48,000.00	\$5,925.00	\$63,279.34	\$67,406.25	\$57,520.00
13	\$54,100.00	\$48,000.00	\$6,100.00	\$63,484.69	\$67,625.00	\$57,706.67
14	\$54,275.00	\$48,000.00	\$6,275.00	\$63,690.05	\$67,843.75	\$57,893.33
15	\$54,700.00	\$48,000.00	\$6,700.00	\$64,188.78	\$68,375.00	\$58,346.67
16	\$54,785.00	\$48,000.00	\$6,785.00	\$64,288.52	\$68,481.25	\$58,437.33
17	\$55,050.00	\$48,000.00	\$7,050.00	\$64,599.49	\$68,812.50	\$58,720.00
18	\$56,250.00	\$48,775.00	\$7,475.00	\$66,007.65	\$70,312.50	\$60,000.00
19	\$57,255.00	\$49,605.00	\$7,650.00	\$67,186.99	\$71,568.75	\$61,072.00
20	\$58,245.00	\$50,420.00	\$7,825.00	\$68,348.72	\$72,806.25	\$62,128.00
21	\$58,970.00	\$50,970.00	\$8,000.00	\$69,199.49	\$73,712.50	\$62,901.33
22	\$60,245.00	\$52,070.00	\$8,175.00	\$70,695.66	\$75,306.25	\$64,261.33
23	\$61,280.00	\$52,930.00	\$8,350.00	\$71,910.20	\$76,600.00	\$65,365.33
24	\$62,585.00	\$53,810.00	\$8,775.00	\$73,441.58	\$78,231.25	\$66,757.33
25	\$63,630.00	\$54,680.00	\$8,950.00	\$74,667.86	\$79,537.50	\$67,872.00

**Supplements for Advanced Degrees<sup>1</sup>**

Degree	196 Days 7.5 Hrs	196 Days 8.0 Hrs	216 Days 7.5 Hrs	230 Days 7.5 Hrs	245 Days 7.5 Hrs
Bachelors + 18:	\$800.00	\$853.33	\$881.63	\$938.78	\$1,000.00
Masters:	\$2,700.00	\$2,880.00	\$2,975.51	\$3,168.37	\$3,375.00
Masters + 18:	\$3,400.00	\$3,626.67	\$3,746.94	\$3,989.80	\$4,250.00
Ed Specialist:	\$4,400.00	\$4,693.33	\$4,848.98	\$5,163.27	\$5,500.00
Doctorate:	\$5,400.00	\$5,760.00	\$5,951.02	\$6,336.73	\$6,750.00

<sup>1</sup>A salary supplement will be paid for advanced degrees. In order to receive credit for an advanced degree, employees must provide an official transcript of record showing the award of the earned degree to the Office for Human Resources and Educator Quality.

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**END OF ADDENDUM A**

**ADDENDUM A-1**

Student supervision (voluntary, non-instructional time outside of contract hours)	\$15.00 per hour
Attending focus or user groups	\$15.00 per hour
Training participation	\$25.00 per hour
Attend vendor demonstrations	\$15.00 per hour
Training delivery and facilitation (includes development)	Instructors shall receive one and one-half (1 ½) times their regular hourly rates of pay. Training provided during the workday will result in being paid an additional ½ of the hourly wage, exclusive of all supplements except those provided for advanced degrees.
Training development (no facilitation)	\$18.00 per hour
Evaluations of students (outside of contract days)	Hourly rate, exclusive of all supplements except those provided for advanced degrees.
IEPs (outside of contract days)	Hourly rate, exclusive of all supplements except those provided for advanced degrees
Screenings of students (outside of contracted days)	Hourly rate, exclusive of all supplements except those provided for advanced degrees
Servicing Equipment (Job-related, outside of contracted days)	Hourly rate, exclusive of all supplements except those provided for advanced degrees
Staffing of ESE students (outside of contracted days)	Hourly rate, exclusive of all supplements except those provided for advanced degrees
ESE Testing (outside of contracted days)	Hourly rate, exclusive of all supplements except those provided for advanced degrees
Bid evaluations	\$18.00 per hour
Curriculum development	\$18.00 per hour (requires District approval)
Manual revisions	\$18.00 per hour
Procedure development	\$18.00 per hour
Program development	\$18.00 per hour
Test blueprints	\$18.00 per hour
Test development	\$18.00 per hour
Test review	\$18.00 per hour
Item writing	\$25.00 per approved item
Item review	\$5.00 per item
Work performed during a declared emergency	One and one half (1.5) times their hourly rate in addition to any regular pay, if any, provided to all District employees during the declared emergency.

**END OF ADDENDUM A-1**

## ADDENDUM B

### SUPPLEMENT SCHEDULE

1. Any teacher assigned to a supplemented position shall receive full supplemental pay for each supplemented position to which he/she is assigned. To provide teachers an opportunity to apply for vacant supplemented positions shown in this addendum as Department/Grade Level Chairperson/Team Coordinator/PLC Facilitator, principals will post such positions at the respective school when they become available, and interested teachers may submit their names. These positions normally include department heads, grade chairpersons, team coordinators, learning community leaders, team leaders, etc.
2. Supplementary pay shall be prorated over the period of time during which the activity or responsibility is scheduled to be performed unless otherwise stipulated.
3. Class and/or club sponsors will not be held responsible for clerical tasks related to sponsorship(s) with the exception of voluntary activities such as car washes and bake sales.
4. When assigning supplemented coaching positions, teachers within the bargaining unit or those newly hired teachers who will be in the bargaining unit who have the training or experience necessary to coach a specific sport shall be given priority over all other applicants for that specific sport.
5. Whenever a vacancy in a supplemented coaching position occurs, the Board shall publicize the vacancy to the Union and provide for appropriate posting in the schools. Each coaching vacancy advertisement shall specify the time of day that the applicant must be available in order to coach the sport.

#### 6. Teacher Mentor Program

The Teacher Mentor Program will provide support services to all new teachers to the district. The program shall have “Basic Teacher Mentors” who serve all instructional staff other than ESE teachers and “ESE Teacher Mentors” who serve all ESE teachers. Teacher Mentors will be required to have completed Clinical Education. In addition to serving new ESE teachers to the district, the ESE Teacher Mentors shall serve the following:

- a. Teachers who are teaching ESE for the first time and who have previously taught in another program in the district;
- b. ESE teachers who are out-of-field for the first two (2) years; and,
- c. Long-Term Substitute Teachers who are assigned ESE positions.

ESE teachers, who are not new ESE teachers to the district, will be served only if the district receives sufficient grant funding to support the service. For the purpose of contract clarity, “Basic Teacher Mentor” and “ESE Teacher Mentor” will be referred to as Teacher Mentor. No Basic Teacher Mentor shall be assigned more than two (2) beginning teachers and no ESE Teacher Mentor shall be assigned more than four (4) eligible ESE teachers. The second, third, and fourth mentor teacher assignments must be by mutual agreement between the Teacher Mentor, the teacher served, and the administration.

The responsibility of the Teacher Mentor will be construed to begin on the first date of employment for the teacher being served.

#### Payment

Each school year the Teacher Mentor will receive the amount specified in the Academic Supplement Schedule for each teacher assigned. The Teacher Mentor Program supplement will be prorated over the time period during which the responsibility is scheduled, not to exceed more than 196 days in any one school year, and paid at the end of the semester. In a case where a teacher being served resigns before completing the program, the Teacher Mentor supplement will be terminated effective the last day of employment for the teacher being served.

#### 7. Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) – High School and Middle School

Job Preparatory Career Training will receive an annual supplement for sponsoring co-curricular organizations providing:

- a. An active CTSO is established that is identified in the curriculum frameworks for the content areas (active is defined as meeting at least monthly after school hours).
- b. The CTSO meets minimum requirements for membership numbers as established by the district and/or state organization, if applicable.
- c. Documentation is provided for student participation in applicable district, regional, state, and/or national competitions.
- d. Documentation is provided for participation in student leadership development workshops/activities.
- e. Sponsors are expected to attend all competitions.

Agriculture teacher supplements already specify CTSO participation so they will not receive an additional supplement. If minimum numbers of students do not join the CTSOs, it is understood that the CTSO requirement in the curriculum frameworks cannot be met.



Tier 1	\$792.00
Commissioner's Academic Challenge Sponsor	
National History Event Sponsor	
National Junior Honors Society Sponsor	
Pasco Students Speak Event Sponsor	
Science & Engineering Showcase	

Tier 2	\$1,319.00
Board Certified Behavior Analyst	
Choral Director	
CTE Lead Teacher	
Department/Grade Level/Team/PLC Facilitator	
Drama Play Director	
FBLA District Advisor	
Flag Corps Sponsor	
High School Assistant Football Coach - Spring	
High School Assistant Swimming Coach	
High School Class Sponsor	
High School Newspaper Sponsor	
High School Student Council Sponsor	
Middle School Assistant Football Coach	
Middle School Assistant Track Coach	
Middle School Assistant AD	
Middle/High School Dance	
Middle/High CTSO Sponsor w/ Competition Requirements	
Middle/High School Yearbook Sponsor	
National Honors Society Sponsor	
Orchestra Director	

Tier 4	\$2,690.00
AVID Coordinator - Fall	
AVID Coordinator - Spring	
Flag Football Coach	
High School Baseball/Softball Coach	
High School Business Manager/Assistant AD	
High School Lacrosse Coach	
High School Soccer Coach	
High School Track Coach	
High School Volleyball Coach	
High School Weightlifting Coach	
High School Wrestling Coach	
Middle School AD	
Middle School Band Director	
SLP Mentor	
Title I School-Based Coordinator	
Title I School-Based Engagement Coordinator	
Vocational Agriculture Teacher	

Tier 3	\$1,977.00
Flag Football Assistant Coach	
High School Assistant Baseball/Softball Coach	
High School Assistant Basketball Coach	
High School Assistant Cheerleading Coach	
High School Assistant Football Coach - Fall	
High School Assistant Lacrosse Coach	
High School Assistant Soccer Coach	
High School Assistant Track Coach	
High School Assistant Volleyball Coach	
High School Assistant Weightlifting Coach	
High School Assistant Wrestling Coach	
High School Cross Country Coach	
High School Golf Coach	
High School Head Football Coach - Spring	
High School Swimming Coach	
High School Tennis Coach	
Middle School Basketball Coach	
Middle School Cheerleading Coach	
Middle School Football Coach	
Middle School Soccer Coach	
Middle School Track Coach	
Middle School Volleyball Coach	
SLP w/ Master's Degree	
TAT Activated - Up to Amount	

Tier 5	\$3,692.00
High School Band Director	
High School Basketball Coach	
High School Cheerleading Coach	
High School Head Football Coach	
SLP - Masters/CCC	

Tier 6	\$5,274.00
High School AD	

Rider/Event	\$527.00
CTSO National Competition	
CTSO State Competition	
High School AD Summer Supplement	
Special Olympics Fall	
Special Olympics Spring	
Special Olympics Winter	
TAT Mentor Base Supplement	
Teacher Mentor	

END OF ADDENDUM B

**ADDENDUM C**  
**INSTRUCTIONAL BARGAINING UNIT – DESCRIPTION**

Academic Advisor  
Assessment Coordinator  
Audiologist/Itin. Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing  
Behavior Specialist  
Career Specialist  
Certified School Counselor  
Compliance Resource Teacher  
Cyesis Registered Nurse Instructor  
Early Childhood Programs Coach  
Early Childhood Programs Interventionist  
ECP Health Specialist  
Gifted Resource Teacher  
Graduation Enhancement Coordinator  
Graduation Enhancement Intervention Counselor  
Graduation Enhancement Resource Teacher  
Graduation Enhancement Teacher  
Grant Resource Teacher (Grant Funded)  
Grant Resource Teacher for Transition  
Homebound Teacher  
Instructional Technology Specialist  
Instructional Trainer/Coach  
Instructional Trainer/Coach: Humanities or STEM  
Intervention Specialist  
Job Placement/Transition Specialist  
Learning Design Coach  
Library Media Instructor  
Migrant Advocate  
Orientation Mobility Specialist  
Parent Involvement Educator  
Pasco FDLRS Child Find Resource Teacher  
Pre-School Resource Teacher - ESE  
Reading Interventionist  
Resource Teacher  
Registered School Nurse  
School Psychologist  
School Social Worker  
School to Career/Tech Prep Articulation Coordinator  
Secondary Fine Arts Resource Teacher  
Special Populations Coordinator  
Special Programs/Magnet Coordinator  
Speech Language Pathologist  
Speech Language Pathology Assistant  
Student Support Specialist  
Teacher - Adaptive Physical Education  
Teacher - Autism Spectrum Disorders  
Teacher - Basic Education - Academic Program  
Teacher - Basic Education - Summer Academic Program  
Teacher - Career and Technical Education  
2025-2026 Instructional Master Contract

Teacher - Deaf/Hard of Hearing  
Teacher - Emotionally Behaviorally Disabled  
Teacher - Gifted  
Teacher - Intellectual Disabilities  
Teacher - Physically Impaired  
Teacher - Prekindergarten (Certified)  
Teacher - Prekindergarten ESE  
Teacher - Science/Environmental Education  
Teacher - STEM/STEAM  
Teacher - Varying Exceptionalities  
Teacher - Virtual School  
Teacher - Visually Impaired  
Work Evaluator

**END OF ADDENDUM C**

**ADDENDUM D**

**FEDERAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROGRAM FOR HOLDERS OF FLORIDA  
CLASS A OR B COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSES**

The Board and Union recognize that employees who are required to hold a Class A or Class B Commercial Driver License (CDL) as a condition of employment (hereinafter referred to as covered employees) must comply with the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991 (OTETA), regulations of the Federal Highway Administration contained in 49 CFR Parts 40 and 382, et. al. and Section 1012.45, Florida Statutes.

**Notification**

The Board shall provide all covered employees with educational materials that explain the requirements of the Program and the Board's policies with respect to meeting these requirements. Each employee who has received a copy of these materials shall be required to sign a statement certifying that he/she has received a copy of these materials.

**Testing**

Testing of covered employees shall be done in accordance with applicable federal and state law. The employee shall be paid his/her regular hourly rate for the time involved for such testing beyond the employee's normal working hours unless such testing results in an employee working beyond forty (40) hours that week. In such cases, the employee shall be compensated at 1-1/2 times his/her hourly rate. Refusal to report for testing when notified to do so shall be considered a positive test.

**Positive Test Results for Alcohol or Prohibited Substances**

If a covered employee tests .02 or .039 for breath alcohol, he/she shall be removed from performing the duties of his/her safety-sensitive position for twenty-four (24) hours. If the employee has accrued sick or vacation leave, he/she shall be entitled to use such leave during this period. A conference may be held with the employee in an attempt to determine why he/she tested .02 to .039 so as to prevent a recurrence.

If an employee tests .04 or higher for breath alcohol or tests positive for any prohibited substance, he/she shall be removed from performing the duties of his/her safety-sensitive position, and he/she shall be referred to a substance abuse professional. In addition, there will be other employment consequences which may include termination. In the event that the primary specimen confirms the presence of prohibited substances, and the employee believes there has been an error in the analysis, he/she may request that the split specimen be tested. The cost of this second analysis shall be the responsibility of the employee. However, should this analysis produce a negative result, the Board shall reimburse the employee for the cost.

**Reasonable Suspicion**

When a supervisor believes that a covered employee is in violation of OTETA regulations, he/she shall confer with the district OTETA administrator or designee who shall decide whether to proceed further. If the OTETA administrator or designee meets with the employee for the purpose of notifying him/her that reasonable suspicion testing will be required, he/she shall do so in conjunction with a trained supervisor. A Union representative shall be permitted to attend the meeting with the right to ask questions for the purpose of clarification. Because time is important when giving an alcohol test, the meeting will not be delayed if the Union representative is unable to be present at the specified time for the meeting to begin. During the meeting, the OTETA administrator will cite the indicators which led to the reasonable suspicion, and the employee shall be given an opportunity to give an explanation if he/she desires.

**Confidentiality**

Confidentiality required by OTETA regulations will be observed, and no voluntary report of a test required by these regulations shall be made to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.

**END OF ADDENDUM D**

**ADDENDUM E**  
**CONTRACT WAIVER REQUEST**

1. In an effort to provide an educational environment that enhances student learning, schools may explore new educational programs, instructional strategies, organizational strategies, organizational patterns, and/or other learning-related functions. Such endeavors may require some part of the Instructional Master Contract language to be waived.
2. A contract waiver must be approved whenever a program is being proposed that would alter any provisions of the Instructional Master Contract. However, the Board and Union will consider a waiver for only the following sections in Article VII:
  - a. Section L - School Day,
  - b. Section N - Non-Teaching Duties,
  - c. Section S - Teaching Assignments and Duties, or
  - d. Section V - Miscellaneous.
3. Should a school pursue such a waiver, the procedures as stipulated below shall be followed.

Notification Requirements:

- a. As soon as possible but no later than March 1, the principal must submit the Notification Form (Appendix C) to the USEP President, the Director of Employee Relations, and the faculty that a study is being undertaken of a program or activity that, if implemented, may alter language in the Instructional Master Contract as specified in paragraph two (2) above.

Approval Process

1. The Principal, Director of Employee Relations, and the President of USEP shall mutually determine and agree on the teachers whose contractual rights will be affected by the proposed contract waiver and, therefore, eligible to vote.
2. A secret ballot will be held under the supervision of the principal of the school and the Director of Employee Relations/designee, and President of USEP/designee. The principal, President of USEP and Director of Employee Relations shall agree to the date, time, method of the vote, and procedures for absentee ballots. The affected teachers in the bargaining unit, the President of USEP, and the Director of Employee Relations will be given three (3) days' advance notice of the voting date. A ballot must be given to each teacher eligible to vote and each teacher shall be given the opportunity to cast such ballot. Approval by sixty-seven percent (67%) of the teachers eligible to vote is required. A valid vote shall not be rescinded.
3. The final proposal of the program/project shall be presented to all bargaining unit members at the school and fully explained by the principal. The teachers in the bargaining unit, the President of USEP, and the Director of Employee Relations will be given five (5) days' notice of such meeting. At least five (5) days prior to the explanatory meeting, the principal shall provide teachers affected by the proposed contract language to be waived, a written copy of the proposed plan which describes the proposed modifications to terms and conditions of employment for those teachers affected.
4. The Principal shall submit the Waiver Request Approval Form (Appendix D) to the Director of Employee Relations and the President of USEP if sixty-seven percent (67%) of the ballots in two (2) above are in favor of the waiver.
5. Any challenge of the voting process, procedure, or results will be referred to the President of USEP and the Director of Employee Relations for a resolution.
6. A "No" vote will require waiting until the next school year before starting the waiver process again.

7. Upon approval by the USEP President and the Director of the Department of Employee Relations, contract waivers may be granted for up to one (1) year and shall be non-precedent setting.
4. To renew a Contract Waiver, the school must follow the steps in number three (3) the Notification Process and Approval Process above.
5. The Waiver Request must be submitted to the Director of the Department of Employee Relations and the President of USEP before May 1.
6. If specified in the Waiver Request, an evaluation of the program shall be conducted to continue the waiver for its duration.
7. For vacancies that will be in effect during the Contract Waiver period, notification and explanation of a Contract Waiver that is in effect must be included in all job postings and interviews.
8. No programs shall exist which are not in compliance with contract language or which have not been approved by this process.

#### **School Utilization of Expanded Homeroom/Skinny Periods**

The Board and the Union agree to the following procedures when a secondary school wishes to implement an expanded homeroom or “skinny” period that does not alter any existing provision of the Instructional Master Contract:

#### **Applicability**

An expanded homeroom or “skinny” period is an additional period of assigned student contact beyond what has been historically expected of teachers at the school, requiring additional time each week planning for instruction, delivering instruction, or assessing student work. It does not include a teacher’s performance of traditional homeroom duties like the taking of attendance, facilitation of announcements, supervision of students during club activities, activation of a video or podcast, supervision of sustained silent reading, performance of periodic student scheduling or graduation planning activity, or administering of other infrequently required incidental student activities.

#### **Notification and Implement Procedures**

1. As soon as possible, but not later than March 1, the Principal must submit a written plan for the implementation of the expanded homeroom or “skinny” period to the Director of Employee Relations and the USEP President. The written plan must include a description of how the expanded homeroom or skinny period will provide learning related opportunities for students, how instructional staff members will have input into the development of the homeroom or “skinny” period, and when the staff will vote on the proposed homeroom or “skinny” period.
2. The Principal, Director of Employee Relations, and USEP President shall mutually determine and agree upon the teachers who will be affected by the proposed homeroom or “skinny” period.
3. The final proposal of the homeroom or “skinny” period shall be presented to all bargaining unit members at the school and fully explained by the Principal. The teachers in the bargaining unit, the President of USEP, and the Director of Employee Relations will be given five (5) days’ notice of such meeting. At least five (5) days prior to the explanatory meeting, the Principal shall provide a written copy of the proposed plan.
4. A secret ballot will be held under the supervision of the Principal of the school, the Director of Employee Relations/designee, and the President of USEP/designee. The Principal, President of USEP and Director of Employee Relations shall agree to the date, time, method of the vote, and procedures for absentee ballots. The affected teachers in the bargaining unit, the President of USEP, and the Director of Employee Relations will be given three (3) days advance notice of the voting date. A ballot must be given to each teacher eligible to vote and each teacher shall be given the opportunity to cast such ballot. Approval by two-thirds of the teachers eligible to vote is required. A valid vote shall not be rescinded.
5. Any challenge of the voting process, procedure, or results will be referred to the President of USEP and the Director of Employee Relations for resolution.
6. The Principal shall notify the Director of Employee Relations and the President of USEP of the results of the balloting. Approved plans are effective for the following school year and are non-precedent setting.
7. All other provisions of the *Instructional Master Contract*, including Addendum E, Contract Waiver Request, remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

**END OF ADDENDUM E**

**ADDENDUM F**  
**REASONABLE SUSPICION DRUG TESTING PROGRAM**

As part of its commitment to safeguard the health of its employees, to provide a safe place for its employees to work and our students to attend, and to promote a drug-free working environment, the Pasco County School Board (Board) has established this Reasonable Suspicion Drug Testing Program (Program) relating to the abuse of drugs (including alcohol) by its employees.

This Program has been prepared so as not to conflict with public policy, and, further, not to be discriminatory or abusive. The ultimate goal of the Program is to balance the Board's respect for privacy with its need to keep a safe, productive, drug-free environment. Reasonable suspicion drug testing shall be required by a supervisor or designee, outside the bargaining unit, who has been trained for at least sixty (60) minutes on alcohol misuse and an additional sixty (60) minutes on controlled substance misuse. All test results will be kept confidential to the extent allowed by law.

Employees who engage in prohibited drug related conduct as verified by the testing results must be immediately removed from duty.

Any employee who is in violation of the Program shall be subject to discipline up to and including dismissal or required to participate in and complete a drug-abuse or alcohol rehabilitation program (rehabilitation program) as a condition of continued employment. The opportunity to participate in a rehabilitation program as a condition of continued employment will be offered only to employees who test positive for drugs or alcohol and who have not been previously found to be in violation of any provision of this Program. The employee is responsible for all costs associated with the rehabilitation program and will provide evidence of satisfactory completion of all phases and terms of the rehabilitation program to the Board. The rehabilitation program will include the involvement of a Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) approved by the Board. The SAP will evaluate the employee and make recommendations relative to fitness to return to work, appropriate education, treatment, follow-up tests, and aftercare. The employee will sign an authorization and release of information form allowing the SAP to release, and the Board to obtain, information relative to the employee's progress in the rehabilitation program. The employee will be on leave pending the successful completion of the rehabilitation program. The employee may use accrued sick leave during this period if available; otherwise, the leave will be unpaid. Upon completion of the rehabilitation program, the employee will be returned to work in a position similar to the position held when the violation occurred and for which he/she is qualified in the judgment of the Superintendent. An employee returning to work following successful completion of a rehabilitation program will be subject to random unannounced follow-up testing for one calendar year or longer if required by the SAP as part of the rehabilitation program.

The provision allowing entry into a rehabilitation program does not preclude the employee from being disciplined for other violations of the Program or other behaviors which would otherwise subject the employee to discipline up to and including termination of employment. These other behaviors include an employee's actions or behaviors at the time suspected drug or alcohol misuse is determined.

When a meeting is called to inform an employee that reasonable suspicion testing is required, a Union representative shall be permitted to attend the meeting with the right to ask questions for the purpose of clarification. Because time is important when giving tests, the meeting will not be delayed if the Union representative is unable to be present at the time specified for the meeting to begin. During the meeting, the supervisor calling the meeting will cite the indicators, which led to the reasonable suspicion, and the employee shall be given an opportunity to give an explanation if he/she desires.

Any employee who is discharged from the rehabilitation program for unsuccessful participation will be recommended for termination from employment. Any employee who is in violation of the Board's Program a second time will be recommended for termination.

**Definitions**

"Drug" is defined as: alcohol, including a distilled spirit, wine, a malt beverage, or an intoxicating liquor; an amphetamine; a cannabinoid; cocaine; phencyclidine (PCP); a hallucinogen; methaqualone; an opiate; a barbiturate; a benzodiazepine; a synthetic narcotic; a designer drug; or a metabolite of any of the substances listed in this paragraph. Employees tested under reasonable suspicion testing shall be tested for the following drugs: cannabinoids, cocaine, opiates (morphine), amphetamines, phencyclidine (PCP), benzodiazepines, barbiturates, methadone, propoxyphene, and alcohol.

**Notification**

Prior to implementation, the Board will provide all employees with an orientation that includes educational materials that explain the requirements of this program and the Board's policies with respect to these requirements. Each employee who has received these materials shall be required to sign a form certifying that he/she has received a copy of the materials.

An employee may be subject to a drug screening test under any of the following circumstances:

1. Where there is a finding of reasonable suspicion based on specific facts and inferences reasonably drawn from these facts in light of experience which would lead a prudent person to reasonably suspect that the employee was under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol.
2. When an employee's conduct or appearance is directly observed or perceived as indicative of being under the influence of a drug or alcohol during work time. It is the Board's intention that such an observation be made by two or more supervisors trained in alcohol and controlled substance misuse before requiring a reasonable suspicion drug test. However, this is not a requirement.
3. When an employee is found in possession of suspected illicit drugs or drug paraphernalia, or when suspected illicit drugs or paraphernalia are found in an area controlled or used exclusively by the employee.
4. As part of a rehabilitation program or as specified in the agreement.
5. Evidence that an employee has used, possessed, sold, solicited, or transferred drugs while working or while on school board property.

### **Testing**

Testing of employees shall be done in accordance with the applicable federal and state law.

Refusal to submit to a drug screening test is defined as:

1. failing to provide adequate breath for alcohol testing without a valid medical explanation;
2. failing to provide adequate urine for drug testing without a valid medical explanation;
3. engaging in conduct that clearly obstructs the testing process; or
4. tampering with a drug test.

Failure to comply or provide an adequate urine or breath sample, absent a documented and verified medical excuse, shall be determined to be a positive test result.

### **Follow-up Testing**

Should the employee successfully complete the drug-abuse or rehabilitation program, the employee, upon returning to work, shall be subject to follow-up drug or alcohol testing as determined by the SAP or as specified in this agreement.

This program will take effect on September 1, 2008.

Employees in safety sensitive positions covered by provisions of the Omnibus Transportation Testing Act (OTETA) as outlined in Addendum D of this agreement are not subject to this program.

**END OF ADDENDUM F**

**INSTRUCTIONAL ECONOMIC PROPOSAL 2025-2026**

The grandfathered pay plan and performance pay plan shall refer to the grandfathered salary schedule and performance salary schedule required by Florida Statute 1012.22. A teacher on an annual contract as of July 1, 2014, shall be automatically placed on the performance pay plan described in this proposal. A teacher on continuing contract or professional services contract will be placed on the grandfathered pay plan as described in this proposal as the default. These employees may opt into the performance pay plan if they affirmatively elect to do so and relinquish their continuing contract or professional services contract and agree to be employed on annual contract, as required by law. An employee who relinquishes his/her continuing contract or professional services contract may not return to the grandfathered pay plan or his/her continuing contract or professional services contract.

**1. Salaries**

1. Cost-of-Living Adjustment

- a. Approximately \$4,220,198 (inclusive of the District’s required benefit contributions) will be provided to allow for a cost-of-living adjustment of:
  - i. 1.2% for all eligible employees who earned a year of service credit for the 2024-2025 school year; and
  - ii. 1.05% for all eligible employees who did not earn a year of service credit for the 2024-2025 school year. This amount is sufficient to increase the new hire placement schedule by \$500 per level/grade.

2. Grandfathered and Performance Pay Salary Schedule Increases

- a. The following formula will be used to determine the distribution of the remaining \$4,096,020 (inclusive of the District’s required benefit contributions) that will be made available for instructional salary increases pursuant to the performance pay plan and grandfathered pay plan.
  - i. Grandfather equals 1 salary factor, PFP Effective equals 1 salary factor and PFP Highly Effective equals 1.33 salary factors.
  - ii. The most recent available summative evaluations (those issued in the 2025-2026 school year for the 2024-2025 school year) shall be used to determine whether a teacher on the performance pay plan is Effective or Highly Effective.
  - iii. Teachers who are on the performance pay plan who a) did not earn a year of service credit for the 2024-2025 school year; or (b) received less than an Effective summative evaluation as outlined above will not be eligible for an increase in salary under the performance pay plan.
  - iv. Teachers who are on the grandfathered pay plan who a) did not earn a year of service credit for the 2024-2025 school year; or (b) received less than a Needs Improvement summative evaluation will not be eligible for an increase in salary under this section.
  - v. The cost-of-living adjustments outlined above will be combined with the Grandfathered and Performance Pay Salary Schedule Increases in this section to generate the overall salary increase percentage for instructional staff members.

Base Category	COLA Adjustment	Share GF/PFP Factor	Share GF/PFP %	Total Salary Increase
No Year of Service Credit for 24/25	1.05%	0	0.0%	1.05%
Grandfathered Increase	1.2%	1	1.18%	2.38%
Pay for Performance – Effective	1.2%	1	1.18%	2.38%

Pay for Performance – Highly Effective	1.2%	1.33	1.57%	2.77%
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3. The District will cover the cost of additional required contributions to the Florida Retirement System. For the 2025-2026 school year, the increased contribution amount is 0.4% or approximately \$1,117,652 based on existing, pre-raise payroll.
  4. The District will also continue to provide a total of \$250,000 towards non-recurring, one-time supplements for teachers who meet the criteria for differentiated pay categories as defined in Florida law. Teachers will be eligible for this supplement provided that they are employed in Title One eligible or DDD/F schools or are employed and properly certified in critical shortage subject areas as defined by the District. For the 2025-2026 school year, Critical Shortage for the purposes of differentiated pay is defined as: Teacher - Autism Spectrum Disorder, Teacher - Emotionally Behaviorally Disabled, Teacher – Intellectual Disabilities, Teacher – Vision Impaired, Teacher – Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH), and Speech Language Pathologist. Teachers are eligible to receive a supplement meeting the criteria for Title One eligible or DDD/F but not both. Teachers who are supplemented for any of these criteria through other available grant or additional referendum salary supplements, are not eligible for an additional payment from these funds. Teachers on the performance pay plan and grandfathered pay plan are eligible for these supplements.
  5. The placement schedules contained in Addendum A will be used to place instructional employees hired on or after July 1, 2025, onto the instructional salary range.
  6. Following the ratification of this agreement and processing of the salary increases outlined above, all teachers will be provided documentation from HREQ that will reflect their base salary for the 2025-2026 school year.
  7. Instructional employees hired after July 1, 2018, will be paid year-round on the 26-pay cycle. Those hired before July 1, 2018, will have the option of remaining on the 22-pay cycle with a lump sum payment at the end of the school year or may choose to enter the year round 26-pay cycle. When an employee moves to a 26-pay cycle, he/she will remain on the year round 26-pay cycle and may not opt back into the 22-pay cycle.
- C. Approximately \$144,272 shall be provided to improve Addendum B - Supplement Schedule by 2.4% as specified in this proposal.
  - D. The payment and increases shown above will be provided retroactively to July 1, 2025, for current bargaining unit members employed on the date this agreement is executed. However, such payments and increases will not be provided to bargaining unit members who leave the District prior to the payroll processing of the above listed salary increases and any corresponding retroactive payments.
  - E. Should the District’s budgetary status improve during the 2025-2026 school year, the Board and the Union agree to meet to examine the possibility of compensation improvement.
  - F. The Board and Union agree to continue to meet and work to identify strategies to address instructional salary compression concerns and other perceived salary equity issues created by the state mandated Teacher Salary Increase Categorical.

**2. Additional Compensation for Teachers Providing Additional Instruction –**

For the 2025-2026 school year, teachers who agree to provide an additional period of instruction beyond what is expected of other teachers at his/her school shall be paid a supplement of \$6,855 annually, or \$3,427.50 on a semester basis. Full-time teachers at Marchman Technical College employed prior to July 1, 1997, shall continue to receive this supplement. Secondary classroom teachers who are hired on or after July 1, 2020, and who sign a condition of employment to teach the equivalent of six instructional periods per day, shall be paid the supplement amount listed above.

**3. Background Screening Fees**

Florida Statute requires the submission of employee fingerprints to the Agency of Health Care Administration (AHCA). During the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school year all employees who have not completed fingerprinting through AHCA will be required to be reprinted through the AHCA platform as directed by District staff and paid for by the Board. The total estimated cost for the 2025-2026 school year is \$185,000. Once employees transition to AHCA, the Board agrees to pay the 5-year resubmission fee of \$43.37 per employee.

#### **4. Fringe Benefits**

The Board agrees to contribute \$9,442 (pending approval from the District's Insurance Committee) per eligible employee, an increase of \$742 from 2025, toward the cost of the health insurance benefit package for the 2026 insurance plan year. The Board and Union have agreed to apply the additional \$2,605,733 of available Classroom Teacher and Other Instructional Personnel Salary Increase Allocation for the 2025-2026 school year towards the approximately \$4,136,650 required to fund the increased health insurance benefit package cost for eligible instructional staff members. In addition, the Board provides each eligible employee with a \$35,000 life insurance policy and access to Employee Assistance Program (EAP) benefits.

The Board's contribution will be used to pay those premiums associated with the fully insured benefits contained in the health insurance benefit package, to pay all claims and administrative costs incurred and associated with the self-insured benefits contained in the health insurance benefit package, and to contribute towards the insurance reserve account for the self-insured benefits contained in the health insurance benefit package.

Should there be any surplus once the District has set aside funds to pay all fully insured premiums, all self-insured incurred claims, all administrative costs associated with the health insurance benefits package, and funded the insurance reserve/surplus account to the level identified by the District Insurance Committee, then such surplus will be placed in the insurance reserve/surplus account and applied towards the insurance costs and/or reserve for the 2027 plan year. Should increases in costs for the products and services contained in the health insurance benefit package require an additional District contribution in excess of the operating dollars budgeted for the 2026 benefit year, the Board and the Union will meet to decide how to balance any such deficit.

In addition, effective January 1, 2026, the alternative "opt-out" payment program shall be discontinued.

Effective with the 2013-2014 school year, employees receiving the District's health insurance benefit package who terminate employment after working through the final day of his/her respective work calendar shall continue to receive Board contributions towards his/her health insurance benefit package through the end of August of that plan year.

**END OF ECONOMIC PROPOSAL**

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**Additional Compensation for Teachers Covering Absent Teachers**

In recognition of the local, state, and national teacher shortage, and to compensate teachers who are willing to assist in providing coverage for absent classroom teachers, the Board and Union agree to the following for the 2025-2026 school year only:

1. Secondary teachers who voluntarily substitute for an absent teacher during their planning period shall be provided \$25 per day for such coverage during the 2025-2026 school year. Teachers will be limited to one such payment per student day.
2. Secondary classroom teachers who volunteer to cover for an absent teacher through the distribution of that teacher's students shall be provided 30 minutes of compensatory time for each half day, or portion thereof, coverage provided. The Board and Union agree that classes will be distributed only in emergency situations.
  - a. Compensatory time should only be utilized during non-student contact time and must be approved in advance by the principal.
  - b. Compensatory time must be used within the school year it is earned and cannot be carried forward from one school year to the next. In addition, compensatory time earned under this plan has no terminal value should a teacher's employment be separated mid-year.
  - c. Site-based administration shall be responsible for tracking the accumulation and use of compensatory time through this process.
3. Elementary teachers who volunteer to cover for an absent teacher through the distribution of that teacher's students shall be provided \$25 per each whole day for such coverage during the 2025-2026 school year.

Nothing contained in this process prevents individual schools from providing additional recognition to teachers who agree to provide coverage for absent teachers beyond the terms of this process. The Board and Union agree to review the data surrounding the usage of these provisions and evaluate their efficacy in helping to cover for teacher absences and vacancies. The parties agree that these provisions are designed to serve in tandem with securing normal substitute coverage. School administrators retain the right to secure a traditional substitute for any teacher absence.

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**2025-2026 Classroom Teacher and Other Instructional Personnel Salary Increase Allocation**

During the 2025 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature increased funding to the Classroom Teacher and Other Instructional Personnel Salary Increase Allocation and provided an additional \$101.9 million statewide specifically for teacher salary and benefit increases. As provided for by law, the increased funding for 2025-2026 must be used to either (a) cover increased personnel compensation costs, or (b) provide salary increases to full-time classroom teachers or other instructional personnel with at least two years of full-time teaching experience.

Based on the most recent FEFP Calculation released on July 18, 2025, Pasco County received an additional \$2,939,364 for classroom teacher and other instructional personnel salary increases. Of this total amount, approximately 11.35% has been allocated to the District's charter schools based on the Florida Department of Education's calculation methodology, leaving approximately \$2,605,733 of new funding for the District's use.

The Board and the Union agree that the District shall utilize the "growth" portion of the allocation, \$2,605,733, to apply towards the increased costs associated with the comprehensive employee health insurance package provided to classroom teachers and other instructional staff members for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

**Letter of Agreement**  
**Closing of Gulfside Elementary and Paul R. Smith Middle School**  
**Reopening of Paul R. Smith K8**

On or around June 2, 2026, the District will close Gulfside Elementary and Paul R. Smith Middle Schools. The two schools will be combined and reopened as a K8 school on the current Paul R. Smith Middle School site to begin the 2026-2027 school year. The K8 model is a research-based model that Pasco County Schools already utilizes and that has led to both academic successes and system efficiencies.

Staffing Instructional Positions for 2026-2027:

Teachers currently employed at these two schools at the end of the 2025-2026 school year will staff the K8 school when it opens in August of 2026. Absent significant changes to student enrollment or the realignment of the District's special programs, the District anticipates having allocations at the K8 for all instructional staff for both schools. Should there not be enough allocations, the District will create a pool of candidates from staff working at the two schools for the 2025-2026 school year and will fill positions using the provisions of Article VII Section F – Involuntary Transfers. By employment contract, any instructional staff member on a temporary service contract will be required to re-apply for any open positions for the 2026-2027 school year. Any teacher that does not want to be reassigned to the K8 for 2026-2027 will be free to seek a position elsewhere.

Staffing for SRP Positions for 2026-2027:

The District does not anticipate having enough allocations for all SRP staff currently working at both schools. Therefore, the District will create a pool of candidates from staff working at the two schools for the 2025-2026 school year and will fill positions using the provisions of Article VII, Sections D & E – Layoff and Recall.

Monitoring:

In order to support the success of this new school, the Board and Union agree to meet during the 2026-2027 school year to resolve any concerns arising from the implementation of this agreement. This agreement is unique to these two schools and does not, in any way, constitute a precedent-setting event in future situations.

**Memorandum of Understanding**  
**Dual Enrollment**

Dual enrollment allows eligible students to have the opportunity to earn college or technical credit at local colleges. A dual enrollment student is simultaneously enrolled in both high school and college or specific technical credit courses taught by non-Pasco County Schools institutions with which Pasco County Schools has a School Board approved Dual Enrollment Agreement. These courses are counted toward high school graduation. In an effort to increase dual enrollment opportunities for students on our high school campuses, the District and Union agree to the following for the 2025-2026 school year only:

Credentialed dual enrollment teachers who teach a dual enrollment course on a Pasco County high school campus will receive a supplement of \$25 per student per semester where a student completes a dual enrollment course with a grade of "C" or higher. All supplements paid under this MOU shall be in addition to any regular wage, supplement or bonus the teacher receives, and shall be prorated and paid in the same manner as any other supplements for the period of time in which the teacher serves as the teacher of record for the Dual Enrollment class. Supplements will be scheduled for payment in December of the following school year, and a teacher does not need to be employed by the District at the time the payment is made.

**Memorandum of Understanding  
Elementary and Secondary Education Act/Every Student Succeeds Act**

In an attempt to minimize the impact of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)/Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) on instructional staff, the Board and Union agree to the following provisions for the 2025-2026 school year only:

1. It is the Board's intent to keep teachers in positions for which they hold a temporary or professional certificate with appropriate coverage.
2. The Board shall make every effort to minimize the number of core academic subject areas for which a teacher must obtain a temporary or professional certificate with appropriate coverage.
3. The Board shall partner with FLDOE approved entities and/or provide, at no cost to the teacher, staff development opportunities for those teachers seeking to add Reading Endorsement, Gifted Endorsement, and/or ESOL Endorsement to their certificate and shall give priority to those teachers identified, per state statute or FLDOE board rule, as needing those endorsements.
4. No new teachers will be hired to fill an advertised position vacancy until all current teachers who do not meet the ESEA/ESSA definition are provided the opportunity to apply for and be interviewed for the position; provided they hold either a temporary or professional certificate with appropriate coverage.
5. Teachers wishing to transfer under this provision will apply online within the advertised period and will identify that they are seeking assignment priority in accordance with this Memorandum of Understanding. The Board shall give priority to such current teachers over outside applicants when filling vacant positions. Such priority will not supersede priority for involuntary or voluntary transfers resulting from staff reduction.

**Memorandum of Understanding  
Extended School Year Program – Summer 2025**

The following parameters will govern the working conditions of employees who work in a summer Extended School Year program.

**PROGRAM DATES and WORK SCHEDULE:**

Elementary Sessions 7:15 am - 2:15pm (6 hours students/7 hours teachers with a 30 minute duty free lunch)

Secondary Sessions 9:00 am - 4:00 pm (6 hour students/7 hours teachers with a 30 minute duty free lunch)

Alternative Education Centers 7:15 am - 2:15 pm (6 hour students/7 hours teachers with a 30 minute duty free lunch)

- **3<sup>rd</sup> grade Summer Reading Camp:** June 9<sup>th</sup> – June 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Teacher PD & Planning: Thursday, June 5 and Friday, June 6, 2025
  - Program dates: June 9-12, June 16-19, June 23-26
- **MS and HS Course/Credit Recovery:** June 9<sup>th</sup> – June 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Teacher PD & Planning: Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025
  - Program dates: June 9-12, June 16-19, June 23-26
- **12 Day ESE-ESY (Access and Itinerant):** June 9<sup>th</sup> – June 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Teacher PD & Planning: Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025
  - Program dates: June 9-12, June 16-19, June 23-26
- **Algebra Rise: Secondary Accelerated Mathematics Summer Bridge Learning:** June 9<sup>th</sup> – June 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Teacher PD & Planning: Wednesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Program dates: June 9-12, June 16-19, June 23-26

- **Alternative Education Schools (full day): June 9<sup>th</sup> – June 26<sup>th</sup>**
  - Teacher PD & Planning: Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025
  - Program dates: June 9-12, June 16-19, June 23-26
- **Elementary Title III Summer Camp for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: June 9<sup>th</sup> – June 26<sup>th</sup>**
  - Teacher PD & Planning: Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025
  - Program dates: June 9-12, June 16-19, June 23-26
- **PEACE Camp at the EMC: June 9<sup>th</sup> – June 26<sup>th</sup>**
  - Teacher PD & Planning: Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025
  - Program dates: June 9-12, June 16-19, June 23-26
- **District Title I Allocated -Summer Programs: June 9<sup>th</sup> – June 26<sup>th</sup>**
  - Teacher PD & Planning: Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025
  - Program dates: June 9-12, June 16-19, June 23-26
- **Title I Summer Transition Program:**
  - Teacher Planning: Varies by School and Level
  - Program dates: Varies by School and Level
- **School Title 1 Allocated Summer Programs:**
  - Teacher Planning: Varies by school
  - Program dates: Varies by school
- **Graduates Requiring Additional Credit Earning (GRACE) Program**
  - Teacher PD & Planning: Thursday, June 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025
  - Program dates: June 9-12, June 16-19, June 23-26

### **Instructional and Non-instructional Employees**

#### **Filling Positions:**

- Assignment to this program is voluntary. A member of administration will notify the staff of the program dates by April 22, 2025.
- Each employee having an interest in working in the program will submit his/her name to the administrator by May 1, 2025.
- Tentative job openings will be announced by the last student day.
- When it is judged that professional qualifications and ability are substantially equal among applicants for the program to be offered, district seniority shall prevail.
- When filling positions, employees within the bargaining unit shall be given priority over other applicants.
- The previous procedure to select transportation employees for the school year assignments will continue to be used, with the following exception. Bus drivers and transportation assistants who select a route and resign, or work less than half of the days of the selected route in ESY for the summer of 2024, will be placed at the bottom of the selection list for ESY for the summer of 2025 unless the reason for resigning or working less than half of the days is for one of the following reasons and is supported by appropriate documentation as determined by Transportation Department administration: a health concern that prohibits the employee from working or a health concern of an immediate family member of the employee and the employee is needed to care for the family member, family emergency, or jury duty.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade summer reading camp- Teachers hired for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade summer reading camp must be reading endorsed. Previous ESY and/or ESD experience is preferred.
- Lead Teachers- Master's degree in Educational Leadership and/or Ed. Leadership certification is preferred. Previous ESY/ESD experience is preferred.

#### **Sick Leave Accrual:**

- Employees who work programs that are 12 days or more earn .5 day sick leave.

**Absences:**

- All Program employees' absences will be without pay. Employees are not eligible to use previously accrued sick leave for pay purposes.

**Substitutes:**

- A regular employee who substitutes in this program will be paid his/her regular hourly rate.

**GROUND RULES FOR NEGOTIATIONS**  
**Instructional Bargaining Unit**

1. Negotiations shall be conducted at a location or online forum mutually agreed to by the chief negotiators.
2. Future negotiation sessions will be scheduled by mutual consent of the chief negotiators.
3. The negotiation sessions will continue until the agenda is exhausted or the adjournment time has been reached unless both chief negotiators agree to an extension.
4. All communications or correspondence concerning change of meeting dates or times or any other mechanical necessity will be the responsibility of the two chief negotiators.
5. All bargaining team members will be furnished copies of any proposals or counter proposals distributed at the table or via email when necessary.
6. All tentative agreements will be reduced to writing, initialed, and dated by the chief negotiator for each side either in person or electronically during an online forum at the meeting at which the tentative agreement is reached. An initialed copy will then be provided to each bargaining team for their records. Only proposals that have been initialed by the chief negotiators for both sides shall be presented to the bargaining unit members or to the School Board as being agreed upon. Initialed provisions are subject to change by the chief negotiators only by mutual agreement.
7. All tentative agreements on given items are contingent upon overall agreement being reached by the parties. No tentative agreement on any item shall be considered effective or binding on either party until an overall agreement is reached and ratified by both parties.
8. Should either party fail to ratify the entire Agreement, then only those issues previously subjects of bargaining between the two parties shall be subject to further negotiations unless both parties mutually agree to discuss additional issues.
9. Each side reserves the right to caucus at any time during negotiations.
10. Upon mutual consent of both chief negotiators, a formal negotiating session may be recessed to allow interest-based open discussion by all participants. Upon request by either of the chief negotiators, a formal session will resume.
11. Since the parties have agreed to audio tape bargaining sessions, the party conducting the taping will provide the other party with a full copy of each recording as reasonably close to one week of the recorded session as possible. No member of either bargaining team shall record (audio or video) any session unless permission has been mutually agreed upon by the chief negotiators.

**Memorandum of Understanding  
Grow and Stay Retention Bonus**

The District, in its commitment to continue to grow future educators within Pasco County Schools, created a program called the “Grow and Stay Pasco Initiative.” This initiative recruits students into the Pasco County teacher workforce upon college graduation and completion of a teacher preparation program and teacher certification.

In an effort to reward those teachers who graduate from the program and remain with Pasco County schools, the District and Union agree to fund the following:

A one-time stipend of \$500 will be paid at the end of the 2025-2026 school year to teachers who have participated in the Pasco County New Teacher Academy during high school, graduated from high school and enrolled in a teacher preparation program, graduated from college with a degree in education, obtained appropriate certification from the Florida Department of Education, accepted a teaching position with Pasco County Schools, completed one year of teaching with Pasco County, and signed a contract for year two.

Funding for this initiative is provided through the District’s recruitment budget.

**Memorandum of Understanding  
Instructional Referendum Implementation**

On August 23, 2022, the voters of Pasco County approved a 4-year millage referendum to be used exclusively for the recruitment and retention of non-administrative employees via compensation improvements. The voter-approved referendum authorizes the Board to levy up to a total of 1 mil for each of the four years covered by the referendum to fund compensation improvements. Referendum funds began to be collected beginning in November of 2023, and collections are scheduled to occur through the 2026 tax year. The referendum may be renewed by the voters beyond the original term in accordance with state law in effect at the time of the renewal election. To facilitate the distribution of the proportional share of funds earmarked for instructional personnel, the Board and Union understand and agree to the following for the 2025-2026 payment period outlined below.

**General Provisions**

1. In accordance with their statutory authority, the Board maintains the exclusive authority to set the annual millage rate associated with this millage referendum, which will in turn determine the available annual budget for the stated employee compensation improvements.
2. All compensation improvements provided through this millage referendum are non-recurring salary supplements, the amounts of which are subject to the collective bargaining process.
3. The District has established a citizens’ oversight committee to monitor and report on the expenditures of the millage referendum funds. While this committee does not have authority to make decisions on behalf of the Board or the Union, they may make recommendations.
4. The initial negotiated supplement amounts will be in effect from November 1, 2025, through October 31, 2026, or until new supplement amounts are determined, whichever occurs latest.
5. This memorandum and the annual salary supplement amounts will be renegotiated each year based on available funding from the budgeted and collected millage for the upcoming annual payment period. As such, no instructional employee shall have an expectation of receiving a specific referendum salary supplement amount after the conclusion of the annual reconciliation and payment period.
6. The non-recurring salary supplements provided to instructional employees during the 4-year referendum period will be considered a portion of an eligible instructional employee’s compensation and will be part of that employee’s salary for the purposes of Florida Retirement System (FRS), Social Security, Medicare, and other mandatory payroll contributions and deductions.

7. Should the millage referendum expire without renewal, instructional employees shall have no expectation of receiving referendum salary supplements once all available referendum funds have been dispersed, nor shall any expectation exist that any other non-referendum funds will be utilized to compensate for the non-renewal of the referendum salary supplements.
8. Should circumstances arise that increase the amount of referendum millage collections available during an annual payment period and/or should a surplus of funds exist at the end of an annual payment period, the Board and Union agree to include those amounts in their negotiations for the subsequent annual payment period.
9. Should circumstances arise that materially reduce the amount of referendum millage available during an annual payment period, the Board and Union agree to meet and negotiate, with all reasonable haste, changes to the annual salary supplement plan to bring salary referendum revenues and expenditures into alignment for the applicable annual payment period. Immaterial reductions at the end of an annual payment period will be adjusted in subsequent annual payments.

### **2025-2026 Instructional Referendum Salary Supplements (RSS)**

1. RSS amounts for instructional personnel are outlined in the table below. The RSS amounts listed are annual amounts. For this table, Instructional years shall be the number of years of full-time teaching experience for which a teacher had a valid teaching certificate.
2. RSS amounts are based on a 196-day contract and a contracted workday of 7.5 hours (maximum of 8 hours per day). Instructional employees who are contracted for more or fewer days, or who have longer or shorter contracted workdays, shall have their individual RSS prorated accordingly.
3. Compensation provided to instructional employees for advanced degrees, supplemented activities, ESY, ESD, emergency pay, and any other additional duty activities outside of their regular contracted workday/work year will not impact or be impacted by the instructional employee's RSS amount.
4. RSS payments will be equally prorated out across each scheduled paycheck for the instructional employee's position. Should an instructional employee change positions with the District during their contracted work year, the instructional employee's bi-weekly RSS amount for that pay period will be a blended amount based on the number of days worked in each of the two jobs during the bi-weekly pay period. Should an instructional employee terminate employment during their contracted work year, RSS payments will only be made for the bi-weekly pay periods for which the instructional employee is actively employed and being paid. RSS payments will not be made on accrued leave payouts at the time of an instructional employee's separation from employment.
5. Instructional employees on unpaid leave shall have their RSS payment adjusted in the same manner as all other forms of compensation provided by the District.

### **Anticipation of Employee Ratification**

In anticipation of employee ratification of the full 2025-2026 collective bargaining agreement, the Board and Union agree to submit this memorandum for Board approval and processing consistent with the dates listed above.

**Instructional 2025-2026**  
**Salary Referendum**  
**Supplement**

Teaching Years credit	24/25	25/26	\$ Difference w/ Progression
	days/hrs	days/hrs	
	<b>196/7.5</b>	<b>196/7.5</b>	
0	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$500
1	\$2,750	\$3,100	\$600
2	\$3,350	\$3,450	\$700
3	\$3,525	\$4,050	\$700
4	\$3,700	\$4,275	\$750
5	\$3,875	\$4,450	\$750
6	\$4,050	\$4,625	\$750
7	\$4,225	\$4,800	\$750
8	\$4,400	\$5,225	\$1,000
9	\$4,575	\$5,400	\$1,000
10	\$4,750	\$5,575	\$1,000
11	\$4,925	\$5,750	\$1,000
12	\$5,100	\$5,925	\$1,000
13	\$5,275	\$6,100	\$1,000
14	\$5,450	\$6,275	\$1,000
15	\$5,625	\$6,700	\$1,250
16	\$5,800	\$6,875	\$1,250
17	\$5,975	\$7,050	\$1,250
18	\$6,150	\$7,475	\$1,500
19	\$6,325	\$7,650	\$1,500
20	\$6,500	\$7,825	\$1,500
21	\$6,675	\$8,000	\$1,500
22	\$6,850	\$8,175	\$1,500
23	\$7,025	\$8,350	\$1,500
24	\$7,200	\$8,775	\$1,750
25	\$7,375	\$8,950	\$1,750
26	\$7,550	\$9,125	\$1,750
27	\$7,725	\$9,300	\$1,750
28	\$7,900	\$9,475	\$1,750
29	\$8,075	\$9,650	\$1,750

Critical Shortage RSS Amounts	
Teacher of ASD	\$2,000
Teacher of IND	\$2,000
Teacher of EBD	\$2,000
Teacher of DHH	\$2,000
Teacher of Vision Impaired	\$2,000
Speech Language Pathologist	\$2,000

30	\$8,250	\$9,825	\$1,750
31	\$8,250	\$10,000	\$1,750
32	\$8,250	\$10,000	\$1,750
33	\$8,250	\$10,000	\$1,750
34	\$8,250	\$10,000	\$1,750
35	\$8,250	\$10,000	\$1,750
36	\$8,250	\$10,000	\$1,750
37	\$8,250	\$10,000	\$1,750
38	\$8,250	\$10,000	\$1,750
39	\$8,250	\$10,000	\$1,750
40	\$8,250	\$10,000	\$1,750
41	\$8,250	\$10,000	\$1,750
42	\$8,250	\$10,000	\$1,750
43	\$8,250	\$10,000	\$1,750
44	\$8,250	\$10,000	\$1,750
45	\$8,250	\$10,000	\$1,750
46	\$8,250	\$10,000	\$1,750
47	\$8,250	\$10,000	\$1,750

**Memorandum of Understanding  
Marchman Technical College**

**Workday and Work Hours**

In order to provide additional support for the technical instruction program at Wendell Krinn Technical High School, members of the Marchman Technical College (MTC) instructional staff will be assigned to work an eight-hour day and may also be asked to teach seven-out-of-seven periods. The programs, and, in turn, the instructional staff members at MTC assigned to teach this additional period of instruction, are subject to change from year-to-year based on student enrollment in the technical programs at MTC. The remaining aspects of the workday will be in accordance with *Article VII Section L - School Day (2) and (3)*.

**Additional Compensation**

All instructional staff members will receive an additional thirty minutes of pay at their regular hourly rate. Staff designated to provide the seventh period of instruction shall also receive an additional .2 compensation at the effective negotiated rate for the seventh period of instruction, above and beyond the .2 currently paid for teachers who are already teaching six-out-of-six periods.

This MOU expires at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

**Memorandum of Understanding  
Pasco's Virtual Instructional Program**

The 2023 Florida Statute 1002.45 states each school district shall provide at least one option for part-time and full-time virtual instruction for students residing within the school district. A school district virtual instruction program shall consist of the following: A) Full-time and part-time virtual instruction for students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12. B) Full-time or part-time virtual instruction for students enrolled in dropout prevention and academic intervention programs under s. 1003.53, Department of Juvenile Justice education programs under s. 1003.52, core-curricula courses to meet class size requirements under s. 1003.03, or Florida College System institutions under this section. To provide students residing within the school district the option of participating in virtual instruction programs as required by paragraph (b), a school district may: 1. Contract with the Florida Virtual School or establish a franchise of the Florida Virtual School pursuant to s. 1002.37(2) for the provision of a program under paragraph (b). 2 Contract with an approved virtual instruction program provider under subsection (2) for the provision of a full-time or part-time program under paragraph (b). 3. Enter into an agreement with other school districts to allow the participation of its students in an approved virtual instruction program provided by the other school district.

**Adjunct Positions:**

1. Teachers will be paid \$4250 per semester to provide virtual instruction for students in accordance with the contractual obligations set forth in agreements with vendor partners, Florida statute, and Board policy. For adjunct staff members who serve as the teacher of record for a course, the total student load shall not exceed 45 active enrollments, and not more than two course preparations. After being selected as a virtual school teacher, but prior to being assigned his/her first virtual instruction course, each teacher must complete training on providing virtual instruction through the professional learning program established by Pasco eSchool and/or its partners. The District will provide the after-hour staff development rate for scheduled live training sessions that are scheduled outside of work hours.
2. Teachers will be required to have a publishable telephone number and a computer with high-speed internet access. School facilities and equipment may be utilized to the extent that they are normally available and so long as a teacher's regular work responsibilities are not disrupted.
3. Teachers will be expected to establish weekly "office hours" during which students and parents will be able to communicate with the teacher via telephone. In general, at least five (5) hours of "office hours" should be scheduled each week of instruction. These hours will be set at the teacher's discretion in keeping with the rules and procedures established in the staff handbook. Additional student and parent contact may be required beyond the teacher's established "office hours" and can be conducted in the time, place, and manner agreed upon by the teacher and the student or parent.
4. In general teachers will be expected to return student and parent communication within twenty-four (24) hours of the contact being initiated.
5. Teachers will be expected to comply with the rules and procedures established in the staff handbook.
6. Initial enrollment and registration of students will not be the teacher's responsibility.
7. The Board and the Union will meet periodically to discuss the implementation of this virtual instruction program.

**Part-Time Positions:**

1. Teachers will be paid \$8500 per semester to provide virtual instruction for students in accordance with the contractual obligations set forth in agreements with vendor partners, Florida statute, and Board policy. For part time staff members who serve as the teacher of record for a course, the total student load shall not exceed 90 active enrollments, and not more than four course preparations. After being selected as a virtual school teacher, but prior to being assigned his/her first virtual instruction course, each teacher must complete training on providing virtual instruction through the professional learning program established by Pasco eSchool and/or its partners. The District will provide the after-hour staff

development rate for scheduled live training sessions that are scheduled outside of work hours.

2. Teachers will be required to have a publishable telephone number and a computer with high-speed internet access. School facilities and equipment may be utilized to the extent that they are normally available during school hours.
3. Teachers will be expected to establish weekly "office hours" during which students and parents will be able to communicate with the teacher via telephone. In general, at least twelve (12) hours of "office hours" should be scheduled each week of instruction. These hours will be set at the teacher's discretion in keeping with the rules and procedures established in the staff handbook. Additional student and parent contact maybe required beyond the teacher's established "office hours" and can be conducted in the time, place, and manner agreed upon by the teacher and the student or parent.
4. In general, teachers will be expected to return student and parent communication within twenty-four (24) hours of the contact being initiated.
5. Teachers will be expected to comply with the rules and procedures established in the staff handbook.
6. Initial enrollment and registration of students will not be the teacher's responsibility.
7. The Board and the Union will meet periodically to discuss the implementation of this virtual instruction program.

**Full-Time Positions:**

1. Teachers will be paid a base salary as established by the Instructional Salary range. Teachers will also be eligible for additional Performance Pay in accordance with the Performance Pay provisions to be agreed upon by the District and Union.
2. School Counselors assigned to Pasco eSchool will be paid a base salary as established by the Instructional Salary range. School Counselors will also be eligible for additional Performance Pay in accordance with the Performance Pay provisions to be agreed upon by the District and Union.
3. When filling full-time positions for the 2025-2026 school year, preference will first be given to teachers with previous successful virtual instruction experience. For Classroom on Demand positions, school/teaching assignments will be determined by unfilled teaching vacancies at physical schools in the District. Every effort will be made to identify the school/course assignments by pre-planning week for semester one, and during the last week before winter break for semester two. For other virtual instruction positions, school/teaching assignments will be determined by the needs of the SOS, credit recovery, and/or SBP at physical schools in the District and are based on student needs and teacher certification requirements.
4. After being selected as a virtual instruction teacher, but prior to being assigned his/her first virtual instruction course, each teacher must complete training on providing virtual instruction through the professional learning program established by Pasco eSchool and/or its partners. The District will provide the after-hour staff development rate for training sessions that are scheduled outside of work hours.
5. Teachers will be provided with a laptop computer, as well as an option to use workspace at the Pasco eSchool office with internet access, and district telephone number with voicemail capabilities. The teachers will be provided with up to two sets of printer cartridges, ordered through the Pasco eSchool office, when the teacher provides the printer make and model information to the bookkeeper.
6. Teachers will be expected to report to their workspace location up to three (3) times per month to attend faculty meetings, provide on-site visits to virtual learning labs at local schools, and address any other program needs that require the teacher's physical presence. Classroom on Demand teachers and other virtual instruction teachers will be expected to report to their workspace weekly to provide on-site visits to their blended learning classes at local schools, and address any other program needs that require the teacher's physical presence. Teachers will be provided at least a two-week notice of mandatory on-site meetings. To assist teachers with managing heavier workloads during peak grading windows, on-site meetings will not be scheduled in weeks following calendar breaks of more than three school days or during the last week of the semester with the exclusion of post-planning days at the conclusion of the academic schoolyear and emergency meetings such as topics relating to school safety, crisis situations, or issues that substantially impact the operation of the virtual school.
7. Teachers will be expected to participate in online professional development sessions on a monthly basis,

- in accordance with the schedule published by Pasco eSchool and its vendor partners.
8. Given the unique teaching and learning environment of Pasco eSchool, teachers will be afforded the opportunity to attend a professional development conference, such as the Florida District Virtual Instructional Program Network, Distance Learning Annual Conference (DLAC), Florida Virtual School Staff Conference (FLVS), Florida Distance Learning Associations (FDLA), Florida Education Technology Conference (FETC), International Association of Colleges and Online Schools (INACOL), and/or the United States District Learning Association (USDLA) conference. Expenses associated with such conferences will be covered/reimbursed according to district guidelines.
  9. Teachers will be expected to assist in the review and evaluation of eSchool curriculum. Participation in the development of eSchool curriculum shall be optional.
  10. Teachers and School Counselors will be expected to report to their designated location to assist with the administration of required state and district assessments.
  11. In addition to their counseling responsibilities, School Counselors may be expected to teach one virtual instruction course during the 2025-2026 school year.
  12. Teachers will be expected to establish weekly "office hours" during which students and parents will be able to communicate with the teacher via telephone. In general, at least eighteen (18) hours of "office hours" should be scheduled, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., each week of instruction. These hours will be set at the teacher's discretion in keeping with the rules and procedures established in the staff handbook. Additional student and parent contact may be required beyond the teachers established "office hours" and can be conducted in the time, place and manner agreed upon by the teacher and the student or parent.
  13. In general, teachers will be expected to return student and parent communication within twenty-four (24) hours of the contact being initiated.
  14. Teachers will be expected to comply with the rules and procedures established in the staff handbook.
  15. By April 1<sup>st</sup> of each of a teacher's first two (2) years as a Pasco eSchool teacher, he or she may elect to return to an instructional position at a traditional school. The Board shall assist such teacher(s) in securing a position for which he/she is qualified for in the judgment of the Superintendent. Pasco eSchool teachers may also be returned to an instructional position at a traditional school at the discretion of the Superintendent in accordance with Article VII, Section F-3.
  16. Initial enrollment and registration of students will not be the teacher's responsibility.
  17. The Board and the Union will establish guidelines for the active student load that a full-time teacher will carry depending on the course taught. When the student load exceeds the thresholds delineated in Chart #1, the full-time teacher will receive compensation for the higher number of students until additional teacher support can be arranged. Such compensation shall be paid according to Chart #2 below and will be paid as a supplement at the end of each semester. Should the full-time teacher indicate a willingness to carry a higher load for the duration of the semester, the teacher will continue to receive additional compensation. When a teacher is assigned both Basic and Premium courses, the course load range will be determined by the course category in which the majority of students are enrolled.
  18. Overages will be calculated weekly by the number of active students listed per course as defined per the appropriate platform. The calculation of active students for OJT (On the Job Training) will be based on one (1) period of enrollment. The number of linked enrollments in OJT placeholders will not be factored into the overall student load for purposes of compensation. Overages will be calculated based on the Pasco County School calendar's days of instruction (not to include teacher planning days).
  19. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, in order to remain employed by Pasco County Schools, all Pasco eSchool teachers must maintain a residence in the state of Florida to be in compliance with federal tax withholding requirements. Any existing employee not maintaining a Florida residence must have an official Florida residence by December 31, 2024, or employment will end.

**Chart #1: Student Loads for Full Time Instructors**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Base</u>	<u>Adjunct or Additional Compensation for ToR</u>	<u>Additional Part Time Staff to Support</u>
6-12 Basic Course	151-175	176-200	201+
Premium Course*	180-210	211-240	241+
K-5 (Core)	27		
K-5 Non-Core	250		
Secondary Lead Teacher	100		
Elementary Lead Teacher (core)	20* number may increase during transition times		
Elementary Lead Teacher (non-core)	150* number may increase during transition times		

**Chart #2: Additional Compensation for Student Loads Above Thresholds (elementary)**

<b>Elementary</b>	
Active Student Load	Weekly Compensation
1-3	\$25
4-7	\$50
8-12	\$75

Compensation for additional students beyond 12 shall be pro-rated based on Chart #2 above.

**Chart #3: Additional Compensation for Student Loads Above Thresholds (secondary)**

<b>Secondary</b>	
Active Student Load	Weekly Compensation
5-15 additional students	\$79
16-30 additional students	\$157
31-45 additional students	\$236

Compensation for additional students beyond 45 shall be pro-rated based on Chart #3 above.

\*Premium Course refers to courses, for which the district pays an additional licensing fee beyond the \$50 per semester enrollment rate. These courses will be designated as such on the Master Schedule provided to teachers and will be updated as those updates are made.

20. Teachers will not be assigned more than five (5) course preparations per regular semester and five (5) per summer semester, unless agreed to prior to the beginning of the semester. Teachers may apply for Lead teacher assignments. Administration will select grading, or call support based on teacher request. Additional duties may be assigned as determined by administration with input from the Instructional Trainer Coach and Lead teachers.

21. The Board and the Union will meet periodically to discuss the implementation of the virtual instruction program.
22. There is no intent to limit, modify or diminish any rights or privileges conferred by the Instructional Master Contract except as expressly stated herein.
23. Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students shall receive services from ESE teachers. The District shall monitor and balance ESE caseloads at the close of each enrollment period and as needed.

**245 Day Contract Employees:**

Beginning July 1, 2020, the District began offering 245-day contracts for some of its virtual instructional programs. Issuance of these contracts will be based on student/program needs as determined by the District. Initial assignment in these positions shall be voluntary and teachers hired for year-round positions-will comply with #'s 1-20 above. In addition, the following terms and conditions shall be applicable for these positions.

1. The salaries of the 245-day contract employee shall be determined by adding the additional days paid at the employee's daily rate to the employee's current yearly salary.
2. Teachers hired in these positions shall earn additional sick days in the same manner as all other 245 District employees.
3. Upon initial placement in this position, the employee shall earn Vacation Leave at the following rate:

<b>Proportion of Days of Leave Earned</b>	
<b>Continuous Service</b>	<b>During Pay Period (Biweekly)</b>
Up through five (5) years	.5
Six (6) through ten (10) years	.625
Over ten (10) yearn	.75

- a. Continuous service shall be construed as employment with one (1) or more Florida state agencies without a break in service.
- b. Authorized leaves of absence shall be considered continuous service.
- c. A teacher shall not earn vacation time while on an approved leave without pay nor shall the time on such leave be credited toward years of experience.
- d. A Florida state agency employee who terminates employment at any time other than the end of his/her work year will be considered as having a break in service unless employed by another Florida state agency within ten (10) days.
  - i. Consecutive employment in less than twelve (12) month positions will constitute continuous service.
  - ii. A teacher who terminates employment will receive a final payment of accrued Vacation Leave based on hourly rate on the date of termination.
  - iii. A teacher who transfers from a vacation-earning position to a non-vacation-earning position must use accrued vacation time within the work year if the transfer is effective at the beginning of a work year or by the end of the next work year if the transfer is effective during a work year. If vacation time is not taken within these time limits, it will be forfeited.
  - iv. Teachers shall be permitted to carry forward beyond July 31st of each year, sixty (60) days of accrued Vacation Leave.
  - v. As per Florida Statute 1012.65, terminal pay for accrued vacation leave may not exceed a maximum of sixty (60) days.
    - i. Employees who retire under the Florida Retirement System (FRS) with full or reduced benefits as provided by law and who receive a lump-sum payment of accrued vacation leave earned in accordance with Article VIII, Section D-4 and who meet the participation requirements provided in Article X, Section G,l, of this Agreement, shall have said lump-sum payment of accrued

vacation leave paid into a Board-approved 401 (a) Qualified Retirement Plan subject to annual contribution limits and subject to the same fund withdrawal penalty reimbursement as provided in Article X, Section G,1, of the Agreement.

- ii. A teacher will not be approved to take more than one week of consecutive days of vacation while assigned to students, and no more than two weeks in a semester fall/spring/summer).
4. Job-sharing shall not be available for these positions.
5. Employees in these positions may elect to use vacation days before taking unpaid Sick Leave and may transfer Sick Leave to family members under the same conditions as all other 245 District employees.
6. Judicial leave shall not be deducted from accrued vacation leave.
7. The end of cycle evaluation for a teacher on a 245-day contract will be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup> as all other 245 District employees.

### **Additional Duty Days – Summer Program**

#### **Full-Time Employment (excluding 245-contract employees):**

1. Teachers, including School Counselors, will be paid their regular hourly rate of pay for thirty-seven and a half (37.5) hours per week for additional duty days beyond the 196-day contract. Full-time teachers who work the summer program will earn one (1) additional day of sick leave for each month worked of the summer program.
2. Current Pasco eSchool teachers will have the right of first refusal to work additional duty days. Hiring decisions will be based on the certification requirements, student enrollment, and the needs of the virtual instruction program.
3. After being selected as a virtual school teacher, but prior to being assigned his/her first virtual instruction course, each teacher must complete training on providing virtual instruction through the contracted vendors through the professional development program established by Pasco eSchool and/or its partners. Teachers will be able to complete the online training pre-requisite at their convenience. The District will provide the after-hour staff development rate for the scheduled live training sessions that are scheduled outside of work hours.
4. For the duration of the summer term, full time teachers will carry 120 students. A student load in excess of 120 active students will result in additional compensation according to Chart #2 referenced above and/or the hiring of additional teaching support to meet enrollment needs. Teachers will not be assigned more than five (5) course preparations unless agreed to prior to the beginning of the summer session.
5. When part-time or adjunct teachers are hired to meet enrollment needs, the full-time teacher will work with administration to determine the tasks that the part time or adjunct teachers will complete to support student needs.
6. Teachers will be provided with a laptop computer, as well as an option to use workspace at the Pasco eSchool office with internet access, and a district telephone number with voicemail capabilities. The teachers will be provided with up to one set of printer cartridges, ordered through the Pasco eSchool office, when the teacher provides the printer make and model information to the bookkeeper.
7. Teachers will be expected to report to their workspace location up to once per month to meet program needs that require the teacher's physical presence.
8. Teachers will be expected to participate in online professional development sessions on a monthly basis, in accordance with the schedule published by Pasco eSchool and its vendor partners.
9. Teachers will be expected to establish weekly "office hours" during which students and parents will be able to communicate with the teacher via telephone. In general, at least eighteen (18) hours of "office hours" should be scheduled, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., each week of instruction. These hours will be set at the teacher's discretion in keeping with the rules and procedures established in the staff handbook. Additional student and parent contact may be required beyond the teacher's established "office hours" and can be conducted in the time, place, and manner agreed upon by the teacher and the student or parent.

10. In general, teachers will be expected to return student and parent communication within twenty- four (24) hours of the contact being initiated.
11. Teachers will be expected to comply with the rules and procedures established in the staff handbook.
12. Initial enrollment and registration of students will not be the teacher's responsibility.
13. The Board and the Union will meet periodically to discuss the implementation of the virtual instruction program.
14. There is no intent to limit, modify or diminish any rights or privileges conferred by the Instructional Master Contract except as expressly stated herein.

**Part-Time Positions:**

1. Teachers, including School Counselors, will be paid their regular hourly rate of pay for four and three quarters (4.75) hours for each day of the 4-day work weeks in the summer session. Part-time teachers who work the summer program will earn .5 day of sick leave for each month worked of the summer program.
2. After being selected as a virtual school teacher, but prior to being assigned his/her first virtual instruction course, each teacher must complete training on providing virtual instruction through the contracted vendors through the professional development program established by Pasco eSchool and/or its partners. Teachers will be able to complete the online training pre-requisite at their convenience. The District will provide the after-hours staff development rate for the scheduled live training sessions that are scheduled outside of work hours.
3. For the duration of the summer term, part time teachers will carry 60 active students or may work as a team with a full-time teacher to meet enrollment needs.
4. Teachers will be required to have a publishable telephone number and a computer with high -speed internet access. School facilities and equipment may be utilized to the extent that they are normally available during school hours. The teachers will be provided with up to one set of printer cartridges, ordered through the Pasco eSchool office. when the teacher provides the printer make and model information to the bookkeeper.
5. Teachers will be expected to establish weekly "office hours" during which students and parents will be able to communicate with the teacher via telephone. In general, at least five (5) hours of "office hours" should be scheduled each week of instruction. These hours will be set at the teacher's discretion in keeping with the rules and procedures established in the staff handbook. Additional student and parent contact may be required beyond the teachers established "office hours" and can be conducted in the time, place, and manner agreed upon by the teacher and the student or parent.
6. In general, teachers will be expected to return student and parent communication within twenty-four (24) hours of the contact being initiated.
7. Teachers will be expected to comply with the rules and procedures established in the staff handbook.
8. Initial enrollment and registration of students will not be the teacher's responsibility.
9. The Board and the Union will meet periodically to discuss the implementation of this virtual instruction program.

**Summer Adjunct Positions:**

1. Teachers will be paid a \$2500 supplement for the summer session for ten hours per week.
2. After being selected as a virtual school teacher, but prior to being assigned his/her first virtual instruction course, each teacher must complete training on providing virtual instruction through the contracted vendors. Teachers will be able to complete the online training pre-requisite at their convenience. The District will provide the after-hour staff development rate for the two- day face-to-face training.
3. Teachers will be required to have a publishable telephone number and a computer with high -speed internet access. School facilities and equipment may be utilized to the extent that they are normally available during school hours. The teachers will be provided with up to one set of printer cartridges, ordered through the Pasco eSchool office, when the teacher provides the printer make and model information to the bookkeeper.
4. For the duration of the summer term, adjunct teachers will work as a team with a full-time teacher to meet enrollment needs. Adjunct teachers may grade student work, conduct live webinar sessions, discussion-based assessments and/or complete monthly contacts with parents and students.
5. In general, teachers will be expected to return student and parent communication within twenty-four (24) hours of the contact being initiated.
6. Teachers will be expected to comply with the rules and procedures established in the staff handbook.

7. Initial enrollment and registration of students will not be the teacher's responsibility.
8. The Board and the Union will meet periodically to discuss the implementation of this virtual instruction program.

**Memorandum of Understanding  
Technical High Schools**

Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, the District opened its first technical high school, Wendell Krinn Technical High School. Since then, the District has expanded its technical high school programs.

**Work Day and Work Hours**

Instructional staff at Wendell Krinn Technical High School and Kirkland Ranch Academy of Innovation will work an eight-hour day for the 2025-2026 school year. During the workday, some classroom teachers will teach six fifty-minute periods and receive one fifty-minute planning period.

**Additional Compensation**

Instructional staff at the technical high schools will receive an additional thirty minutes of pay at their regular hourly rate of pay. In addition, classroom teachers who teach a 6<sup>th</sup> period or more will receive an additional .2 compensation at the effective negotiated rate for each extra period of instruction that they provide.

This MOU expires at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

**Memorandum of Understanding  
Voluntary Pre – K (VPK) Program  
SUMMER 2025**

The District School Board of Pasco County and the United School Employees of Pasco mutually agree to the following provisions in order to implement the state-mandated Voluntary PreK (VPK) program for Summer 2025. This program will continue to require considerable flexibility to be successful. Therefore, the parties agree to the following:

- a. Assignment to this program is voluntary.
- b. The District's PreK Services will provide notices relative to the VPK program dates with an attachment to the VPK instructional application on or about April 22-28, 2025.
- c. Each employee who has an interest in working in the program will submit their application via the district hiring platform.
- d. Tentative job openings will be announced by the last student contact day.
- e. In accordance with Florida Statute 1002.61(4) and DOE directive, the District shall give priority to teachers who have experience or coursework in early childhood education.
  - Prior experience in the following is also desired:
    1. School District's Head Start/VPK program
    2. PreK VE Teacher
    3. Previous School District Summer VPK experience
    4. Kindergarten/Primary Teacher
    5. Previous Child Care Experience
    6. Elementary Teaching Experience
    7. VPK Inclusion Teacher
- f. Teachers must hold a valid Florida educator certificate under s.1012.56, F. S.
  - Certification in the following fields will be given priority:
    1. PreK/Primary (PreK- 3<sup>rd</sup>)
    2. Preschool Education (0-4)
    3. Primary Education (K-3<sup>rd</sup>) or Early Childhood
    4. Elementary
    5. Family and Consumer Science Education

6. Any other certified staff
- g. When it is judged that professional qualifications and ability are substantially equal among applicants for the program to be offered, district seniority shall prevail.
  - h. If the option to split a position is offered, but there is not another applicant who applies with whom to split the position, priority will be given to an applicant who applies to work full-time.

**Program dates:**

a. Full or Part-time Teachers:

- Teacher Calendar:  
June 4-July 29 with the following Fridays being closed, 6/13, 6/20, 6/27, 7/4, 7/11, 7/18, 7/25
- Planning /Training Day: June 4, 2025, 7.5 hrs./day

Staff would have the option to work full-time or split a position. The split position would not exceed 37.5 hours per week. The split will be determined by the worksite administrator (i.e.: 3 days/2 days; 2.5 days per week; half-day per teacher). Planning time will be split in the same manner as the work week.

Workday: Full Day Session: June 5-6, July 28-29 7:45 am - 4:45pm (9 hrs./day)  
June 9- July 24 7:15 am - 5:15 pm (10 hrs./day)

Total Days: 33 (Including planning day) Total Hours: 323.5 (including planning day)

b. Less Than Full-time

Teachers are eligible for employment in this program on a less than full-time basis as needed to provide coverage. The total days and total hours of such an assignment will be dictated by the need.

Total Days: Determined by need Total Hours: Determined by need

c. Student Calendar

June 5-July 29, 2025. (June 13, 20,27, July 4, 11, 18, 25 off)  
June 5-6, July 29-30 Student Day: 8:00-4:30 (8.5 hrs./day)  
June 9-July 24 Student Day 7:30-5:00 (9.5 hrs./day)

**Job Expectations:**

- a. Each teacher is assigned a maximum of 12 children.
- b. Every teacher is expected to participate during mealtime for meals to encourage self-help skills, language development, conversational skills, and good nutritional habits with the children as part of the instructional program.
- c. Every teacher is expected to participate in outdoor play activities with the children.
- d. Children may need toileting assistance, as there may be some children who do not independently use the toilet.
- e. There will be specific curriculum/lesson plans that must be followed.
- f. The teacher will be co-located in a classroom with another teacher, where possible.
- g. Instructional materials and supplies will be provided to all teachers during this program.
- h. Teachers will be trained to administer pre and post assessments.
- i. Teachers will administer the VPK FAST Progress Monitoring System within the timelines as required.
- j. If required by the State, an environmental observational tool will be completed through onsite teacher observation of the learning environment and teacher/child interactions.
- k. The VPK Monitoring Tool will be administered.
- l. In order to continue to maintain compliance with State requirements, teachers must take any required VPK trainings prior to teaching VPK in the summer.
- m. Teachers must adhere to all VPK requirements for standards, curriculum, assessment and any other program requirements according to the State and District.

**Potential Reductions in Force (RIF):**

Since this program is funded separately from other District programs and student attendance is the sole factor in determining funding, there may be a need to reduce staff at a specific worksite in order to be cost effective. The following provisions will guide the reduction of instructional staff:

- a. In compliance with State ratios, when funding does not sustain the cost of staffing, enrollment reduction of staff may occur. Reductions in staff will be conducted by site and led by the site administrator in coordination with the Early Childhood Programs Department.
- b. For purposes of this procedure and in accordance with State statutes and DOE directives, should the need to reduce staff arise at any of the respective sites, the aforementioned certification areas will be the first factor considered.
- c. If funding or enrollment does not support the necessity to maintain staff, the District can consider changing a teacher allocation(s) to an instructional assistant allocation(s).

**Sick Leave Accrual:**

Employees will earn up to one (1) day of sick leave for working the program. The time earned will equal the length of the teacher's scheduled day. Teachers who work a half-day or who work a split schedule totaling 20 or more days will earn .5 days of sick leave. Teachers shall only have a right to use the sick leave earned during this program and not use days from their normal sick leave balance. Should a teacher complete this program and have the earned sick day remaining, that time shall be added to the teacher's regular sick leave balance for use during the regular school year.

**Instructional Assistants:**

Up to one (1) instructional assistant per class may be allocated if an odd number of classes are located at the site with approval from the Director of Early Childhood Programs.

**Pay Rate:**

- Teachers will be paid their hourly rate up to \$36.06.
- An instructional assistant will receive his/her hourly rate of pay.
- Substitutes in this program will be paid their hourly rate up to \$36.06 and are subject to the same qualification requirements as the full-time teachers.

**Program Evaluation**

The District and Union agree to meet at the conclusion of the Summer 2025 VPK program and evaluate the components of the program, its implementation and discuss any potential modifications to future years' program, should they exist.

**APPENDIX A  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DUES AUTHORIZATION CARD**

**UNITED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES OF PASCO**

WORKSITE		JOB TITLE		PRINT NAME (LAST FIRST)		SOCIAL SECURITY NO.	
ADDRESS			CITY		ZIP CODE	HOME PHONE	E-MAIL ADDRESS

**USEP CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**PAYROLL DEDUCTION**  
I authorize the District School Board of Pasco County to deduct membership dues from my paycheck to be remitted to the United School Employees of Pasco. I understand that I may terminate these deductions at any time by submitting thirty (30) days written notice to the School Board and USEP.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**CASH PAY**

**For USEP Use Only**

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date sent to District for processing: \_\_\_\_\_

Effective Date of Membership \_\_\_\_\_

**Recruiting Member (please print)**

**IRS TAX DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENT**  
Dues paid to United School Employees of Pasco may not be deductible for federal income purposes; however, under limited circumstances, dues may qualify as a business expense.

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

**TO ALL PERSONS ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE BARGAINING UNITS REPRESENTED BY THE UNITED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES OF PASCO (USEP).**

As required by law, USEP represents all members of the Instructional and School Related Personnel (SRP) units at the bargaining table. Only dues-paying members of the USEP, however, are eligible for all other services provided by the Union, including processing of grievances and legal counsel in the event of duty-related difficulties. Should a member obtain outside representation and/or legal counsel, USEP will cease to provide representation. In addition, the costs of such outside representation and/or counsel will be borne solely by the member.

To be represented free of charge, the individual seeking assistance must have been a dues-paying member in good standing for a minimum of thirty (30) calendar days prior to the date upon which the problem occurred.

However, bargaining unit members who are new to the Pasco County school system and who have not previously been eligible for USEP membership will be entitled to receive the immediate benefit of the services described above if they join USEP during the first fifteen (15) working days of their employment. Any incident occurring after this fifteen (15) working day period will be subject to the thirty (30) calendar day restriction mentioned above.

On occasion, USEP may elect to represent non-dues paying individuals. Such individuals may be required to pay annual membership dues and a professional service fee that will be based upon the complexity of the case.

*Revised and adopted by USEP Representative Council August, 1995*

**END OF APPENDIX A**



**APPENDIX C  
CONTRACT WAIVER PRE-APPROVAL REQUEST FORM**

Directions:

To request a waiver, the principal of the school must complete the information on this form and forward the form to the Director of the Department of Employee Relations and the President of the United School Employees of Pasco.

Upon review by the Director and President, a copy of the form verifying pre-approval or disapproval will be returned to the school principal.

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF SUBMITTAL \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL YEAR FOR REQUEST OF WAIVER \_\_\_\_\_ PRINCIPAL \_\_\_\_\_

A waiver is being requested for: Article \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ Subsection \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACH STATEMENTS OF THE FOLLOWING:**

1. How the proposed waiver will impact provisions of the current contract.
2. How this waiver relates directly to the improvement of an educational program, instructional strategy, organizational pattern or learning-related opportunity for students.
3. A description of how the school instructional staff will have input into the development of the proposal.
4. How and when the program will be evaluated.
5. How and when the staff will be requested to vote on the instructional waiver request.
6. What if any alternatives have been explored besides this program.
7. Identify the teachers by category that will be affected by this proposal.

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PRE-APPROVAL REQUEST IS:

\_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED  
\_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS (see attached statement)  
\_\_\_\_\_ NOT APPROVED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Director of Employee Relations

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of President of USEP

**APPENDIX D  
CONTRACT WAIVER FINAL APPROVAL REQUEST FORM**

Directions:

To request a final approval for a contract waiver request, the principal of the school must submit this form with all applicable information to the Director of the Department of Employee Relations and the President of the United School Employees of Pasco.

Upon review by the Director and President a copy of the form verifying final approval or disapproval will be returned to the school Principal.

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF SUBMITTAL \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL YEAR FOR REQUEST OF WAIVER \_\_\_\_\_ PRINCIPAL \_\_\_\_\_

A waiver is being requested for: Article \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ Subsection \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACH STATEMENTS OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- How the proposed waiver will impact provisions of the current contract.
- How this waiver relates directly to the improvement of an educational program, instructional strategy, organizational pattern or learning-related opportunity for students.
- A description of how the school instructional staff had input into the development of the proposal.
- How and when the program will be evaluated.
- How and when the teachers voted on the instructional waiver request.
- Identify the teachers by category that will be affected by this proposal.

**VOTE VERIFICATION:** Must be submitted prior to May 1.

Total Teachers in the Bargaining Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Voting: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes Percentage \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Voting: \_\_\_\_\_ No Percentage \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Vote: \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Signatures below verify that voting was conducted according to the Instructional Master Contract and the results contained above are accurate.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Principal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of USEP President or Designee

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FINAL APPROVAL REQUEST IS:

\_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED  
 \_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS (see attached statement)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ NOT APPROVEDs

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Director of Employee Relations

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of President of USEP