

NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT

Between the

SOUTHWEST REGION EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

And the

SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dillingham, Alaska

Period of Agreement

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2027

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ARTICLE 1 PREAMBLE

The Southwest Region School Board of Education, hereinafter referred to as the Board, and the Southwest Region Education Association, hereinafter referred to as the Association, enter into the following Agreement on this 17th day of December, 2024.

ARTICLE 2 RECOGNITION

The Board hereby recognizes the Association as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for all teachers of the Southwest Region School District for the duration of the Agreement.

ARTICLE 3 DEFINITIONS

In this Agreement, the following shall be defined:

- "Superintendent" - shall mean the Superintendent of the District or designee.
- "Teacher" - shall mean any contracted certified staff within the District, except for Superintendent and those administrative personnel who elect to leave the teacher bargaining unit. Nothing shall be construed to prevent certified administrative personnel groups, including principals and assistant principals, from having the right to negotiate independently of the other certified personnel if they choose to do so as the result of a secret ballot.
- "New Hire" - shall mean a certified teacher who is new to the District or is on their first year-long teaching contract.
- "Year" - shall mean a standard school calendar year of one hundred eighty-nine (189) certified staff school calendar days for returning teachers or one hundred ninety-one (191) school calendar days for new hires to include student contact days, work days, inservice days and holidays. Certified staff working less than a one hundred eighty-nine (189) day contract shall have their benefits prorated by the Superintendent based on the number of days worked.
- "Working Day" - shall mean a school calendar day excluding holidays except as otherwise specified in this Agreement.
- "Association" - Southwest Region Education Association.
- "Board" - Southwest Region School Board of Education.

ARTICLE 4 CONFORMITY TO LAW

If any provision of this Agreement or any application thereof is held to be contrary to law by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision or application will not be deemed valid or enforceable, except to the extent permitted by law, but all other provisions or applications will continue in full force and effect.

The parties agree to meet and confer within twenty (20) working days of a request, in an effort to resolve the specific article. Upon mutual Agreement, the written resolution will become an addendum to this Agreement.

ARTICLE 5 DISTRIBUTION

Following ratification signing of this Agreement, the District shall publish this Agreement in electronic format. The cost of distribution of the Agreement shall be borne by the District. The District shall electronically distribute to all employees copies of this Agreement. An electronic copy shall be provided to the Association. All employees new to the District shall be provided an electronic copy of the Agreement by the District upon their date of hire, and such Agreement shall be available for review to all applicants for certified positions.

There shall be two (2) printed and signed copies of the final Agreement for the purpose of records. One shall be retained by the District and one by the Association.

ARTICLE 6 NEGOTIATIONS

A. Meeting Procedures

1. Either party may initiate negotiations by written notice by certified mail or email of intent to negotiate after November 1, but not later than January 30, of the fiscal year of the termination of this Agreement. When a request is submitted by either party, the first meeting shall be held within twenty (20) working days after receipt of the request.
2. Four teacher members shall be provided Administrative Leave for all bargaining sessions.
3. If neither party requests an intent to negotiate by January 30, of the year the Agreement terminates, the conditions of this Agreement shall remain in effect for one (1) year beyond the termination date.
4. Prior to the commencement of negotiations, the Association shall submit an affidavit of membership to the Superintendent upon request.
5. Any information or statistics used or introduced at the table by either party shall be made available to the other party. The Association may review and copy (at Association expense) District Business records, except those protected by law from disclosure, during the District Office working hours.
6. A proposal/counter-proposal procedure may commence during the second meeting.

B. Mediation

1. Within seven (7) working days of impasse, the requesting party shall ask the United States Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service to serve as the agency to resolve the dispute.
2. Prior to and following mediation, the parties shall agree to the issues that continue to be outstanding.

C. Advisory Arbitration

In the event that mediation results in a continued impasse, the remaining items in contention will be referred to an advisory arbitrator. The suggested procedures of the American Arbitration Association shall be followed in the selection of such arbiter. Cost for the advisory arbiter shall be borne equally by the Association and the Board.

D. Ratification

When a majority of returned ballots by the Association reflect an affirmative vote, and when a majority of the members of the Board reflect an affirmative vote, this Agreement shall be ratified. Except that, if no action is taken on the document by either party within sixty (60) calendar days, that non-action shall be taken as an affirmative vote.

ARTICLE 7 LEGAL LEAVE

If suit is brought against a teacher for action taken within Board Policy and the scope of his/her employment, the teacher shall be entitled to leave with pay for any periods of work missed while participating in such proceedings.

If a teacher misses work because of jury duty, or if a teacher is required by subpoena to give testimony before a judicial tribunal in a proceeding in which the teacher is not a party (i.e. not a plaintiff, defendant, etc.) the teacher shall be paid his/her normal compensation for any periods of work so missed less the amount that the teacher receives for such duty.

No teacher is entitled to leave with pay under this section in a situation where the teacher is involved in personal litigation.

ARTICLE 8 SICK LEAVE

A. Accrual

All teachers working full-time shall accrue one and one-third (1 1/3) days of sick leave a month up to twelve (12) days sick leave per year with unlimited accumulation. Sick leave for the current year being served by the teacher shall be credited to the teacher upon completion of the first day of service.

A teacher cannot use accumulated sick leave during the first five contract days of the school year, except in unusual or extreme circumstances requiring treatment by a physician, which includes hospitalization. A teacher who resigns before returning to work may not use sick leave unless that resignation is due to disability.

Cumulative sick leave earned by a teacher in an Alaska public school is transferable to any other public school, if the teacher's service is continuous. Continuous service means service up to the last day of a school year and beginning before the end of the first school month in the next school term. Responsibility for furnishing the employer with a certified statement showing cumulative sick leave rests with the teacher. Teachers who are on an approved leave of absence may retain cumulative sick leave for the duration of the approved leave.

A teacher who is retiring, or leaving the state, will be allowed to transfer any unused sick leave into the sick leave bank if they cannot roll it into retirement, or transfer it to an out-of-state district. The transfer of sick leave to the bank will be via written request to the Superintendent or designee prior to the last contract day or the end of the school year. The option of transferring sick leave to the bank will remain in effect unless teachers in Tier 3 are able to roll hours into retirement.

B. Use of Sick Leave

An employee may use sick leave for personal illness or injury, including time to travel to and return from the health care provider for the injury or illness, and for required follow-up observations by the medical doctor. Sick leave may also be taken to allow the teacher to make and complete scheduled medical appointments independently or while the employee is traveling on District business by petition to, and approval of, the local supervisor two (2) working days in advance of the scheduled absence. Such appointments will not be made that would extend school holidays or vacations, without the prior approval of the Superintendent.

Sick leave may be used when a member of the employee's household is ill or injured, including time to travel to and return from the health care provider for the injury or illness, and for required follow-up observations by the medical doctor.

Sick leave may also be taken to allow the teacher to take household members to regular scheduled medical appointments by petition to and approval of the local supervisor two (2) working days in advance of the scheduled absence. Such appointments will not be made that would extend school holidays or vacations without prior approval of the Superintendent. Exclusive of leave taken under Section F, of this article, a maximum of ten (10) days of sick leave per year may be used for members of the teacher's household.

C. Notice

An employee shall notify his/her immediate supervisor as far in advance as is reasonably possible prior to using leave. This provision does not require that a teacher leave his/her home while injured or ill to personally inform his/her supervisor. The teacher will not be responsible for obtaining a substitute for absences due to sick leave.

D. Verification

An employee absent from school on sick leave for more than three (3) days shall submit a doctor's statement or note from the health professional at the local clinic to the Superintendent or designee. This requirement may be waived (in writing) by the Superintendent or designee.

A false statement by the teacher regarding sick leave is sufficient grounds for cancellation of the contract and the revocation of the teacher's certificate.

E. Sick Leave Bonus

Certified staff who use two (2) days of sick leave or less during any contracted school year shall receive a bonus equivalent to the Teacher's Daily Rate of Pay payable at the end of their last pay period. Days that are required to be donated to the Sick Leave Bank will not count against this bonus.

F. Parental Leave

At the time of childbirth or adoption, the employee shall be granted up to thirty (30) days of parental leave. Such leave will be charged to sick and personal leave. In cases where the employee does not have enough sick and personal leave accrual to cover such a leave, the employee may use leave without pay. If both parents are employed by the District, ten (10) days of parental leave may be taken concurrently. Parental leave may be extended by taking leave without pay, and with written approval of the Superintendent. The Family Medical Leave Act provisions shall be followed.

ARTICLE 9 SICK LEAVE BANK

New hires will donate one day of sick leave to the bank on their first payroll. In the event that the bank becomes depleted to twenty (20) days or less during the school year, each teacher will donate an additional day up to a maximum of three (3) days per year.

A person leaving the district will not be able to withdraw the contributed days.

The first twelve (12) consecutive working days of illness or disability will not be covered by the bank, but must be covered by the person's own accumulated sick and personal leave or absence without pay. A person will not be able to withdraw days from the bank until his/her own sick and personal leave is depleted. The number of days available to a teacher shall equal twice the number of days of sick leave the teacher has accumulated before the 1st day of school in any school year or twenty-four (24) days, whichever is greater.

Persons withdrawing sick leave days from the bank will not have to replace these days except as a regular contributing member of the bank. Unlike regular sick leave, sick leave bank days can only be withdrawn for individual teachers' illness. Requests for use of bank days must follow the committee's established sick leave bank guidelines.

The Sick Leave Bank will be administered jointly by the Board and the Association. A committee comprised of one (1) representative of the District, one (1) representative of the Administrators Association, and two (2) representatives of the Association will administer the Sick Leave Bank. Sick Leave Bank activity records will be available for review by the Association and Administrator's Association.

ARTICLE 10 PERSONAL LEAVE

All full-time teachers covered by this Agreement shall accrue personal leave with full pay at the rate of three (3.0) days annually with the second working day of each school year set as the accrual date for that year. If a teacher leaves district employment prior to the expiration of his/her contract, personal leave will be prorated. There will be no restriction on the use of personal leave except as noted below. Except

in emergencies, the teacher shall give at least two (2) working days notice to the principal or immediate supervisor of his/her intent to be absent on personal leave.

Personal leave may not be used to extend the school calendar vacation days or holidays, or during the first five (5) or last five (5) days of the school term, except with prior written approval of the Superintendent. No more than two (2) teachers from a school unit may take personal leave on the same day, if seven (7) or less teachers are assigned to that school unit. No more than three (3) teachers from a school unit may take personal leave on the same day, if eight (8) or more teachers are assigned to that school unit.

At the end of a completed contract year, each teacher will be allowed to cash in two (2) personal leave days at their daily rate of pay by submitting a written request to the Superintendent or designee prior to the end of the fiscal year for which payment is being requested.

Personal leave shall accumulate from year to year to a maximum of eight (8) days. Compensation equivalent to the Teacher's Daily Rate of Pay will be provided for those days in excess of (8) days, which would otherwise be lost.

ARTICLE 11 EMERGENCY LEAVE

In the event of serious illness of an immediate family member and the teacher has no personal leave available, a teacher may apply for emergency leave. Three (3) days (up to seven (7) when travel out of state is required) of sick leave may be granted for each occurrence to a maximum of ten (10) days per year. The teacher shall verify the serious illness by submitting a statement from the family member's attending physician on return to duty.

Following a death in the immediate family, for each occurrence, the teacher may use up to five (5) days of sick leave, except if the circumstances of death in the immediate family require travel outside the state, the teacher may use up to seven (7) days of sick leave. Additional travel days may be approved at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee on a case-by-case basis when out of state travel is required.

- For the purposes of paid leave the immediate family includes spouse (both married and unmarried couples, of the same sex or the opposite sex), son, daughter, brother, sister, mother, father, father-in-law, mother-in-law, grandmother, grandfather, grandson, granddaughter. Other close relatives or caregivers who were instrumental in the raising of the employee as a child or through their formative years may also be included on a case-by-case basis to be reviewed by the Superintendent.

Unpaid leave will be in accordance with the Family Medical Leave Act provisions.

ARTICLE 12 LEAVES OF ABSENCE

A. Long Term

The Board may grant long-term - one semester to one year - unpaid leaves of absence upon request. A request for an educational/child rearing leave must be submitted prior to February 1, for the subsequent school year. Teachers receiving long-term leaves of absence shall be guaranteed teaching positions within the District upon conclusion of the approved leave.

Notification of intent to return must be in receipt by the Superintendent by March 15 of the school year in which the leave is taken.

Teachers may continue their medical insurance benefits by paying the premiums, subject to approval and acceptance of the district carrier.

B. Professional Leave with Pay

Each teacher may be granted, on application to the Superintendent, leave without loss of pay for attending meetings or workshops related to the improvement of instruction or performance of professional duties. Teachers granted Professional Development Funds under this agreement shall be granted Professional Leave with Pay for teacher contract days as documented on the approved site calendar. Unless special exception is made by the Superintendent, such leave will not exceed three (3) days.

C. Sabbatical Leave

The Board may grant a sabbatical leave for up to two teachers per year in accordance with the procedure specified in Alaska Statute 14.20.280-330.

ARTICLE 13 ASSOCIATION LEAVE

The District shall grant the Association ten (10) days per year to attend either the Delegate Assembly, the Juneau Fly-In, or for general Association business. Leave will also be granted for one Association member as designated by the Association president to attend Board meetings held during school hours.

In addition to the above days, teachers may donate personal leave days, up to a maximum of four (4) days/year, to be used to attend the Delegate Assembly. These non-refundable days must be donated in writing prior to Delegate Assemblies.

During the duration of this Agreement, the Association can accumulate up to thirty (30) days of Association leave.

ARTICLE 14 WORKING CONDITIONS

A. Work Day and Year

Days of duty for teachers shall be one hundred eighty-nine (189) (one hundred ninety-one (191) for new teachers). One hundred eighty (180) of these days shall be with students. Each duty day for a teacher shall be seven (7) hours, exclusive of a thirty (30) minute duty free lunch time. The day may be extended by forty-five (45) minutes for collaborative and staff meetings called by the site administrator to a maximum of four (4) per Month. The District may choose to substitute two (2) Inservice Days with fourteen (14) one (1) – hour inservice sessions at a maximum of one per week. The teacher's daily rate of pay is calculated by the teacher's yearly salary divided by 189.

B. Preparation Period

All full-time teachers directly involved in classroom instruction shall receive a block of 50 minutes of preparation time daily. Additionally, all teachers shall receive two full workdays prior to the first student contact day for individual classroom preparation free of other responsibilities. In addition, teachers will receive minimum day release for each quarterly grading period to prepare report cards free of other responsibilities. Teachers will also receive minimum day release for Parent/Teacher Conference days. One of the two Parent/Teacher Conference days each semester will be held from 5:00-7:00 PM, with teachers being released from duty between the end of the minimum day and the start of the Parent/Teacher Conference at 5:00 PM. Site administrators shall be cognizant of these planning times in order for teachers to be best prepared for the students.

Secondary teachers can teach up to but not exceeding two courses on the same subject per period unless the Principal and Teacher involved agree to more.

C. Employment Notification

A tenured teacher shall be automatically rehired unless notice of non-retention is received by the teacher prior to March 15.

Notification of intention of the Board not to re-employ a non-tenured teacher for the following school year shall be given to such teacher as required by Alaska Statute.

D. Transfers

The District reserves the right to transfer teachers as determined by the Superintendent. All open positions shall be publicly posted. District goals and educational programs will be given first priority in transfer considerations. Site seniority will be considered in transfer decisions. Currently employed teachers applying for transfers (as per 1, of this section) will be considered for vacancies prior to placement of New Hires. Vacancies for the following school year that are known before March 15th, shall be publicly posted at least five (5) working days before a contract may be offered to a New Hire.

1. Teacher Requested Transfers

A transfer may be requested by any teacher. Any such requests will be made on the District's employment "Intent Form" and submitted to the Personnel Officer no later than February 1. The transfer request will remain active until the reporting day of the subsequent school year. If the teacher has not been notified of the status of their transfer request by April 15, the District will provide a written response as to the status within one (1) work day of the teacher's written inquiry. Issuance of a contract, in which the site assignment is designated, will constitute notification.

2. District-Initiated Transfers

- a. Teachers may be involuntarily transferred by the District for programmatic, financial, and personnel concerns. Any transfer that is not teacher initiated shall be considered an involuntary transfer.

- b. Personnel matters, which are a result of serious community concerns that may result in the involuntary transfer of a teacher, shall be handled in the following manner:
 - i. The Principal shall present concerns or complaints in writing to the teacher.
 - ii. A CSC meeting shall be conducted to allow the teacher the opportunity to discuss complaints with concerned parties.
 - iii. A plan to deal with unresolved complaints shall be drawn up between the supervisor and the teacher and presented to the CSC.
 - iv. If a personnel problem, which may result in involuntary transfer of a teacher, is not resolved in this manner to the satisfaction of the CSC and the teacher, a report can be filed with the Superintendent, stating the nature of the problem and efforts made toward a resolution.
 - v. In the event the involuntary transfer request is presented to the Board of Education, the teacher shall be notified of impending action and shall have the right to address the Board concerning the action.
- c. For a teacher that is involuntarily transferred, the District shall provide for moving expenses, limited to the actual cost or the monetary equivalent of two (2) chartered single engine Cessna 207 (or equivalent) aircraft, whichever is less as documented by receipts.

E. RIF - Reduction in Force

If there is a necessity to reduce staff, occasioned by a decrease in the school attendance or an anticipated reduction in school district revenue, the following reduction in force procedures will be followed:

1. The School Board, prior to conducting a Reduction in Force, will consider all other areas of the District budgeting for reduction. The School Board further agrees that a committee composed of two association members, two Board members and the Superintendent will meet to make Budget recommendations prior to any final Reduction in Force action.
2. The School District shall give a teacher placed on layoff status at least thirty (30) calendar days written notice before the layoff takes effect.
3. If the Board determines a layoff is to take place, the teachers to be placed on the layoff list shall be determined by:
 - a. Seniority: tenure for seniority shall be considered from the first contract day of actual employment of the teacher.
 - b. If teachers have equal seniority, the District will consider each teacher's certification, endorsement areas, and experience in relationship to District goals and school program needs.

4. A teacher on layoff status does not accrue sick leave or personal leave. Time spent on layoff status does not count toward acquisition of tenure. However, layoff status does not constitute a break in service for:
 - a. Determining the eligibility of tenure.
 - b. Retaining acquired tenure rights.
 - c. Retaining accrued sick leave.
 - d. Years credited on the salary schedule.
5. At the time of layoff, the District shall provide for laid off teachers to express, in writing, a desire to return to the District. At that time, the District shall develop a recall list of teachers on layoff status who have informed the District that they desire to return. While on the recall list, it will be the teacher's responsibility to ensure that the District Personnel Officer is kept informed of current mailing addresses, contact information, and certification/endorsement information.
6. When a teaching position becomes available, the District may not offer that position to a teacher who is not on layoff status until it has recalled each teacher on layoff status, who is identified as possessing the certification, endorsements and experience desired.
7. The recall procedure outlined below will be followed. The recall procedure will recall teachers as determined by:
 - a. Seniority: tenure for seniority shall be considered from the first contract day of actual continuous employment of the teacher.
 - b. If teachers have equal seniority, the District will consider each teacher's certification, endorsement areas, and experience in relationship to District goals and school program needs.
 - c. In the event of a recall, the District shall notify the teacher of the recall by certified mail, return receipt requested, sent to the last address given by the teacher to the District Personnel Officer. The teacher will have thirty (30) calendar days from the date of receipt to notify the District of intent to return. The teacher must thereafter be available to return to employment within thirty (30) calendar days from the date the recall notice was received or if employed elsewhere, at a time mutually agreed upon by the District and employee. Failure of the teacher to respond within thirty (30) calendar days herein specified shall terminate a teacher's employment as a voluntary resignation.
 - d. Teachers covered by this article will receive the District health plan, as described in Article 20, for a twelve month period of time beginning at the date of layoff, if approved by the insurance carrier. In the event the teacher rejects an offer of employment from the district, or becomes eligible for another health plan, this coverage will end.
 - e. A teacher on layoff status who refuses two (2) offers of employment from the District will be dropped from the layoff list and considered to have voluntarily resigned.

If Alaska Statute and/or regulations, regarding the reduction in force of teachers, are placed into effect during the life of this Agreement, those statutes and/or regulations will supersede this Agreement. Those statutes and/or regulations will supersede this article effective July 1, of the fiscal year following the effective date of the statute and/or regulation.

ARTICLE 15 SALARIES

A. Payment

Teachers will receive their pay in twelve equal monthly payments.

B. Placement on the Salary Schedule

1. Column

- a. Teachers shall be placed on the appropriate column of the salary schedule on the basis of the required documentation submitted to the Superintendent showing the degree(s) conferred and the coursework completed. Official transcripts must be submitted before November 1 for salary advancement to occur, retroactive to the beginning of the contract. Initial column placement shall be with credits earned after the granting of the teaching credential. All coursework must meet the requirements as described in Article 15, Section C.1 of the negotiated Agreement.
- b. B shall mean a Baccalaureate Degree earned from an approved institution.
- c. B+18 shall mean eighteen (18) semester hours of approved coursework earned subsequent to the conferring of the Baccalaureate Degree and subsequent to the teacher's eligibility for an Alaska Initial, Professional, Master or Type C Teacher's Certificate. All coursework for advancement on the salary schedule must be from section C1.
- d. B+36 shall mean thirty-six (36) semester hours of approved coursework earned subsequent to the conferring of the Baccalaureate Degree and subsequent to the teacher's eligibility for an Alaska Initial, Professional, Master or Type C Teacher's Certificate. All coursework for advancement on the salary schedule must be from section C1.
- e. B+54/ M shall mean a Master's Degree earned from an approved institution or fifty-four (54) semester hours of approved coursework earned subsequent to the conferring of the Baccalaureate Degree and subsequent to the teacher's eligibility for an Alaska Initial, Professional, Master or Type C Teacher's Certificate. All coursework for advancement on the salary schedule must be from section C1.
- f. B+72/M+18 shall mean eighteen (18) semester hours of approved coursework earned subsequent to the conferring of the Master's Degree or seventy-two (72) hours of approved coursework earned subsequent to the conferring of the Baccalaureate Degree and subsequent to the teacher's eligibility for an Alaska Initial, Professional, Master or Type C Teacher's Certificate. All coursework for advancement on the salary schedule must be from section C1. If an employee has already reached B+72, the earning of a Master's Degree shall not drop the teacher back to M.

- g. M+36 shall mean thirty-six (36) semester hours of approved coursework earned subsequent to the conferring of the Master's Degree and subsequent to the teacher's eligibility for an Alaska Initial, Professional, or Master or Type C Teacher's Certificate. All coursework for advancement on the salary schedule must be from section C1.

2. Step

- a. Years of service for step placement shall be credited to actual time served and accepted by the Alaska Teachers Retirement System as creditable service. Creditable service means a full-time elementary or secondary teacher in a public or non-public school as defined by AS 14.25.220. One year of service is a minimum of one hundred seventy-two (172) working days. The teacher shall be responsible for submitting necessary documentation for step placement to the Superintendent, Director of Human Resources or designee. Official Verification of Service forms must be submitted on or before November 1st for step placement advancement to occur, retroactive to the beginning of the contract.
- b. Teachers who have been at the maximum step in a column and are advanced to a new column will be allowed to advance to the appropriate step in the new column based on years of service brought in and served within the district.
- c. A teacher must have worked a minimum of one hundred seventy-two (172) working days in the previous school year to be placed at the next step.
- d. A teacher who has earned National Board Certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards will advance one additional step in their assigned column.

3. Placement Errors

If a contract correction is necessary, the District should be notified. In such a case, the correction shall be made retroactive to the entry-on-duty date of the school year.

C. Column Advancement

1. Approved Coursework:

Fields of Study

- * Integrated/Thematic Instruction
- * Counseling
- * Culturally Relevant Teaching/Teaching in a Multi-Cultural Environment
- * Mastery Learning/Competency Based Education
- * Developmentally Appropriate Practices
- * Cooperative Learning

- * Inclusion
- * Authentic Assessment
- * Team Teaching
- * Early Childhood Special Education
- * Computer Assisted Instruction/Educational Technology
- * School Administration
- * 300 or higher level courses in the Teacher's content area
- * Any coursework not listed above may be approved by the Superintendent.

Upon the date of ratification of this Agreement approved coursework shall mean coursework from the "fields of study" listed and applicable to the teacher's assigned teaching area. Coursework must be completed at an accredited institution with an earned grade of "C" or better.

Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the status of coursework that was approved by the District prior to the effective date of this Agreement shall not be changed.

D. Certified Salary Schedule

FY25, FY26, FY27 (2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027 School Years) Teacher Salary Schedule

	BA	BA18	BA36	BA54/MA	BA72/MA18	MA36
0	\$ 51,500	\$ 53,000	\$ 54,500	\$ 56,000	\$ 57,500	\$ 59,000
1	\$ 54,000	\$ 55,500	\$ 57,000	\$ 58,500	\$ 60,000	\$ 61,500
2	\$ 56,500	\$ 58,000	\$ 59,500	\$ 61,000	\$ 62,500	\$ 64,000
3	\$ 59,000	\$ 60,500	\$ 62,000	\$ 63,500	\$ 65,000	\$ 66,500
4	\$ 61,500	\$ 63,000	\$ 64,500	\$ 66,000	\$ 67,500	\$ 69,000
5	\$ 64,000	\$ 65,500	\$ 67,000	\$ 68,500	\$ 70,000	\$ 71,500
6		\$ 68,000	\$ 69,500	\$ 71,000	\$ 72,500	\$ 74,000
7		\$ 70,500	\$ 72,000	\$ 73,500	\$ 75,000	\$ 76,500
8			\$ 74,500	\$ 76,000	\$ 77,500	\$ 79,000
9			\$ 77,000	\$ 78,500	\$ 80,000	\$ 81,500
10				\$ 81,000	\$ 82,500	\$ 84,000
11				\$ 83,500	\$ 85,000	\$ 86,500
12						\$ 89,000

NOTE:

This schedule is applicable to standard work years as follows:

- 189 day standard work year for returning teachers
- 191 day standard work year for new hires

Contracts longer than standard, will have the additional days paid at the teacher's daily rate.

E. Signing Bonus

The District shall pay a one-time signing bonus for teachers newly hired into the District in the amount of \$1000. Payment shall be made on the second working day of the year. Standard payroll deductions will be withheld for this one-time signing bonus. If the teacher fails to fulfill his/her contract, the signing bonus payment will be forfeited by the teacher. In the case of such forfeiture, the District will withhold the incentive amount previously paid from monies owed the teacher. If no monies are owed the teacher at the time of forfeiture, the teacher shall pay back the signing bonus amount to the District within thirty (30) calendar days.

F. Longevity Benefit

At the end of each year, beginning with the fourth consecutive year that a teacher has been employed with the District, they will be awarded a yearly longevity bonus of \$100 per year for each consecutive year of service paid on the final paycheck of the year. (for example: 4th year = \$400, 10th year = \$1,000)

Sabbaticals and Board approved leaves of absence do not invalidate consecutive years.

ARTICLE 16 TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

The district will provide a total annual amount of \$20,000 for the purpose of tuition reimbursement. All coursework must meet the requirements as described in Article 15, Section C.1. of this Agreement. Decisions relating to the expenditure of those funds will be made by a committee of three teachers, two appointed by the Association and one appointed by the Superintendent. Funds are for the express purpose of tuition reimbursement and may not be used in collaboration with Staff Development Funds or to attend association activities.

ARTICLE 17 STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The District will provide a total annual amount of \$10,000 for the purpose of staff development. In order to minimize teachers' time away from the classroom, up to \$5,000 may be utilized for staff development during the regular school year. The remaining funds utilized for staff development must be used during non-contracted times (i.e. Summer break), unless authorized by the Superintendent in writing. The District's Travel Authorization (TA) form must be approved by the site administrator for staff development activities held during the school year before being submitted for funding approval. Decisions relating to the expenditure of those funds will be made by a committee of three teachers, two appointed by the Association and one appointed by the Superintendent. Funds are for the express purpose of teacher training in education related areas and may not be used to attend association activities.

ARTICLE 18 EXTENDED CONTRACTS

Extended contracts (more than 189 days) may be offered on a voluntary basis. Extended contracts will be paid for at the daily rate determined by dividing the teacher's annual salary by the number of contract days as provided in Article 14, Working Conditions (Work Day and Year).

Additional special project contracts shall be written for the teacher's daily rate.

ARTICLE 19 EXTRA CURRICULAR PAY

Extra Curricular pay is for work performed outside the duty day. Assignment to extra curricular responsibilities are intended to be on a voluntary basis and selections will be made by the principal, CSC, and/or designee on a year-to-year basis. Nothing in this section should be interpreted as a mandate that any activity be offered at a site. If a season for a sport is stopped early due to non-participation, non-eligibility of students, or funding, the agreed upon compensation will be prorated. The prorating shall be based on the length of the regular season, including pre-season practice, but not the regional or state championship. Final decisions on activities and schedules will be made by the site administrator and approved by the Superintendent.

If a teacher serves as a coach and is not selected as the coach of that sport in the successive season, the principal will provide that teacher with a written statement as to the reason(s). All coaching vacancies will be posted and candidates will be interviewed and selected through the interview process by the principal. Assistant coaches are hired at the discretion of the head coach, and any monetary compensation will be split from the stipends as defined below.

Extra curricular pay shall apply to, but not limited by, the following activities. Any extra curricular activities not listed here, but determined to meet site needs by the site administrator, will be paid at a comparable level.

A. Coaching

Certified teachers or community members serving as coaches at schools for major school sports will be paid as follows:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3+
High school basketball	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 2,500.00
Wrestling	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 2,000.00
Volleyball	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 2,000.00
Cross Country	\$ 500.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,000.00
Native Youth Olympics	\$ 500.00	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,000.00
K-8 Basketball	\$ 800.00		
K-8 Volleyball	\$ 800.00		

B. Extra-Curricular Activities

Academic Pentathlon (Middle School)	\$ 400.00
Academic Decathlon (High School)	\$ 400.00
Battle of the Books, Elementary	\$ 400.00
Battle of the Books, Middle School	\$ 400.00
Battle of the Books, High School	\$ 400.00
Class Advisor, Jr. Class and prom	\$ 500.00
Class Advisor, Sr. Class and graduation	\$ 500.00
Class Advisors (grades 8-10)	\$ 200.00
National Honor Society	\$ 300.00

Science Fair, Site Coordinator	\$ 200.00
Science Fair, District Coordinator	\$ 250.00
Spelling Bee	\$ 300.00
Student Council Advisor	\$ 500.00
Student Fundraising, Student Store	\$ 500.00
Student Representative, District Advisor	\$ 300.00
Yearbook	\$ 300.00
Clubs	\$ 300.00

C. Certifications

MEDICAL

- CPR/ AED \$50
- First Aid card \$50
- First Aid instructor \$150 (must do at least one training per year)
- Emergency Trauma technician (ETT) \$100
- Emergency Medical Technician I (EMT I) \$150
- Emergency Medical Technician II (EMT II) \$200
- CPR Trainer \$150 (must do at least one training per year)
- CPI/Restraint/Behavior Mod Trainer \$150 (must do at least one training per year)

MENTAL HEALTH

- ASIST suicide interventions \$150 (must do at least one training per year)
- Youth/Teen Mental Health First Aid Trainer \$150 (must do at least one training per year)

INSTRUCTIONAL

- RTI site coordinator \$200
- District-Assigned Teacher Mentor (\$30/ hr. x 15 hours per semester)

SAFETY

- Hunter Safety Instructor \$150 (must do at least one training per year)
- NASSP (archery) \$100 (must do at least one training per year)
- DMV Testing Proctor \$100 (must do at least one testing session per year)
- DMV Manual Coach \$100 (must do at least one course per year)

NOTE: Certifications may be added to this list with Superintendent recommendation and Board approval.

D. Extra Duty

Duties which are outside and in addition to teachers' customary duties, and which are required by written or oral order of the immediate supervisor to be performed outside of the regular school day, shall be paid at the teacher's hourly rate. The hourly rate shall be calculated by taking the teacher's daily rate divided by 7 (hours).

Duties which are outside and in addition to teachers' customary duties that are performed on a voluntary basis, may be paid at rates dictated by grants or mutually agreed upon by the teacher and supervisor.

ARTICLE 20 INSURANCE

A. Health

All changes in insurance submitted to the Board will be agreed upon by a committee made up of a member appointed by the Association, the Business Manager, and the Superintendent.

During the term of this Agreement, The District will pay 80% of the health insurance cost and the Teacher will pay 20% of the health insurance cost. Changes (increases or decreases) to Teacher's Co-Payment will be effective the month following notification of change from the insurance carrier.

A booklet describing the coverage will be provided to each employee at the time of hire.

Final selection of carrier shall be at the discretion of the Board.

The coverage shall start on the first day of the month following the teacher's first day of work. The coverage shall end on the last day of the month following the teacher's last day of work upon separation from the District.

B. Medivac Plan

The District shall provide a yearly membership to Guardian Flight (AirMedCare Network) for emergency air medical transport. The yearly membership will be limited to one family plan per employee who is eligible for the District health plan.

C. Term Life

The District will provide term life insurance equal to the teacher's annual salary. This coverage is contingent upon the availability of said life insurance now and in the future and the ability of the teacher to meet the standards of insurability as prescribed by the District's life insurance carrier. Unless otherwise specified by the teacher, the beneficiary of the term life insurance will be the teacher's spouse.

D. Travel Insurance

The District will provide each teacher with \$200,000 of travel insurance for authorized travel related to the teacher's scope of employment. Unless otherwise specified by the teacher, the beneficiary of the insurance will be the teacher's spouse.

E. Liability Insurance

The Board will provide liability insurance to a maximum of \$500,000 coverage limited to incidents within the teacher's scope of employment.

F. Flex-Plan Participation

Teachers will be allowed to participate in the District's flexible benefit medical reimbursement/childcare plan.

ARTICLE 21 TRAVEL

Travel Stipend

Teachers located in Aleknagik and Dillingham shall receive a \$700 travel stipend. Teachers located in Koliganek, New Stuyahok and Ekwok, shall receive a \$950 travel stipend. Teachers located in Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak and Clarks Point shall receive a \$1,050 travel stipend. All applicable taxes shall be withheld for this benefit at the time the stipend is issued. The second working day of each school year will be set as the accrual date. However, if a teacher fails to return to duty during his/her contract, the travel stipend will be forfeit by the teacher. In the case of such forfeiture, the District will withhold the amount previously paid, from monies owed the teacher. If no monies are owed the teacher at the time of forfeiture, the teacher will be responsible to make payment to the District within thirty (30) calendar days.

ARTICLE 22 BOARD AND ASSOCIATION RIGHTS

A. Board and Superintendent Rights

The Association recognizes that the Board and Superintendent reserve and retain full rights, authority and discretion for the proper discharge of their duties and responsibilities to direct, supervise and manage the District to the full extent authorized by law. The exercise of these legally authorized rights, authorities, duties and responsibilities by the Board and Superintendent and the adoption of policies shall be subject to the terms of this Agreement.

B. Association Rights

The rights and privileges of the Association to process grievances for teachers and to represent teachers in grievances shall be granted only to the recognized bargaining agent and to no other organizations.

The Association shall have the right to use School District facilities and equipment at reasonable times when such equipment is not otherwise in use. The Association shall pay for the reasonable cost of all materials and supplies incident to such use.

The District shall not discriminate against a teacher because of his/her activities as a result of membership in the Association.

C. Committees

The District and the Association shall work together to announce the membership of joint committees by September 1st of each year. Such committees shall include, but not be restricted to, Sick Bank Committee, Tuition Reimbursement Committee, Staff Development Committee, District Housing Committee, and Site Housing Committees.

ARTICLE 23 PERSONNEL FILES

A. Open Files

All material in a teacher's official Personnel File shall be the property of the District. Material filed subsequent to employment in the district shall be available for the teacher's inspection upon request during regular business hours. Upon written request, the teacher shall be provided copies of Personnel File material, subsequent to employment, for twenty-five cents (.25) per sheet. Electronic copies shall be provided free of charge.

B. Confidentiality

No person shall be granted access to confidential materials in a teacher's official Personnel File without the express prior written permission of the teacher except for the teacher's supervisor(s) and district office personnel with a bona fide need.

C. Derogatory Material

Any material placed in a teacher's official Personnel File, which is derogatory to the teacher, shall be filed with proof that the teacher has had the opportunity to read the material. The teacher shall have the right to file a written rebuttal with any derogatory material placed in the Personnel File. Any derogatory material challenged by the teacher shall be removed from the file if sustained through the grievance procedure.

D. Removed Material

Material that is removed from the teacher's file will be forwarded to the teacher, or if closed file documents, returned to appropriate sender with a memo to the teacher notifying him/her of the action taken.

ARTICLE 24 DUES DEDUCTIONS

A. Any employee covered by this Agreement may sign an authorization for deduction of membership dues in the Association. Such authorization must be received in the central office no later than November 15. Deductions will be withheld in equal monthly payments and are to be paid in full by May 31, of the school year. Authorization for dues deduction shall continue from year to year unless the teacher terminates or withdraws the authorization in writing.

B. The Local Association shall be afforded time during the New Staff orientation and/or the Fall Staff Inservice to welcome new staff.

ARTICLE 25 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A claim by a teacher or group of teachers that there has been a violation, misinterpretation or misapplication of any provisions of this Agreement may be processed as a grievance as hereinafter provided.

A grievant is a teacher having a grievance.

Both parties agree that these proceedings shall be kept as informal and confidential as may be appropriate at any level of the procedure.

The time limits specified may be extended by mutual Agreement at all levels. Any grievant may be represented at all stages of the grievance procedure by a person of his/her own choosing, and notice of this representative must be given to his/her immediate supervisor. The Board is also entitled to a representative. When it is necessary at any level for a grievant and witness (one per occurrence maximum) to attend a meeting or a hearing during the school day, the Superintendent shall notify such teacher and the witness that they shall be released without loss of pay for such time as his/her attendance is required at such meeting or hearing.

At all levels the time limits are binding except for periods of inclement weather that prohibit normal travel.

Necessary forms pertaining to a grievance will be prepared jointly and distributed by the Association or the District. If the grievance report is in favor of the grievant, all documents, communications and records dealing with the grievance shall be removed from the Personnel File.

Level I

A teacher with a grievance will first discuss it with his/her principal or immediate supervisor within fifteen (15) working days of the alleged violation, misinterpretation, or misapplication of this Agreement, with the object of resolving the matter informally. If the teaching position is in a remote area and the immediate supervisor is not stationed at the site, the first step should be accomplished by mail, telephone, or radio. If an informal solution has not been reached, a teacher with a grievance may initiate a formal procedure by filing a written statement of grievance with the immediate supervisor. This statement must be filed within ten (10) working days of the informal discussion with the supervisor. The date of this action shall be the filing date. The written grievance shall include the date of the alleged violation, the article and item of the Agreement, and the signature of the grievant. The immediate supervisor shall meet with the grievant and anyone selected to accompany him/her within ten (10) working days of the receipt of the written grievance. This meeting will be set by mutual consent.

The immediate supervisor shall render a decision in writing within ten (10) working days of the meeting dealing with the written grievance.

Level II

If the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level I, or does not receive a decision, he/she may appeal the grievance in writing to the Superintendent within fifteen (15)

working days of receipt of the decision or the date the decision was due. The written appeal shall include a copy of the initial written grievance as submitted to the supervisor, a copy of the written response by the immediate supervisor, and the grounds for considering the decision unsatisfactory. It shall also state the names of all persons officially present at the prior hearing, and such persons shall receive a copy of the appeal.

In the event that the Superintendent is the immediate supervisor, then the appeal shall be directed to the Board. Within ten (10) working days of receipt by the Superintendent of the written appeal, the Superintendent shall meet with the grievant in an effort to resolve the grievance. The time and place of the Level II meeting shall be mutually set by the Superintendent and the grievant. The Superintendent shall render a decision in writing within ten (10) working days of the Level II meeting and inform the grievant of the decision.

Level III

If the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of his/her grievance at Level II, or does not receive a written reply, he/she may appeal his/her grievance in writing to the Board within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of the decision or the date the decision was due.

The written appeal shall include the items referred to in Level II, as well as the written answer from the Superintendent. The time of the Level III meeting shall be at the next regular Board meeting. Upon mutual Agreement, the Board and the grievant may establish another meeting date.

The Board shall render its decision in writing within ten (10) working days of the Level III meeting and inform the grievant.

Level IV

If the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of his/her grievance at Level III or does not receive a decision within ten (10) working days, the grievant may request the Association to submit the grievance to arbitration. The cost of the arbitrator will be borne equally by the Board and the Association. Costs related to the presentation by either party will be borne by the respective party.

The request by either party for arbitration shall be made within fifteen (15) working days of the decision at Level III.

The Board and the Association shall make every effort to mutually agree upon an arbitrator. The arbitrator shall follow the rules for arbitration as established by the American Arbitration Association.

The parties agree to accept the arbitrator's award as final and binding upon them.

ARTICLE 26 HOUSING

A. Responsibilities

1. Recognizing that the Association and the District have a mutual concern to provide adequate and quality housing for the certified staff of the Southwest Region School District, the District and the Association shall form a committee. This committee will meet within ten (10) working days of either party's request, to discuss and recommend the expenditure of district rental income and rental rates for contracts. The committee should meet at a location and time mutually agreeable to the District and Association.
2. The District Housing Committee shall be made up of the District Maintenance Director, the Superintendent, the President of the Association or designee, a teacher appointed by the Association, and a member of the Administrator's Association.
3. The committee shall discuss, but not limit discussion to the following issues: rental rates, deposits, maintenance and improvement costs, condition and replacement of furnishings, future housing requirements, and rental options for employees. The committee will develop accurate utility records as the basis for future discussion. The committee will develop a replacement schedule on all major appliances, furniture, carpets, heating and plumbing systems, and interior and exterior paint. The committee shall review the replacement and upgrades of these items at their annual meeting. A budget that includes income generated and expenses directly charged to by District leased housing shall be reviewed by the housing committee annually. This annual report shall be presented to the District School Board at a regularly scheduled board meeting before December 15th of that school year.
4. The District Housing Committee shall do a yearly needs assessment on the quantity and quality of District provided housing. Their assessment shall include major complaints that have been reported by each tenant during the previous school year.
5. Site Housing Committees shall consist of the Site Administrator and one or two teachers, depending on the size of the site. Aleknagik, Clarks Point, Ekwok, Koliganek, and Twin Hills sites will have one teacher member on the committee. New Stuyahok, Manokotak, and Togiak will have two teacher members on the committee.

B. Housing Assignments

Teachers living in District housing shall be provided with a clean, well-maintained, and healthy living unit. At each site, these units shall be assigned in the following manner:

1. The principal's housing unit is designated. The remainder of units are available for the housing committee to assign.
2. A Site Housing Committee, made up of one or two teachers, appointed by the Association, and the Principal. The membership of the Site Housing Committee shall be posted by September 1st. The Site Housing Committee shall meet as needed throughout the year and shall assign houses by April 30 for returning staff. If the housing situation changes the housing committee will make the changes.

3. Criteria to be used by housing committee:

- a. Person living in the house during the majority of the previous year stays in their current unit.
- b. The committee shall assign open housing units to current employees and district transfers on a seniority basis.
- c. New teachers will be assigned open units based on need.
- d. Existing tenants will be subject to move to accommodate the size of families and/or health needs. Transfer of existing employees shall be determined by the Site Housing Committee.
- e. Single teachers may be required to share housing with additional roommates in order to meet the housing needs of families and/or the availability of units.

C. Maintenance, Repair, and Replacement

1. Teachers will report issues regarding the need for repair of District housing or furnishings as soon as possible utilizing the District's electronic Maintenance Work Order System. The need for emergency repairs should be verbally reported to site maintenance staff, the site administrator, and/or District maintenance staff and followed up in writing via the Work Order System.
2. The Site Housing Committee shall submit to the District Housing Committee a list of maintenance, repair, and replacement needs for each site by December 1st each year. They will review the list of maintenance, repair, and replacement needs from each site in order to prioritize and schedule maintenance, repair, and replacement. Part of this review will include a bi-annual on-site assessment to be completed by December 1st of the inspection year. All sites will receive an inspection the first year of this Agreement. The lists of reported issues will be prioritized and repairs will be completed based on the availability of staff and funding.
3. The Site Housing Committee will notify the District of problems related to health concerns. Health threats and reductions in rent will be determined by the District Housing Committee with input from the respective Site Housing Committee. The District shall investigate the problem within twenty-four (24) hours, weather permitting.
4. If there is no heat, running water, or sewer within District control for more than forty-eight (48) hours after being reported and dependent upon the ability of maintenance staff to travel due to weather conditions, rent will not be assessed for those days. Until the problem is fixed, other housing will be provided if available.

D. Housing

Teachers living in District housing shall be provided with a clean, well-maintained, and healthy living unit. Each housing unit will have the following: working faucets, heat, appliances, good furniture and standalone freezer.

1. Rental Rates:

a. 1 bedroom \$425 (Ekwok only)

b. 2 bedrooms \$810

c. 3 bedrooms \$1125

E. Summer Rental Rates

For teachers wishing to stay in district housing during all three summer months (June, July, and August), their rental rates will be 50% of the normal monthly rate paid the previous school year. Teachers staying in district housing for part of the summer will be assessed rent at the full rate prorated for the period of time in the housing. Teachers not staying in teacher housing during all three summer months (June, July, and August) will not be assessed rent if all belongings are packed and placed into one bedroom. Teachers who have a roommate will pay 50% for their unit only.

F. Housing Damages

At the beginning of each school year the tenant will be provided a housing checklist to document damage to the unit. This checklist will be reviewed with the tenant by the site administrator and signed by both parties. Any additional damage will be verified by using the checklist when vacating the unit. All housing units will be adequately cleaned upon the tenant vacating the unit.

At the end of the year, the cost of damages may be deducted from a tenant's paycheck to cover damage due to tenant negligence and excessive cleaning costs. Normal wear on each unit will be taken into consideration.

District insurance does not cover the teacher's personal contents in or around the housing unit. Teachers are encouraged to purchase renter's insurance to cover their personal property in the event of fire, theft, or other disaster.

ARTICLE 27 DURATION

A. Duration

This Agreement and each of its provisions is binding and effective as of July 1, 2024, and shall remain in full force until June 30, 2027. All previous Agreements still in force shall become null and void as of July 1, 2024.

B. Sole and Complete Agreement

This Agreement is the sole and complete Agreement between the Board and the Association and no verbal statements shall supersede any of its provisions. Any amendment supplemental hereto shall not be binding upon either party unless executed in writing by the parties hereto.

C. Strike Prohibited

Neither the Association nor any of its officers, agents, or members shall instigate, promote, encourage, sponsor, engage in or condone any strike, picketing, slow downs, concerted work stoppage or any other intentional interruption of work during the term of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 28 TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF AGREEMENT

The parties hereto mutually agree that the terms and conditions of this Agreement represent the full and complete understanding and commitment between the parties.

Members of the association, as well as members of the district administrative team, also agree to meet at the request of either party during the duration of this Agreement to discuss areas of concern and/or district adopted programs and policies. Discussion can include, but will not be limited to such topics as: mentor teaching, job sharing, tuition reimbursement, terms of sabbatical leave, housing, administrative evaluations, job sharing, and discretionary funds.

SOUTHWEST REGION SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

By: [Signature]
Board President

Date: 12-10-24

By: [Signature]
Chief Financial Officer

Date: 1/6/25

By: [Signature]
Superintendent

Date: 1/6/2025

SOUTHWEST REGION EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

By: [Signature]
President

Date: 12/10/24

By: _____
Teacher Negotiator

Date: _____

By: [Signature]
Teacher Negotiator

Date: 12/10/2024

By: _____
Teacher Negotiator

Date: _____