

ROSSVILLE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024-2025

HANDBOOK FOR CLASSIFIED STAFF

INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS

BOARD APPROVAL DATE

June 4, 2024

EFFECTIVE DATE

July 1, 2024

The school corporation shall be an equal opportunity employer and shall not discriminate in its employment practices and policies with respect to compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment because of an individual's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, genetic information, marital status, disability, pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

1. **FINANCIAL COMPENSATION:**

1.1. General Philosophy:

Staff members employed within the District are qualified when hired for a particular position. Once hired, the employee is expected to grow professionally within the duty assignment. In addition, employees are expected to be proficient in their responsibilities and provide leadership to others. The Board of Education shall establish the pay rate for classified employees.

1.2. Pay Rate:

Job Classification	Schedule of Hours	Maximum Work Hours Per Week	Pay Rate Per Hour
Tier I Instructional Assistant	As determined by Building Principal	35 hours maximum per week (Eligible for Health Insurance Benefits)	14.65
Tier II Instructional Assistant	As determined by Building Principal	29 hours maximum per week	14.65

1.3 Pay Schedule

Basic salaries for the hourly employee will be paid bi-weekly for the time worked as reported through the time clock. Payments for employee payroll deductions will be withdrawn from the employee's check, as authorized by the employee, provided ample funds will be distributed in the employee's payroll payment. The employee is responsible for making payments to maintain the employee's benefits during the pay periods in which the employee does not earn compensation.

1.4 Extracurricular Sponsors, Coaches, Volunteers, or Chaperones

A classified employee serving as an extracurricular sponsor, coach, volunteer, or chaperone for school groups or teams is not eligible for wage compensation for the classified position when the employee provides services for the District in such extracurricular capacity. Those positions will be paid for such services according to the extracurricular compensation schedule established through the Master Contract between the Rossville Consolidated School District and the Rossville Classroom Teachers Association. The employee recognizes that by taking extracurricular assignments or duties, their hourly classified staff wage will not be paid for the time the employee serves in the extracurricular capacity, including time spent in trips, meetings, or departure from the regular duties of this classified handbook.

2. **WORKDAYS & HOURS:**

The workday shall be prescribed by the building principal, within the hours set by the Superintendent, and within the parameters approved by the Board of Education.

2.1.1. Maximum Days

- 2.1.1. 182 Work Days - Days Include:
 - 180 Student Days
 - 1 Training Day for Staff
 - 1 Orientation Day for Staff

3. BENEFITS:

3.1. Leaves:

The classified employee's leaves shall be calculated from July 1 until June 30 each year.

3.1.1. Personal Leave

- 3.1.1.1. A newly hired employee shall serve a probationary period of up to 90 days. After the 90-day probationary period a prorated share of personal leave days will be awarded.
- 3.1.1.2. Classified employees shall be granted two (2) personal days per year. A day is defined as equal to a regular workday per the classification of the employee. The leave shall be taken in at least half-day (1/2) increments.
- 3.1.1.3. This leave is to be used for matters which cannot be scheduled outside regular work hours.
- 3.1.1.4. Notification of the employee's desire to take personal leave shall be made to the supervisor and approved by the supervisor before such leave, except in an emergency.
- 3.1.1.5. Personal leave not used during any year shall be added to accumulated sick leave at the end of that year and counted as sick leave thereafter unless the sick leave day accumulation is already at a maximum of 30 days.

3.1.2. Sick Leave

- 3.1.2.1. A newly hired employee shall serve a probationary period of up to 90 days. After the 90-day probationary period a prorated share of sick leave days will be awarded.
- 3.1.2.2. Classified employees shall be allowed five (5) days per year for sickness. A day is equal to a regular workday per the employee's classification. The leave shall be taken in at least half-day (1/2) increments.
- 3.1.2.3. "Sickness" for interpretation purposes shall mean sickness of anyone in the employee's immediate family. A family is defined as a spouse, children, sister, brother, mother, father, or individual who assumes the role of the above.
- 3.1.2.4. Appointments with a doctor shall fall into the category of sickness.
- 3.1.2.5. Unused sick leave shall accumulate to 30 days.

3.1.3. Jury Duty

Whenever an employee serves jury duty, the employee will be paid their full pay less the amount the employee is paid for the jury service.

3.1.4. Bereavement Leave

3.1.4.1. In case of a death in the immediate family, the employee shall be entitled to be absent from work without loss of compensation for a period of not more than five (5) days. The immediate family shall include spouse, children, mother, father, sister, brother, corresponding step-relatives, corresponding in-laws, or any other member of the family unit living in the same household.

3.1.4.2. In case of the death of grandparents, grandchildren, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or cousin, the employee shall be entitled to be absent from work without loss of compensation for a period of not more than two (2) days.

3.2. Insurance

New employees will be insured at the beginning of the first day of the month following employment. In cases when an employee resigns during the school year, their insurance will be dropped at the end of the month when employment was severed.

3.2.1. Term Life Insurance

The school district will provide a \$50,000 term life insurance policy with an additional \$50,000 accidental death and dismemberment provision for each classified employee working at least 20 hours per week. The employee pays \$1.00 per year for the coverage.

3.2.2. Health Insurance - Tier 1 Instructional Assistants Tier 2 – Not Eligible

The school district will contribute to either the single or family health insurance policy for the classified employee equal to the contribution provided to certificated staff in the Master Contract between the Board of Education and the Rossville Classroom Teachers Association. Classified employee insurance will be terminated at the end of the month when employment is severed.

3.3. Section 125

The benefits provided to employees by Section 125 of the Revenue Act of 1978, both Generation I and Generation II, shall be available. The school district will pay any start-up cost, and participating employees will pay the annual fee (if charged) and the monthly administrative fee.

3.4. 403 (b) Plans

The Board shall provide each employee with the opportunity to participate in a voluntary tax-sheltered 403 (b) program, subject to Internal Revenue Service regulations. Except for changes to the plan document or the adoption agreement shall be made

only upon the recommendation of a committee comprised of three (3) members appointed by the Board and three (3) teachers appointed by the Association; all members of the committee must be current plan participants.

4. eLEARNING DAYS:

Classified employees will follow the Board adopted policies and procedures concerning instructional days determined to be eLearning Days.

5. SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY (3003):

5.1. THE POLICY

5.1.1. It is the policy of the Rossville Consolidated School District to maintain a learning and working environment that is free from sexual harassment.

5.1.2. It shall be a violation of this policy for any employee of the Rossville Consolidated School District to harass another employee or student through conduct or communications of a sexual nature as defined in Section 5.2. It shall also be a violation of this policy for students to harass other students or employees through conduct or communication of a sexual nature, as defined in Section 5.2. The use of the term “employee” also includes non-employees and volunteers who work subject to the control of school authorities.

5.2. DEFINITIONS OF HARASSMENT

5.2.1. Types of Sexual Harassment

5.2.1.1. Sexual harassment shall consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other inappropriate verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- A. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual’s employment or education;
- B. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for academic or employment decisions affecting that individual;
- C. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual’s academic or professional performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive employment or educational environment;
- D. Denial of an employment or educational opportunity occurs directly because an employee or a student submits to unwelcome requests for

sexual favors made by a supervisor or teacher which results favorably for that particular employee or student; or e. Such conduct is engaged in by volunteers and/or non-employees over which the school corporation has some degree of control of their behavior while on school property.

5.2.2. Unwelcome Conduct of a Sexual Nature

- 5.2.2.1. Conduct of a sexual nature may include verbal or physical sexual advances and/or comments regarding physical or personality characteristics of a sexual nature.
- 5.2.2.2. Verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when the allegedly harassed person has indicated, by his or her conduct or verbal objection, that it is unwelcome. Sexual harassment from an employee toward a student shall always be deemed to be unwelcome.
- 5.2.2.3. A person who has initially welcomed such conduct by active participation must give specific notice to the alleged harasser that such conduct is no longer welcome in order for any such subsequent conduct to be deemed unwelcome.

5.2.3. Examples of Sexual Harassment

- 5.2.3.1. Sexual harassment, as set forth in Section 5.2., may include but is not limited to the following:
 - A. Verbal harassment or abuse.
 - B. Repeated remarks to a person with sexual or demeaning implications.
 - C. Unwelcome touching.
 - D. Pressure for sexual activity.
 - E. Suggesting or demanding sexual involvement accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning one's grades, job, promotion, and/or salary. Specific Prohibitions (examples)
- 5.2.3.2. Administrators and Supervisors
 - A. It is sexual harassment for an administrator or supervisor to use his or her authority to solicit sexual favors or attention from subordinates when the subordinate's acquiescence will result in preferential treatment.

- B. Administrators and supervisors who either engage in sexual harassment or tolerate such conduct by other employees shall be subject to disciplinary actions, as described below.

5.2.3.3. Non-administrative and Non-supervisory Employees

- A. It is sexual harassment for a non-administrative and nonsupervisory employee to subject another such employee to any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature. Employees who engage in such conduct shall be subject to disciplinary actions as described below.

5.3 COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

5.3.1 Any person who alleges sexual harassment by any employee or student in the school corporation may use the complaint procedure explained below in Section 5.3.3. or may complain directly to his or her immediate supervisor, building principal, or the Title IX complaint designee of the school corporation. Filing of a complaint or otherwise reporting sexual harassment will not reflect upon the individual's status nor will it affect future employment, grades, or work assignments, except as provided in Section 5.5.

5.3.2 The right of confidentiality, both the complainant and of the accused, will be respected consistent with the school corporation's legal obligations and the necessity to investigate allegations of misconduct and to take corrective actions when this conduct has occurred.

5.3.3 Reporting Sexual Harassment

All reports of sexual harassment shall be handled in the following manner:

- 5.3.3.1. Reports must be in writing on forms supplied by the Corporation (if a verbal complaint is made, the school official should file a written report);
- 5.3.3.2. Reports must name the person(s) charged with sexual harassment and state the facts;
- 5.3.3.3. Reports must be presented to the building principal where the alleged conduct took place. The building principal shall inform the superintendent, or his/her designee, of all filed reports;
- 5.3.3.4. The building principal who receives a report shall thoroughly investigate the alleged sexual harassment;
- 5.3.3.5. The report and the results of the investigation will be presented to the superintendent. The superintendent shall review the report and make a recommendation to the Board of School Education of any action the superintendent deems appropriate.

- 5.3.3.6. The Board of Education may consider the report and the superintendent's recommendation in the executive session. The Board may take any action it deems appropriate. The alleged victim's name will not be released to the public unless required by law.
- 5.3.3.7. If the alleged conduct involves employees not under the direct supervision of a principal, then the report shall be made to the superintendent or his/her designee.
- 5.3.3.8. If the alleged conduct involves a principal, then the report shall be made to the superintendent or his/her designee. If the alleged conduct involves the superintendent, then the report shall be made to the president of the Board of Education.

5.4. SANCTIONS FOR MISCONDUCT

- 5.4.1. A substantiated charge of sexual harassment against an employee in the school corporation shall subject such employee to disciplinary action including but not limited to reassignment, suspension, or discharge.
- 5.4.2. A substantiated charge of sexual harassment against a student in the school corporation shall subject that student to disciplinary action including suspension and/or expulsion consistent with the Student Discipline Policy.

5.5. FALSE REPORTING

Any person who knowingly files false charges against an employee or a student in an attempt to demean, harass, abuse, embarrass or for any other reason, shall be subject to the same disciplinary action as a person who is guilty of sexual harassment.

5.6. NOTIFICATION OF THIS POLICY

Notice of the policy will be circulated to all schools and departments of the Rossville Consolidated School District and be incorporated in each employee and student handbook.

6. **EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION:**

All classified employees are classified as At-Will employees. This means that the employment is not for a specific duration and that the employee may be discharged at any time, with or without cause, and without the right of a hearing by or appeal to the Board of Education or any other entity. The employee may also terminate their employment upon two weeks' advance notice to their supervisor.