

## **PROFESSIONAL STAFF COMPENSATION**

The Strafford R-VI School District needs highly qualified employees to accomplish its education mission and must offer competitive compensation to attract and maintain experienced professional staff in the district. The Board directs the superintendent or designee to annually research regional and statewide trends in employee compensation and consult with district employees to prepare competitive salary schedules and salary recommendations for the Board to consider within the constraints of the district's finances. Only the Board has the authority to increase an employee's regular compensation or grant employees an extra-duty position or stipend.

As required by law, teachers will be paid in accordance with a Board-adopted salary schedule. All full-time teachers will be paid at least the minimum teacher's salary as required in state law. Noncertificated professional staff and certificated staff members other than teachers will be compensated in accordance with a Board-approved salary schedule or will receive the amount of compensation approved by the Board for particular positions or particular employees.

### **All Professional Staff Salary Schedules**

The Board is required to adopt salary schedules for the compensation of teachers and may use a salary schedule to compensate administrative and noncertificated professional staff. When creating a salary schedule, the Board may recognize characteristics beneficial to the district, such as certification in high-need areas, in addition to traditional factors, such as experience and education.

The following rules apply to all district professional staff salary schedules unless determined otherwise by the Board:

1. The Board will make every effort to adopt salary schedules prior to the statutory deadline for issuing teacher and administrator contracts, but salary schedules and other compensation must be determined along with the district budget no later than June 30. Any Board-adopted salary schedule will remain in effect and continue to operate until the Board takes action to change or eliminate the salary schedule.
2. The Board may freeze the operation of the salary schedule when warranted by the financial condition of the district or for other relevant reasons, as determined by the Board. Once a salary schedule is frozen, employees will not advance on the salary schedule until the Board votes to authorize movement on the salary schedule. If the salary schedule is frozen for more than one year before the Board authorizes movement, employees will advance to the next step for which they were eligible at the time the schedule was frozen unless the Board determines that it is financially feasible to allow employees to move through all steps missed while the schedule was frozen.

Alternatively, the Board may adopt a new salary schedule that accurately reflects the salary associated with the appropriate years of service.

3. An employee may not advance more than one step vertically and one column horizontally per year on the salary schedule unless such movement is allowed by the Board-adopted rules and is uniformly applicable to that particular salary schedule or is otherwise approved by the Board.
4. An employee cannot progress on the salary schedule after entering into a contract for a school year unless such movement is specifically authorized in the contract.
5. Education courses and other professional development may not be used to advance on a salary schedule unless the employee had prior administrative approval to take the course or participate in the professional development and count it for advancement on the salary schedule.
6. The district may recognize an employee's previous experience when placing that employee on the salary schedule. The Board delegates to the superintendent or designee the authority to set guidelines on which previous experiences qualify. In addition, the district may recognize military service or work experience that the district considers beneficial to the position. Employees are responsible for fully apprising the district of their relevant background experiences when first employed in the position. Once the employee is initially placed on the salary schedule, the district is under no obligation to review the placement.

### ***Teacher Salary Schedules***

In accordance with law, participation in a certified teacher externship program will qualify for movement on the salary schedule to the same extent and in the same manner as other graduate-level course credit.

### **Compensation for Extra Duties**

Additional duties, such as supervising activities, may be assigned to professional staff without additional compensation. In some situations and with Board approval, the district may provide an employee with extra-duty compensation or a stipend to compensate the employee for performing additional duties. In those situations, the Board will determine the amount of compensation, which may be set by adopting an extra-duty salary schedule or approving a specific amount for the position.

## **Employee Responsibility**

Employees are responsible for verifying that their salary schedule placement, compensation rate and paychecks are accurate. Employees are required to notify the district within 30 days of receiving an inaccurate payment, and failure to do so could lead to discipline, forfeiture of amounts owed or deductions for excess pay received, as allowed by law.

## **Compensation Disbursement**

In general, professional staff will be paid in equal installments over 12 months even if the employee's regular work schedule is less than 12 months. However, payment for extra duties that are seasonal or limited to a specific timeframe may be paid in the month the work was performed.

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***Note: The reader is encouraged to check the index located at the beginning of this section for other pertinent policies and to review administrative procedures and/or forms for related information.***

Adopted: August 21, 1997

Revised: November 20, 1997/March 23, 2017/September 29, 2020

Cross Refs: AC, Prohibition against Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation  
DLB, Salary Deductions  
HA, Negotiations with Employee Representatives

Legal Refs: §§ 163.172, 168.025, .101, .110 (2), RSMo.  
Equal Pay Act, 29 U.S.C. § 206(d)

Strafford R-VI School District, Strafford, Missouri

FILE: GCBA  
Critical