

Employment: Disclosures, Certification Requirements, Assurances and Approval

The board has the legal responsibility of employing all staff. The responsibility of administering the recruitment process is assigned to the superintendent. Prior to final action by the board, a prospective staff member will present necessary documents which establish eligibility to work as required by federal immigration law. The superintendent will certify that he/she has: “examined the documents which were presented to me by the new hire, that the documents appear to be genuine, that they appear to relate to the individual named, and that the individual is a U.S. citizen, a legal permanent resident, or a non-immigrant alien with authorization to work.” This certification will be made on the I-9 form issued by the Federal Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The district will report all new hires to the state Department of Social and Health Services Division of Child Support as required by P.L. 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

The district will require that every prospective staff member sign a release form allowing the district to contact school employers regarding prior acts of sexual misconduct. The applicant will authorize current and past school district employers including employers outside of Washington to disclose to the district sexual misconduct, if any, and make available to the district all documents in the employer’s personnel, investigative or other files related to the sexual misconduct. The applicant is not prohibited from employment in Washington state if the laws or policies of another state prohibit disclosure of this information or if the out-of-state district denies the request.

Disclosure of Crime

Prior to employment of any unsupervised staff member or volunteer, the district will require the applicant to disclose whether he/she has been:

- A. Convicted of any crime against persons;
- B. Found in any dependency action under RCW 13.34 to have sexually assaulted or exploited any minor or to have physically abused any minor;
- C. Found by a court in a domestic relations proceeding under Title 26 RCW to have sexually abused or exploited any minor or to have physically abused any minor;
- D. Found in any disciplinary board final decision to have sexually abused or exploited any minor or to have physically abused any minor: or
- E. Convicted of a crime related to drugs: manufacture, delivery, or possession with intent to manufacture or deliver a controlled substance.

For purposes of this policy, unsupervised means not in the presence of another employee or volunteer and working with children under sixteen years of age or developmentally disabled persons. The disclosure will be made in writing and signed by the applicant and sworn to under penalty of perjury. The disclosure sheet will specify all crimes committed against persons.

Background Check

Prospective unsupervised staff members will have their records checked through the Washington State Patrol criminal identification system and through the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The record check will include a fingerprint check using a complete Washington state criminal identification fingerprint card.

Unsupervised volunteers and employees without unsupervised access to children will also be advised that they will be subjected to a name and birth date background check with the Washington State Patrol.

Applicants may be employed on a conditional basis pending the outcome of the background check and may begin conditional employment once completed fingerprint cards have been sent to the Washington State Patrol. If the background check reveals evidence of convictions, the candidate will not be recommended for employment, or if temporarily employed, will be terminated. When such a background check is received, the superintendent is directed to consult with legal counsel.

If a volunteer has undergone a criminal record check in the last year for another entity, the district will request a copy from the volunteer, or have the volunteer sign a release permitting the entity for whom the check was conducted to provide a copy to the district.

Record Check Database Access Designee

The superintendent is directed to establish procedures for determining which staff members are authorized to access the Superintendent of Public Instruction's record check database. Fingerprint record information is highly confidential and will not be re-disseminated to any organization or individual by district staff. Records of arrest and prosecution (RAP sheets) will be stored in a secure location separate from personnel and applicant files and access to this information is limited to those authorized to access the SPI record check database.

Certification Requirements

The district will require that certificated staff hold a Washington state certificate, with proper endorsement (if required for that certificate and unless eligible for out-of-endorsement assignment), for the role and responsibilities for which they are employed. Failure to meet this requirement will be just cause for termination of employment. State law requires that the initial application for certification will require a background check of the applicant through the Washington State Patrol criminal identification system and Federal Bureau of Investigation. No salary warrants may be issued to the staff member until the district has registered a valid certificate for the role to which he/she has been assigned.

In addition, any teacher who meets standard or continuing certification after August 30, 1987, must complete 150 hours of continuing education study every five years. Failure to satisfy this requirement will cause the certificate to lapse. If a certificated staff member with a lapsed certificate is issued a transitional certificate pursuant to WAC 181-79A-231 (7), he or she may be conditionally employed for up to two years while he or she meets the certificate reinstatement requirements.

Classified Staff

Classified staff who are engaged to serve less than twelve (12) months, will be advised of their employment status for the ensuing school year prior to the close of the school year. The superintendent will give "reasonable assurance" by written notice that the staff member will be employed during the next school year.

Board Approval

All staff members selected for employment will be recommended by the superintendent. Staff members must receive an affirmative vote from a majority of all members of the board. In the event an authorized position must be filled before the board can take action, the superintendent has the authority to fill the position with a temporary employee who will receive the same salary

and benefits as a permanent staff member. The board will act on the superintendent's recommendation to fill the vacancy at its next regular meeting.

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| Cross References: | Board Policy 1610 | Conflicts of Interest (1st Class) and (2nd Class) |
| | Board Policy 5006 | Certification Revocation |
| | Board Policy 5251 | Conflicts of Interest |
| | Board Policy 5281 | Disciplinary Action and Discharge |
| | Board Policy 5520 | Staff Development |
| | Board Policy 5610 | Substitute Employment |
| | Board Policy 6530 | Insurance |
| Legal References: | RCW 9.96A.020 | Employment, occupational licensing by public entity — Prior felony conviction no disqualification — Exceptions |
| | RCW 28A.320.155 | Criminal history record information — School volunteers |
| | RCW 28A.400.300 | Hiring and discharging of employees — Written leave policies — Seniority and leave benefits of employees transferring between school districts and other educational employers |
| | RCW 28A.400.303 | Record checks for employees |
| | RCW 28A.405.060 | Course of study and regulations — enforcement — Withholding salary warrant for failure |
| | RCW 28A.405.210 | Conditions and contracts of employment — Determination of probable cause for nonrenewal of contracts — Nonrenewal due to enrollment decline or revenue loss — Notice — Opportunity for hearing |
| | RCW 28A.410.010 | Certification — Duty of Professional Educator Standards Board — Rules — Record check — Lapsed certificates — Superintendent of public instruction as administrator |
| | RCW 43.43.830 | Background checks — Access to children or vulnerable persons — Definitions |
| | RCW 50.44.050 | Benefits payable, terms and conditions — "Academic year" defined |
| | RCW 50.44.053 | "Reasonable assurance" defined — Presumption, employees of educational institutions |
| | P.L. 99-603 | Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA) |
| | P.L. 104-193 | Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 |
| | WAC 162-12 | Preemployment Inquiry Guide (Human Rights Commission) |
| | WAC 180-16-220 | Supplemental basic education program approval requirements |
| | WAC 181-79A | Standards for teacher, administrator and educational staff associate certification |

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| WAC 181-82-105 | Assignment of classroom teachers within districts |
| WAC 181-82-110 | Exceptions to classroom teacher assignment policy |
| WAC 181-85 | Professional certification — Continuing education requirement |
| WAC 392-300-050 | Access to record check data base |
| WAC 392-300-055 | Prohibition of redissemination of fingerprint record information by education service districts, the State School for the Deaf, the State School for the Blind, school districts, and Bureau of Indian Affairs funded schools |
| WAC 392-300-060 | Protection of fingerprint record information by education service district, the State School for the Deaf, the State School for the Blind, school districts, and Bureau of Indian Affairs funded schools |
| WAC 446-20-280 | Employment — Conviction Records |

Management Resources:

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| <i>Policy News</i> , October 2010 | Employment Disclosures |
| <i>Policy News</i> , October 2005 | Public Disclosure |
| <i>Policy News</i> , October 2005 | Sex Offender Reporting Requirements |
| <i>Policy News</i> , April 2004 | School Employee Sexual Misconduct |
| <i>Policy News</i> , October 2001 | Updates from the State Board of Education |
| <i>Policy News</i> , June 1999 | School Safety Bills Impact Policy |
| <i>Policy News</i> , February 1999 | Local Boards Decide Endorsement Waivers |
| <i>Policy News</i> , August 1998 | District Must Report New Hires |