

AGREEMENT BETWEEN

BCUSD # 100

and

**BELVIDERE EDUCATIONAL
SUPPORT TEAM**

(BEST)

IEA-NEA

2025-2029

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AGREEMENT

This Agreement is entered into this, 21st day of JULY 2025 by and between Community Unit School District #100 (hereinafter referred to as the District) and the Belvidere Educational Support Team (hereinafter referred to as Association).

PREAMBLE

Accordingly, it is the intent and purpose of this Agreement to set forth the parties' entire agreement with respect to the rates of pay, fringe benefits, and other conditions of employment that will be in effect during the term of this Agreement for employees covered by this Agreement; to prevent interruptions of work and interference with the operations of the District's schools; to maintain the highest standards of personal and professional integrity and conduct at all times; and to provide procedures for the prompt and peaceful adjustment of grievances as provided herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree with each other as follows:

ARTICLE 1: RECOGNITION

Section 1.1. Recognition.

The Board recognizes Association as the sole and exclusive bargaining representative for all regularly employed full-time and part-time paraprofessionals, to include: program assistants, bilingual tutors, level 1 techs, teacher aides, Title I aides, library clerks, and all K-12 monitors , but specifically excluding all administrators (including the Director of Special Education, the Director of Bilingual Education and Director of Grants), licensed/certificated employees represented by the Belvidere Education Association, bus drivers, maintenance employees, clerical employees, parking lot monitors, special education job coaches, non-certified nurses/health aides, noon hour aides, bus/transportation aides, crossing guards, on-call interpreters, District computer technicians, and all managerial, supervisory, confidential, substitute employees, short-term employees, as defined by the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act, as amended, and all other employees.

ARTICLE 2: NONDISCRIMINATION

Section 2.1. Generally

Neither the Board nor the Association shall discriminate against employees because of membership or non-membership in the Association or because of participation or non-participation in Association activities.

Section 2.2. Americans with Disabilities Act.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Agreement, the parties agree that the District may take whatever reasonable steps are needed to comply with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

ARTICLE 3: ASSOCIATION RIGHTS

Section 3.1. Use of District Facilities for Association Meetings.

The Association may, by pre-arrangement with the building principal, use a multi-purpose room or other suitable facility for Association meetings. Such meetings shall be held at reasonable hours and limited to such times as do not conflict with the use of the facility for school purposes. When custodial service is required, the District may require the Association to reimburse the District for such service.

Section 3.2. Use of District Equipment and Materials.

The District will designate certain items of school equipment for use by the Association for Association business. Such use, however, shall be pre-scheduled so as to be outside the basic school day, shall be by pre-arrangement with the building principal, and shall be done outside the work hours of the employee using the school equipment. Such use shall in no case take precedence over school needs. Any materials used and costs incurred shall be reimbursed by the Association.

Section 3.3. Access to District Premises.

Duly authorized Association representatives, upon notifying the school office, may meet with bargaining unit employees in the school building during duty free times of such bargaining unit employees.

Section 3.4. Distribution of Contract.

The District will post the Agreement on the District's website (www.district100.com) for employee access.

Section 3.5. New Personnel.

The District shall provide electronically the names, addresses, phone numbers, projected salary and date of hire of newly hired employees covered by this Agreement within seven (7) business days of their date of hire. In addition, the District shall via electronic means provide names, addresses, phone numbers, and date of termination/resignation of any employee covered by this Agreement within seven (7) business days of action taken by the Board. This information shall be provided to the Association President and Membership Chairperson at least 10 days before the start of the school year.

Section 3.6. Board Meetings.

All Board of Education notice of meetings will be accessible through the District's website (www.district100.com) on Diligent/BoardDocs. The President of the Association shall be notified by email of any cancellations, postponements, or special meetings of the Board of Education at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled time of the meeting.

Section 3.7. Board Minutes.

The Association shall be provided with a copy of the Minutes of regular and special meetings of the Board of Education after said Minutes have been officially approved by the Board via BoardDocs.

Section 3.8. Dues Checkoff.

During the term of this Agreement the District will deduct from each employee's biweekly paycheck the regular Association dues for each employee in the bargaining unit for whom a lawfully written authorization has been submitted to the District.

The Association shall indemnify and hold harmless the District, its elected representatives, officers, administrators, agents and employees from and against any and all claims, demands, actions, complaints, suits or other forms of liability (monetary or otherwise) that arise out of or by reason of any action taken or not taken by the District for the purpose of complying with the provisions of this Section or in reliance on any written checkoff authorization furnished under any of such provisions.

JANUS v. AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, COUNCIL 31, ET AL. OVERTURNED FAIR SHARE. THIS LANGUAGE HAS BEEN LEFT WITH STRIKETHROUGHS IN CASE JANUS IS OVERTURNED IN THE FUTURE.

~~Section 3.9. Fair Share. During the term of this Agreement, employees who are not members of the Association shall commencing sixty (60) days after their employment or sixty (60) days after the effective date of this Agreement, whichever is later, pay a fair share fee to the Association for collective bargaining and contract administration services rendered by the Association as the exclusive representative of the employees covered by said Agreement, provided fair share fee shall not exceed the dues attributable to being a member of the Belvidere Education Support Team (including the Illinois Education Association and the National Education Association). Such fair share fees shall be deducted by the Board from the earnings of non-members and remitted to the Association. The Association shall annually submit to the Board a list of the employees covered by this Agreement who are not members of the Association and an affidavit which specifies the amount of the fair share fee. The amount of the fair share fee shall not include any contributions related to the election or support of any candidate for political office or for member-only benefit.~~

~~Non-members who object to this fair share fee based upon bona fide religious tenets or teachings shall pay an amount equal to such fair share fee to a non-religious charitable organization mutually agreed upon by the employee and the Association. If the affected non-member and the Association are unable to reach agreement on the organization, the organization shall be selected by the affected non-member from an approved list of charitable organizations established by the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board and the payment shall be made to said organization.~~

~~The Association shall indemnify and hold harmless the Board, its members, officers, agents and employees from and against any and all claims, demands, actions, complaints, suits or other forms of liability (monetary or otherwise) that arise out of or by reason of any action taken or not taken by the Board for the purpose of complying with the above provisions of this Article, or in reliance on any list, notice, certification, affidavit, or assignment furnished under any of~~

~~such provisions. The Board shall promptly notify the Association if there is any lawsuit or other legal challenge to the provisions of this Article and the Association, upon such notice being given, shall have the right to designate legal counsel to defend such action; provided, however, the Board shall have the right to designate its own legal counsel in any such legal proceedings, subject to the approval of the Association, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld, if such designation becomes necessary to protect its own interests, with the understanding that these indemnification provisions shall cover the cost of such representation.~~

Section 3.9 Association Leave.

The Association shall be authorized to use up to fifteen (15) days non-accumulative leave in aggregate in any one school year (July 1 to June 30) without loss of pay. Additional days may be granted by the Board upon written request. A Request for Leave form shall be submitted to the Superintendent at least five (5) days prior to the requested day or days of leave. A written notification of such leave shall be submitted to the Superintendent or designee at least five (5) working days prior to the requested day or days of leave, provided that the Superintendent or designee may, in their sole discretion, waive this requirement. Any requests to use Association leave shall be submitted by the Association President. The Association shall reimburse the Board for the full cost of substitutes employed to replace the absent employee for any number of days in excess of five (5) school days up to and including the fifteenth (15) day if used.

ARTICLE 4: EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

Section 4.1. Right to Representative.

If an employee is required to attend a meeting or conference at which it is contemplated that disciplinary action against the employee might be taken (i.e., suspension without pay or termination), the employee shall have the right to request to have an Association representative at such conference.

Section 4.2 Just Cause Discipline.

No non-probationary employee shall be disciplined, suspended, or discharged except for just cause. The District agrees to follow the principle of progressive discipline, with the understanding, however, that the gravity or seriousness of a given incident (e.g., gross insubordination) may justify immediate discharge without any prior progressive discipline.

Nothing in this Section shall be applicable to any action by the District to terminate the employment of any employee who has been convicted for committing or attempting to commit any one or more of the offenses specified in the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-21.9). The only issue that may be submitted to the grievance and arbitration procedure is whether the employee was, in fact, convicted for committing or attempting to commit any or more of the offenses specified in the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/10-21.9).

Section 4.3. Evaluations.

An evaluation of an Association member must be completed no later than April 30th of their designated evaluation cycle. A consistent evaluation form will be used throughout the district for all Association members. All BEST members will be presented with an electronic copy of the evaluation plan within the first 10 days of the school year. Each building principal or building principal designee (APs/evaluators) will review the evaluation document with each BEST member within the first 30 days of the school year so that expectations for performance are communicated. Employees will receive an electronic copy of their completed evaluation at the beginning of their evaluation conference. If the evaluation is not completed by April 30th of their designated evaluation cycle, the evaluation should indicate at least proficient.

All employees in years 1-10 will be evaluated every year. All employees in years 11 and beyond will be evaluated every other year. Any employee in year 11 and beyond whose performance yields Needs Improvement or is Unsatisfactory due to observed or reported performance deficiencies will receive a full evaluation. The evaluation will begin at least 30 days after the evaluator has communicated the area of improvement verbally and in writing to the BEST Member.

If the evaluator determines that there are issues or potential issues with a BEST member's job performance, the evaluator must complete a first evaluation during the first semester. This will ensure that the BEST member is aware of any deficiencies in job performance allowing sufficient time for the remediation process. If any issues or potential issues with the BEST member's job performance do not present themselves until the 2nd semester, then the evaluator should complete an evaluation as soon as the concern/deficiency arises. For any BEST member

to be considered for termination, a minimum of two evaluations must be completed. A remediation plan must also be completed between evaluations to allow the BEST member a chance to remediate the area(s) of deficiency.

Any BEST member who receives a 1 in any category will be placed on a remediation plan to address the area(s) of deficiency within 5 work days of the evaluation. The remediation process will last for a period of 30 work days. At the end of the 30 day remediation period, the evaluator will complete a 2nd evaluation within 5 work days. If the rating has not improved and the staff member is still rated a 1 in any of the area(s) of deficiency addressed in the remediation plan, with documentation of continued deficiencies, the staff member will be recommended for termination. The superintendent or designee can suspend without pay during the time until a termination is approved by the Board.

Any BEST member who receives an overall Summative Rating of Need Improvement (2 or more areas Needs Improvement) will be placed on a remediation plan to address the area(s) of deficiency within 5 work days of the evaluation. The remediation process will last for a period of 30 work days. At the end of the 30 day remediation period, the evaluator will complete a 2nd evaluation within 5 work days. If the rating has not improved and the staff member is still rated an overall Needs Improvement they will be considered for and could be recommended for termination. If deemed appropriate by the evaluator, the remediation period can be extended for an additional 15 work days at which point a 3rd evaluation would be completed within 5 work days. If the BEST member is still rated a 2 in any of the area(s) of deficiency addressed in the remediation plan, with documentation of continued deficiencies, then the staff member could be recommended for termination. The superintendent or designee can suspend without pay during the time until a termination is approved by the Board.

Section 4.4. Employee Assignments.

All BEST members shall be given written notice of their tentative building and classification assignment for the forthcoming school year by the last day of student attendance of the current school year, or at least fifteen (15) calendar days prior to the first day of work if there is a change in assignment. In the event changes in such assignments are proposed, the employees affected shall be notified in advance and shall be given the opportunity to meet upon request with a designee of the District, and a BEST Union representative to review the reasons(s) for the change of assignment. The District shall provide the Association with a copy of all BEST employee assignments upon request within two (2) business days.

ARTICLE 5: GRIEVANCE AND ARBITRATION PROCEDURE

Section 5.1 Definition of Grievance.

For the purposes of this Agreement, the term grievance shall mean a dispute or difference of opinion raised by one or more employees or the Association against the District involving the meaning, interpretation, or application of the express provisions of this Agreement. The term "days" as used in this Article shall mean days when the District's Central Office is open.

Section 5.2 Grievance Procedure.

The parties acknowledge that it is most desirable for an employee and the employee's immediately involved supervisor to resolve problems through free and normal communications. If, however, the informal process fails to satisfy the employee, a grievance may be processed as follows:

- STEP 1: **Informal Discussion – Building Level.** Any grievant who has an alleged grievance as defined in this Article may discuss such grievance with the immediate supervisor as designated by the District. If the alleged grievance is not submitted within twenty (20) days after grievant had knowledge of the act or condition which is the basis of the alleged grievance, it shall not be considered actionable.
- STEP 2: **Written Grievance – Building Level.** If the grievant is not satisfied with the decision rendered at Step 1, the grievant may appeal the grievance in writing to the immediate supervisor as designated by the District. Failure to file such appeal within ten (10) days from the date of the discussion with the immediate supervisor at Step 1 shall be deemed a waiver of the right of appeal. The written grievance shall contain a concise statement of the facts upon which the alleged grievance is based and a reference to the specific provision of the agreement allegedly violated, misinterpreted or misapplied. The appropriate Supervisor's written answer shall be given within ten (10) days after receipt of the appeal. Both the grievant and the Association shall receive copies of said answer.
- STEP 3: **Written Appeal – Superintendent Level.** If the grievant is not satisfied with the decision as rendered in Step 2, the grievant may submit a written appeal to the Superintendent of Schools or their designated representative. Failure to file such appeal within ten (10) days from receipt of the appropriate Supervisor's written answer at Step 2 shall be deemed a waiver of the right to appeal. A meeting, if requested, shall be conducted by the Superintendent and action shall be taken on the appeal of the alleged grievance within ten (10) days after receipt of the appeal or ten (10) days after the meeting if one is requested. The action taken and the reasons for the action shall be reduced to writing and copies sent to the grievant and the Association.

A grievance may, by mutual agreement between the Association and the Superintendent, be presented initially at Step 3.

Section 5.3. Arbitration.

If the grievance is not settled in accordance with the foregoing procedure, the Association may refer the grievance within ten (10) days after final disposition by the Superintendent to

arbitration by notice in writing delivered to the Superintendent. With such appeal, the Association shall include the names of five (5) suggested arbitrators. The District will either accept one of the arbitrators suggested by the Association or, within five (5) days, will send a list of five (5) suggested arbitrators to the Association. If by the end of five (5) days after the submission of the District's list, the Association has not accepted one of these as the arbitrator, then promptly the parties shall jointly request the American Arbitration Association to submit to them a list of five (5) arbitrators' names and qualifications. Either party may (1) reject one list in its entirety and request that another list be submitted, and/or (2) request that the list provided by the American Arbitration Association include only arbitrators who are members of the National Academy of Arbitrators. From such list, the Association shall strike one (1) name and the District shall then strike one (1) name, and alternately thereafter until one name remains. The person whose name remains shall be the arbitrator. The arbitrator selected (whether agreed upon or selected from the AAA panel) shall be jointly notified of their selection and requested to contact the parties with respect to setting up a time for a hearing.

Section 5.4. Authority of Arbitrator.

The arbitrator's decision shall be binding upon the Board, the Association, and the grievant. The arbitrator shall not, however, have the power to add to or subtract from, alter or modify in any manner any of the terms of this agreement. Any grievance appealed to arbitration and on which the arbitrator determines he has no jurisdiction or power to rule, shall be referred back to the parties without decision or recommendation and the Superintendent's disposition as determined under Step 3 of the grievance procedure shall then be final.

Section 5.5. Expenses of Arbitration.

Each of the parties to the arbitration proceeding shall bear the expense of its own representative and witnesses and the fees and expense of the impartial arbitrator shall be divided equally between the parties.

Section 5.6 Representation.

"Representation by the Association" for purposes of the foregoing grievance procedure, shall be limited, generally, to representation by one (1) Association member-representative and shall, in most cases not exceed representation by three (3) persons unless mutually agreed. Upon request, employees shall be entitled to such representation at all levels of the grievance procedure, including the informal step.

Grievances shall, in all instances, be handled promptly and expeditiously, as previously set forth, but shall be handled and meetings scheduled so as to avoid interference with the assigned duties of any of the participants.

Section 5.7. Miscellaneous.

No member of the bargaining unit shall have any authority to respond to a grievance being processed in accordance with the grievance procedure set forth in this Article. Moreover, no action, statement, agreement, settlement, or representation made by any member of the bargaining unit shall impose any obligation or duty or be considered to be authorized by or binding upon the District unless and until the District has agreed thereto in writing.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, no action or inaction on the part of any District employee who is represented by an affiliate of the IEA/NEA shall constitute and/or be the basis for a grievance under this Agreement. Accordingly, the District shall not be liable under any provision of this agreement as a result of any action or inaction on the part of any District employee who is represented by an affiliate of the IEA/NEA.

ARTICLE 6: NON-INTERRUPTION OF WORK

Section 6.1. No Work Stoppages.

Neither the Association nor any of its officers or any of the employees covered by this Agreement will instigate, promote, sponsor, engage in, or condone any strike, concerted stoppage of work, sympathy strike or any other intentional disruption whatsoever of the operation of the District regardless of the reason for so doing during the term of this Agreement. The District agrees it will not bring any action for damages against the Association for any strike, concerted stoppage of work, sympathy strike or any other intentional disruption whatsoever of the operation of the District which the Association does not instigate, promote, sponsor, engage in, or condone.

Section 6.2. No Lockouts.

The Board agrees that it will not lock out any employees during the term of this Agreement as a result of a labor dispute with the Association.

ARTICLE 7: HOURS OF WORK AND OVERTIME

Section 7.1. Application of Article.

This Article is intended only as a basis for calculating overtime payments, and nothing in this Article or Agreement shall be construed as a guarantee of hours of work per day, per week, or per year.

Section 7.2. Normal Work Day, Week and Year for Full-Time Employees.

The normal workday and workweek for full-time employees shall align with student attendance days, Monday through Friday, with specific daily hours based on employee classification, as follows:

Monitors: 7.5 hours per day

Paraprofessionals: 7.0 hours per day

Level I Techs: 7.25 hours per day

Other Full-Time Employees: As defined by their specific role and contractual agreement

For payroll purposes, the employee's workweek shall commence at 12:01 a.m. Sunday and end at midnight on Saturday.

The normal annual work year for full-time employees shall be the regular school calendar requiring student attendance, plus three (3) additional days prior to the first day of student attendance. One of the three days would be considered a School Improvement Day (SIP). Level 1 Technicians shall work the normal annual work year for full-time employees, plus an additional six (6) days, which may occur before, after, or be split around the standard work year. The scheduling of these six (6) additional days is subject to supervisor approval.

Section 7.3. Changes in Normal Workday or Normal Work Week.

Should it be necessary in the District's judgment to establish schedules departing from the normal work day or the normal work week, or to change the shift schedule of any employee or employees, the District will give, if practicable, at least 10 calendar days advance notice of such change to all employees affected by such change.

Section 7.4. Overtime Pay.

An employee shall be paid time and one-half times his regular straight-time hourly rate of pay for all hours actually worked in excess of 40 hours in the employee's normal work week.

Section 7.5 Break/Lunch Period.

All bargaining unit employees scheduled to work six (6) or more hours per day shall receive one fifteen minute paid break period and one thirty minute unpaid lunch period. Every effort will be made to combine the break and lunch period during a time when school food service is available.

Section 7.6. Additional Work Time.

If an employee works any additional time beyond their regularly scheduled work day, or in lieu of missing a scheduled lunch period, due to extenuating circumstances (eg: field trip, late bus,

emergency response), the employee is entitled to compensation at the employee's current rate of pay for "authorized" work only. When situations exist that warrant additional compensation, the employee must fill out the appropriate paperwork to receive proper approval for such and submit all documentation within the time frame permitted. There will be no provisions for "flex time."

Section 7.7. No Pyramiding.

Compensation shall not be paid more than once for the same hours under any provision of this Article or Agreement.

Section 7.8 Time Clocks

BEST members will punch in and out via electronic timekeeping clock daily to track their actual hours worked.

Section 7.9 Late Arrival/ Early Out

BEST members will be allowed to use the late arrival/early out provision four (4) times per year. The time allowed must be 45 minutes or less to be eligible for this provision. If planned in advance, communication must occur 24 hours ahead of time to the building administrator and classroom teacher. If unable to give advance notice, communication as soon as possible is required. If missed time is over 50 minutes, the BEST member will need to use a half day or full day of paid leave at the member's direction, depending upon the time needed.

ARTICLE 8: SENIORITY

Section 8.1. Definition of Seniority.

Seniority for all Classifications is defined as the length of continuous service of an employee for the School District since the employee's most recent date of hire defined as the first day in paid status. Seniority will be credited from date of hire for those employees successfully completing the probationary period. If there is a tie in seniority between two or more such employees (i.e., two or more employees having the same length of continuous service), the date on the application for employment shall control as the tie-breaker.

Section 8.2. Termination of Seniority.

Seniority is lost if the employee:

- (a) Quits or resigns;
- (b) is discharged for just cause;
- (c) retires;
- (d) is absent for three (3) consecutive days without notifying the employer;
- (e) is laid off for longer than the applicable recall period; or
- (f) declines recall to former job category.

Section 8.3. Layoffs.

If the Board decides to decrease the number of employees in any classification covered by this Agreement, the resulting layoff shall be effectuated first by laying off sub-status employees; second by laying off any probationary employees within the affected classification; and then on the basis of seniority with the affected classifications (i.e., the least senior employee in the classification shall be laid off first). Any employee laid off from an affected classification shall have the right to bump a less senior employee in the same classification.

Section 8.4. Recall Period.

The recall period shall be consistent with provisions of the School Code as outlined in ILCS 105 5/10-23.5. Notification of recall shall be by certified mail to the employee's last known address as shown on the District's records. The recall notice shall state the time and date on which the employee is to report back to work. It shall be the responsibility of the employee to keep their address current by providing the Human Resources Office with the necessary information. If the employee does not respond to such notification of recall by notifying the District of the decision to accept or decline the position within ten (10) business days of the receipt of the letter by the District to the employee's last known address, the employee's right to recall shall be dismissed. In addition, the District shall notify the Association of any recall notices within ten (10) business days of action taken by the Board.

Section 8.5. Effects of Layoff.

In addition to the other applicable provisions of this Article, the following provisions shall be applicable to bargaining unit members who are laid off:

- (a) Any employee who is laid off shall be paid all earned compensation on or before the tenth business day following their or her last day of employment.
- (b) Upon being recalled pursuant to the provisions of this Article, the accumulated and unused sick leave days that the employee had at the time of their layoff shall be restored. No credit shall be granted for purposes of advancement on the salary schedule for the period of the layoff.
- (c) During the period of time that the employee has recall rights, the employee shall have the right to maintain insurance coverage by paying in advance the full applicable monthly premium for employee coverage and, if desired, for family coverage.
- (d) While the seniority of an employee who is laid off shall not be terminated if the employee is recalled under the provisions of this Article, seniority credit shall not accrue during the period of the layoff.

Section 8.6. Elimination of Classifications.

If employees are displaced by the elimination of classifications the installation of new equipment, methods or facilities, or for any other reason, they shall have the right to transfer to any existing bargaining unit vacancy which the District is seeking to fill if it is determined that they have the necessary skills, abilities and qualifications for such vacancy. If there are no such vacancies, the employee shall be laid off in accordance with the provisions of Section 8.3 above and shall have the right to recall in accordance with the provisions of Section 8.4 above. If two or more employees are displaced at the same time and they seek to transfer to the same vacancy, which the District is seeking to fill, seniority shall govern if they are determined to have the current ability and basic qualifications to perform the work in the position in question.

Section 8.7. Vacancies and Transfers.

- (a) Vacancies. The Board will post notice of any vacancy which occurs in the bargaining unit in the Central Office, district attendance centers, and through District e-mails. Permanent positions that come open during the school year shall be posted and filled as quickly as possible with any eligible candidate. To be considered for any posted position, an employee must have a completed Request for Transfer form on file within five (5) school/work days of the time of posting. As used herein, vacancy will mean a regular full-time or regular part-time position that has been newly created or that becomes vacant because the employee holding that position has left that position.
- (b) Voluntary Transfers. Employees will be given an opportunity to request transfer to vacancies that become open at any time during the calendar year. A request for transfer will follow current district procedures. All qualified bargaining unit employees who apply for such posted vacancies by the date specified in the posting shall be granted an interview.

- (c) Involuntary Transfers. Any employee who is to be involuntarily transferred before the start, or during, the school year, will be given an opportunity upon request to meet with the Superintendent or designee to review the reason(s) for such transfer. When it is necessary to involuntarily transfer or reassign employees within a building or a classification, to the extent possible, all volunteers shall first be considered. When a volunteer is not obtained, such transfers shall be made on the basis of building seniority.

Section 8.8. Seniority of Persons Transferred Out of and Back into the Bargaining Unit.

Employees who are promoted or transferred by the District to positions excluded from the bargaining unit and who are later transferred back to the bargaining unit by the District shall have a seniority date computed on the basis of the period of time previously served in position(s) included in the bargaining unit. An employee who transfers back to the bargaining unit by the District shall be given credit for step placement and longevity for the years of service in a position that is included in the bargaining unit.

Section 8.9. Seniority List.

On or before February 1 of each year the District shall distribute to the Association a seniority list for bargaining unit employees by classification showing their accumulated seniority credit, calculated in accordance with the provisions of this Article. If the Association or any employee believes there is an error in the seniority list, it should be brought to the attention of the Superintendent within two (2) weeks after the seniority list is distributed.

Section 8.10. Probationary Period.

The probationary period for employees shall be six (6) months. During an employee's probationary period the employee may be suspended, laid off, or terminated at the sole discretion of the District. Upon successful completion of the probationary period, an employee shall acquire seniority which shall be retroactive to their last date of hire with the District in a position covered by this Agreement.

ARTICLE 9: PAID LEAVES OF ABSENCES

Section 9.1. Sick and Personal Leave Days

Nothing in this section will supersede the definition of sick leave as outlined in section 105 ILCS 5 School Code. Section 24-6:

- (a) Sick Leave.

Accrual and Use. Any employee will be allowed up to ten (10) days of sick leave at full pay for any given school year. Sick leave shall be interpreted to mean personal illness, mental health, or quarantine at home, or serious illness or death in the immediate family or household, birth of a child, adoption, and placement for adoption. The immediate family or household shall be interpreted to include the parents, spouse, brothers, sisters, children, grandparents, grandchildren, parents-in-law, grandparents-in-law,

brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and legal guardians. Said 10 days leave at full pay, or any portion thereof, may, if unused, be accumulated from year to year.

(b) Personal Leave.

Any employee may be absent two (2) days each year at full pay to handle personal business; provided, however, that unused personal leave days shall be allowed to accrue to a total of three (3) personal leave days to be used in any given year. Any remaining unused personal leave days shall be added to accumulated sick leave; personal days may be used as sick leave days during the period of employment. The employee shall request such leave to be processed by the building principal, at least five (5) days prior to the absence whenever possible. Upon retirement, any unused personal leave days will be added to accumulated sick leave. No reason need be given for requesting personal leave, except as provided in the final paragraph. Personal business leave days shall not be used for any time off for which the employee receives remuneration from another source. Any employee who has exhausted their sick leave days must use their personal leave day(s). It is agreed that improper use of the day will result in the loss of the salary for that day.

Unless extraordinary reasons are presented, no employee shall be granted a personal leave day on the last school day before and the first school day after any holiday or holiday period when school is not scheduled pursuant to the calendar adopted by the Board, during the first week of school, or during the last week of school except for special situations, e.g., wedding, funeral, graduation, at the sole discretion of the building principal. If the employee is not satisfied with the decision they will have the opportunity, upon request, to meet with the Chief Human Resources Officer to review the decision.

Section 9.2. Caregiver Leave.

At the sole discretion of the Board, an employee may be granted caregiver leave without pay for up to one (1) full year. An employee returning from caregiver leave shall be placed in a comparable position.

Notice of desire to return to work when taking a full year off pursuant to this section must be given ninety (90) days prior to the termination of the leave. Failure to supply the written notice of desire to return from leave within the specified time limits shall be treated as a violation of the provisions of the Agreement, and the employee shall be considered as having waived all rights to continued employment and reinstatement.

Section 9.3. Jury Leave.

Any employee who serves on a court jury or appears in response to a subpoena as a witness in a court trial in which the employee is not a party, when they have been scheduled to work, shall be paid for the regular straight-time hours they would have worked but for such service. The employee shall remit to the District any fees which they receive for such service.

Section 9.4. Insurance Coverage During Unpaid Leave.

If the District at its sole discretion grants an employee an unpaid leave, said employee shall have the right to maintain insurance coverage by paying each full applicable monthly premium in advance.

Section 9.5. Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

In order to be in compliance with the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, the parties agree that the District may adopt policies to implement the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 that are in accord with what is legally permissible under the Act.

ARTICLE 10: HOLIDAYS

Section 10.1. Designation of Holidays.

The following days shall be considered paid holidays during the term of this Agreement for full-time employees:

New Year's Day
Martin Luther King Holiday
Lincoln's Birthday or President's Day *
Casimir Pulaski's Birthday*
Good Friday*
Memorial Day*
Juneteenth*
Labor Day*
Columbus Day*
Veteran's Day*
Election Day
Wednesday before Thanksgiving*
Thanksgiving Day
Day after Thanksgiving
Christmas Day

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the holidays marked with an asterisk (*) will only be considered as holidays if they are included on the school calendar officially adopted by the Board of Education each school year as days of non-attendance for students.

Section 10.2. Eligibility Requirements.

In order to be eligible for holiday pay, an employee must work in the week in which the holiday falls and must work their full scheduled working day immediately preceding and immediately following the holiday unless proof of sickness or excusable absence is established to the satisfaction of the building principal. If the employee is not satisfied with the decision they will have the opportunity, upon request, to meet with the Chief Human Resources Officer to review the decision.

ARTICLE 11: WAGES AND COMPENSATION

Section 11.1. Hourly Rates of Pay.

A newly hired employee shall be paid the base hourly rate plus any enhancements that apply to them set out herein. The starting base hourly rates covered by this Agreement are set forth in Appendix A. All existing employees shall receive any increase in the base annual hourly increase in excess of \$0.25 each year for the duration of this Agreement and a percentage increase as follows: 25-26 school year flat rate increase of \$2.50 for all members, 26-27 school year 5%, 27-28 school year 4.5%, 28-29 school year 4% There shall be no percentage increase during the following school year for any new hire after January 31st of the current school year. However, any new employee hired after January 31 will receive the \$.25 base increase the following school year.

Section: 11.2 Retention Bonuses.

Annually, at the start of each school year eligible BEST members will receive a retention bonus in addition to their normal pay structure. After BEST members complete two consecutive years of service they will be eligible for the retention bonuses that will be provided by the District on an annual basis. The outlined structure below depicts how much money each BEST member will be given on an annual basis starting their third year of employment and based upon their number of years of service in the District.

Years 3-10	Years 11-18	Years 19+
\$ 400.00	\$500.00	\$600.00

Section 11.3. Pay Day and Paychecks.

There shall be an option for 21 or 26 pay periods each year. The selection for the 21 or 26 pay period payment option shall be made on the "Intent to Return" form for returning employees and shall be effective for the entire school year. New employees shall be given the option for the 21 or 26 pay periods upon hire. All elections of 21 pay periods are irrevocable for the duration of their employment unless approved by the superintendent or designee due to a life change event. Any such approval shall be non precedential. Pay periods begin in August/September and end in the following May/June if 21 pays are selected and the following August/September if 26 pays are selected. Absent unforeseen circumstances (e.g., a computer breakdown), earned pay will be available no later than 12:00 noon on paydays during the school year and will be mailed, during the summer months if applicable, on paydays when school is not in session.

Section 11.4. Retirement or Resignation Incentive.

Employees who retire pursuant to the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (I.M.R.F.), who are 55 years old and vested with 10 consecutive years of service in District 100 are eligible for the Retirement Incentive. Employees with a minimum of 20 consecutive years of service within the district, who resign from the District will be eligible for the resignation incentive. The retirement or resignation incentive will apply to the first 20 eligible employees that notify the

Chief Human Resources Officer on or before January 31st of their final school year of service of the decision to retire or resign. Notification may take place after January 31st if there is an unforeseen life change event. This would need to be approved by the superintendent or designee. Any such approval shall be non precedential. No employee can receive both retirement and the resignation incentive. The employee can only receive one incentive.

The District will pay each employee who meets the eligibility requirements, a one-time salary stipend of \$300.00 per year for each school year of District service to a maximum of \$7,500, to be paid one full calendar month after the employee's last paycheck of their final year. Partial years shall be calculated in terms of the actual number of days worked during the school year divided by the total number of days in that school year.

Section 11.5. In-Service Training.

If an employee is required to attend any informational or in-service training outside the employee's normal workday, the employee shall be paid at their current hourly rate of pay. If an employee wishes to attend any informational or in-service training voluntarily outside the employee's normal workday, provided prior written approval is granted by their direct supervisor/building principal and Human Resources, the employee shall be paid at their current hourly rate of pay.

All BEST members will attend (3) additional days prior to the first day of student attendance. One of the three days would be considered a School Improvement Day (SIP). A School Improvement Day will consist of a duration of 5 hours in length with the purpose of participating in professional development opportunities. Administration and BEST Executive Board Members will meet prior to the first day of student attendance to create agendas for the school year's professional development opportunities.

ARTICLE 12: INSURANCE

Section 12.1. Hospitalization and Major Medical Insurance.

The District will continue to provide hospitalization and major medical insurance coverage for each full-time employee. Payroll deductions assistance for individual coverage beyond that provided by the District will be extended to each employee upon request.

The District retains the right to change insurance carriers, plan design, and coverage provided the level of benefits available to all employee groups shall remain substantially the same as the carrier coverage that BEA, BASS and BESSA have in their contracts.

Section 12.2. Group Term Life Insurance.

The District will provide group term life insurance coverage for each full-time employee in the amount of the employee's base salary rounded to the nearest \$1,000 or \$25,000, whichever is greater.

Section 12.3. Dental Insurance.

The District will provide dental coverage for each full-time employee. The District retains the right to change insurance carriers, plan design, and coverage provided the level of benefits available to all employee groups shall remain substantially the same.

Section 12.4. District Insurance Committee.

The Association shall have a right to an Association representative on the District Insurance Committee.

Section 12.5. District Insurance Benefit Reciprocity.

In recognition of the desirability of maintaining a uniform policy District-wide with respect to insurance benefits and notwithstanding the foregoing provisions contained in this Article, the parties agree that if the Board desires to make any changes, modifications, or improvements with respect to any of the insurance benefits or payment arrangements set forth in this Article that are applicable to substantially all other District employees, then such changes, modifications, or improvements shall likewise be applicable to the employees covered by this Agreement on the same terms and on the same date that they are applicable to substantially all other District employees.

The district will adjust wages of those employees with single/spouse, single/children, and family coverage to recoup net loss in earning from changes to the sharing percentages (%) between employee/employer on insurance per length of existing contract.

ARTICLE 13: MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Section 13.1. Job Descriptions.

The District establishes and maintains job descriptions for all of the job classifications included in the bargaining unit represented by the Association. If the District changes, revises, or modifies any such job descriptions, the Association may provide input regarding any such changes, revisions, or modifications prior to the effective date. If the District establishes a new job classification that would properly be included in the bargaining unit represented by the Association, the District shall provide the Association with a copy of the job description for such new job classification prior to the effective date.

Section 13.2. Use of Personal Automobile.

Reimbursement for the use of a personal automobile for District authorized school business travel shall be set at the current rate established by the Internal Revenue Service. Application for reimbursement shall be submitted on forms provided by the District.

Section 13.3. No Coercion.

Neither the District nor the Association will in any way discriminate against, coerce or intimidate members of the Association, the Board or the District's staff in the exercise of such rights as citizens as are appropriate in their respective roles as employees, Board members or District staff, in the course of or by reason of negotiations between the parties, or, in the application of agreements reached, or, because of membership or non-membership in the Association.

Section 13.4. No Partisan Activity.

Neither District nor the Association will engage in, support, encourage or condone any activity whatsoever which would calculatedly or knowingly engender or tend to engender partisan action or reaction within the student body.

Section 13.5. Part-Time Employees.

Part-time employees who work thirty (30) or more hours per week shall be eligible for the fringe benefits in accordance with the terms and conditions specified in this Agreement on a pro rata basis. Unless otherwise specifically specified in this Agreement, part-time employees who work less than thirty (30) hours per week shall not be eligible for any of the fringe benefits set forth in this Agreement (e.g., holidays, insurance, etc.).

Section 13.6. Labor-Management Committee.

At the request of either party, the President of the Association and the Superintendent, or their designees, shall meet at least quarterly to discuss matters of mutual concern. If a situation occurs between quarterly meetings the Association has the right to request an additional meeting but not more than monthly. This Section shall not be applicable to any matter that is being processed pursuant to the grievance procedure set forth in this Agreement.

Section 13.7. School Closings.

If the District decides it is necessary to close schools on a day originally scheduled as pupil attendance days, bargaining unit employees will not report for work on such day. If all of such

day(s) are not made up subsequently, no bargaining unit employee shall lose any hourly earnings as a result thereof. Remote day hours will follow the District approved remote learning plan.

Section 13.8. Subcontracting.

While the District retains the right to subcontract work, the District agrees that during the term of this Agreement it will not subcontract any bargaining unit work, which would result in the layoff of any bargaining unit members. Work, which can be performed properly, safely and economically by the District's Employees, will ordinarily be assigned to such employees. The Employer shall have the absolute right to subcontract work where no bargaining unit Employee who would customarily perform the work is laid off as a direct and proximate result of the decision to subcontract.

Section 13.9. Fitness for Duty.

If the District believes that a bargaining unit employee is not fit for duty (or fit to return to duty following a leave of absence), the District may require, at its expense, that the employee have a medical examination and/or psychological examination by a qualified and licensed physician and/or psychologist selected by the District. The foregoing requirement shall be in addition to any requirement that an employee provide at their own expense a statement from their doctor upon returning from sick leave or disability leave. If it is determined that an employee is not fit for duty, the employee may be placed on sick leave, placed unpaid leave if the employee has no sick leave, or the District may take other appropriate action.

Section 13.10. Student Absences.

If the student to whom a "one-on-one" employee is assigned is absent, the building principal or designee, will at their sole discretion, reassign the employee within the bargaining unit at the employee's site school.

Section 13.11. Changed Work Assignments.

When the District transfers an employee to another assignment due to the absence of another employee, within the same bargaining unit, the District will, where practicable, attempt to utilize an employee from a classroom with multiple assistants rather than from a classroom with a single assistant.

Section 13.12. Summer School Assignments.

If the Board, in its discretion, offers a summer school program, employment opportunities for summer school will be posted at least ten (10) business days after the decision has been made and funding has been secured. Employees desiring employment in the summer school program shall submit their applications on forms provided by the District. Employees who have applied for such summer school positions shall be notified of the action taken regarding their applications as early as practicable. Preference will be given to existing staff. Seniority in the District will govern in making summer school assignments unless it is determined that a less senior employee is more qualified for the same position. In addition, the Association will be provided a list of summer school assignments once all positions have been filled prior to employee notification of hiring.

Compensation for summer school shall be employee's current salary, per hour for each hour of actual classroom assistance.

Section 13.13. Highly Qualified Status.

All paraprofessionals requirements will follow the paraprofessional licensure according to ISBE rules and regulations (see <https://www.isbe.net/Pages/paraprofessional-educator.aspx>), except monitors.

Section 13.14. Induction/Onboarding.

All new hires will go through an in-person on-boarding process with the Human Resource Department to review benefits and new hire packets, prior to starting their first day at their given assignment. Half day on-boarding with BEST members and their designated department will also be conducted to review general expectations of the job/role.

Every effort will be made to complete the orientation on the new BEST member on the first day of the school site and not later than the second day. A designated BEST employee, assigned by the Association, will lead the orientation. The building principal or designee will grant up to one hour for the new and designated BEST members to review the building's operational aspects (i.e., bathrooms, copiers, keys, parking). If needed, the principal or designee will arrange substitute coverage for the designated BEST employee during this time.

ARTICLE 14: MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

Except as specifically modified by other Articles of this Agreement, the Association recognizes the exclusive right of the District to make and implement decisions with respect to the operation and management of its operations in all respects. Such rights include but are not limited to the following: to establish employment and work qualifications; to schedule and assign work and overtime; to transfer employees; to determine the methods, means, organization and number of personnel by which operations are conducted; to determine whether services are to be provided by employees covered by this Agreement or by other employees or non-employees not covered by this Agreement; to make, alter and enforce rules (including rules governing employee conduct), regulations, orders and policies; to evaluate employees; and to carry out the mission of the District; provided, however, that the exercise of any of the above rights shall not conflict with any of the express written provisions of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 15: EFFECT OF AGREEMENT

Section 15.1. Entire Agreement.

The terms and conditions set forth in this Agreement represent the full and complete understanding and commitment between the parties. The terms and conditions of this Agreement may be modified by alteration, change, addition to, or deletion only through the voluntary, mutual consent of the parties in a written amendment.

Section 15.2. Waiver.

The District and the Association, for the duration of this Agreement, each voluntarily and unqualifiedly waives the right, and each agrees that the other shall not be obligated to bargain collectively with respect to any subject or matter not specifically referred to, or covered in this Agreement. It is specifically understood by the parties, however, that nothing herein shall prevent the District and the Association from mutually agreeing in writing to modify this Agreement.

Section 15.3. Precedence of Agreement.

If there is any conflict between the terms and provisions of this Agreement and the terms and provisions of the District's Educational Support Personnel Employee Manual, the terms and provisions of this Agreement shall prevail.

ARTICLE 16: SAVINGS CLAUSE

If any article, paragraph, sentence or clause is held to be in conflict with any article, paragraph, sentence or clause of existing written procedures found in the District or building handbooks, then articles, paragraphs, sentences or clauses of this Agreement shall supersede. Further, in the event that any article, paragraph, sentence or clause of this Agreement is held to be invalid by law, such article, paragraph, sentence or clause shall be deemed of no effect, but such determination shall not affect any remaining portion of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 17: TERM OF AGREEMENT

Unless otherwise specified herein, this Agreement shall be effective as of the day after the contract is executed by both parties and shall remain in full force and effect to and including June 30, 2029. It shall be automatically renewed from year to year thereafter unless written notice of desire to terminate, modify, or amend this Agreement is served by either party on the other on or before April 1, 2029 or on or before April 1 in any succeeding year.

Notwithstanding any provision of this Article or Agreement to the contrary, this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect after the expiration date and until a new agreement is reached unless either party gives at least ten (10) days written notice to the other party of its desire to terminate this Agreement, provided such termination date shall not be before the anniversary date set forth in the preceding paragraph.

Executed this 21st day of July, 2025.

BELVIDERE COMMUNITY
UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #100

BELVIDERE EDUCATION
SUPPORT TEAM ASSOCIATION,
IEA-NEA

By _____

By _____

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Executed this 21st day of July, 2025.

BELVIDERE COMMUNITY
UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #100

BELVIDERE EDUCATION
SUPPORT TEAM ASSOCIATION,
IEA-NEA

By



By



APPENDIX A: Starting Base Hourly Rates

School Year	Base Annual Hourly Increase	New Starting Rate
25-26	\$2.50 for all members	\$17.50
26-27	5%	\$17.75
27-28	4.5%	\$18.00
28-29	4%	\$18.25