



SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ASHLAND
— EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION —

Employee Handbook

2025-2026

This handbook is a collection of selected policies and administrative guidelines,
as well as rules and regulations of the School District of Ashland.
If there is a conflict between Board policy and this handbook, the Board policy shall take precedent.

BOE Approved: 05/19/25

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Employee Handbook has been prepared for School District of Ashland employees. Professional staff members include: administration, teachers, guidance counselors, speech pathologists, etc. (hereinafter referred to as “professional staff” licensed by the WI DPI). Support staff members include: administrative assistants, assistants, food service, maintenance, custodians, and exempt employees. The provisions described herein are the terms and conditions governing employment in the School District of Ashland and compliance with them is required.

This employee handbook is a collection of selected employment policies and administrative guidelines, as well as rules and regulations of the School District of Ashland. If there is a conflict between a Board policy and this Handbook, the Board policy shall take precedent. It has been prepared to acquaint all staff members with the policies and administrative guidelines, rules, and regulations that govern their employment in the District, and to provide for the orderly and efficient operation of the District.

It is each staff member’s responsibility to read and become familiar with this information and to comply with the policies adopted by the Board and/or the administrative guidelines promulgated by the District Administrator that are available electronically on the District website, as well as the rules and regulations contained herein.

If you have questions regarding any of the board policies and/or District Administrator’s administrative guidelines and/or the rules or regulations set forth in this handbook or about matters which are not covered, please direct them to your immediate supervisor.

1.1 STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Together, we are involved in one of the most important tasks of a society: educating our youth. Each of you is a valued staff member and has an integral part in accomplishing our mission of providing students with an educational system of excellence, effectiveness, fiscal accountability, and allowing all students the opportunity to gain a competitive advantage in a global economy. To help guide our working relationship, this handbook has been provided as a method of communicating general District information, rules, and regulations. Its purpose is to familiarize employees with the personnel policies of the District.

1.2 MISSION & VISION STATEMENT

Mission: Dream. Believe. Achieve.

Vision: Inspire and engage, every student, every day.

[Policy 0123 - Mission, Vision, and Values Statements of the Board](#)

1.3 CHAIN OF COMMAND/ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

The chain of command is the formal line of authority, communication, and responsibility within the District.

[Policy 3112](#) – Board-Staff Communications (Professional Staff)

[Policy 4112](#) – Board-Staff Communications (Support Staff)

This policy does not supersede the right of any employee or citizen to contact Board members directly.

The chain of command depicted on the organizational chart identifies the relationships in the District. (See Addendum “A”)

1.4 COMMUNICATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

The District values the comments and suggestions of its employees concerning work methods and operations. Employees should follow the chain of command when offering a suggestion or comment. Staff members should refer to the detailed procedure regarding communication.

Policy 3112 – Board-Staff Communication (Professional Staff)

Policy 4112 – Board-Staff Communication (Support Staff)

Policy 9130 – Public Requests, Suggestions, or Complaints

Administrative Guideline 9130 – Public Requests, Suggestions, or Complaints

This policy does not supersede the right of any employee or citizen to contact Board members directly.

1.5 ROLE OF MANAGEMENT

Certain rights and responsibilities are imposed by state and federal laws and regulations. Many of these rights and responsibilities have implications for policies and procedures governing employment. For this reason, the Employer/elected School Board reserves any and all management rights regarding employees' employment status. The role of management includes, but is not limited to, the right to:

- A. Direct all operations of the school system;
- B. Establish and require observance of reasonable work rules and schedules of work;
- C. Hire, promote, transfer, schedule, and assign employees in positions within the school system;
- D. Develop job descriptions;
- E. Suspend, discharge, and take other disciplinary action against employees;
- F. Relieve employees from their duties because of lack of work or any other legitimate reason;
- G. Maintain efficiency of school system operations;
- H. Make whatever action is necessary to comply with state or federal law, or to comply with state or federal court or agency decisions or orders;
- I. Introduce new or improved methods or facilities;
- J. Select employees, establish employment quality standards, and evaluate employee performance;
- K. Determine the methods, means, and personnel by which school system operations are to be conducted;
- L. Take whatever action is necessary to carry out the functions of the school system in situations of emergency;
- M. Discontinue certain operations;
- N. Determine the educational policies of the District; and
- O. Contract out for goods and services.

2.0 DISTRICT AND SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Board of Education
2000 Beaser Avenue, Ashland, WI 54806

Mary Kaulity President	(715) 292-5073	Kelly Maday Clerk/WASB Representative	(715) 292-8917
Shelly Viater Vice-President	(715) 209-0711	James Martinsen Treasurer/CESA Alternate	(715) 292-4737
Eric Brandis CESA Delegate	(715) 413-9582	Angela Lunn Deputy Clerk/Treasurer	(715) 292-2012
Jennifer Maveety Board Member	(608) 405-9491		

E-Mail: First initial and last name @ sdak12.net

District Office
2000 Beaser Avenue, Ashland, WI 54806
(715) 682-7080
Office Hours: 7:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Robert Prater , Superintendent	Amanda Tutor , Business Manager
Katie Matthias , Director of Student Learning	Melissa Gessert , Director of Student Services

Ashland High School
1900 Beaser Avenue, Ashland, WI 54806
(715) 682-7089
Grades: 9 – 12
School Hours: 8:10 AM – 3:30 PM

Brian Trettin , Principal	Shana Lindquist , Associate Principal
Brian Miller , Director of Athletics & Activities	Jennifer Kempf , School Counselor
Joe Corbine , Tribal Liaison	Deborah Eichman , School Counselor
Greta Blancarte , School Social Worker	Nancy Larson , School Counselor

Ashland Middle School
 203 11th Street East, Ashland, WI 54806
 (715) 682-7087
 Grades: 6 – 8
 School Hours: 8:10 AM – 3:30 PM

Eric Becker , Principal	Paul Fandre , Associate Principal
Michael Whitebird , Tribal Liaison	Sasha Voldberg , School Counselor
Nancy Larson , School Counselor	Briana Doane , School Social Worker

Lake Superior Elementary School
 1101 Binsfield Road, Ashland, WI 54806
 (715) 682-7085
 Grades: 4K – 5
 School Hours: 8:25 AM – 3:10 PM

Kathleen Thiele , Lead Principal	Heidi Oliphant , Associate Principal
TBD, School Counselor	Kelly Sundeen , School Counselor
Myron Burns , Tribal Liaison	Briana Doane , School Social Worker

Marengo Valley Elementary School
 62408 State Hwy. 112, Ashland, WI 54806
 (715) 278-3286
 Grades: 4K – 5
 School Hours: 8:25 AM – 3:10 PM

Elizabeth Erickson , Principal	Kelly Sundeen , School Counselor
TBD, School Counselor	Briana Doane , School Social Worker

3.0 EMPLOYMENT

3.1 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Employees are encouraged to explore career development opportunities in the District. All employees are encouraged to gain the necessary skills, training, and work experience needed to qualify for advancement opportunities. The District believes in promotion from within whenever practicable and in the best interests of the District. In all cases, the best qualified candidate for the position will be selected as determined by the administration and/or hiring committee and approved by the board for professional and support staff positions. Position vacancies throughout the District are typically advertised on the District website, in the District Office, and at each school building, and e-mailed to all staff. In order to be considered for a position, employees must apply prior to the application deadline. All employees should apply for the position per the instructions on the vacancy notice. The District retains the right to determine whether and when to recruit outside applicants.

An employee who applies for a vacant position prior to the end of the posting period, may be granted an interview for the position. The District retains the right to select the most qualified applicant for any position based upon stated job descriptions (this restriction does not prohibit the District from considering qualifications that are related to the position and exceed those minimum qualifications listed in the job description). The term “applicant” refers to both internal candidates and external candidates for the position. The District retains the right to determine the job descriptions needed for any vacant position.

3.2 HIRING OF RELATIVES

The District has established clear rules regarding the hiring of relatives (nepotism).

Policy 3120 – Employment of Professional Staff Policy 4120 – Employment of Support Staff

3.3 IMMIGRATION REFORM ACT COMPLIANCE

The District complies with the provisions of the Federal Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, including, but not limited to, requiring verification of authorization to accept employment in the United States from all employees.

3.4 JOB DESCRIPTIONS

The Board of Education recognizes that it is essential for staff member accountability that each staff member is fully aware of the duties and responsibilities of their position. Job descriptions document and describe the essential functions for staff positions and thereby promote organizational effectiveness and efficiency. The Administration is responsible for the development of job descriptions in the District. Further, if a copy of a job description is required or desired, the staff member shall ask their immediate supervisor or go to the Human Resources office and request a duplicate copy.

[Policy 3120.01](#) – Job Descriptions (Professional Staff)

[Policy 4120.01](#) – Job Descriptions (Support Staff)

3.5 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Staff members are expected to maintain high standards of honesty, integrity, impartiality, and professional conduct. Further, staff members are expected to perform their duties in a manner free from conflict of interest pursuant to Section 19.59 Wisconsin Statutes.

[Policy 1130](#) – Conflict of Interest-Private Practice

[Policy 3210](#) – Staff Ethics (Professional Staff)

[Policy 4210](#) – Staff Ethics (Support Staff)

3.6 OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT AND ACTIVITIES OF STAFF

Employees may not perform any duties related to an outside job during their regular working hours. For more information regarding the Board’s expectations concerning interest, activities, or associations that may conflict with the interests of the District, staff members shall review the following:

[Policy 3231](#) – Outside Activities of Staff (Professional Staff)

[Policy 4231](#) – Outside Activities of Staff (Support Staff)

4.0 EMPLOYMENT STATUS AND RECORDS

4.1 NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION

Professional Staff: All newly hired professional staff will participate in a two-day orientation in August to become familiar with the District and to receive basic information about District procedures and initiatives. Each new employee will participate in support seminars during their first year in the District. New professional staff will be assigned a mentor by the Director of Student Learning. The mentor will provide ongoing support and guidance. These orientation days, support seminars, and weekly meetings with mentors are part of the contracted days of the first year contract.

Support Staff: All newly hired staff will participate in an orientation training to become familiar with the District and to receive basic information about District procedures and initiatives. These are held on the first Monday of every month throughout the school year. New support staff will be assigned a mentor by the Director of Student Learning.

4.2 PERSONNEL FILES

It is critical to effective human resource management and necessary for satisfaction of legal obligations that the District maintains accurate personnel records. Further, the access granted for review and inspection of a personnel file must be completed in accordance with state law. The District shall maintain personnel records of staff members and grant access to inspect or review those records in accordance with policy and state law.

[Policy 8320](#) – Personnel Records

4.3 PERSONNEL FILE RECORD CORRECTION

If there is any disagreement with the content or information contained in an employee’s personnel record, the employee will follow the process established to have a correction made to the information in question, have the content in question removed from the file, or submit a written statement explaining the employee’s position to attach to the disputed portion of the record.

[Policy 8320](#) – Personnel Records

4.4 PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

The District Administrator has established and will implement a program of staff evaluation. This program shall focus upon the early identification of specific areas in which the staff member needs improvement so appropriate assistance may be provided in a systematic way.

[Policy 3220](#) – Staff Evaluation (Professional Staff)

[Policy 4220](#) – Staff Evaluation (Support Staff) Applicable State Statutes

4.5 ASSIGNMENTS AND TRANSFERS

The District Administrator is responsible for the proper assignment of all staff members in conformance with any legal requirements or certification requirements. Further, staff members may be transferred between schools when the District Administrator determines that it is in the best interest of the students, the school, or the District.

Postings will be for a minimum of three (3) working days. The District retains the right to determine whether and when to recruit outside applicants.

When the District determines that an involuntary transfer of an employee is necessary, due to the District's inability to fill a vacancy or a new position according to the procedures set forth above, it may, at its discretion, transfer an employee in the District qualified for the position. The District may also involuntarily transfer an employee if the District determines the transfer will better serve the District's needs. Involuntary transfers, not including disciplinary transfers, will have the first right to refusal when the original position becomes available again.

4.6 LAYOFF NOTICE – SUPPORT STAFF

Whenever the Board determines an anticipated layoff, the employee so affected shall be given a minimum advance notice of thirty (30) calendar days.

The factors that will be considered when determining layoffs include, but are not limited to, in the following order of priority:

- Qualifications
- Performance
- Seniority
- Related experience

4.7 LAYOFF NOTICE – PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Whenever the Board determines to layoff professional staff in whole or in part, the layoffs will be pursuant to Wis. Stat. 118.22.

The factors that will be considered when determining layoffs include, but are not limited to, in the following order of priority:

- Qualifications
- Performance
- Seniority
- Related experience

4.8 STAFF DISCIPLINE

Disciplinary action against employees may be taken for violations of standards of conduct, violations of policies and procedures, or for unsatisfactory work performance. Disciplinary action will typically be taken after an investigation and after giving the employee an opportunity to respond to any and all allegations. Employees shall be offered to include an advocate in all conversations/meetings. Letters of expectation are non-disciplinary and non-grievable.

[Policy 3139](#) – Staff Discipline (Professional Staff)

[Policy 4139](#) – Staff Discipline (Support Staff)

Level of Discipline: The level of discipline imposed will take into consideration the seriousness of the infraction as well as the employee's performance record. When appropriate, discipline should be corrective in nature. At the Employer's sole discretion, various types of employee discipline or corrective action may be imposed which include, but are not limited to, the following: verbal warning (with follow up email), written warning, corrective action plan, suspension, or termination. Employee discipline for purposes of access to the grievance procedure is defined to include only termination, disciplinary suspensions, and disciplinary demotions. None of these disciplinary measures are required to be used before termination from employment occurs, nor are the listed disciplinary actions required to be used in any specific order. The Employer may repeat disciplinary action.

Employees are expected to work in a competent and conscientious manner which reflects favorably upon the employee and the School District of Ashland. The following is a list of examples of behavior which would normally justify disciplinary action:

- Fraud in securing employment
- Theft
- Incompetency
- Inefficiency
- Unauthorized absences
- Repeated absence or tardiness or improper use of leave
- Neglect of duty
- Insubordination or willful misconduct
- Dishonesty
- Falsification of records
- Assuming duties while under the influence of controlled substances or intoxicants; or possession of use of intoxicants or controlled substances during working hours
- Failure to inform supervisor of lawful use of a prescription drug which impacts the employee's ability to perform their job duties
- Conviction of a felony or misdemeanor, the circumstances of which are substantially related to the duties performed
- Negligence or willful damage to property
- Discourteous treatment of students, the public, or fellow employees
- Failure to obtain and maintain a current license or certification as required by law or Employer
- Failure to maintain effective working relationships with other employees or the public
- Sexual or other unlawful harassment
- Workplace violence
- Violation of any lawful order, directive, policy, or work rule.

The offenses listed above are not intended to be all-inclusive, and discipline, including termination, may occur for any other reason depending upon the seriousness of the offense, the particular facts and circumstances surrounding the incident(s), and the employee's record of prior disciplinary actions.

Documentation: All discipline shall be documented with a copy provided to the employee and a copy placed in the employee's personnel file.

4.9 SEPARATION FROM EMPLOYMENT

The Board may eliminate or reduce staff positions as necessary. Separation from employment includes, but is not limited to, resignation, retirement, reduction in workforce, failure to return from approved leave, termination, nonrenewal, or discharge from employment. Such employment separations may be voluntary or involuntary. If an employee decides to voluntarily terminate employment with the District, the District requests at least two weeks' advance notice so any necessary replacement employees can be recruited or otherwise assigned. Upon any separation from employment, vacation, personal time, banked personal time, inclement weather and benefits which the employee has earned and accrued will be credited to the employee pursuant to law, excluding sick time. The employee's last day worked will in most cases be considered the employee's last day of employment. The District reserves the right to determine the last day of employment. An employee is required to return all keys, identification badge, credit cards, laptop computer, access passes or swipe cards, confidential documents, and any other assigned or possessed District owned property to their immediate supervisor before departure. A decision by

the District to terminate a staff member’s employment may be subject to review consistent with:

[Policy 3340](#) – Grievance Procedure (Professional Staff)

[Policy 4340](#) – Grievance Procedure (Support Staff).

Staff members may resign in accordance with the terms of their individual employment contract.

[Policy 3140](#) – Termination, Non-Renewal and Resignation (Professional Staff)

[Policy 4140](#) – Termination, Non-Renewal and Resignation (Support Staff)

4.10 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

Each staff member of the District shall be provided an opportunity to understand and resolve matters affecting employment that the employee believes to be unjust as provided. The staff member has five (5) business days to file a grievance. A grievance procedure is available in the case of any employee’s disagreement with discipline or termination of employment, as well as any matter relating to workplace safety or the interpretation or application of written District policies or written procedures.

[Policy 3340](#) – Grievance Procedures (Professional Staff)

[Policy 4340](#) – Grievance Procedures (Support Staff)

4.11 PROFESSIONALISM, COMMUNICATION AND EXPECTATIONS (Non-Disciplinary)

We strive for high levels of professionalism and collegiality. In order to achieve this we have regular processes such as rounding, shared leadership and check in meetings between building administration and building stewards.

When there is a need for reminders regarding professionalism, communication and/or expectations, staff can bring an advocate to the meeting with their supervisor. Recommendations for growth and improvement may be made through coaching cycles, improvement plans, and/or letters of expectation.

5.0 EMPLOYEE PAY AND BENEFITS AND WORK HOURS

5.1 HOURS OF WORK / WORK SCHEDULES / CALENDARS

It is the District’s goal to provide employees with regular work hours and work schedules while ensuring staffing coverage necessary for effective operations.

5.2 NORMAL HOURS OF WORK

Professional staff are professional employees as defined by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and the Wisconsin Municipal Employee Relations Act, § 111.70(1) (L), Wis. Stats. Although professionals’ work is not limited to any specified number of hours or days per week, the “normal” hours of work for full-time employees in positions authorized as “40 hours per week” are considered to be eight (8) hours per day Monday through Friday, including a (free from scheduled responsibility) thirty (30) minute lunch period.

The District has established school building working hours for professional staff as 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM at LSE and MVS and 7:45 AM - 3:45 PM at AMS and AHS. With that, professional staff may leave five (5) minutes after the buses leave on Fridays unless a meeting, an in-service activity, or professional development activity is scheduled requiring staff attendance. For the purpose of an employee requesting leave, time off must be submitted to reflect an 8-hour day (until 3:45 PM/4:00 PM). For example, an employee who does not work on a Friday is to submit 8 hours of leave.

Professional Hours:

- A. The concept of professional hours means that a professional staff member and their appropriate

supervisor(s) will determine the professional staff's hours based upon the completion of their duties and the needs of their student(s).

- B. Professional staff are responsible for the completion of their duties as set forth in the job description and those other duties specific to each position.
- C. Professional work hours shall be governed by the following:
 - a. The starting and ending times for employees are determined by the Board. The normal work day will be 8 continuous hours.
 - b. Professional staff are required to attend administratively called meetings.
 - c. A professional staff member and their appropriate supervisor(s) will determine the employee's hours based upon the completion of their duties and the needs of their students.
- D. It is not the intent of the professional hours section to require more or fewer meetings and conferences, nor is it the intent to have professional staff present only in the classroom during instructional time and disregard their normal responsibilities.

Staff Meetings:

Professional staff are required to attend all mandatory administratively called staff meetings. Administratively called meetings may begin before the normal workday begins or later than the end of the normal workday. The administration shall attempt to provide reasonable notice of all such meetings. Professional staff who are required to attend administratively called meetings will receive no additional remuneration, above their regularly paid salaries, for attending such meetings.

Other Administratively Called Meetings and Assigned Duties:

The notification and duration provisions above may not include nor shall they apply to meetings of individual educational plans teams, the preparation of individual education plans, family-teacher conferences, department meetings, open houses, music programs, art shows, communication with families/guardians, and/or other District or building functions that normally occur outside of the school day or activities of similar nature, which are normally conducted at other times. Professional staff are required to attend such events regardless of the date, time or duration of said meetings. Professional staff who are required to attend other administratively called meetings or other professional expectations will receive no additional remuneration, above their regularly paid salaries, for attending such meetings. Notice of such meetings shall be of reasonable length.

Support staff work schedules will be determined by their supervisors.

Full-Time: The normal workweek for full-time employees shall be (40hrs/wk. or 80 hrs/pay period). All full-time employees shall have an unpaid designated lunch period.

Part-Time: The normal workweek for any part-time employee shall be designated by the School District of Ashland.

Breaks: Hourly employees working a full shift will receive two (2) fifteen (15) minute breaks, one in each half of the shift. Hourly employees working less than a full shift shall receive one (1) break.

Sign-Out: Employees shall be permitted to leave their building during their lunch period for any reason. Professional staff may leave school during one (1) prep period per day, provided they are not scheduled to attend a meeting within the school and have signed out. To support dismissal of students, professional staff are to be in the building the last 30 minutes of their work day. Limited exceptions may be made with building administrator approval.

5.3 IN-SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS ATTENDANCE

Unless expressly excused or directed by her/his supervisor, or unless absent from work for a recognized and excusable reason, every employee is to attend and participate in scheduled in-service training and professional development programming that is held for staff during contracted hours.

5.4 PAYROLL & DEDUCTIONS FROM PAYROLL

Payroll and payroll procedures shall be standardized in accordance with applicable State and Federal guidelines.

Pay Periods: Paychecks are normally deposited, by direct deposit, bi-weekly on Thursdays. (If payday falls on a holiday, the pay date will be the day before the holiday.)

Data Changes: It is the employee's responsibility to notify the District Office if any changes occur in their name, home address, telephone number(s), marital status, name or number of dependents, number of tax exemptions, insurance classification, beneficiary changes, or individuals to be contacted in case of emergency. This information is necessary as it may affect the employee's compensation, dependents' eligibility for medical insurance, and other important matters.

Deductions: It is the Employer's policy to comply with applicable wage and hour laws and regulations. If an employee has any questions or concerns about their salaried status or believe that any deduction has been made from their pay that is inconsistent with their salaried status, the employee should immediately raise the matter with the Payroll Representative who can assist in understanding the information that is required in order to investigate the matter.

The Employer is committed to investigating and resolving all complaints as promptly, but also as accurately, as possible. Consistent with the U.S. Department of Labor's policy, any complaint will be resolved within a reasonable time given all the facts and circumstances. If an investigation reveals that the employee is subject to an improper deduction from pay, the employee will be reimbursed and the Employer will take whatever action it deems necessary to ensure compliance with the salary basis test in the future.

5.5 TOTAL BASE WAGES & OTHER FORMS OF COMPENSATION

State law authorizes collective bargaining for total base wages only. Premium pay, merit pay, automatic pay progressions, and any other form of supplemental compensation may be considered, but not bargained, by the employer.

A copy of the Teacher Pay Scale, as approved by the Board, can be obtained by contacting the District Office. See also Appendix B.

5.6 SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSISTANT LICENSURE

The Board shall pay the fee for any special education assistant licensure certification required by the Department of Public Instruction.

Assistants who perform any one of the following procedures - insertion and use of feeding tubes, injections, trachea care, and catheterization on a student - as a regular part of their schedule will be paid an additional \$.75/hr. *It will be the responsibility of the employee to communicate their eligibility for this additional pay to the Director of Student Services for approval.*

5.7 SUMMER SCHOOL WORK RULES

In the interest of providing a larger number of Ashland students the opportunity to engage in high-quality summer learning experiences, the following guidelines have been implemented:

1. Summer school courses will be taught by a certified teacher. The District retains the right to determine whether and when to recruit outside applicants.
2. In order for all courses to run, there must be a minimum of fifteen (15) students enrolled per class by a cut-off date set by the District.
3. Preparation time will be paid at the same summer school hourly rate. Teachers will be given one hour of paid preparation time for every five (5) hours of teaching.
4. Administration will have sole discretion in determining the final selection of courses offered.

5.8 OVERTIME

To provide a consistent system for distributing overtime in compliance with the overtime-pay provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act, each position is designated as either “non-exempt” or “exempt” from the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and state wage and hour laws. Employees in “non-exempt” jobs are paid on an hourly basis and are entitled to overtime pay for hours worked in excess of 40 hours per week (support staff). Compensatory time in lieu of overtime pay may be offered, but is limited to 40 hours per fiscal year. All other overtime will be paid. Holidays as outlined in Section 5.9 will apply as hours worked in the calculation of 40 hours. Employees in “exempt” positions are generally paid on a salary basis and are excluded from specific provisions of federal and state wage and hour laws and are not eligible for overtime pay (professional staff). Employees should contact their supervisor if they are unsure of their position’s designation.

Non-exempt employees will have the option to elect compensatory time in place of overtime. All compensatory time must be used by June 30th of the current school year.

Accrual: Any paid leave time shall not be counted as hours worked for overtime purposes.

Approval: All overtime must be approved in advance by management.

5.9 HOLIDAYS

The School District of Ashland will identify employee holidays and establish a consistent procedure for scheduling and payment.

School-Year Professional Staff Holidays: Professional staff are entitled to three paid holidays. Paid holidays are as follows:

- New Year’s Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

Full-Year Support Staff Holidays: Full-year support staff are entitled to nine paid holidays. Paid holidays are as follows:

- New Year’s Day
- Spring Holiday
- Memorial Day
- Fourth of July
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- The day after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve Day
- Christmas Day

School-Year Support Staff Holidays: School-year support staff that are scheduled to work M-F, are entitled to seven paid holidays. School-year support staff that are not scheduled to work M-F, are entitled to paid holidays on days that they would otherwise have been scheduled to work. Paid holidays are as follows:

- New Year's Day
- Spring Holiday
- Memorial Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- The day after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve Day
- Christmas Day

Observance: When a holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the holiday will be rescheduled as determined by the employer.

Eligibility: All full-time employees and part-time employees are eligible to receive compensation for holidays; temporary or limited-term employees are not eligible. In order to receive holiday pay, employees must work the day before and the day after each holiday to be eligible for holiday pay, with the exception of normal days off or excused absences. No employee shall be compensated more than once for each holiday.

Work on Holiday: Any employee who is required to work on any of the above-mentioned holidays shall be compensated at the rate of time and one-half in addition to that employee's regularly scheduled rate of pay.

5.10 LEAVES – VACATION

The School District of Ashland will provide eligible employees with paid vacation time while meeting the operational needs of the District.

Accrual: Full-year employees are entitled to one (1) week's paid vacation annually after 90 days of employment year of employment; two (2) weeks' paid vacation annually after two (2) years of employment; three (3) weeks' paid vacation annually after seven (7) years of employment; four (4) weeks' paid vacation annually after twelve (12) years of employment. Vacation is based on the employee's work schedule. Employees, upon completion of the 16th through 20th years of service, shall be allowed an additional day per year to a maximum accumulation of twenty-five (25) days of vacation.

Approval: Use of vacation time requires the prior approval of the employee's supervisor.

All vacation days earned in an employee's anniversary year must be used by the anniversary date (i.e. date of hire) or the vacation days will be lost. The School District recognizes that job responsibilities may restrict the use of vacation in a timely manner, so there is a three-month grace period. If, however, at the end of the grace period, there are still unused carried-over vacation days, the unused vacation will no longer be available for use by the employee.

5.11 LEAVES – SICK LEAVE

The School District of Ashland will provide employees with paid time to address their own personal health care needs or the health care needs of an immediate family member.

Definition: For purposes of this provision, "immediate family" means a person who resides with and is dependent upon the employee for care and support.

Support Staff:

Full-year employees shall be granted twelve (12) days per year accumulative to 120 days.

School-year employees shall be granted ten (10) days per year accumulative to 120 days.

Professional Staff: Professional staff shall be granted twelve (12) days per year accumulative to 120 days.

Staff members who have an excess of 120 sick days at the end of the school year will be allowed to bank these accumulated days, not to exceed twelve (12) per year, at a rate of \$100/day. Funds will be deposited into an HRA at the time of retirement (addendum C/Eligibility) with the School District of Ashland.

See Addendum C for further details.

5.12 LEAVES – EMPLOYEE VOLUNTARY SICK LEAVE FUND

1. If an employee exhausts their sick leave accumulation (i.e., vacation and personal leave) due to personal illness, the employee may notify the District Office for implementation of the voluntary sick leave fund. “Personal illness” may include a chronic illness, an employee’s recovery from childbirth and any medical complications arising from the pregnancy. The voluntary sick leave fund may also be used to cover up to six (6) continuous weeks of maternity/paternity leave.
2. All staff members employed by the School District may participate and make donations, maximum 5 days, to the voluntary sick leave fund. Donations to the fund will be collected annually in September and October. If all donated days are exhausted during the school year supplemental donation request may be made to All Staff. A committee of 5 participants composed of one (1) administration member and one (1) union representative per building will convene to review and determine whether to approve or deny the request. The committee will decide the number of sick leave days to allow the requester based off of donations made.
3. The sick leave days remaining in the fund will be retained for future leave requests.
4. Donating employees will remain anonymous to the receiving employee.
5. When an employee becomes eligible for long-term disability benefits, the employee is required to apply.
6. In the event the District has reason to believe that an employee is abusing the voluntary sick leave fund, the Board reserves the right to immediately cease utilization of the voluntary sick leave fund.

5.13 LEAVES – FMLA

The School District of Ashland will grant family, medical and military leaves to qualified employees in accordance with the Wisconsin Family and Medical Leave Law and the federal Family and Medical Leave Act.

Incremental Use: Sick leave may be used in increments of no less than fifteen (15) minutes.

Notification: A request for sick leave must be submitted to the appropriate person as soon as reasonably practical and no later than fifteen (15) minutes before the start of assigned work hours.

Verification: The employer will require verification of leaves in excess of three (3) days.

[Policy 3430.01](#) – Family & Medical Leave of Absence (“FMLA”) (Professional Staff)

[Policy 4430.01](#) – Family & Medical Leave of Absence (“FMLA”) (Support Staff)

Per the **Code of Federal Regulations - Title 29: Labor - Section 825.213: Employer recovery of benefit costs**, the School District of Ashland may recover its share of health plan premiums paid during a period of unpaid FMLA leave from an employee if the employee fails to return to work after their unpaid FMLA leave entitlement has been

exhausted or expires; unless the reason the employee does not return is due to:

- Circumstances beyond the employee's control; or
- The continuation, recurrence or onset of a serious health condition of the employee or the employee's family member, or a serious injury or illness of a covered servicemember, that would otherwise entitle the employee to leave under FMLA.

5.14 LEAVES – HEALTH

The School District of Ashland will provide an unpaid leave of absence for an employee who is not qualified for or has exhausted his or her FMLA leave.

An employee who has exhausted their accumulated sick leave and/or becomes eligible for long-term disability benefits may be granted an extended medical leave of up to one (1) year from the date of the employee's last day of accumulated sick leave or the first day on which they become eligible for long-term disability insurance benefits, whichever occurs first. Requests for additional leave must be made in writing to the superintendent.

The reasons for the extended medical leave shall be limited to physical and/or mental illness, and the granting of the leave shall be subject to written verification from a physician certifying that such condition exists. The extended medical leave shall be without pay, but the District shall continue its health insurance premium contributions, on behalf of the employee, at the same rate as for active employees, for the first nine (9) months of the leave. Thereafter, the employee's right to remain in the District's group health insurance plan, at their own expense, shall be pursuant to state and federal law. Upon receipt of written verification from a physician certifying the employee's fitness to return to work before the expiration of the leave, the employee shall be returned to their position or an equivalent position. In the event a physician does not certify the employee's fitness to return to work prior to the expiration of the leave, the employee's employment rights may be deemed terminated. Further, if the employee is found to be totally disabled by the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS), the health leave will be terminated.

5.15 LEAVES – UNPAID (PAY DEDUCTS)

The District may approve additional unpaid leave requests. Employees must obtain permission before taking an unpaid leave. While on such a leave, the employee shall not receive or accrue any fringe benefits. The employee shall, however, be permitted to remain in the District's group health insurance plan, at their own expense, for the time required by state and federal law. Employees will be responsible for all fringe benefit costs associated with leave requests.

5.16 LEAVES – BEREAVEMENT

In the event of death in the family of an employee's spouse, parents, children, brother, sister, grandparents, grandchildren, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, step parents, step children, step brother, step sister, niece, nephew, aunt or uncle, the employee shall be granted up to three (3) days bereavement pay to make household adjustments, or to attend funeral services with the last day being the day of the funeral or the day traveling back from the funeral. The employee must notify their supervisor as soon as possible of their need for leave. If the funeral or other memorial service for an employee's spouse, parents, children, brother, sister, grandparents, grandchildren, father-in-law, or mother-in-law takes place more than 500 miles from the worksite, employees are entitled to up to five (5) consecutive working days of paid bereavement.

The Employer reserves the right to request documentation establishing an employee's attendance at a funeral or other memorial services and /or documentation of the employee's relationship to the deceased.

Employees may request additional time off for the purpose of bereavement. Additional time may include the use of sick time, maximum of one (1) sick day, that the employee may have, or may be unpaid.

Bereavement leave, whether paid or unpaid, shall not be used when addressing attendance issues.

5.17 LEAVES – JURY DUTY

Employees who receive a summons to serve on jury duty will be granted jury duty leave. Employees must give reasonable advance notice of their intended absence for jury duty. If an employee is dismissed from jury duty on any given day prior to the end of their regularly scheduled working hours, they shall report to work for the balance of the working day. Employees will be compensated their regular wages for each day of jury duty served, if scheduled to work, provided that the employee remits all compensation received for such duty (exclusive of travel pay or actual expenses) within three (3) days of receipt thereof.

5.18 LEAVES – FLOATING HOLIDAY – INCLEMENT WEATHER (Full-Year Support Staff Excluding Custodians/Maintenance)

All full-year support staff should use cautionary discretion as to whether they can report to work. All full-year support staff employees who are not able to report to work are to use personal, banked, or vacation leave. All full-year support staff employees who report to work on an inclement weather day will earn floating holiday time equal to time worked, not to exceed sixteen (16) hours per school year. All inclement weather/floating holidays must be used by June 30th of the school year incurred.

5.19 LEAVES – FLOATING HOLIDAY – INCLEMENT WEATHER (Custodians/Maintenance)

To be eligible for the floating holiday, individuals are required to work one (1) full eight (8) hour shift. Individuals who choose to use a vacation day, sick day, personal day, floating holiday, payroll deduction, or comp time will not be eligible for the floating holiday. Employees are entitled to a maximum of two (2) inclement weather/ floating holidays per school year. All inclement weather/floating holidays must be used by June 30th of the school year incurred.

5.20 LEAVES – EMERGENCY CONDITIONS (School-year Support Staff & School year Professional Staff)

If days scheduled are lost during the school year for inclement weather, the first day shall not be made up (no loss of pay) if state attendance requirements have been met. For any additional days lost, staff members will be required to make up the days.

Following the designated inclement weather day, the school district will prioritize a remote learning model for instruction to preserve the academic calendar. Remote learning will provide students with asynchronous opportunities to engage in and/or reinforce learning, as well as the option to connect with their teacher should they need the support. For specific details on what is expected during these days, please see the linked [Guide to Remote Instruction for Staff](#).

Early Release - If the decision is made to release school early due to inclement weather, all employees are required to stay in the building until students are safely cleared from the building and notified by the building administrator.

5.21 LEAVES – PERSONAL

The School District of Ashland will provide employees with paid leave time, that can be taken in small time increments, in order to conduct personal business. Personal leave cannot be used before or after a non-scheduled school day, unless there is a family milestone event, e.g., wedding, graduation. These MUST be approved well in advance by the building administration.

Eligibility: All regular employees will be granted personal leave. Full-time employees will be granted two

(2) days of personal leave per year, and part-time employees will receive two (2) days' leave on a prorated basis.

Approval: All requests for use of personal leave require advance approval from the employee supervisor. Approval must come from the building administrator, and they will be approved on a first-come first-serve basis. Approval will be based on the number of staff already approved. LSE, AMS, and AHS are limited to three (3) absences and MVS is limited to two (2) absences due to personal leave per day.

For leaves- up to five days can be taken at a time if saved up- with admin approval.

Incremental Use: Personal leave may be used in increments of no less than fifteen (15) minutes.

Accrual: Three (3) days' personal leave may be "carried over" to the next calendar year without prior authorization for a maximum of three (3) banked personal days. Staff are encouraged to submit their personal leave as early as possible. Approval must come from the building administrator, and they will be approved on a first-come first-serve basis. LSE, AMS, and AHS are limited to three (3) absences and MVS is limited to two (2) absences due to personal leave per day.

Staff are encouraged to request time off as early as possible for the school year, preceding school years will open on July 1.

5.22 LEAVES – OTHER

Other leaves include: Educational leave, mid-career leave, professional leave, industrial leave, and civic participation leave. Employees may be eligible for other leaves with prior permission by the employees' supervisor and the District Administrator. Employees on approved unpaid leaves will not accrue seniority or fringe benefits. A written request must be submitted at least three (3) months before the start of the leave.

Military leave shall be granted pursuant to state and federal law.

5.23 BENEFITS – HEALTH INSURANCE

The School District of Ashland will provide health insurance to those employees who qualify for coverage. Levels of benefits provided and employee participation is determined by the School District of Ashland and applicable State and Federal regulations. Fringe Benefit Proration:

<u>Support Staff % of benefits</u>	<u>Hours of work per week</u>
100%	35 or more hours

Professional Staff

75% or more equals 100% benefits.

Employees who are contracted for less than seventy-five percent (75%) will have their fringe benefits prorated

Employee Contribution: All full-time employees are required to pay twelve percent (12%) of total monthly health insurance premiums. Part-time employees are required to pay twelve percent (12%) of the total monthly health insurance premiums plus the prorated portion of the remaining health insurance premium.

COBRA: Under state law and the Federal Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 ("COBRA") and subsequent amendments to the Act, employees covered under an employer's group health care plan are eligible for continuation of health care coverage under the group plan upon the employee's termination (except for gross misconduct) or reduction in hours. COBRA regulations also allow the employee's spouse and covered dependents to elect continuation coverage upon the employee's death, divorce or legal separation, an employee's entitlement to Medicare, a dependent's loss of dependent status under family coverage, or the employer's filing of a bankruptcy

proceeding.

All employees, as well as their qualified dependents, will receive notice of mandated insurance continuation benefits at the time of hire or whenever the plan coverage for the employee begins. If a qualifying event occurs which entitles the employee and/or qualified dependents to continuation coverage, the plan administrator will notify the qualified beneficiaries of their right to elect continuation coverage. Unless otherwise agreed, continued participation is solely at the participant's expense.

In accordance with the timeline outlined below, employees are required to report the following status changes to the District Office to ensure their accessibility to COBRA benefits:

- Marriage - no more than thirty (30) days from certification of marriage
- Divorce - no more than sixty (60) days from certification of dissolution of marriage. The District is required to offer your ex-spouse coverage at their expense as outlined by COBRA.
- Birth/Adoption - no more than thirty (30) days of your child's birth or certification of adoption or placement for adoption.
- Dependent (26 years of age) - Your dependents are covered by insurance until they are twenty-six (26).
- No fewer than sixty (60) days prior to their twenty-sixth (26th) birthday, you are required to notify the District Office. At that time they can either enroll in special enrollment in the ACA Marketplace or they can continue single coverage through COBRA for up to thirty-six (36) months.

Failure to comply with these reporting timelines may affect your ability to obtain benefits through COBRA.

5.24 BENEFITS – OTHER INSURANCES

Dental Insurance – The District will pay full family and single premiums for the dental insurance program (for all regular full- and part-time staff). Orthodontics will be paid up to \$1,500.

Vision Insurance - The District shall offer full family and single premiums for the vision insurance program. Vision Insurance costs will be covered 100% by the employee.

Group Life Insurance – The District shall provide each employee with term group life insurance equal to annual Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) earnings. Employees must be eligible for Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS) retirement benefits to obtain life insurance.

Long-Term Disability Insurance – The District shall provide a sixty (60) day, ninety percent (90%) of salary, long-term disability insurance program for all staff. Eligibility is determined in the District's long-term disability plan.

Compensation in Lieu - Employees who are eligible to receive health care coverage through the School District of Ashland (SDA), may decline to enroll in health care coverage and instead receive an annual stipend of \$3,500.

Eligibility:

All regularly scheduled Teachers, Administrators or Support Service Employees with an assignment(s) of 30 hours or more per week are eligible to apply for the benefit.

Qualifications:

- The employee must enroll in the Compensation in Lieu plan annually by submitting the enrollment form during the open enrollment period (May) or within 30 days of hire.
 - The enrollment form will be provided electronically via Frontline Central during open enrollment, by the District Office.
- The employee must provide proof of health insurance coverage for the entire plan year, by the deadline,

when requested by the District Office.

- Proof must include the employee's name, the insurance provider's name, the effective date of enrollment, and show coverage for the entire plan year.
- The employee cannot be the policy holder of an SDA health insurance policy at any time during the plan year.
- The employee cannot separate from employment at any time during the plan year.

Enrollment Outside of Open-Enrollment:

If an employee is hired mid-year, they can enroll in the plan outside of open enrollment by submitting the enrollment form within 30 days of hire.

If the election is made mid-year, the stipend will be prorated for the days left in the employee's assignment.

Payment:

Payment will be made at the end of the school year. The stipend will be added to the staff members regular payroll payment and applicable taxes will be withheld from their paycheck.

5.25 BENEFITS – WISCONSIN RETIREMENT SYSTEM

The District will provide retirement contributions to eligible employees in accordance with State law.

Employee Contribution: Once eligible for coverage under the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS), coverage is mandatory and an employee may not “opt out” of WRS. Employers and employees are required to pay a percentage of each payment of earnings equal to “one-half of the total actuarially required contribution rate.” Employee contributions are pre-tax.

Early Retirement: Provisions are outlined in Addendum C.

5.26 SECTION 125 PLANS

The District offers a pre-tax contribution option for employees. A Section 125 plan is a benefit plan that allows employees to make contributions toward premiums for medical insurance, dental insurance and out-of-pocket medical expenses or dependent care expenses on a “before tax” rather than an “after tax” basis. Premium contributions and qualified expenses are deducted from an employee's gross pay before income taxes and Social Security are calculated. To participate in this plan, employees are to contact the District Office for information.

5.27 EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The School District of Ashland provides confidential services of an employee assistance program to all employees and their dependents. Assistance is available to help cope with personal or family problems such as alcoholism, depression, drug abuse, divorce or marriage counseling, finances, stress, family/ guardian, child, or elder issues. Through the EAP, employees are able to access confidential counseling services at their convenience. Counselors will provide employees with information, immediate treatment, and/or referral to other sources to assist with problems affecting their work, job performance, or family. Short-term counseling services are available to assist with problems. EAP brochures are available on the District website. It is the responsibility of each employee to seek help before a condition has an adverse impact on his or her employment.

6.0 GENERAL EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES AND EXPECTATIONS

6.1 EMPLOYEE MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATION

The district is committed to predictable, positive communication with all employees.

At the district level all staff can expect staff memos that include important information, no less than every other week and district wide staff meetings at least twice per academic year. At the district level, union leadership will be offered to meet with the Superintendent at least monthly to problem solve on labor issues.

At the building level all staff can anticipate newsletters that include important information, no less than every other week and staff meetings at least monthly. At the building level, union leadership will be offered to meet with the Principal at least monthly to problem solve on labor issues.

Communication will be supplemented with staff memos and "stand up" staff meetings when events are time sensitive or of a sensitive nature. It is up to the employee to read all communication.

6.2 EMPLOYEE CODE OF ETHICS

All staff members are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the District's Code of Ethics.

The Board of Education expects all staff members to maintain high standards in their working relationships, and in the performance of their professional duties to:

- Recognize basic dignities of all individuals with whom they interact in the performance of duties;
- Represent accurately their qualifications;
- Exercise due care to protect the mental and physical safety of students, colleagues, and subordinates;
- Seek and apply the knowledge and skills appropriate to assigned responsibilities.
- Keep in confidence legally confidential information as it may be secure;
- Ensure that their actions or those of another on their behalf are not made with specific intent of advancing private economic interests;
- Avoid accepting anything of value offered by another for the purpose of influencing judgment;
- Refrain from using position or public property, or permitting another person to use an employee's position or public property for partisan political or religious purposes without specific preapproval of the School Board. This will in no way limit constitutionally or legally protected rights as a citizen.

6.3 CONFERENCE AND CONVENTION ATTENDANCE

District employees may attend conferences and conventions that are likely to improve their job-related knowledge and skills. An administrator shall approve/deny all staff member requests to attend conferences and seminars. Professional staff must complete a request for professional development activities within **fifteen (15) days prior** to the activity. All reimbursements shall be made within the limits of the budget and policy guidelines after a conference follow-up form is completed. The number of staff members attending any conference/seminar is subject to the discretion of the administration.

6.4 COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS

Employees are expected to comply with the provisions of federal copyright laws relating to the unauthorized use, reproduction, distribution, performance, or display of copyrighted materials (i.e. printed material, videos, computer data and programs, etc.). Rented videotapes are to be used in the classroom for education purposes only. Duplication or backups of computer programs and data must be made within the provisions of the purchase agreement.

6.5 GRANT APPLICATIONS

No employee may apply for a grant in the name of the School District of Ashland, or any school, program, or activity of the District unless, prior to its submittal to the grantor, the building principal, and district administrator has been provided with the grant application or proposal at least fifteen (15) business days before it is submitted to the grantor. The building principal and district administrator must approve the application before it may be sent to the grantor. **All grant applications and award notifications must be forwarded to the business office.**

[Grant Application Information Link](#)

6.6 HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

The School District offers lunch and breakfast at all schools in the District. The District uses an automated lunch accounting system to record food service payments and to monitor food purchase transactions. The automated system functions as a debit system. Staff must contact the appropriate food service staff member in their building to be assigned a 4-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN). After making a meal selection, a staff member enters the PIN on the keypad at the cashier's table; the purchase is subtracted from the staff member's account. Negative balances will be pay deducted at the end of the current school year if not paid in full.

6.7 MAIL AND NOTICES

Staff is assigned a mailbox where mail and school notices are placed. It is the responsibility of staff members to check this mailbox daily. Do not send a student to check the mailbox.

6.8 MAINTENANCE REQUESTS

All requests for maintenance work should be submitted through the website on a work order. On the school district website, click the "For Staff" button, then choose "Login Links", and then select the icon for "[SchoolDude Work Orders](#)." Please do not call or email the maintenance department with problems unless it is an emergency.

6.9 MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT

Employees will be reimbursed monthly for pre-approved mileage incurred while conducting official School District business, at the current IRS rate. School vehicles must be used for school-related travel unless prior approval to use a personal vehicle is granted by a direct supervisor. Mileage for personal vehicle use will not be reimbursed without prior authorization.

6.10 OFF-HOUR COMMUNICATION DEVICE GUIDELINE

Non-exempt employees who are given a District communication device (smartphone, iPad, etc.) or whose personal communication device is connected to the District's network or e-mail accounts, are not required to read or respond to emails outside of working hours. If a non-exempt employee chooses to read or respond to work emails on his or her own time, he or she will not be compensated for the time spent doing so.

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) classifies this time as "de minimis," since most emails can be read and responded to in just a few minutes. De minimis, in this context, means "insubstantial or insignificant periods of time beyond the scheduled working hours, which cannot as a practical administrative matter, be precisely recorded for payroll purposes."

6.11 PERSONAL PROPERTY

Do not leave money, purses, or other valuables in an unsecured place at school or in your car. The District is not responsible and will not reimburse staff for losses.

6.12 PURCHASING AND REQUISITIONS

Purchases at any local business must be done with a District credit card, available for sign-out from your building secretary. District Credit Card and receipt must be returned promptly (within 24 hours). If you lose a receipt you may be held personally accountable. All other purchases/orders must be submitted by using a Skyward online requisition. All requisitions must include:

- Vendor name, address, fax, and phone numbers
- Any applicable shipping charges
- Appropriate principal/director online approval.
- Quantity, item, and description of the item(s) being ordered
- Budget code(s)

Purchase orders will not be processed without this information.

Once completed, the requisitions will be forwarded to the District Office for approval and submission to the vendor. Plan accordingly and allow sufficient time between submission of the request and the date materials are needed. Once the supplies have been received, employees are responsible for verifying the contents of the shipment.

6.13 RELATIONSHIPS WITH MEDIA

Staff members receiving calls from the media should refer the caller to their building administrator. Prepared news releases shall be approved by the superintendent or their designee. Employees are encouraged not to contact the media directly about newsworthy matters without first discussing them with the building principal or their designee.

6.14 DRESS CODE

The Board has exercised its authority to specify dress and grooming guidelines for staff. When on duty, professional staff members are expected to dress in a manner that is consistent with the expectations described in the policies below.

Policy 3216 – Staff Dress and Grooming (Professional Staff)

Policy 4216 – Staff Dress and Grooming (Support Staff)

6.15 PREPARATION TIME

The School District of Ashland values preparation time for teachers. Every full-time teacher will have a regularly scheduled time during the work day for preparation purposes.

6.16 ATTENDANCE AND REPORTING ABSENCES

An employee has the obligation to report to work at their scheduled time each day. The employee should be alert to weather conditions and all other contingencies so as to ensure arrival at work on schedule. Excessive absenteeism may be considered reason for disciplinary action, including discharge. Any time an employee is unable to work, the employee must notify his or her supervisor as far in advance as possible. Failure to call or report for duty as scheduled may result in automatic termination of employment. Since many School District of Ashland jobs are interdependent, failure to report to work on time can often disrupt multiple jobs. Therefore, it is imperative that employees report for work as scheduled. Repeated delay in starting work shifts may result in disciplinary action. If an employee is absent for more than three (3) days in a row without prior permission they will be asked to present a doctor's note upon their return to work.

Planned Absences: Professional staff, secretarial, and assistant staff who cannot come to work for a planned occasion are required to go online to the Frontline Absence Management System (formerly AESOP) website at <https://app.frontlineeducation.com> or call 1-800-942-3767 to request a sub up to a year in advance.

All remaining staff must enter their time off into Skyward Employee Access for approval.

Unplanned Absences: Professional staff, secretarial, and assistant staff who cannot come to work are required to go online to the Frontline Absence Management System (formerly AESOP) website at <https://app.frontlineeducation.com> or call 1-800-942-3767 prior to 7:00 AM the morning of the absence. Between 7:00 AM – 7:30 AM, please contact the Substitute Coordinator at 715-682-7080 ext. 6006 to arrange for a substitute. After the school day starts (7:30 AM), you must report your absence in person or by phone to the school office to reserve a sub. Time off must be entered in advance or within a day of the absence.

All remaining staff who are unable to report to work must enter their time off into Skyward Employee Access and should follow the procedure(s) outlined by their supervisor.

6.17 USE OF EMPLOYER PROPERTY/EQUIPMENT

The Board of Education believes that District-owned equipment is a valuable resource which may be loaned for community use under certain conditions only, provided that such use does not infringe on the original and necessary purpose of the equipment or interfere with the educational program of the District. The Board may lend specific items of equipment on the written request of the user and approval granted by the District Administrator or designee. The user of District-owned equipment shall be fully liable for any damage or loss occurring to the equipment during the period of its use, and shall be responsible for its safe return.

[Policy 7530](#) – Lending of District-Owned Equipment

6.18 USE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY AT SCHOOL

Employees may wish to bring personal property to school, either for reasons associated with their professional responsibilities or for use during off-duty time. This practice is authorized provided it is understood that the District will not be responsible for any loss, damage, or misuse of such property. All personal property must meet School District of Ashland safety criteria.

6.19 PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Employees are expected to use discretion in using personal communication devices while at work. Employees are expected to limit personal communication to their breaks and their lunch period and to inform friends and family members of the Board's policy in this regard. It is acceptable to use personal communication devices to communicate with student families as part of the instructional program, but it must be secondary to their obligations to their students, including both instruction and supervision.

6.20 EMERGENCY CLOSINGS

The District Administrator shall make the decision regarding emergency closings in accordance with the Plan for Emergency Preparedness as established. [Link to School Closing Procedures](#)

6.21 TRAVEL EXPENSES

The Board of Education may provide for the payment of the actual and necessary expenses, including travel expenses, of any staff member that are incurred in the course of performing services for the District, whether within or outside the District, under the direction of the Board and in accordance with the District Administrator's

administrative guidelines.

[Policy 3440](#) – Job-Related Expenses (Professional Staff)

[Policy 4440](#) – Job-Related Expenses (Support Staff)

[AG 3440A](#) – Job-Related Expenses (Professional Staff)

[AG 4440A](#) – Job-Related Expenses (Support Staff)

7.0 SAFETY AND HEALTH

7.1 WORKPLACE PROTECTIONS / WORKPLACE SAFETY

It is the policy of the School District of Ashland to maintain a safe workplace environment that is free from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. Every employee has a personal responsibility to help maintain a safe and healthful workplace environment. Under federal and state fair employment laws, members of protected classes are shielded from unlawful discrimination in employment. Workplace harassment and discrimination, whether engaged in by employees, supervisors or members of the public, will not be tolerated and will subject offenders to disciplinary action or discharge from employment. Retaliatory acts taken against employees for reporting workplace safety issues, harassment, or discrimination will also not be tolerated and will subject the offender to disciplinary action or discharge from employment.

Responsibility to Report: It is the responsibility of each and every employee to immediately report to management any and all health and safety issues, discriminatory, harassing or retaliatory conduct which may relate to the work environment, whether it occurs on or off the job.

Definition of Protected Class: State and Federal law prohibits discrimination and harassment based on any protected class including, but not limited to, age, race, color, creed, disability, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, arrest record, conviction record, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic testing, membership in the national guard, state defense force, or any other reserve component of the military forces, for use or non-use of lawful products off the employer's premises during non-working hours.

7.2 VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AND ELECTRONIC MONITORING

The Board authorizes the use of video surveillance and electronic monitoring equipment at various school sites throughout the District and on school buses. Recordings of students will be kept confidential. The primary purpose for using surveillance cameras in the District is to provide a safe and secure environment for all students, staff, and visitors. Any person who takes action to block, move, or alter the location and/or viewing angle of a video camera shall be subject to disciplinary action. Any information obtained from video surveillance/electronic monitoring systems may only be used to support the orderly operation of the District's schools and facilities, and for law enforcement purposes. As such, recordings obtained through the use of video surveillance/electronic monitoring equipment may be used as evidence in any disciplinary proceedings, administrative proceeding, or criminal proceeding. The stored images are the property of the District. The District reserves the discretion to refuse to provide copies to students, families, staff, community members, or other individuals or groups. Disciplinary action may be taken based on video documentation.

[Board Policy 7440.01 - Video Surveillance and Electronic Monitoring](#)

7.3 ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG PROHIBITIONS

No employee shall report to work or be under the influence of alcohol or other/illegal drugs during working hours. This policy includes any paid or unpaid lunch periods as well as training sessions and the working hours of conferences. The sale, possession, transfer or purchase of other/illegal drugs while in the course and scope of

employment is also prohibited. The purpose of this policy is to: a) establish and maintain a safe and healthy work environment, b) reduce absenteeism and tardiness, and c) improve job performance.

Alcohol and Drug Testing: The Employer may conduct alcohol and drug testing based on reasonable suspicion that the employee is under the influence of alcohol or other/illegal drugs and may conduct testing for employees in testing-designated positions (such as CDL).

7.4 ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG USE

Consistent with the Drug-Free Workplace Act, the Board prohibits the manufacture, possession, use, distribution, or dispensing of any controlled substance, including alcohol, by any member of the District's staff at any time while on District property or while involved in any District-related activity or event. Any staff member who violates Policy 3122.01 – Drug-Free Workplace shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Policy 3139 – Staff Discipline and the District Administrator's guidelines.

Any employee who feels the need for assistance with drug or alcohol dependency is encouraged to contact their immediate supervisor or the District's website for information about the District's Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Employees receiving assistance in this regard are not exempted from compliance with the District's prohibition on the manufacture, possession, use, distribution, or dispensing of any controlled substance while on duty or on school premises or at any school sponsored activity.

[Policy 3122.01](#) – Drug-Free Workplace (Professional Staff)

[Policy 4122.01](#) – Drug-Free Workplace (Support Staff)

[Policy 3139](#) – Staff Discipline (Professional Staff)

[Policy 4139](#) – Staff Discipline (Support Staff)

7.5 SMOKING/TOBACCO USE

The Board of Education is committed to providing students, professional staff, and visitors with a tobacco- and smoke-free environment. Accordingly, the Board prohibits professional staff members from using tobacco in any form (including vaping) on District premises, in District vehicles within any indoor facility owned or leased or contracted for by the District and used to provide education or library services to children, and at all District-sponsored events.

[Policy 3215](#) – Use of Tobacco by Professional Staff

[Policy 4215](#) – Use of Tobacco by Support Staff

7.6 TRAINING

Staff members will complete required trainings according to district requirements, and state, and federal law.

7.7 REPORTING WORK RELATED INJURY

Any accident that results in an injury, however slight, to an employee of the Board, must be reported within 24 hours of the incident to the EMC OnCall Nurse at (844) 322-4668. The EMC OnCall Nurse in cooperation with the injured employee shall complete a form that includes the date, time, and place of the incident, the names of persons involved, the nature of the injury to the extent that it is known, and a description of all relevant circumstances.

7.8 RETURN TO WORK PROGRAM

The policies and procedures of the Return to Work Program for the School District of Ashland are designed to effectively manage the return to work of recovering employees with minimum time lost. The program is intended to

provide our employees with opportunities to continue as valuable members of our team while recovering from work-related injuries.

The School District of Ashland is committed to keeping employees safe and returning injured employees to modified or alternative work whenever possible and as soon as possible after an injury. This may be done by temporarily modifying the employee's regular job or providing the employee with alternative work assignments. The employee's medical condition, along with any limitations or restrictions given by the attending physician, will be considered and followed when identifying appropriate modified or alternative positions.

8.0 EMPLOYEE COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY

8.1 BULLETIN BOARDS

The School District of Ashland will provide a bulletin board for use by employees for posting of communications.

8.2 ELECTRONIC MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

It is the policy of the District that information, in all its forms, written, spoken, recorded electronically, or printed, will be protected from accidental or intentional unauthorized modification, destruction, or disclosure. All electronic media must be protected from misuse, unauthorized manipulation, and destruction.

Further, it is the policy of the District that employees may not use social media technology to engage in or post communications or material that would violate any Handbook policy, including, but not limited to, using technology to post communications or materials that are derogatory or offensive with respect to race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, or any other legally protected class status.

General Guidelines - Electronic Media:

1. All District-provided electronic media systems are the District's property. Additionally, all messages and files composed, sent, or received on these systems are and remain the property of the District. They are not the private property of any employee.
2. The use of our electronic media systems is reserved solely for the conducting of business, during work hours. However, if employees wish to use these systems during breaks, lunch periods, or before and after regular working hours, they may do so, but employees are specifically prohibited from using these services for any illegal, illicit, immoral, or offensive purposes.
3. The electronic media systems may not be used to solicit or proselytize for commercial ventures, religious or political causes, outside organizations, or other non-job-related solicitations.
4. The electronic media systems are not to be used to create any offensive or disruptive messages or documents.
5. The electronic media systems may not be used to send (upload) or receive (download) copyrighted materials, trade secrets, proprietary financial information, or similar materials without prior authorization.
6. The District reserves and intends to exercise the right to review, audit, intercept, access, and disclose all internet activity and any messages or documents created, received, or sent over the District's electronic media systems for any purpose.
7. The confidentiality of any message cannot be assumed. Even when a message is erased, it is still possible to retrieve and read that message. Further, the use of passwords for security does not guarantee confidentiality. All passwords must be disclosed to management or they are invalid and cannot be used.
8. Employees may not modify, delete, or destroy any District document created by any electronic media unless

specifically authorized to do so.

General Guidelines - Social Media:

1. Only on Your Own Time. Unless you have received advance permission from your supervisor or unless such activity is directly related to the performance of your job, you may not engage in social media activity on work time.
2. Post as Yourself. Make clear that you are expressing your personal views alone, not those of the District.
3. Be Respectful and Nice. Do not post communications or material that is disparaging, obscene, profane, vulgar, bullying, threatening, or inappropriately inflammatory.
4. Use Good Judgment. Because what you say online is accessible to the public, use good judgment in your communications.
5. Obey the Law. Do not post any material that violates the law, such as material that is obscene, profane, defamatory, threatening, harassing, or that violates the privacy rights of someone else. The posting of such material may subject you to criminal and civil liability.
6. Don't Expect Privacy. Because your social media communications are publicly available, you should not expect that your communications are private in any way. Once you post something online, it is completely out of your control and generally available to anyone in the world.
7. Ask for Guidance. If you have any questions about what is appropriate to include in social media communications, ask your supervisor.
8. Comply with Harassment and Other Policies. Team members may not use social media technology to engage in or post communications or material that would violate any other Handbook policy, including, but not limited to, the Workplace Safety, Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation policy.
9. Keep Secrets. You must not disclose confidential information.

Duty to Report: All employees have a duty to report any discovered or suspected unauthorized or improper usage of electronic media or social media with impact on the workplace.

Policy Violations: Employees who violate this policy may be subject to discipline, up to and including immediate termination of employment.

[Policy 1213](#) – Student Supervision and Welfare

[Policy 3213](#) – Student Supervision and Welfare (Professional Staff)

[Policy 4213](#) – Student Supervision and Welfare (Support Staff)

[Policy 7540](#) – Computer Technology Network, and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety

[Policy 7540.01](#) – Technology Privacy

[Policy 7540.04](#) – Staff Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety

8.3 ACCEPTABLE USE OF DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY, THE INTERNET, AND THE DISTRICT'S NETWORK

Staff use of the District's Network will be governed by Policy 7540.04 – Staff Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety and the related administrative guidelines.

The due process rights of all users will be respected in the event there is a suspicion of inappropriate use of the Network. Users have a limited privacy expectation in the content of their personal files and records of their online activity while on the Network.

8.4 E-MAIL

When available, the District's e-mail system must be used by employees for any official District email

communications.

Employees are required to keep their inbox and folders organized by regularly reviewing e-mail messages, appropriately saving emails that constitute a public record or student record and e-mails that are subject to a litigation hold, and purging all other emails that have been read.

The District complies with all Federal and State laws pertaining to electronic mail. Accordingly, e-mails written by or sent to District employees may be public records or education records if their content includes personally identifiable information about a student. E-mails that are public records are subject to retention and disclosure, upon request.

The District retains the right to monitor or access any District e-mail accounts at any time. Users should not expect that their communications sent or received through the District e-mail system will remain confidential and personal.

[Policy 8310](#) – Public Records

8.5 SOLICITATION (Non-Political)

In order to help maintain a work environment that protects employees from undue interference while performing their jobs, employees may not verbally solicit or distribute written materials for any organization, fund, activity, or cause to other employees in work areas while either employee is on working time.

Employees On-duty: Employees may solicit other employees or distribute written materials before or after the normal work day, during normal break or lunch times, or any other time when they are not working. These solicitations and literature distribution efforts are not permitted in working areas.

Non-employees: May not solicit or distribute written materials on behalf of any organization, fund, activity or cause. Solicitations for charitable organizations are exempt as long as the organization is sponsored by an employee and prior permission has been secured from management. The same restrictions regarding working time and working areas apply to non-employees.

8.6 USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

The School District uses artificial intelligence, refer to [Board Policy 7540.08](#) for further information.

9.0 MISCELLANEOUS

9.1 EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Board of Education does not discriminate in the employment of staff on the basis of any characteristic protected under State or Federal law, including, but not limited to: race, color, age, creed or religion, genetic information, handicap or disability, marital status, citizenship status, veteran status, military service (as defined in Section 111.32, Wisconsin Statutes), sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, arrest record, conviction record, use or non-use of lawful products off the District's premises during non-working hours, or declining to attend an employer-sponsored meeting or to participate in any communication with the employer about religious matters or political matters or any other characteristic protected by law in its employment practices.

The District's policy objective is to employ individuals who are qualified for specific work by such job-related standards as experience, demonstrated attitude and skill, education, training, overall ability, and other relevant considerations. Specific complaints of discrimination or harassment issues should be filed pursuant to the District's discrimination complaint procedure as follows:

PROCEDURE - Any party to the complaint may retain and have counsel present at any or all steps. The complainant shall first attempt to resolve the complaint through discussion with the person(s) who allegedly discriminated. This informal procedure should be utilized before a formal complaint is filed. A complaint may be withdrawn by the individual at any step. The compliance officer of the District is available as a consultant upon request.

Level 1: If the matter is not resolved informally, the complaint shall be presented in writing on the established complaint form and submitted to the complainant's immediate supervisor or the District's compliance officer. If the complainant's immediate supervisor or the District compliance officer is the subject of the complaint, the complaint shall be filed with the supervisor next highest in authority. The complaint shall include the nature of the situation, facts upon which it is based (dates, places, persons, actions), and the relief requested. The supervisor or the compliance officer shall give a written answer. If a resolution of the complaint results at this step or any of the following steps, the terms of the resolution shall be recorded by the supervisor or the compliance officer and shall be signed by all participants.

Level 2: If the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved as provided in level one, it may be appealed to the superintendent or appropriate administrative official. After receipt of the appeal, the superintendent shall meet with the parties involved and shall issue a decision in writing after the meeting. Copies of this decision shall be sent to the District compliance officer and to the complainant.

Level 3: If the complaint is not satisfactorily resolved at level two, it may be appealed to the Board of Education. The Board shall meet with the complainant after receiving the written complaint or at its next scheduled meeting, and render a decision in writing after this meeting. Copies of this decision shall be filed with the compliance officer and the complainant.

Level 4: If a complainant wishes to appeal a negative determination by the Board, they have the right to appeal the decision to the state superintendent within 30 days of the board's decision. Address appeals to State Superintendent, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, PO Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707. Nothing in these procedures shall preclude an employee or applicant for employment from pursuing other avenues afforded by law to deal with a discrimination complaint (Equal Rights Division of the Department of Workforce Development, Office of Civil Rights, courts having proper jurisdiction, State Superintendent of Public Instruction).

If the staff member has questions regarding equal employment opportunity or how to file a complaint regarding equal employment, he or she should refer to:

[Policy 3122](#) – Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity (Professional Staff)

[Policy 4122](#) – Nondiscrimination and Equal Employment Opportunity (Support Staff)

[Policy 2260.01](#) – Section 504/ADA Prohibition Against Discrimination Based on Disability.

9.2 ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

The Board of Education is committed to a work environment that is free of harassment of any form. The Board will not tolerate any form of harassment and will take all necessary and appropriate action to eliminate it. Any member of the School District community who violates this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment. Additionally, appropriate action will be taken to stop and otherwise deal with any third party who engages in harassment against our employees.

For purposes of anti-harassment, "School District community" refers to individuals subject to the control and supervision of the Board, including, but not limited to, students, teachers, staff, volunteers, and Board members. "Third party" means individuals outside of the School District community who participate in school activities and events authorized by the Board including, but not limited to, visiting speakers, participants on opposing athletic

teams, and vendors doing business with, or seeking to do business with, the District.

Harassment consists of unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is based on a person's protected status, such as sex, color, race, ancestry, creed, religion, genetic information, national origin, age, handicap, disability, marital status, veteran status, citizenship status, sexual orientation, arrest record, criminal conviction record, or other protected group status, which affects tangible job benefits, interferes unreasonably with an individual's work performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment. Harassment may occur employee to employee, student to employee, male to female, female to male, male to male, or female to female.

The District Administrator has prepared written administrative guidelines for staff members to follow when reporting alleged harassment. The process that will be followed when conducting an investigation regarding alleged harassment that is prohibited is also set forth in these administrative guidelines.

For more information, employees shall refer to:

[Policy 3362](#) – Employee Anti-Harassment (Professional Staff)

[Policy 4362](#) – Employee Anti-Harassment (Support Staff)

[Policy 3362.01](#) – Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members (Professional Staff)

[Policy 4362.01](#) – Threatening Behavior Toward Staff Members (Support Staff)

[AG-3362](#) – Employee Anti-Harassment (Professional Staff)

[AG-4362](#) – Employee Anti-Harassment (Support Staff)

[AG-3362A](#) – Reporting Threatening Behaviors (Professional Staff)

[AG-4362A](#) – Reporting Threatening Behaviors (Support Staff).

9.3 DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

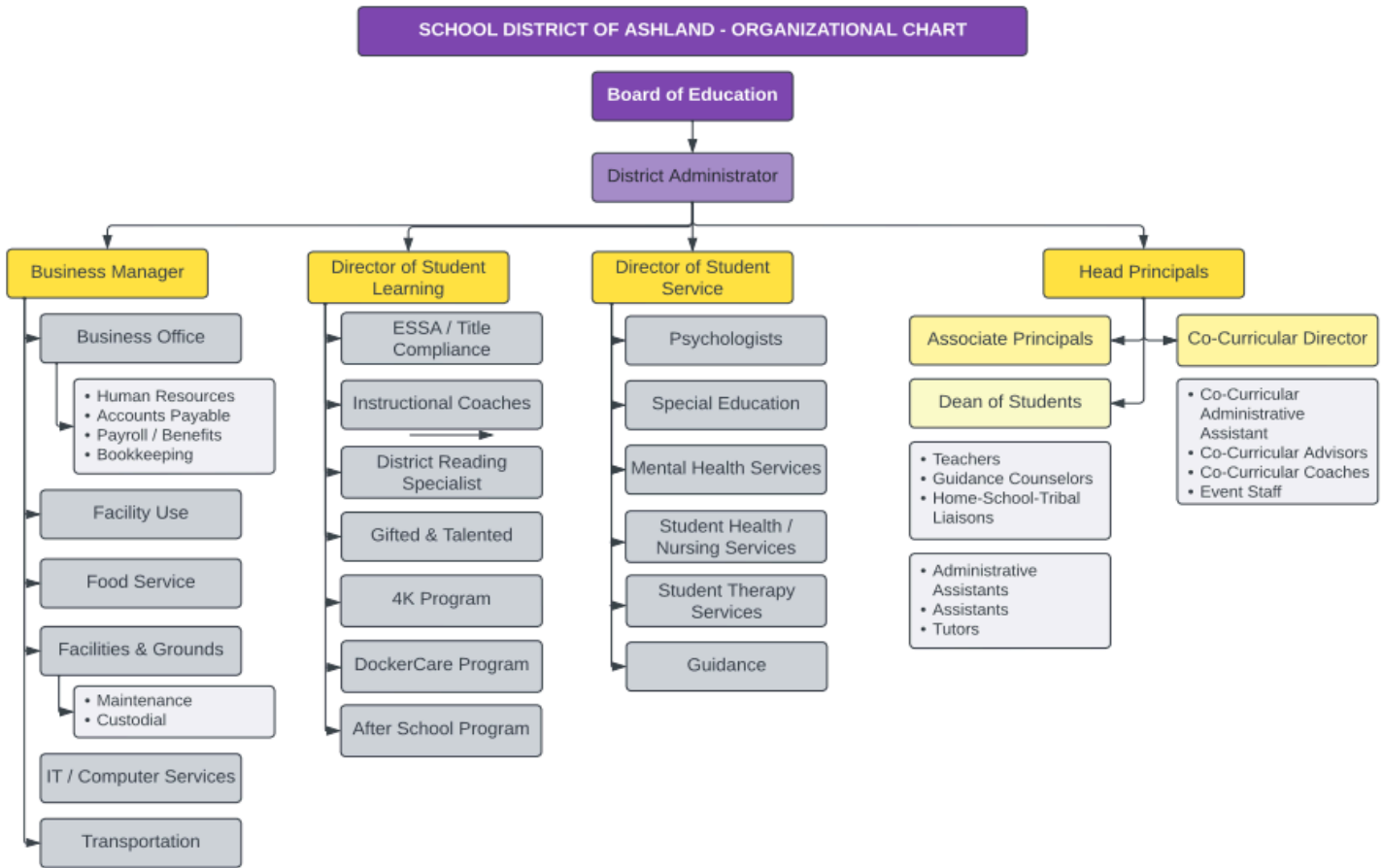
This Employee Handbook has been prepared for informational purposes only. None of the statements, policies, and administrative guidelines, rules, or regulations contained herein constitutes a guarantee of employment, a guarantee of any other right or benefit, or a contract of employment, expressed or implied. The District's staff members employed under individual contracts with the Board may be terminated or non-renewed consistent with the terms of the contract and consistent with Board policy.

Furthermore, any staff member who violates any terms and conditions of employment set forth in this Employee Handbook may be subject to disciplinary action.

The provisions set forth in this Handbook may be altered, modified, changed, or eliminated at any time by the School Board, with or without notice. If this occurs staff will be notified as soon as possible. This Employee Handbook supersedes any and all previous Handbooks, statements, and administrative guidelines; rules, or regulations given to the employees, whether verbal or written.

Further, Board policy may be adopted/updated at any time. Therefore, Board policy will supersede language contained in this Employee Handbook.

ADDENDUM A - ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ADDENDUM B - TEACHER COMPENSATION

2025-2026 School Year Staff Compensation Agreement

Total Compensation Package Summary:

- 4% Increase to All Staff
- Base Wage will increase to \$41,800

	BA	BA +15	MA	MA +15
Contract Year				
1	\$41,800	\$42,800	\$43,800	\$45,300
2	\$42,800	\$43,800	\$44,800	\$46,300
3	\$43,800	\$44,800	\$45,800	\$47,300
4	\$44,800	\$45,800	\$46,800	\$48,300
5	\$45,800	\$46,800	\$47,800	\$49,300
6	\$46,800	\$47,800	\$48,800	\$50,300
7	\$47,800	\$48,800	\$49,800	\$51,300
8	\$48,800	\$49,800	\$50,800	\$52,300
9	\$49,800	\$50,800	\$51,800	\$53,300
10	\$50,800	\$51,800	\$52,800	\$54,300
11	\$51,800	\$52,800	\$53,800	\$55,300
12	\$52,800	\$53,800	\$54,800	\$56,300
13	\$53,800	\$54,800	\$55,800	\$57,300
14	\$54,800	\$55,800	\$56,800	\$58,300
15	\$55,800	\$56,800	\$57,800	\$59,300
16	\$56,800	\$57,800	\$58,800	\$60,300
17	\$57,800	\$58,800	\$59,800	\$61,300
18	\$58,800	\$59,800	\$60,800	\$62,300
19	\$59,800	\$60,800	\$61,800	\$63,300
20	\$60,800	\$61,800	\$62,800	\$64,300
21	\$61,800	\$62,800	\$63,800	\$65,300
22	\$62,800	\$63,800	\$64,800	\$66,300
23	\$63,800	\$64,800	\$65,800	\$67,300
24	\$64,800	\$65,800	\$66,800	\$68,300
25	\$65,800	\$66,800	\$67,800	\$69,300

Upon administrative pre-approval, teachers writing curriculum shall maintain a record of all time spent performing such duties and shall be paid \$25.00 per hour or receive a predetermined stipend for the work.

In the elementary school, if a teacher does not receive a minimum of 195 minutes of preparation time per week during the work day, then such teacher shall be compensated as follows: divide the number of actual student teaching minutes by the required student teaching minutes (1,605) which shall result in a percentage figure to be applied to the salary the teacher is earning on the current salary schedule.

In the middle school and high school, if a teacher is required to teach more than six periods per school day (based on an eight-period day), then such teacher shall be paid an overload of 1/16th of the salary that teacher is earning on the current salary schedule for each teaching period above the six periods.

ADDENDUM C - RETIREMENT BENEFIT OPTIONS

Professional Staff Retirement Benefit Options - Initial School District of Ashland Full-Year Employment Contract Prior to 2007-08 School Year

The following retirement options are available for professional staff that started their initial School District of Ashland full-year employment contract prior to the 2007-08 school year (based on the 2013-14 seniority list).

Option 1

The School District will pay the lower of either \$1,600 per month or the district contribution exit rate of the plan the employee participated in at the time of retirement for health insurance premiums for a period of one (1) month equal to one (1) sick day accumulated by the retiree, but for a period not to exceed the date the retiring professional staff member is eligible for Medicare coverage. Retired employees and their spouses are not able to stay on the District's insurance plan once they become Medicare eligible, as the District does not offer Medicare supplement plans. Twelve (12) sick days will be added to the sick leave balance at the end of the employee's employment, not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) days.

2025-26 District Contribution Exit Rate \$1,600.00

Stipend - The retiring professional staff member can elect a \$100/month stipend for life or \$200/month stipend for 120 months. Regardless of the election the stipend will increase by \$100 a month during the first 24 months of their stipend.

Dental Insurance - Retiring professional staff have the option to continue on the School District of Ashland dental plan at their own expense.

Current Rate: \$101.16 Family \$27.72 Single

Vision Insurance - Retiring professional staff have the option to continue on the School District of Ashland vision plan at their own expense.

Current Rate: \$13.04 Family \$5.24 Single

Life Insurance - Retiring staff members may elect to continue coverage. This election will be made with WRS through their retirement packet.

All retirement benefits will commence September 1st following your last day of employment.

Option 2

The School District will deposit \$20,000 annually for five years into a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) account. Reimbursements from the HRA are limited to premiums for qualifying medical plans (Health, Dental, LTC, Vision, and Medicare). Employees will have the ability to utilize these funds before and after they become Medicare eligible.

Staff members electing this option will not be able to continue health insurance coverage through the School District of Ashland. Informational resources will be available to provide employees with alternative insurance options.

Sick Leave Balance - Retirees will have \$50 deposited into the retiree's HRA account for each unused sick leave day up to a maximum of one hundred twenty (120) days. Twelve (12) sick days will be added to the sick leave balance at the end of the employee's employment, not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) days.

Dental Insurance - Retiring professional staff have the option to continue on the School District of Ashland dental plan at their own expense.

Current Rate: \$101.16 Family \$27.72 Single

Vision Insurance - Retiring professional staff have the option to continue on the School District of Ashland vision plan at their own expense.

Current Rate: \$13.04 Family \$5.24 Single

Life Insurance - Retiring staff members may elect to continue coverage. This election will be made with WRS through their retirement packet.

All retirement benefits will commence September 1st following your last day of employment.

Eligibility

To be eligible for benefits, the retiree must be fifty-five (55), prior to the first school year of retirement and shall have served the District full-time for fifteen (15) years, the last ten (10) of which must be consecutive. Approved leaves shall not be considered an interruption of continued employment for the purpose of this benefit. Health insurance benefits provided by the District shall cease at the point any employer of an early retiree offers an insurance benefit comparable to the present health insurance benefit. Retirees waive all rights in determining the design of health insurance benefits.

Notice must be submitted by April 15th and the employee must complete the entirety of the school year to qualify for retirement benefits.

If notice is provided by December 15th and the employee completes the entirety of the school year, the retiree will receive a \$500 stipend.

Early retirement benefits may not be used in conjunction with benefits received from the District's disability insurance program.

In case of the death of the retiree, a single health insurance plan would continue to the surviving spouse until the spouse is eligible for Medicare coverage or the retiree would have been eligible for Medicare coverage whichever

would have occurred first. Furthermore, any funds that remain in the retiree's HRA account will be made available to a surviving spouse or dependent for the reimbursement of medical expenses as allowed by the District HRA Plan. If no such surviving spouse or dependent exists, the remaining HRA funds must be returned to the District as required by federal law.

**Professional Staff Retirement Benefit -
Initial School District of Ashland Full-Year Employment Contract for the 2007-08 School Year or Later**

The following retirement option is available for professional staff that started their initial School District of Ashland full-year employment contract with the 2007-08 school year or later (based on the 2013-14 seniority list).

Effective with the 2014-15 school year, professional staff who successfully complete a year of employment will have deposited on their behalf funds, see below, into a premium only HRA account. Deposits will earn interest and carryover from year to year.

Annual Contribution Rate is \$2,000.

At the time of retirement, the retiree will also receive \$50 for each unused sick leave, up to one hundred twenty (120) days max, deposited in a HRA account. (\$6,000 maximum)

These funds will not be available for reimbursement purposes until after the staff member actually retires, additionally funds remain subject to the applicable terms and restrictions of the District HRA Plan.

Eligibility

Funds deposited to the HRA account of professional staff will vest when they become eligible for retirement under the Wisconsin Retirement System Rules, and have a minimum of fifteen (15) consecutive years of service immediately preceding retirement with the SDA.

Notice must be submitted by April 15th and the employee must complete the entirety of the school year to qualify for retirement benefits.

If notice is provided by December 15th, and the employee completes the entirety of the school year, the retiree will receive a \$500 stipend.

Early retirement benefits may not be used in conjunction with benefits received from the district's disability insurance program.

Upon the death of a retired staff member, any funds remaining in the retiree's HRA account will be made available to a surviving spouse or dependent for the reimbursement of medical expenses as allowed by the District HRA Plan. If no surviving spouse or dependent exists, the remaining HRA funds must be returned to the District as required by federal law.

Support Staff Retirement Benefit

The following retirement option is available for Support Staff.

HRA Deposit for Unused Sick Leave

At the time of retirement, or forced retirement due to disability or death, the employee or their beneficiary shall receive an HRA deposit equal to their daily rate of pay multiplied by the number of unused sick leave days remaining in their account, up to one hundred twenty (120) days.

Continued Life Insurance - optional

At the time of retirement, the employee may elect to continue life insurance coverage. This election will be made with WRS through their retirement packet.

Continued Health Insurance- optional

Employees may elect to stay in the group health insurance plan and apply sick leave benefits towards their premiums until such money runs out.

Continued Dental Insurance- optional

Employees may elect to continue dental coverage after retirement by paying the premium to the district.

Continued Vision Insurance- optional

Employees may elect to continue vision coverage after retirement by paying the premium to the district.

Eligibility Requirements for School Year Support Staff:

- Employees must have served the Ashland School District for a total of ten (10) consecutive years immediately prior to retirement.
- Minimum retirement age - fifty-five (55) years
- Notice must be submitted by April 15 th and the employee must complete the entirety of the school year to qualify for retirement benefits.
- If notice is provided by December 15th, and the employee completes the entirety of the school year, the retiree will receive a \$500 stipend.
- Early retirement benefits may not be used in conjunction with benefits received from the district's disability insurance program.

Eligibility Requirements for Full-Year Support Staff:

- Employees must have served the Ashland School District for a total of ten (10) consecutive years immediately prior to retirement.
- Minimum retirement age - fifty-five (55) years
- Notice must be submitted six (6) months prior to the date of retirement to be eligible for retirement benefits.
- If notice is provided one (1) year prior to retirement, the employee will receive a \$500 stipend.
- Early retirement benefits may not be used in conjunction with benefits received from the district's disability insurance program.

ADDENDUM D - STUDENT SUPERVISION AND WELFARE

Employees are expected to familiarize themselves with the School District of Ashland's Bylaws and Policies. Below is a summary of some of the key provisions.

E.1 ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Schools serve as learning environments both on the basis of instruction but also in terms of how one behaves in the larger world. Academic integrity must govern every level of teaching and learning. Tests must be administered and taken with complete honesty. Suspicions of copying must be addressed. Plagiarism, including the usage of artificial intelligence, must be explained so students understand the difference between correctly using resources and copying. Professional staff are expected to consistently employ safeguards that discourage dishonesty and promote academic integrity.

E.2 CHILD ABUSE SUSPECTED

All District employees are mandatory reporters and are required by law to report suspected child abuse or neglect. A school district employee must immediately report to Ashland County Human Services ([715-682-7004](tel:715-682-7004)), Bad River Social Services ([715-682-7127](tel:715-682-7127)), Bayfield Human Services ([715-373-6144](tel:715-373-6144)), Indian Child Welfare ([715-682-7127](tel:715-682-7127)) or local law enforcement suspected child abuse or neglect a child the employee has seen as part of their professional duties. It is the responsibility of the person suspecting the abuse to make a report. Failure to do so may result in prosecution. No employee making a report under this policy may be discharged from employment for doing so. Employees may notify their supervisor after making a report.

E.3 CONFIDENTIALITY

Employees are expected to protect sensitive information and confidential records of the District, its students, and employees. Furthermore, employees with authorized possession of or access to sensitive or confidential documents are personally responsible for protecting the unauthorized disclosure, improper use, or distribution of information contained in these documents and for returning them to the District upon termination of employment. Employees are not authorized to disclose any information regarding District partners or vendors without their expressed written consent. Confidentiality is very important in establishing and maintaining a strong staff/student relationship. It is important that staff members are aware of the rights of individuals to privacy and to respect the confidential nature of information concerning students. A staff member may consult and collaborate with other professionals for purposes of more effectively helping the student. What staff see, hear, or discuss in school stays in school. Discussions about a child need to be directed to persons directly working with that child. Beyond that, those discussions become gossip. There is a definite distinction between "need to know" and "want to know." Don't discuss child issues and child behaviors in the presence of the child, unless the child is involved in the discussion. Be sensitive to how a child might interpret (or misinterpret) an adult's words. For more information regarding applicable state and federal laws and regulations, including, but not limited to FERPA, HIPAA and Wis. Stat. § 118.125, please contact the District Office.

E.4 CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES IN THE CLASSROOM

A controversial issue is a topic likely to arouse both support and opposition in the community. The District will permit the introduction and proper educational use of controversial issues provided that their use in the instructional program is related to instructional goals of the course of study and level of maturity of the students, does not tend to indoctrinate or persuade students to a particular point of view, encourages open-mindedness, and is conducted in a spirit of scholarly inquiry. Contact your building principal with questions.

Policy 2240 – Controversial Issues in the Classroom (Program)

E.5 CORPORAL PUNISHMENT/USE OF PHYSICAL FORCE

School District employees may not use corporal punishment in any of its forms. School employees are not prohibited, however, from using reasonable and necessary force:

- To quell a disturbance or prevent an act that threatens physical injury to any person;
- To obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object within a student's control;
- For the purpose of self-defense or the defense of others or for the protection of property in accordance with state statutes;
- To remove a disruptive student from school premises, a motor vehicle, or school-sponsored activity;
- To prevent a student from inflicting harm on himself or herself; or
- To protect the safety of others.

Further, school officials and employees are not prohibited from using incidental, minor or reasonable physical contact designated to maintain order and control. The building principal shall be notified immediately after any application of force.

E.6 COURT ORDERS

Families/guardians must supply their child's school with a copy of any type of court order that may affect the student, e.g., who may visit the child, etc. A copy of the order will be maintained in the child's Skyward Account and/or cumulative file. Staff must adhere to court orders, with any questions directed to District Administration.

E.7 CULTURAL DIVERSITY

The School District of Ashland comprises individuals of diverse racial, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds, national origins, religious and political beliefs, ages, and physical abilities. The District welcomes this diversity and is committed to maintaining a supportive learning and working environment for all persons. Accordingly, the District supports policies, programs, events, and co-curricular activities that enhance awareness and appreciation of cultural and individual diversity, promote community, and encourage full participation of all members and groups in every aspect of school life.

E.8 CUMULATIVE FOLDERS

Cumulative folders are the permanent records kept on every student. The number of days of attendance, report cards, and other general information can be found there. Professional staff are responsible for reviewing the cumulative folders of their students.

E.9 CYBER BULLYING

Cyber bullying involves the use of information and communication technologies such as e-mail, cell phone and pager text messages, instant messaging, defamatory personal websites, and defamatory online personal polling websites, to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others. Usage and employment of network systems (data, video, or voice) to harass, intimidate, or bully is described as cyber bullying, and is unacceptable and subject to disciplinary action. Individuals who are found guilty of cyber bullying shall be subject to appropriate discipline, up to and including termination and/or non-renewal. Other consequences, including, but not limited to, prohibiting computer use and possible referral to prosecuting authorities, may also occur if deemed appropriate by the administration.

E.10 DISRUPTING THE EDUCATIONAL PROCESS

Any employee who participates in or encourages activities that disrupt the educational process or the operations of

the District may be subject to disciplinary action, including termination. Behavior that disrupts the educational process includes, but is not limited to:

- Conduct that threatens the health, safety, or welfare of others;
- Conduct that may damage public or private property (including the property of students or staff);
- Illegal activity;
- Conduct that interferes with a student's access to educational opportunities or programs, including ability to attend, participate in, and benefit from instructional and extracurricular activities; or
- Conduct that disrupts delivery of instructional services or interferes with the orderly administration of the District, school and school-related activities, or District operations.

E.11 DIVORCED/SEPARATED FAMILIES

The District shall maintain strict neutrality between families who are involved in a legal action affecting the family, unless otherwise directed by court order. It is the responsibility of the family(s) to notify the District of any such court order. The enrolling family of the child is responsible for informing the school of names and mailing addresses of both families. The family of any student enrolled in school may be provided all report cards, notices of school activities, disciplinary reports, conference appointment or summaries, or other student records unless otherwise curtailed or restricted by a provision of a court order which had been provided to the principal. The family may participate in all activities, including conferences, unless a court order provides otherwise.

The school generally will conduct only one meeting for families at appropriate times in which both families will be permitted to participate. The building principals shall develop specific, positive procedures for sharing information with families. When the District has been notified, the principal shall inform professional staff of those students for whom a family's access to information has been restricted by court order. A student enrolled in the District may be released from school to either family, unless a family has presented a court order or other legally binding document which prohibits such a release.

E.12 FIELD TRIPS

All field trips which take students away from the school premises but do not involve overnight arrangements must be approved by the building principal, director of student learning, and the business manager. All requests will be made through the building principal and must include complete details of the trip, including financing. No reservations or trip arrangements can be made until final approval is received. All fundraisers for financing trip activities must have prior approval by the building principal, at least 2 weeks in advance. Upon approval of the trip, the principal's secretary will confirm transportation arrangements with Lake Shore Buses not less than three (3) full days in advance of the trip. Building principals will determine if financing is available for the trip. If funding is not available, the field trip may be allowed but the total cost must be paid by the students. (Also see emergency notification cards, permission slips, and fundraising.) Families will be notified by staff at least 7 business days prior to the field trip. [Policy 2340](#)

E.13 FIELD TRIPS - EXTENDED

The Board has authorized the superintendent to approve extended field trips for students at their discretion. An extended field trip is any trip involving overnight arrangements for five (5) or more days. Before any extended field trip is approved, the superintendent shall review the instructional purposes of the trip, transportation and/or lodging arrangement, financial responsibilities, and District legal responsibilities and liabilities. A field trip packet for extended field trips is available in your building office or on the District's website at www.ashland.k12.wi.us - Staff - Forms - School-Wide Forms.

E.14 FUNDRAISING

All fundraising activities must be conducted under the direct supervision of staff or other authorized individuals and approved by the building principal or designee prior to the activity being initiated. Contact your school office for the form. Fundraising requests must include an explanation or justification for the proposal consistent with building and/or District goals. Fundraising must not interfere with or disrupt school. All money raised must be documented by receipts and deposited in a specific District or building bank account. Staff and students should take all reasonable precautions to provide for the security of any items/materials/products being sold. Staff members are directed to follow established building procedures for the depositing of funds collected. At no time should money collected be allowed to accumulate in classrooms, lockers or other unsecured areas.

Policy 6605 - Crowdfunding

The School District of Ashland will **restrict** food and beverage marketing to only those foods and beverages that meet the nutrition standards set forth by USDA's Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in Schools (Smart Snacks) rule. Marketing includes Brand names, trademarks, logos, or tags except when placed on a food or beverage product/container; displays, such as vending machine exteriors; corporate/brand names, logos, trademarks on cups, posters, school supplies, education materials, food service equipment, and school equipment (e.g. message boards, scoreboards, uniforms); advertisements in school publications/mailings; sponsorship of school activities, fundraisers, or sports teams; educational incentive programs such as contests or programs; and free samples or coupons displaying advertising of a product. [Board policy 8510 - Wellness.](#)

E.15 GUEST SPEAKERS

Guest speakers may be used by professional staff from time to time, when such use is consistent with educational goals and with a demonstrable relation to the curricular or co-curricular activity in which the participating students are involved. Professional staff are expected to inform the building principal or designee of the date, time, and nature of the presentation whenever such use is planned. Prior approval from the building principal or designee may be required.

E.16 HEALTH REFERRALS

All student health concerns should be referred to the school nurse or health assistant. No medication is to be distributed by classroom staff. The school nurse/health assistants will be in contact with professional staff regarding students who have health issues. In some instances, accommodations for their educational needs may be necessary. All prescription medications for students must be kept in the health office, and only dispensed by individuals designated to do so. However, consistent with Policy 5330.01, a student may possess and self-administer medication for chronic diseases or medical conditions provided the student's family/guardian files a written authorization with the principal. The written authorization must be filed annually. A physician's written statement must be included with the families/guardian's authorization. Students bringing medication to school should be sent to the office.

E.17 HOMELESS STUDENTS

Homeless children and unaccompanied youth must have access to public school educational programs and services that allow them to meet the same challenging state academic standards to which all students are held. If you are aware of a child who may be homeless, contact your building principal or the school social worker.

[Policy 5111.01](#) – Homeless Students (Students)

E.18 MAKE-UP SCHOOL WORK FOLLOWING A STUDENT ABSENCE

A student whose absence was excused (except for an expelled student) shall be permitted to make up course work and any quarterly, semester, or grading period exams missed during the absences when they return to school.

Make-up school work procedures are outlined in the following policy:

[Policy 5200](#) – Attendance (Students)

Professional staff shall have the discretion to assign substitute coursework and exams.

Credit in a course or subject shall not be denied solely because of a student’s unexcused absences from school. Students with unexcused absences shall be permitted to make up course work and any quarterly, semester, or grading period examinations missed during the absence if the student is at risk of receiving no credit in a course or subject if the work is not made up.

Subject to the immediately preceding two (2) paragraphs, credit may be, but is not required to be given for the completion of make-up work. Further, credit for make-up work may be given only after the student has satisfied consequences imposed for unexcused absences. The extent to which make-up credit is given shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the principal and the respective professional staff. If make-up work has been assigned, it is the student’s responsibility to contact their teachers to determine what coursework and examinations must be made up. Teachers shall have the discretion to assign substitute coursework and examinations. Teachers shall also have the discretion to specify where and when examinations and course work shall be completed, including outside regular school hours.

The time for completing the work shall be commensurate with the length of the absence, unless extended by the principal based upon extenuating circumstances. The teacher has a responsibility to give students any needed help and direction, but it is the student’s responsibility to see that all work is completed and turned in on time. Students should see a counselor or building principal if there are special circumstances.

[Policy 5200](#) – Attendance (Students)

E.19 MONITORING STUDENT TECHNOLOGY USE

Although there are technical filtering and monitoring systems in place, it is the responsibility of staff members to monitor student technology use. This can be done by making sure screens in rooms are visible at all times, not allowing students in the room unless supervised, monitoring as needed through technology platforms, and integrating appropriate and ethical use into instruction.

E.20 FAMILY/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Time for family/teacher conferences is scheduled at each school and/or designated location a minimum of once per year. Teachers are expected to keep family/guardians informed of student progress as well as significant behavior problems which may exist. A record should be kept of conversations with families/guardians about their child’s progress. Aside from the regularly scheduled conferences, a family/guardian or teacher may request a conference any time one is deemed necessary.

E.21 PERMISSION SLIPS

It is the responsibility of the teacher/supervisor/advisor to ensure that all students K-12 have a permission slip signed by their family/guardian on file with the classroom teacher before being permitted to join in a field trip that takes students away from the building. A written notice describing the trip must be given to students 7 business days in advance of the date of the trip.

E.22 PERSONAL COMMUNICATION DEVICES (PCDs)

Students are expected to adhere to the District’s policy on Personal Communication Devices: [Policy 5136](#) - Wireless Communication Devices.

E.23 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All schools are required to offer the Pledge of Allegiance each school day. Staff and students who choose not to recite the Pledge of Allegiance shall not be required to do so, but shall not be disruptive while the rest of the school is participating. (Per WI Statute 118.06)

E.24 PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES

Staff are expected to maintain a professional relationship with students. Employees have the responsibility to provide an atmosphere conducive to learning and are expected to model the behavior expectations of students. Employees are prohibited from dating, courting, or entering into a romantic or sexual relationship with any student enrolled in the School District regardless of the student's age. It is the ethical responsibility of all to be aware of boundary crossings and to report known incidents to administrators.

E.25 RELIGIOUS BELIEF ACCOMMODATIONS

Upon written request, students may be excused from a classroom activity or from portions of the established course of instruction where the instructional content would violate the child's religious beliefs. Students may be required to complete an alternative assignment or course of instruction to meet course requirements.

E.26 STUDENT ACCIDENTS/ILLNESS/CONCUSSION

The Board of Education believes that school personnel have certain responsibilities in case of accidents, illness or concussions that occur in school. Said responsibilities extend to the administration of first aid by persons trained to do so, summoning of medical assistance, notification of administration personnel, notification of families/guardians, and the filing of accident reports. Staff should follow the procedures found in the EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN under ACCIDENTS. A copy of the plan is located in each classroom.

Suspected Concussion Management - The signs, symptoms, and behaviors of a concussion are not always immediately after a bump, blow, or jolt to the head or body, and may develop over a few hours. A student should be observed following a suspected concussion, always under direct supervision and never left alone.

1. No student should return to any school-related physical activities on the same day of a suspected concussion.
2. Any student suspected of having a concussion should be evaluated by an appropriate health-care professional that day.
 - i. Inform the student's family/guardians about the possible concussion. Provide the family/guardian with information about concussions and return to school-related physical activity procedures. Inform the family/guardian to discuss any student academic concerns with the appropriate school personnel.
3. Give custody of the student over to the family/guardians.
4. Any student with a concussion should be medically cleared by an appropriate health-care professional prior to resuming participation in any school-related physical activity.
5. After medical clearance, return to school-related physical activity should follow a stepwise protocol with provisions for delayed return to school-related activity based upon return of any signs or symptoms.

[Policy 5340](#) - Student Accidents/Illness/Concussion

E.27 STUDENT DISMISSAL

No student shall be allowed to leave the school grounds during the school day without the consent of the principal or designee. It shall be the teacher's responsibility to make certain that the principal or designee has given this approval before releasing the child.

E.28 STUDENT EARLY DEPARTURE

Students requesting early dismissal must bring a written excuse from a guardian to the office. Only excuse the child if they have written notice signed, or a call has been made by the office or the health assistant. Occasionally, emergencies arise and families/guardians may request to pick up their child early. In such a case, you will be notified by an adult from the office. When the student returns during the school day, the student will stop in the office to check in. Guardians may send notes or make calls to let the teacher know of illnesses or appointments. Guardians may be called if their student becomes ill during the day. When the guardian arrives in the office to pick up the student, a staff member will call the classroom to have the student come to the office. Only direct adult communication will result in a child going home during the day.

E.29 STUDENT HANDBOOK

Each school has a student handbook. Each employee is to familiarize himself/herself with the information in their building's handbook. Employees are responsible for supporting the rules and guidelines for students. The District expects its staff to assist the District in enacting these rules.

E.30 STUDENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE/SUICIDAL IDEATION

If an employee suspects abuse or suicidal ideation, an employee must immediately contact the guidance department or principal's office. All an employee has to do is to suspect that something is amiss; the employee does not need to know for a fact that a young person is in trouble. An administrator will, at some point, ask for the details that roused the suspicion, but those questions will be posed only to gain information. The employee will generally not be asked to provide justification for any action that the administration chooses to take with a student. [Resources regarding suicide prevention can be found on DPI's website.](#)

E.31 STUDENT TRANSPORTATION IN PRIVATE VEHICLES

In emergency situations an employee may, with the permission of the building principal or superintendent, transport students in his or her private vehicle. The employee must meet all state law requirements for alternative transportation. Before using the vehicle for such purposes, the employee will be made aware that his or her personal auto insurance will serve as the primary source of coverage. Employees have the right to refuse to transport students in their personal vehicles.

[Policy 8660](#) - Transportation by Private Vehicle

E.32 SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

The Board of Education expects all students to be under assigned adult responsibility when they are in school, traveling under school auspices, or engaging in school-sponsored activities. School personnel assigned to students are expected to act as reasonably prudent adults in providing for the safety of students in their charge.

In keeping with this, reasonable and prudent arrangements can/will be made for students and staff working on independent, experiential, and authentic projects. For the Board's expectation in this regard, administrators should refer to the policies below.

[Policy 1213](#) – Student Supervision and Welfare

[Policy 3213](#) – Student Supervision and Welfare (Professional Staff)

[Policy 4213](#) – Student Supervision and Welfare (Support Staff)

Title IX Non Discrimination Policy Statement –

As mandated by the current provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 and under the regulations set forth in Chapter 106 of Title 34 of the Code of Federal Regulations (“the federal Title IX regulations”), the District does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of sex in any education program or activity that the District operates. Title IX’s requirement not to discriminate in any education program or activity extends to cover, but is not limited to, District students, certain admissions processes, and District employment. Inquiries regarding how Title IX and the federal Title IX regulations apply to the District may be referred to a District Title IX Coordinator (as designated below), to the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education, or to both.

The District’s commitment to nondiscrimination under Title IX and under other state and federal laws is further defined in the following policies of the School Board: Policy 2266, Policy 5517, Policy 5517.01, Policy 2260, Policy 2260.01, Policy 3362, Policy 3362.01, Policy 4362, 4362.01.

District Title IX Coordinators –

The District employees who hold each of the positions identified below serve as Title IX Coordinators for the District:

[Katie Matthias / Brian Trettin/Melissa Gessert](#)
[2000 Beaser Ave](#)
[Ashland, WI 54806](#)
[\(715\) 682-7080](#)

Reporting Sex Discrimination –

Any person (including a person who is not claiming to have been personally harmed/victimized by the alleged discrimination) may report a concern or allegation regarding prohibited sex discrimination (including sexual harassment) to the District. Such reports may be submitted as follows:

1. To a District Title IX Coordinator, either in person, by U.S. mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed above. In-person reports should be made when the Title IX Coordinator is reasonably available during regular working hours. Reports submitted by telephone, mail, or electronic mail may be made at any time.
2. By any other means that results in a Title IX Coordinator actually receiving the person’s verbal or written report.

Filing Formal Complaints of Title IX Sexual Harassment –

As required by the federal Title IX regulations, the District has established a formal grievance process for investigating and resolving “formal complaints” of “sexual harassment,” as those terms are defined in the regulations.

An individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment under the federal Title IX regulations (i.e., a Title IX “complainant”), or a family or guardian who has a legal right to act on behalf of such an individual, may file a formal complaint of sexual harassment. No Title IX complainant is obligated to file a formal complaint, but a qualifying formal complaint is necessary for the District to start an investigation using the

District’s formal Title IX grievance process.

Complainants are expected to file formal complaints of sexual harassment with a District Title IX Coordinator by submitting a document or electronic submission in person, by U.S. mail, or by electronic mail, using the contact information specified above. Additional requirements for formal complaints of Title IX sexual harassment, including a description of the required content for a formal complaint, are set forth in Policy 2266 within the School Board’s policies.

District Response to Reports and Complaints of Sex Discrimination and to Formal Complaints of Sexual Harassment under Title IX –

The District has established grievance procedures through which the District structures its response to reports that allege unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex in any education program or activity of the District. Those procedures are set forth in Policy 2266 as published on the District’s website. The purpose of such procedures is to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of any report or complaint of alleged sex discrimination, excluding formal complaints of sexual harassment under Title IX (which are subject to a different process).

Any time the District has actual knowledge of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment that could constitute a violation of Title IX, the District has obligations to respond to such knowledge in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent and in a manner that treats the alleged victim(s) of sexual harassment and the alleged perpetrator(s) of sexual harassment equitably. Such a response includes, but is not limited to, offering supportive measures to a complainant and investigating and resolving any formal complaint that presents allegations of Title IX sexual harassment using the formal grievance process the District has adopted for such formal complaints. District procedures for responding to alleged sexual harassment under Title IX, including the formal grievance process, are set forth in Policy 2266 as published on the District’s website.

ADDENDUM F - STRATEGIC PLAN

School District of Ashland Strategic Goals and Objectives

Core Values

Trusting Relationships, Sense of Belonging, Clear Communication, Community Connection

Goals: long-term results SDA hopes to achieve.

Objectives: shorter-term, measurable steps SDA will take to achieve its goals

Measures of Success: evaluate progress toward objectives (disaggregated by DPI “target group”, disability, gender, race, LGBTQ status when possible)

Actions: Specific actions to achieve objectives.

Process: These goals and objectives were developed after extensive discussion of the challenges and opportunities facing SDA, with a broad group of stakeholders on the Strategic Planning Committee. Note that this process did not engage with students directly, and the committee recommends that the SDA collect feedback from students in all buildings and update the plan as necessary in response to their input.

1. Communication, Decision Making, and Connection

Structures and procedures at the district and building level set the stage for positive experiences and outcomes for students, staff, and the community. Attention to communication, decision making, and community engagement lay a foundation for success in achieving other goals.

GOAL #1: SDA will implement and maintain clear communication, inclusive decision making, and robust community connections. ([Draft of communication plan](#))

Objective: Clear Communication - Design internal and external communication procedures to ensure that important information is communicated in a clear, accurate, and timely way using multiple avenues that reach the intended audiences.

Objective: Inclusive Decision Making- Actively engage students, staff, and caregivers in establishing priorities, formulating plans, and making decisions at the building and district level.

Objective: Robust Community Connection- Enhance community connection by facilitating positive interactions with the school district and making the schools inviting for caregivers and the community.

Measures of Success

1. Annually increase the proportion of stakeholders who are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the content, quantity, and medium of communication at the building and district level increases (Sense of Belonging survey)
2. Build and maintain participation in building and district level committees, ensuring that committees reflect the makeup of the constituencies they represent.
3. Annually increase the number of: school sponsored opportunities for caregivers to build connections; external community events using school spaces; volunteers in roles that build connections to students or staff.

2. Staff Morale, Recruitment, and Retention

Dedicated staff are integral to the daily operation of our schools. They facilitate positive interactions with the community, build a supportive school culture, and create engaging learning experiences for our students.

GOAL #2: SDA will recruit, develop, and retain a highly motivated and effective staff at all levels of operation.

Objective: Morale- Ensure that all staff feel valued, supported in their roles, and have opportunities to build trusting relationships with all stakeholder groups.

Objective: Recruitment of Staff - Recruit highly qualified and dedicated staff of all classifications both locally and from across the region.

Objective: Competitive and Fair Pay - Build a transparent and equitable salary structure with competitive compensation, and address internal pay inequities that have developed over time.

Objective: New Staff Support- Establish clear and consistent practices for onboarding and supporting new staff to increase retention.

Measures of Success

1. Annually increase the proportion of staff who feel that they have positive relationships with other staff, administrators, and caregivers. (Sense of Belonging Survey for staff)
2. Annually increase the number of applicants for open positions.
3. Adopt published salary schedule with step increases by the 2024-2025 school year

4. Retain staff of all classifications at a higher rate than the state average.

3. Student Belonging

A deep sense of belonging to the school community is the starting point for a healthy school environment where students are ready to learn, and have the tools and resources to engage positively with their peers and with school staff. It is essential for students to thrive.

GOAL #3: All students feel a sense of belonging and experience an environment of respect and rapport in the school, allowing them to thrive as individuals and members of the school community.

Objective: Positive Peer Relationships: Students have meaningful opportunities to build positive peer relationships both within and outside the classroom.

Objective: Positive Adult Relationships: Students experience positive interactions with adults and build trusting relationships with their teachers, and other school staff.

Objective: Conflict Resolution: Staff address conflict between students in a developmentally appropriate way that builds social skills and repairs relationships, with the goal of building independence in managing conflict.

Objective: Connection and Community: Students have a variety of opportunities to build community with a diverse array of peers outside of the classroom in fine arts, music, clubs, academic extracurriculars, sports, and other activities driven by student interest.

Objective: Address Racism and Discrimination: District actively seeks to eliminate racism and discrimination by evaluating school culture with an equity lens, and exploring root causes.

Objective: Evaluate and Eliminate Harmful Practices: School staff at all levels collaborate with students to evaluate and eliminate practices in or out of the classroom that create social, academic, or emotional harm for students.

Measures of Success

1. Annually increase attendance rates for the student population, in the DPI “target group”
2. Annually increase proportion of students participating in co-curricular activities
3. Annually decrease the reported incidents of bullying, harassment.
4. Annually increase in the number of students who self-report positive peer and adult relationships (Student Sense of Belonging Survey, Trusted Adult Survey)

4. Student Learning and Engagement

Students thrive in a rich learning environment with relevant and engaging content, high expectations, and opportunities to draw on their own lived experience. In this context, and when they feel a sense of community and belonging (Goal #3), they are more likely to come to school, engage constructively, and excel academically.

GOAL #4: Students' learning experiences are engaging and rewarding, providing developmentally appropriate opportunities to learn, practice and apply relevant skills that prepare them for college, career, and civic life beyond high school.

Objective: Basic Needs: Staff works to ensure that students' social, emotional, and physical needs are met so they are ready to learn.

Objective: Engagement: Teachers enhance interest and motivation for all students by utilizing researched based, proven practices for engagement including social interaction, relevance, critical thinking, and inquiry.

Objective: Culturally Responsive: Students see themselves represented in the curriculum and are able to draw on their own experiences as a valued source of knowledge.

Objective: Professional Development: Teachers have access to ongoing, high-quality professional development that meets their needs and supports them in reflecting on and improving their professional practice to enhance belonging, learning, and engagement.

Objective: Early Intervention: SDA works to close early gaps in basic literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills through both universal strategies, and targeted intervention.

Objective: Evaluate Technology Use in the Classroom: Initiate a process engaging all stakeholders to evaluate the benefits and costs of technology use in the classroom, with the goal of enhancing learning and engagement.

Measures of Success

1. Annually increase the proportion of students who rate their school experiences as interesting, exciting, confident, immersed, eager, etc. (Sense of Belonging Survey)
2. Annually increase state test scores on average, and in the “target group”.
3. Annually increase the proportion of teachers who are “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with professional development opportunities. (PD Survey)
4. Annually improve reading readiness scores and other internal measures of early learning outcomes in numeracy and social emotional learning.

Appendix: Recommended Actions

The actions listed below represent a broad range of ideas collected through input from the Strategic Planning Committee, other community input, staff input, and the input of other district committees. These are meant to provide both context for the Strategic Plan, and a starting point for planning the actions that can support achieving the objectives and goals.

Communication, Decision Making and Connection

1. Develop a district communications plan.
2. Increase two-way internal communication between administration and staff, and among staff.
3. Establish norms/expectations regarding timely response to outreach from teachers and caregivers to admin.
4. Develop a system for urgent communication with staff during a lockdown.
5. Enhance communication with caregivers at the middle school.

6. Evaluate external communication to caregivers to prioritize what is most important and eliminate unnecessary communication.
7. Establish clear communication channels between the district and families and standardize at the building level.
8. Support meaningful and collaborative engagement of Home and School Associations at the building level.
9. Create building level advisory committees that represent multiple stakeholders and perspectives.
10. Create and maintain district committees (e.g. Recruitment and Retention, Communication) that are responsive to emerging needs and priorities.
11. Commit to engaging with impacted stakeholders for major decisions (students, staff, families).
12. Include staff voice in decisions regarding curriculum.
13. Bring the community into the schools for activities, meetings, and events by making district spaces available and accessible for a variety of community purposes.
14. Provide opportunities for caregivers to connect to school staff and other families through events that allow for meaningful social interaction.
15. Develop avenues for regular and ongoing volunteer opportunities for families and community members that support needs of students, teachers, and administration.
16. Evaluate strategies that could make the schools more welcoming for caregivers and community members.
17. Develop clear lines of communication with teachers regarding the status of chronically absent students.
18. Communicate about the strategic plan and share with stakeholders.
19. Update policies and procedures and make these more easily accessible to staff, designate a person to field questions.
20. Enhance clear communication about roles (who is on committees, who has what responsibilities) and chain of command, and make this information easily accessible.

Staff Morale, Recruitment and Retention

1. Develop strategies to recruit and train substitutes to alleviate the strain on subs
2. Work collaboratively with teachers to identify and prioritize professional development needs.
3. Leverage local resources to fill needs for substitutes, volunteers, and professional development.
4. Establish shared norms for interaction among staff
5. Utilize inservice time to build relationships among staff in each building
6. Focus on building relationships between staff and administration in each building

7. Develop (or revive) procedures for staff to provide formal feedback and evaluation of their supervisors (building admin, or district admin with whom they have a formal work relationship).
8. Foster communication and positive relationships between classroom teachers and other building staff members.
9. Address burnout at LSE due to disruptive behavior that impacts other students through more followup and support.
10. Build in time for all staff to reflect, evaluate, innovate in a collaborative environment.
11. Recruit and retain good subs so teachers can attend PD
12. Develop a better program to ensure subs feel supported and valued through better pay, orientation, onboarding, connections and relationships, support, PD, and a sub coordinator.
13. Ensure that job postings are clear, complete, and communicate a compelling reason to work for the School District of Ashland.
14. Evaluate opportunities to broaden the reach of job postings.
15. Streamline website to make it easier to find out about open positions.
16. Contract with a consultant to generate recommendations related to inversion and compression of salaries.
17. Work with teachers unions to develop a publicly available salary schedule with annual step increases and lanes for educational attainment.
18. Review and revise contract buyout provision.
19. Enhance clear communication about benefits
20. Review and revise procedures to ensure fair compensation when subs are not available and teachers take on extra students or cover additional classes.
21. Educate the community about constraints of state imposed revenue limits.
22. Advocate for changes in school funding at the state level.
23. Annual review process to determine what programs, approaches, practices are priorities and what is obsolete. What can teachers stop doing, so they can pick up new things and focus on priorities.
24. Explore alternative schedules (four day week, year round school with longer breaks)

Student Sense of Belonging

1. Teachers receive ongoing professional development in strategies for building community in the classroom.
2. Teachers utilize interactive learning strategies that support students in building positive relationships.
3. Eliminate barriers to participation in community building opportunities outside the core curriculum.

4. Utilize music, theater, sports and other extracurricular activities as explicitly opportunities to build community and enhance positive peer interaction.
5. Identify students without strong adult relationships and develop intentional strategies to support these students.
6. Audit non-classroom situations where student:adult interactions can be adversarial (playground, lunch room, hallways etc) and evaluate solutions.
7. Build capacity to use restorative practices to address conflict.
8. Minimize the use of surveillance footage to resolve interpersonal conflict
9. Ensure that students see themselves and their peers represented in the curriculum at all levels.
10. Develop procedures for reporting instances of racism and discrimination, and ensure that students understand and can easily access the procedures for reporting these incidents.
11. The district responds to incidents of racism in ways that seek to repair harm and prevent future incidents.
12. Provide ongoing professional development and training for staff to equip all school employees with the necessary tools to combat racism and discrimination.
13. Evaluate and address policies and practices that result in segregation.
14. Ensure that students with identified disabilities are included with their peers whenever possible in order to facilitate respect and rapport between all students.
15. Support and highlight a diverse array of interests and activities beyond traditional competitive sports, including fine arts, academic extracurricular clubs, and other student groups, to ensure that extracurricular resources are accessible and engaging to more students.
16. Utilize district-wide communication channels to spotlight non-athletic activities and accomplishments.
17. Evaluate barriers to students participation in after school activities and explore solutions.
18. Audit practices that result in social exclusion, low self esteem, ranking or sorting students, shame, isolation, or other negative outcomes.
19. All school staff receive ongoing professional development in order to address and disrupt bullying or other forms of harassment.
20. Adopt DPI best practices for School Resources Officers, including developing an MOU and a method for data collection, reporting, and evaluation
21. Evaluate the impact of phone use on student wellbeing and engagement and establish policies in response.
22. Invest in ongoing PD for Responsive Classroom, Developmental Designs, and Collaborative Proactive Solutions to institutionalize in the face of staff turnover.
23. Enhance behavior support and mental health services.

Student Learning and Engagement

1. Evaluate opportunities to support positive behavior through developmentally appropriate physical movement, play, and exercise as a regular part of the school day.
2. Increase access to mental health support.
3. Enhance opportunities to utilize outdoor spaces for nature-based outdoor experiences to support physical and emotional health
4. Evaluate opportunities to enhance access to healthy food through school provided breakfast and lunch options.
5. Heighten intellectual engagement and challenge for all students by focusing on authenticity and relevance in content and pedagogy at all levels.
6. Bring community members into classrooms to make connections to the world outside of school.
7. Utilize inquiry models and project based approaches to enhance relevance and tap into student curiosity, creativity and imagination.
8. Support student collaboration and interaction in the classroom in order to build motivation, community, and transferable social skills.
9. Enhance relevance of learning through nature based and place based strategies, using community collaboration and available resources such as gardens, forests, outdoor classrooms, Lake Superior, and Ojibwe cultural knowledge.
10. Continue to invest in existing curriculum and professional development for math and literacy.
11. Evaluate use of technology in the classroom, ensuring that intentional and appropriate use of tech use does not substitute for or replace interaction with peers and teachers, and has a clear and justifiable learning goal.
12. Provide additional academic support and intervention for students in the early elementary grades to address gaps early.
13. Ask the students what they want/ need and be responsive to their feedback. Perhaps build in regular structures for open conversation about learning goals and strategies with students.
14. Emphasize the importance of social/emotional learning in addition to academic content
15. Establish a culture of high expectations and compassion (warm demanders) at the High School to increase students' sense of pride and value.

11.0 EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK RECEIPT AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Employee Handbook 2025-2026 School Year

As an employee of the School District of Ashland, I acknowledge receipt of this Employee Handbook, and understand that the Employee Handbook is simply a means to acquaint me with the School District of Ashland and its operations, and provide guidelines in regard to its policies and my employment.

I understand that the Employee Handbook does not constitute a contract of employment, express or implied, between the School District of Ashland and myself and that no oral statements by supervisors or management can alter this disclaimer or create a contract. Only the Board of Education has the authority to create an employment contract, and such contract must be in writing and signed by the Board to be valid.

I further understand that, unless otherwise agreed upon in a written employment contract between the Board and myself, my employment with the District is "at-will," not for any definite period of time, and may be terminated by myself or the District at any time and for any reason not prohibited by law.

I also understand that if I have an individual employment contract with the District, as required and pursuant to §118.21 (1), or §118.24 (1), this Employee Handbook does not constitute a separate contract of employment, express or implied, between the District and myself. In the event that any Employee Handbook provision conflicts with any applicable employment contract provision, the employment contract shall control.

I understand that the School District of Ashland reserves the right to modify, amend, or delete any provisions of the Employee Handbook at any time. I will receive copies of any such modifications, amendments, or deletions.

I understand that this Employee Handbook supersedes all previous manuals or handbooks that I have received or have been advised of by the District. I also understand that any subsequent revisions to the provisions of this Handbook will supersede those contained herein.

I further understand that Board policy may be adopted/updated at any time, and therefore understand that Board policy will supersede language contained in this Employee Handbook.

Printed Name

Signature

Building Location

Date

The School District of Ashland does not discriminate based on age, race, creed, religion, color, disability, handicap, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, citizenship status, ancestry, arrest record, conviction record, or membership in the National Guard or military forces of the United States, or other protected group status.

PLEASE ELECTRONICALLY SUBMIT THIS FORM TO THE DISTRICT OFFICE