

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
SUFFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
AND
SUFFIELD SCHOOL NURSES
CHCA District 1199, NUHHCE, AFSCME, AFL-CIO**

**Effective July 1, 2025
through June 30, 2028**

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ARTICLE 1
RECOGNITION

- 1.0 The Board of Education hereby recognizes the Connecticut Health Care Associates, National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees, AFSCME (hereinafter referred to as the "Union" or "CHCA") as the exclusive Collective Bargaining Agent, for the purpose of collective bargaining with respect to rates of pay, wages, hours of employment, and other conditions of employment for the unit consisting of all regularly scheduled full and part-time nurses, employed by the Suffield Board of Education, excluding those excluded by the Municipal Relations Act.

ARTICLE 2
UNION SECURITY/DUES

- 2.0 Upon the voluntary written authorization from the employee, the Suffield Board of Education agrees to deduct from each employee an amount equal to the union membership dues by means of payroll deductions. The Board of Education will remit once each month such deductions together with the list of employees from whose wages these sums have been deducted, a copy of said deductions to the CHCA.
- 2.1 Dues will be deducted from the second payroll of each month September through June.
- 2.2 The union shall no later than August 1 of each year, give written notice to the Business Office of the amount of dues for the year.
- 2.3 Employees may elect to change their chosen status upon appropriate written notice to the HR Department.
- 2.4 The Union agrees to hold the Board of Education harmless from damage arising from the enforcement of this Article.

ARTICLE 3
MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

- 3.0 Nothing herein contained shall be construed as limiting the right of the Board of Education to manage or direct the working force, including: the right to hire, transfer, promote, suspend or discharge any employee in order to maintain discipline and efficiency; to relieve employees from duty because of lack of work or other causes deemed sufficient to the Board of Education; to determine the methods, processes and means of operation, the schedules of work, methods or facilities; and to limit or curtail its operations unless, and only to the extent that, provisions of this Agreement specifically curtail or limit such rights, powers, and authority.

ARTICLE 4
NO STRIKE/NO LOCKOUT

- 4.0 The Union agrees that all employees included in this Agreement will not collectively, concertedly or individually engage in or participate directly or indirectly, in any strike, sympathy strike, slowdown or stoppage during the term of this Agreement.

- 4.1 The Board of Education agrees that it shall not lockout employees during the term of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 5
SENIORITY

- 5.0 Seniority shall commence upon the date that the employee begins as a full-time (20 hours or more) or permanent part-time paid employee of the Board of Education. The employee's earned seniority shall not be lost because of absence due to illness, pregnancy, maternity leave, bereavement, jury duty, personal leave, or authorized leave or while eligible for recall. Seniority and seniority rights will not be accrued during unpaid leave of absence or layoff, unpaid educational leave, but such rights will not be lost by the employee because of such leave. Part-time seniority shall be credited as follows:

½ year of seniority for each one (1) year of part-time service.

- 5.1 Transfers and/or promotions of employees shall be made on the basis of the best interest of the school system.
- 5.2 New employees of the Board of Education shall be considered probationary during their first ninety (90) calendar days of employment. During such probationary period the employee shall not attain seniority rights under this Agreement, and such probationary employee will be subject to discharge by the Board of Education, without access to the Grievance Procedure. At the successful completion of the probationary period, seniority shall be retroactive to the commencement of employment.
- 5.3 When new jobs or job vacancies are created within the unit, the Board of Education shall post the job title and job description for one (1) week and notify CHCA of such posting. Each employee who is interested will have the opportunity to apply for said opening(s), providing he/she is qualified. The senior employee shall be given first consideration for the job. If the senior employee is not promoted or transferred, consideration shall then be given to the next senior qualified employee in the unit who has applied for the position. The Board of Education, through its administration, retains the right to fill positions from outside the Unit. In the event there are two or more qualified applicants for the job, the inside senior applicant shall receive the appointment. Promoted employees shall have a sixty (60) day trial period to demonstrate ability to perform in the position. Demotion shall only be for just cause and such employee shall be placed back in his/her former position, hours and pay rate.

When a job vacancy occurs after the last day of the first semester the vacancy shall be filled on a temporary basis. The vacant position shall be filled with a bargaining unit member. Before the beginning of the new school year the position shall be posted for one (1) week in accordance with Article 5 Section 5.3 hereof.

- 5.4 For the purposes of layoff, all school nurses shall be considered as one (1) group.

5.5 In the event there is a reduction in or a proposed reduction in the number of employees or work hours, the employee with the least seniority shall be laid off first. The Board of Education shall notify CHCA as soon as possible, but in no event less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the time in which the layoff is to be effective. The Board of Education shall notify the least senior employee at least fourteen (14) calendar days before the effective date of the layoff. Failure to provide such fourteen (14) day notice shall result in payment of a two (2) week severance pay penalty.

5.6 The order of layoff for employees covered by this Agreement shall be within the job classification as follows:

- A. Probationary employees, part-time before full-time;
- B. Licensed Practical Nurse;
- C. Regular part-time employees before regular full-time regardless of seniority; and
- D. Full-time employees with the least seniority first.

An employee who receives such notice may elect within seven (7) calendar days thereafter to bump into another position within the bargaining unit, provided that the employee is qualified to perform the work and has more seniority than the least senior employee. The employee to be bumped shall have the same bumping rights to positions held by less senior employees in the bargaining unit provided all such bumping rights are exercised prior to the effective date of layoff.

5.7 Employees who are laid off or bumped into another position under this Article shall have recall rights as follows:

- A. The affected employee shall notify the Department head in writing at the time of layoff that he/she requests placement on a recall list.
- B. An employee who is bumped to another position shall have recall rights to his/her former job.
- C. For a period of eighteen (18) months, the affected employee shall have the right to be recalled to the job from which he/she was laid off.
- D. No person shall be newly employed until all persons on the recall list have been notified by certified mail, and such persons either are offered re-employment, or declined such re-employment offer. An employee who declines an offer of re-employment for which he/she is qualified shall forfeit recall rights. If a person on recall fails to respond to a certified letter notifying the employee of a recall opportunity within five (5) days of receipt, the employee shall lose recall rights.

ARTICLE 6

HOURS OF WORK AND OVERTIME

6.0 All full-time School Nurses work day shall consist of at least seven (7) hours and thirty (30) minutes per day, Monday through Friday.

The work year shall be the school year plus five (5) days to be used at the start of the school year or at the end of the school year as determined by the school nurse's duties as dictated by his or her particular school's need in consultation with the school's principal

and the Director of Special Services. These five days will require timecards to be submitted prior to payment.

Each day includes a twenty (20) minute paid lunch period during which time the School Nurse will be on-call for emergencies.

- 6.1 No employee shall be required to perform work in excess of the hours stated above without appropriate compensation.
- 6.2 All employees shall receive one and one-half (1-1/2) times their regular hourly rate for all work performed in excess of forty (40) hours per week. All overtime shall have the prior approval of the immediate supervisor or Board of Education administrator.
- 6.3 All full-time employees shall receive one and one-half (1-1/2) times their regular hourly rate for all work performed on Saturday. Double time shall be paid for all work performed on Sunday or holidays.
- 6.4 For all employees, overtime work shall be divided equally as far as practicable by rotation on a seniority basis within the school requiring overtime. Bargaining unit members shall be given preference for all overtime work. All overtime shall have the approval of the immediate supervisor or Board of Education Administrator, except as provided in Section 6.0 above.

ARTICLE 7

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- 7.0 **Purpose.** The purpose of the grievance procedure shall be to settle employee grievances on as low an administrative level as possible so as to insure employees' morale without impairing Board of Education efficiency.
- 7.1 **Definitions.**
 - A. A "Grievance" is any claim of a violation of any provision of this Agreement.
 - B. A "Grievant" may be the employee and/or Union.
 - C. "Days" shall mean business days.

STEP ONE Any employee with a grievance and/or his/her Union Representative shall meet with the immediate supervisor or designee within ten (10) days of the date that the alleged grievance occurred or is discovered, and the immediate supervisor or his/her designee shall submit his/her decision to the aggrieved employee within five (5) days of the receipt of the grievance.

STEP TWO If the employee or the Union are not satisfied with the decision rendered by the immediate supervisor, employee or the Union shall submit the grievance in writing, within five (5) days after receiving such decision, to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee, who shall meet with the Grievant and Union Representative and render a decision within five (5) days after receipt.

STEP THREE If the employee or the Union is not satisfied with the decision rendered by the Superintendent of Schools, the employee or the Union shall submit the grievance in writing within five (5) days after receiving such decision, to the Board of Education, who shall meet with the Grievant and the Union Representative at the Board of Education's next regularly scheduled meeting and render a written decision within five (5) days after the hearing provided that such meeting shall occur within twenty-one (21) days of the appeal to Step Three. The Board of Education shall schedule such grievance(s) as its first order of business.

STEP FOUR If the Union is not satisfied with the decision rendered by the Board of Education, it may, within twenty (20) days after the receipt of that decision, submit the grievance to the Connecticut State Board of Mediation and Arbitration under its expedited procedures or by mutual consent of the parties, such grievance may be submitted to the American Arbitration Association for resolution. The decision rendered by the Arbitrator(s) shall have no power to add to or subtract from or modify in any way the terms of this Agreement. The cost of the arbitration shall be borne equally by both parties.

- 7.2 **Mediation.** The Mediation services of the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration may be utilized at any time by mutual agreement.
- 7.3 Employees and the Union shall have the right and choice of a representative whenever desired by either individual employees or the Union at their expense. The Board of Education shall have the right and choice of a representative whenever desired at its own expense.
- 7.4 By mutual written agreement the parties may agree to extend the time limits of this procedure.

ARTICLE 8

DISCIPLINE

- 8.0 All disciplinary action shall be applied in a fair and equitable manner and shall be consistent with the infraction for which disciplinary action is being applied.

All suspensions and discharges must be given in writing with reasons stated and a copy given to the employee and the Union within seventy-two (72) hours of the suspension or discharge.

Depending on the offense, disciplinary action may include, but not be limited to, verbal and/or written warning, suspension without pay, and discharge. Progressive discipline shall be applied when appropriate. No employee shall be discharged or suspended without just cause. Disciplinary action normally shall follow in this order:

- A. Verbal Warning (side letter with note/date/topic)
- B. Written Warning
- C. Suspension without pay
- D. Discharge

All disciplinary action may be appealed through the established grievance procedure.

- 8.1 Each employee shall have the right to see and review his or her personnel file upon the written request of the employee by appointment with the Human Resources Specialist. No material shall be placed in the employee's file until he/she has been provided with a copy of such material. Employees may request that the Board of Education correct, amend or delete incorrect or inaccurate material. Failing mutual agreement, the employee shall have the right to respond and the response shall be made part of the file.

No separate active personnel file shall be maintained other than the one subject to employee inspection.

- 8.2 Each employee shall be given copies of evaluation reports, if any, placed in the employee's personnel file.
- 8.3 The Board of Education reserves the right to suspend or discharge an employee without a hearing, provided a hearing shall be given within twenty (20) working days.

ARTICLE 9

INSURANCE BENEFITS AND PENSION

This article and the attached insurance matrix document contain summaries and descriptions of various insurance benefits. It is agreed and understood by the parties that the insurance descriptions contained in this Agreement and the matrix are descriptive only and are not insurance policies. All questions or issues concerning insurance coverage and related matters shall be determined by reference to the actual insurance policy documents issued or possessed by the insurers. In the event of error or misstatement in this Agreement or the matrix, the policies shall always prevail.

- 9.0 Eligibility: The Board shall provide the following insurance benefits for each employee assigned on an annual basis to work twenty or more hours each week.
- 9.1 Change of Carriers/Funding Arrangements: The Board shall have the right to change insurance carriers, administrators or plans and/or to self-insure in whole or in part in order to provide the insurance coverage set forth above, provided that the overall level of benefits, when considered as a whole, is substantially equivalent to coverage of the current plan, described above, in terms of overall coverage, benefits and administration. Network shall not be a factor in considering if coverage, benefits or administration are substantially equivalent.

The President of the Union shall be notified in writing within 30 days of any intention to change carriers, administrators, plans and/or self-insure and shall have a reasonable opportunity to review the proposed changes. Should the Board and the Union disagree that the changes proposed will provide substantially equivalent benefits, coverage and administration, when considered as a whole, the disagreement(s) shall be subject to impartial arbitration as set forth in Article 7 of this Agreement, preferably before an arbitrator with experience and expertise in insurance matters, Arbitration may be demanded by either party and, should either party elect, such arbitration shall be expedited under the Rules of AAA or ADRC for expedited arbitration. No change in carrier or institution of self-insurance shall be made until the arbitrator has rendered his/her award.

9.2 Group Term Life Insurance: The Board shall provide \$50,000 group term life insurance paid by the Board; at least \$50,000 additional life insurance may be purchased by the employee, at 100% employee cost, up to the extent allowed by the carrier. The additional life insurance may require qualification if not purchased when initially enrolling in the plan.

9.3 Group Medical: The Board shall provide the following insurance benefits for each nurse and eligible dependents for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028:

A High-Deductible HSA Plan shall be the insurance plan. The HSA Plan shall have the following components:

	In-Network	Out-of-Network
Annual Deductible (individual/aggregate family)	\$2,000/4,000	\$2,000/4,000
Co-insurance	0% after deductible	20% co-insurance after deductible, subject to co-insurance limits
Co-insurance Maximum (individual/aggregate family)	\$3,000/6,000	\$3,000/\$6,000
Cost Share Maximum (individual/aggregate family)	\$3,000/\$6,000	\$4,000/6,850 (was \$5,000/\$10,000)
Lifetime Maximum	Unlimited	\$1,000,000
Preventive Care	Deductible waived	N/A
Prescription Drug Coverage	MP4 Platform Treated as any other medical expense, subject to deductible, once deductible is met, then \$5/30/45 (Mail order \$10/60/90) copay per prescription	20% co-insurance after deductible, subject to co-insurance limits

- a. Plan will include PHS Care Management
- b. Plan will include Value Drug Formulary
- c. Plan will include Preventive Generic Rx standard coverage
- d. Plan will include use of Accredo Specialty Pharmacy coverage
- e. Plan will include ASH Medical Management once approved by all other units
- f. Plan will include Health Matters Care Management.

9.4 Group Dental Coverage: The Board shall provide the current Co-Pay Dental Plan and Dental Rider A, with deductibles of \$25 for individuals and \$50 per family or an alternate plan as the parties may mutually agree upon in writing.

9.5 Premium Share: The Board and the participating employee shall pay their respective shares of the applicable premium rate based on the level and type of coverage selected as follows:

	2025-26 Employee	2026-27 Employee	2027-28 Employee
HDHP/HSA	22.0%	22.0%	22.0%
Dental Plan	22.0%	22.0%	22.0%

9.6 Section 125: The Board shall make an IRC Section 125 premium conversion plan available to employees making such contributions, to the extent permitted by law.

9.7 HSA Funding: The Board will contribute 40% of the deductible amount in 2025-26, 2026-27 and the 2027-28 contract year. The Board's contribution toward the HSA deductible may be deposited into the HSA accounts in up to four installments, with the first payment no later than the second payroll in September. The parties acknowledge that the Board's deductible contribution toward the funding of the HSA plan is not an element of the underlying insurance plan, but rather relates to the manner in which the deductible shall be funded for actively employed nurses. The Board shall have no obligation to fund any portion of the HSA deductible for retirees or other individuals upon their separation from employment.

Employees who are precluded from contributing to an HSA will receive the employer HSA contribution as regular income.

9.8 Retirees: The Board shall allow continuation of all existing health care insurance for any nurse upon retirement at no cost to the Board of Education. Such coverage shall be equal to the terms in the current master agreement between the Board and the Association. It is understood that if a retiring nurse wishes to continue in the insurance plan, payments must be made by the nurse at the appropriate time. The nurse may elect to continue in the group at his/her own expense.

Once a retiree or spouse becomes eligible for Medicare Part A, either individually or as a spouse/dependents, he/she shall begin coverage under Medicare and shall no longer be eligible for coverage in the group plan for active employees.

9.9 Misc.: The Board of Education shall provide the Association with copies of insurance rate changes within 14 calendar days prior to beginning salary deductions.

9.10 Defined Contribution Plan (401a):

Eligible employees hired on or after July 1, 2016, shall be permitted to participate in a Defined Contribution Plan, with a mandatory contribution of 5.25% from the employee and 5.25% employer annual contribution. The Board of Education will match any additional contribution by an employee up to an additional 1.75%, for a total Board of Education contribution not to exceed seven (7) percent.

9.11 Should any Federal statute or regulation pertaining to IRC §4980I be mandated to take effect in any contract year triggering the imposition of an excise tax with respect to any of the contractually agreed upon insurance plans offered herein, the parties agree to commence mid-term negotiations in accordance with the MERA. During such mid-term negotiations, the parties will reopen Article 9 (Insurance Benefits and Pension) of the contract for the purpose of addressing the impact of the excise tax. No other provision of the contract shall be reopened during such mid-term negotiations.

ARTICLE 10
HOLIDAYS

- 10.0 Subject to the provisions below, all bargaining unit employees will be granted leave with pay in observance of the following holidays:

New Year's Day
Martin Luther King Day
Presidents' Day
Good Friday
Memorial Day
Labor Day
Columbus Day
Thanksgiving Day
Day after Thanksgiving
Christmas Day

If school is in session on any one of these days, an alternate date for the holiday(s) shall be mutually chosen by the Superintendent or his/her designee and representatives of the bargaining unit.

- A. When a specified holiday falls on a Saturday, the holiday leave shall be granted on the preceding day, Friday.
 - B. When a specified holiday falls on Sunday, the holiday leave shall be granted on the following day, Monday.
 - C. If the Friday or Monday is a day when school is in session, the parties shall agree upon a mutual alternate date for said holiday.
- 10.1 Whenever any of these holidays shall occur while an employee is out on sick leave, there shall be no charge to sick leave for that holiday.
- 10.2 On any day where the Board of Education allows early release of any Board of Education unit due to inclement weather or other emergency situation, members of this bargaining unit shall also be excused at the same time with full pay.

ARTICLE 11
SICK LEAVE

- 11.0 An employee may be absent from work with pay during such period as actual illness or injury prevents him/her from performing his/her duties. Each such absence may be supported by a physician's statement if the absence is for three (3) or more consecutive days unless the illness or injury is of such nature that the supervisor and/or Board of Education waives the furnishing of a physician's statement. An employee absent due to illness or injury shall notify his/her supervisor prior to the regular starting time of the workday. Failure to do so could result in denial of sick leave for the period of absence.
- a. Each School Nurse shall be entitled to fifteen (15) sick leave days per year, credited each September 1st, cumulative to one hundred seventy (170) days.

- b. Part-time employees shall be entitled to five (5) paid sick leave days per year on a pro-rata basis.
- 11.1 Sick leave shall not accrue during any leave of absence in excess of thirty (30) days, except maternity leave, without pay.
- 11.2 Abuse of Sick Leave may be considered as part of a professional performance review or subject to discipline. However, the Employer agrees to comply with CGS 31-57r-w along with Connecticut ADA and FMLA and will not penalize an employee for using PSL or FMLA.

ARTICLE 12

WAGES

- 12.0 The wage schedule attached hereto and incorporated as Appendix A shall be effective from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028.
- 12.1 All school nurses shall elect to receive their full salary in either twenty two (22) equal installments per year or twenty two installments equal to 1/26 of the salary plus one (1) balloon installment equal to 4/26 of their salary. Any school nurse who has elected the balloon payment option will be paid the balance of their earned salary for the school year in a single payment which will be issued not later than June 30. Payment shall be made in a manner which does not increase the employees withholding tax liability, subject to compliance with state and federal law.

Upon initial employment, a nurse will elect one of the two payment options as described in section 12.1. However, nurses who begin employment after the start of school will not have the option of the balloon check until the following school year.

A nurse who wishes to change their payment option for the following year must notify the Superintendent in writing by August 1st. This selection will remain in effect until a nurse informs the Superintendent in writing of a change in payment option by August 1st.

ARTICLE 13

WORKERS' COMPENSATION

- 13.0 Employees who are absent from work due to illness or accident for which they are entitled to compensation under the Workers' Compensation Act shall not be charged sick time other than the first three days as permitted under the Workers' Compensation Act for a maximum of thirty (30) days of such accident. After the above thirty (30) days, said nurse is eligible to use accumulated sick leave. Sick leave so used will be charged against the nurse's sick leave at the rate of 1/3 of a day leave for each day of disability beyond the thirty (30) day full salary period. In no case shall the combination of sick leave and workers' compensation exceed the employee's normal pay.
- 13.1 No sick time shall be charged in case of absences falling under Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-236a.

ARTICLE 14
LEAVE PROVISIONS

- 14.0 **Childrearing Leave.** Upon request, any employee who is expecting a child, or whose spouse is expecting a child, or who has received acceptance to adopt a child, shall be granted a long-term leave of absence for childrearing purposes. The Board will comply with all mandatory provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of 1993.

The request for childrearing leave shall be made at least thirty (30) days prior to its commencement.

Such leave request must establish in writing the beginning and ending dates of the proposed leave as well as the use of days being requested, i.e. FMLA, sick days, unpaid days. A form will be completed by the employee and submitted to Central Office that will determine the status of the leave (sick leave, FMLA).

- 14.1 **Personal Leave.** Each employee working twenty (20) or more hours per week shall be entitled to five (5) paid days for personal reasons for which no other arrangements can be made.

A. Personal days not taken in the school year shall not be carried forward to the next year nor shall they be paid for. They shall not be added to any accumulation the employee presently has.

- 14.2 **Paid Bereavement Leave.** In the event of the death of an employee's spouse, father, mother, father-in-law, mother-in-law, sister, brother, child, stepchild, stepparent, stepsister, stepbrother, grandparents, grandchild or any person of the immediate household regardless of relationship, an employee may have time off starting on the date of the death and continuing to the date of the funeral not to exceed three days without loss of regular pay.

In the event of unusual circumstances regarding timing and/or location of memorial services, the Nurse may request an alternative time for taking Bereavement Leave with his or her supervisor and/or a need for additional days for travel. Any additional days will be unpaid. The decision of the supervisor shall be final.

- 14.3 **Jury Leave.** Any employee called to jury duty shall be paid the difference between the employee's regular rate of pay and the fee received from serving as a juror. No employee shall receive more compensation than normally would have been received in a regular work week. An employee called to jury duty shall furnish the Board of Education with a notice to service in evidence of attendance. The Board of Education may request exclusion for any employee who received notification of jury duty.

- 14.4 **Military Leave.** Military leave shall be granted to permanent employees or permanent part-time employees when required to serve on active reserve or on National Guard duty for a period not to exceed two (2) weeks. During this period, the employee shall be paid the difference, if any, between his/her regular pay and military pay. Time on military leave shall be included in computing seniority earned in the Board of Education's service. Copies of orders for active duty shall be supplied to the supervisor if requested.

- 14.5 **Leave of Absence.** An employee requesting leave of absence without pay may be granted the same at the discretion of the Superintendent and/or designee upon reasonable cause being given.

Such leave shall not exceed three (3) months. During such leave, insurance benefits shall continue at the cost share percentages as outlined in Article 9 for a maximum period of three (3) months if such leave is not subsequent to an FMLA leave.

14.6 **Union Leave.**

A. One (1) member of the Union and the grievant may be designated to process grievances and such member shall be granted leave of duty with full pay while engaged in processing said grievance, at each step of the procedure through arbitration. Additionally, the union designee shall be entitled to leave with pay for meetings with management.

B. One (1) member of the Union may be granted leave of absence from duty to attend annual conventions, or other Union business, but said employee shall not be granted or entitled to reimbursement by the Board of Education for any expenses incurred in travel or otherwise. Such leave shall not exceed a total of forty (40) hours unpaid leave. Leave may be taken in one hour increments, and any earned compensatory time or day may be used by such Union representative.

- 14.7 **Unpaid Leave** Requests for approval of unpaid leave during the work year shall be considered only in exceptional cases. The planned use of unpaid leave for the purpose of extending a family vacation or a holiday weekend when school is not in session will not be considered. The Superintendent, or his/her designee, shall inform the employee of his/her decision, in writing, as to whether the request has been approved. Such requests shall not be unreasonably denied. Should the employee be denied his/her request, the employee may appeal through the grievance procedure.

ARTICLE 15
UNIFORMS

- 15.0 The Board of education shall supply to all Nurses and can be used at the discretion of the nurse for tops, bottoms and/or shoes at the Board's expense, to a maximum of four hundred dollars (\$400.00) per year per Nurse.
- 15.1 Employees' clothing and equipment and personal possessions which are damaged in the line of duty shall be replaced by the Board of Education, at a maximum of \$250.00 per year, per employee.

ARTICLE 16
GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 16.0 The Board of Education agrees it will not subcontract work for the purpose of laying off employees. Further, the Board of Education will make every effort to recall employees from layoff whenever the duration and nature of the work being done makes it practical to do so.

- 16.1 During the term of this Agreement, the Board of Education shall furnish the Union with an up-to-date list of employees. When a new employee is hired, the Board of Education shall notify the Union and furnish the Union with the name, date of employment, classification, and rate of pay of the new employee. When the employment of an employee terminates, the Board of Education shall notify the Union and furnish the name and date of termination of the employee, and the reason for termination.
- 16.2 The Board of Education shall provide a copy of this Agreement to each employee presently employed and to each new employee upon employment.
- 16.3 Should any article, section or portion thereof, of this Agreement be held unlawful and unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision of the court shall apply only to the specific article, section or portion thereof, directly specified in the decision; upon the issuance of such a decision; the parties agree immediately to negotiate a substitute for the invalidated article, section or portion thereof.
- 16.4 There shall be no alteration, variation, no amendment of the terms and conditions of this Agreement, unless made and agreed to in writing by both parties. Any agreement must be ratified by the Union membership.
- 16.5 If there is any previously adopted policy, rule or regulation of the Board of Education which is in conflict with any provision of the Agreement, said Agreement provision shall prevail during the term of this Agreement.
- 16.6 When an employee is required to use his/her own motor vehicle to perform Board of Education business, or attend conferences at the direction of the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee, he/she shall be reimbursed on the basis of the present IRS rate or if the Board of Education policy is higher, such higher rate shall apply.
- 16.7 The Union's business representative shall be permitted to visit specific job sites where bargaining unit members are employed provided such visits are at normal business hours and do not interfere with the operation of the department or classroom activities. It is agreed that the Union business representative will report to the Supervisor before talking to bargaining unit members.
- 16.8 The Board of Education shall provide bulletin board space for the Union located in each school for the posting of notices concerning the Union's business and activities.
- 16.9 The Board agrees that past practice will be maintained unless changed by the terms of this Agreement or otherwise in accordance with the rulings of the Connecticut State Board of Labor Relations.
- 16.10 School nurses shall be reimbursed for all costs for in-service training as required by the State of Connecticut and National Certification. Additionally, the Board of Education shall accommodate in maintaining the C.E.U.'s as required by State. Additionally, the Board of Education may allow and compensate nurses to attend optional training.

- A. As approved in advance, school nurses may attend a school nurse conference once a year, designed as a professional development tool. Nurses will be reimbursed \$300 towards expenses including program fees, lodging, or any related expenses. Nurses shall provide a receipt for fees paid for any related expense.
- 16.11 When the Board of Education creates a new classification or extensively changes an existing job, the Board of Education shall establish appropriate pay rates for such new or changed classification. Any dispute that may arise as a result shall be resolved through the midterm negotiation and arbitration procedures of the Municipal Employees Relations Act.
- 16.12 Any charge or complaint by a member of the public may be made against a bargaining unit member but neither the Superintendent nor the Board of Education shall officially recognize the charge or complaint as valid unless and until it is in writing, signed by the Complainant. Where a State or Federal law contradicts such requirement this provision shall be waived. Such complaint shall include particular description of the acts complained of and names and addresses of witnesses. The Union Business Representative and the employee involved shall be informed of the complaint with a copy of said complaint to the employee and the President of the Union. Within twenty-four (24) hours, an investigation shall be initiated by the Superintendent, and if any formal charges are to be made against the employee as a result of said investigation, a hearing will be held before the Board of Education and the employee shall have the right to cross-examine the accuser.
- 16.13 Every attempt will be made to use bargaining unit employees to perform bargaining unit work.
- 16.14 Registered School Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses will be responsible for duties related to the School Nurse Scope of Practice as articulated in the CT DOL Document Clinical Guidelines for School Nurses and consistent with the OLR Research Report 2008-R-0054 1/16/08. The Board will be permitted to hire LPNs on a temporary basis (up to 60 days), if it is unable to hire a Registered Nurse. The Board will notify the union prior to hiring an LPN. If the Board is unable to find a Registered Nurse by the end of the 60 days, it will meet with the union representative to discuss an extension of the 60 days. The LPN will follow all guidelines in the documents identified above and will be under the supervision (in a neighboring school and by phone) of a Registered Nurse at all times.
- 16.15 The Board agrees to reimburse each nurse annually for the State of Connecticut licensing fee.
- 16.16 The Board of Education shall reimburse each union member for CPR certification within three (3) months of submission. Reimbursement will be a maximum of \$100 per CPR certification renewal per nurse. Proof of payment shall be a credit card statement, cancelled check, or a receipt from the training class.
- 16.17 The Board of Education shall participate in payroll deductions for any required payroll taxes for residents of Massachusetts and Connecticut.
- 16.18 All Side Letters of Agreement shall remain in effect and be attached to this Agreement.

School nurses assigned preceptor duties for student training shall be paid one dollar (\$1.00) per hour added to the nurses' hourly rate for preceptor hours performing such duties. No school nurse shall accumulate more than fourteen (14) hours in any given week.

- 16.19 The School Nurse Supervisor shall receive an additional annual stipend related to her duties, committee participation and overall tasks related to the position. The following represent the negotiated stipend for the School Nurse Supervisor position:

2025-2026	\$3,000
2026-2027	\$3,150
2027-2028	\$3,300

ARTICLE 17

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

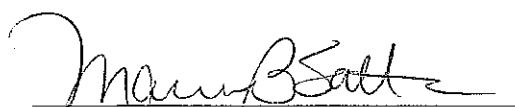
The Board of Education agrees to provide bargaining unit members with financial reimbursement for undergraduate or graduate level study, to a maximum allowance of \$1,000 per fiscal year within the following parameters:

- A. Prior approval for the course must be requested in advance by the bargaining unit member through the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.
- B. Such education must be directly related to member's current job.
- C. Books, fees, transportation and miscellaneous expenses are excluded. There shall be a \$1,000 limit pro-rated per year based on the number of participants each year. Tuition reimbursement will not be granted to any nurse who leaves the district of their own accord or whose contract has not been renewed for cause.
- D. In order to receive reimbursement, the member must present to the Board of Education:
 - a. Evidence of tuition payment in full.
 - b. Evidence of satisfactory completion of the course, with a minimum grade of "B" or a pass instances where a course is offered on a pass/fail basis.
- E. All such education and/or training must occur during non-duty hours unless approval is received in advance by the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.

ARTICLE 18
DURATION

17.0 This Agreement shall become effective on July 1, 2025 and shall remain in effect through June 30, 2028 and thereafter shall continue in effect from year to year except that it may be amended effective at the date of expiration by one party giving notice of its intention to amend the Agreement to the other party not later than one hundred and fifty (150) days prior to the expiration date.

Suffield Board of Education



Maureen Sattan
Board of Education Chair

5/20/2025
Date

Connecticut Health Care Associates



Union President

6/6/25
Date

APPENDIX A
HOURLY RATE WAGE SCHEDULES

Schedule for Registered Nurses:

July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028

	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>
FY 25-26	\$37.18	\$39.98	\$44.66
FY 26-27	\$38.29	\$41.18	\$46.00
FY 27-28	\$39.44	\$42.42	\$47.38

Schedule for Licensed Practical Nurses:

	<u>Step 1</u>	<u>Step 2</u>	<u>Step 3</u>
FY 25-26	\$22.80	\$24.65	\$26.65
FY 26-27	\$23.48	\$25.39	\$27.45
FY 27-28	\$24.18	\$26.15	\$28.27

Years of experience between the steps is defined as years served in Suffield Public Schools.

An employee may be hired at any step providing there is no present employee below that step. Should there be an employee in a lower step than the step for the proposed new hire, the Board shall not place that new hire in other than the starting step without the Union's concurrence.

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN
SUFFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION
AND
CONNECTICUT HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATES**

A. School Nurses -

1. If the Board of Education increases the length of the student day/year, the parties shall re-negotiate the hours of pay where applicable.

B. The Board of Education and the Union agree to the following in order to ensure the safety and health of the employees:

1. The Board of Education will comply with occupational safety and health standards (OSHA) as promulgated under State of Connecticut Statutes, Chapter 571.
2. The Board of Education shall provide to all members of the bargaining unit who are exposed to transmission of communicable disease(s), all necessary immunizations at no cost to the employee.
3. Those employees who are required to lift and/or care for students shall receive all necessary and proper training prior to being required to perform such tasks.
4. Employees shall be provided, at the Board's expense, all necessary protective gloves, clothing, etc. All handicapped bathrooms shall comply with current law and shall have a bacterial soap available for use.