

ROSSVILLE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

2024-2025

HANDBOOK FOR CLASSIFIED STAFF

SCHOOL BUS DRIVER

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. Employees are expected to be proficient in their responsibilities and provide leadership to others. The Board of Education shall hold the responsibility for establishing the pay rate for classified employees.

1.2. Pay Rates:

JOB CLASSIFICATION: School Bus Driver	STARTING PAY RATE
Town/Shortened Route	80.00
Regular Route	100.00
Transportation of Students with Special Circumstances	20.00 per hour
Superintendent Called Standby/Transport Services	20.00 per hour*
*Any time logged between 12:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. shall be compensated at two and one-half (2.5) times the hourly rate.	

1.3 Pay Schedule

Basic salaries for a bus driver shall be paid in twenty-one (21) equal payments in a school year. However, a bus driver may elect to have their salary for the approximately ten-month period they perform services paid out over 12 months in equal installments on a schedule fixed for all board employees. A bus driver must make an election to a payment plan in writing no later than the first contract day. An election shall be irrevocable for the school year in which it is made and shall continue in effect from year to year until the bus driver makes a new election.

1.4 Extracurricular Sponsors, Coaches, Volunteers, or Chaperones

A classified employee who serves 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. According to the extracurricular compensation schedule established through the Master Contract between the Rossville Consolidated School District and the Rossville Classroom Teachers Association, those positions will be paid for such services. 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:**

- 2.1. 186 Work Days - Days Include:
 - 180 Student Days
 - 2 Driver Called Meetings
 - 2 Orientation Day for Staff (Held on one day but counts as two days due to length)
 - 1 Route Preparation
 - 1 Bus Driver Orientation Day
- 2.2. The driver's salary may be deducted proportionally for days when students are not transported for the 180 student days dependent on the eLearning Day policy.

3. **SUPPLEMENTAL PAY PROVISIONS:**

3.1 Substitute Drivers

3.1.1.

JOB CLASSIFICATION	PAY RATE/ PER DAY
Town/Shortened Route Substitute Bus Driver	80.00
Regular Route Substitute Bus Driver	100.00

Active substitute bus drivers who participate in the mandatory training session to keep qualified shall be paid for one day as a substitute for a regular route.

- 3.1.2. Active substitute drivers who present buses to the Indiana State Police for inspection shall be paid one-half day's pay.

3.2. School Activity Trips

3.2.1.

JOB CLASSIFICATION	PAY RATE/ PER DAY
Extracurricular Bus Driver	17.00 (Minimum = \$51.00)*
*Any time logged between 12:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. shall be compensated at two and one-half (2.5) times the hourly rate	

- 3.2.2. The sponsoring organization shall furnish any group meals or admissions for the driver.
- 3.2.3. If the trip causes a substitute driver to replace the driver on the extracurricular trip, the cost shall be paid by the organization sponsoring the trip.
- 3.2.4. If the trip causes a substitute driver to replace the driver on the extracurricular-curricular trip, the regular route driver's wages will be deducted to cover the time for the regular route, and the driver shall be paid for the activity.
- 3.2.5. The driver shall stay with the extracurricular organization unless receiving prior approval from the Superintendent.

3.3. Bus Parking Stipend

School buses are generally parked at Rossville Schools in designated parking locations during off-hours. The Superintendent may authorize a driver to park the bus at their residence daily. Drivers who elect to park the school bus at their residence shall ensure that the bus block heaters are plugged in during cold weather to ensure the bus starts. Drivers that accept the responsibility of parking the bus at their residence shall receive a stipend of \$200 annually. This stipend will be paid \$100 on the last pay in December for parking the bus first semester and \$100 on the first pay of June for parking the bus second semester. Drivers electing to participate in the program after the start of the school year must agree to park the bus over the winter months, and the compensation shall be prorated.

4. LEAVES

4.1. Leaves:

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

4.1.1. Personal Leave

4.1.1.1 Classified employees shall be granted two (2) personal days per year. 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.

4.1.1.2 This leave is used for matters that cannot be scheduled outside regular work hours.

4.1.1.3 Notification of the employee's desire to take personal leave shall be made to the employee's supervisor and approved by the supervisor before such leave, except in an emergency.

4.1.1.4 Personal leave not used during the year shall be added to accumulated sick leave at the end of that year and counted as sick leave thereafter unless the sick leave accumulation is already at a maximum of 30 days.

4.1.2. Sick Leave

4.1.2.1 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.

4.1.2.2 "Sickness" for purposes of interpretation 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.

4.1.2.3 Appointments with a doctor shall fall into the category of sickness.

4.1.2.4 Unused sick leave shall accumulate to 30 days.

4.2. Jury Duty

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

4.3. Bereavement Leave

4.3.1. 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 family unit member living in the same household.

4.3.2. 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 not more than two (2) days.

4.4. 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.

4.4.1. Term Life Insurance

The school district will provide a \$50,000 term life insurance policy for each classified employee working at least 20 hours per week. In addition, the employee pays \$1.00 per year for the coverage.

4.4.2. Health Insurance

The school district will contribute to either the single or family health insurance policy for the Bus Driver 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 in which employment is severed.

4.5 Section 125

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

4.6 403(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.

5 REPORTING OF ACCIDENT INVOLVING A SCHOOL BUS

- 5.1 A school bus driver operating a school bus shall report any accident involving a school bus to the school corporation office and before departing from the accident scene. The driver shall not leave the scene until authorized by a school corporation official or law enforcement.
- 5.2 An operator that fails to notify the school corporation office of an accident is subject to termination or other disciplinary action. In addition, an operator that leaves the scene before reporting the accident is subject to termination or other disciplinary action.

6 eLEARNING & VIRTUAL INSTRUCTION DAYS:

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

7. SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY (3003)

7.1. THE POLICY

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

7.1.2. 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 7.2. 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 7.2. The use of the term “employee” also includes non-employees and volunteers who work subject to the control of school authorities.

7.2. DEFINITIONS OF HARASSMENT

7.2.1. Types of Sexual Harassment

7.2.1.1 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.

7.2.2. Unwelcome Conduct of a Sexual Nature

- 7.2.2.1. Conduct of a sexual nature may include verbal or physical sexual advances and/or comments regarding physical or personality characteristics of a sexual nature.
- 7.2.2.2. 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.
- 7.2.2.3. 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.

7.2.3. Examples of Sexual Harassment

- 7.2.3.1. Sexual harassment, as set forth in Section 7.2., 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)
- 7.2.3.2. 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.

7.2.3.3. 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.

7.3. COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

- 7.3.1. Any person who alleges sexual harassment by any employee or student in the school corporation may use the complaint procedure explained below in Section 7.3.3. 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 7.5.
- 7.3.2. 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.
- 7.3.3. Reporting Sexual Harassment

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

- 7.3.3.1 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);
- 7.3.3.2. Reports must name the person(s) charged with sexual harassment and state the facts;
- 7.3.3.3. 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;
- 7.3.3.4. The building principal who receives a report shall thoroughly investigate the alleged sexual harassment;
- 7.3.3.5. 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.

- 7.3.3.6. 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.
- 7.3.3.7. 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.
- 7.3.3.8. 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.

7.4. SANCTIONS FOR MISCONDUCT

- 7.4.1. 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.
- 7.4.2. 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.

7.5. 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.

7.6. 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.

8. 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 from employment at any time, with or without cause, and without the right of hearing by or appeal to the Board of Education or any other entity. The employee may also terminate his/her employment at any time, upon two weeks' advance notice to his/her supervisor.