

Agreement

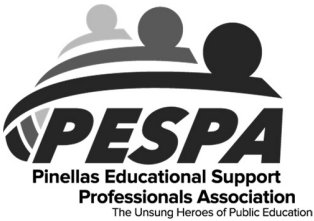
Between

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida

And

Pinellas Educational Support Professionals
Association-FEA

2024-2027



PESPA AGREEMENT

PREAMBLE

This AGREEMENT entered into by and between the SCHOOL BOARD OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA (hereinafter referred to as the BOARD) and the PINELLAS EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION-FEA (hereinafter referred to as the ASSOCIATION) for the purposes of collaborative bargaining concerning salary, fringe benefits, and terms and conditions of employment pursuant to Florida State Statute Chapter 447:

PRINCIPLES

WHEREAS, the Association recognizes that the Board has responsibility and authority to manage and direct on behalf of the public, all the operations and activities of the school district to the full extent authorized by law, subject to the provisions of this Agreement in dealing with the professionals covered by this Agreement, and

WHEREAS, the Board and the Association have agreed to negotiate in good faith with respect to the determination of those matters prescribed by law, and now, having reached agreement on same, desire to execute this contract covering such agreement, and

WHEREAS, the Board and Association recognize the importance of expeditious resolution of disputes which may arise as to proper interpretation of this Agreement, and henceforth agree to include herein a procedure for the effective processing of such disputes, and

WHEREAS, the Board and the Association, the parties to the Agreement, accept the provisions of this Agreement as commitments which they will cooperatively and in good faith honor, support, and seek to fulfill, and

In consideration of the following mutual covenants, it is hereby agreed as follows:

STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

Representatives of PESPA and the School Board of Pinellas County met and have determined that it is their common best interest to create a process that facilitates the improvement of employee working conditions and student learning conditions. To that end we have agreed on the following common vision, mission and values:

VISION

Pinellas County Schools unites with the community to provide a quality education enabling each student to succeed.

MISSION

The mission of the team is to develop and refine a process which creates a climate of success for educational stakeholders by using a collaborative approach through continuous quality improvement.

VALUES

- 1) Respect, fairness and honesty of and for the individual.
- 2) Create a climate for success (CQI) Continuous Quality Improvement.
- 3) Maximize learning opportunities for all stakeholders.

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ARTICLE 1 RECOGNITION

A. Unit

The Board recognizes the Association as the exclusive bargaining agent for collective negotiations concerning salary, benefits, working conditions and other terms and conditions of employment for all regular full-time and part-time employees of the School Board of Pinellas County in the unit as promulgated by the Public Employees Relations Commission in the Certification of Exclusive Collective Bargaining Representative pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 77-343, Section 12 - Certification Number 378. Included in the bargaining unit are all regular full-time and regular part-time employees as defined in Appendix A of this Agreement.

B. Definition of Employee

1. The term "employee" when used hereinafter in this Agreement shall mean all employees represented by the bargaining agent identified in Appendix A.
2. The term "full-time" employee shall refer to any employee scheduled to work at least six (6) hours per day at one work site. Any full-time employee employed by the district for more than six (6) consecutive months shall be considered a regular employee.
3. The term "part-time" employee shall refer to any employee scheduled to work at least four (4) hours per day in regularly budgeted positions.
4. The term "part-time regular" employee shall be defined as those individuals employed by the district for more than six (6) consecutive months, regardless of the number of assigned hours.

C. Association Recognition

Recognition of the Association as the exclusive bargaining representative does not in any way preclude any employee to

individually communicate with the members of the School Board, or with the agents and/or employees of the Board, in any manner consistent with this Agreement, provided this shall not be applicable to any matter subject to the grievance procedure except as specifically prescribed therein. The Board and the Association agree that neither will discriminate for or against any employee in matters relevant to salary or conditions of employment because of membership or non-membership in the Association. Employees have the right to join or refrain from joining, forming, or assisting professional organizations.

- D. No change, rescission, alteration, or modification of this Agreement, in whole or in part, shall be valid unless the same is ratified by the Board and the Association and endorsed in writing herein.
- E. All the rights and privileges granted under the terms and provisions of this Agreement are for the use of all employees in the bargaining unit.

ARTICLE 2 BARGAINING PROCEDURES

- A. Two subcommittees, Employee Well-Being and Satisfaction and Professional Development Advisory Committee, in addition to the Bargaining Leadership Team will meet as needed for the purpose of reviewing the administration of the Agreement and to resolve problems that might arise. These meetings are not intended to bypass the grievance procedure. Should such a meeting result in a mutually acceptable amendment to the Agreement, then the amendment shall be subject to ratification by the Board and the Association.
- B. Employee Well-Being and Satisfaction Committee- The parties agree to convene as needed, the Employee Well-Being and Satisfaction Committee composed of representatives of the administration, instructional, and supporting services personnel. The committee shall be charged with reviewing the present group insurance programs and examining possible alternatives for future consideration.

- C. The Collaborative Bargaining Team's mission to continually refine a process to identify and meet the needs of educational stakeholders using a collaborative approach to attain common goals through continual improvement provides the foundation and direction by which the sub committees function. The Bargaining Leadership Team supports the bargaining process by clarifying expectations, coordinating recommendations, and ensuring the availability and utilization of information systems. Dates of bargaining sessions shall be established so as to expeditiously promote the achievement of agreement. Both parties shall endeavor to minimize the possibility of impasse. The Board agrees that, acting in good faith, it will not attempt to control the bargaining process through the premature adoption of a budget. Nevertheless, the parties understand that bargaining should not restrict the Board from its statutory obligation to prepare and submit a budget.
- D. During the term of this Agreement, either party may submit proposals or amendments to this Agreement for consideration by the other party, but negotiations will not be reopened unless both parties agree. Exceptions to this are salaries and healthcare which are negotiated annually.
- E. Designated representatives of the Board and the Association agree to meet at a time and place which is acceptable to both negotiation teams. Each party agrees to certify its representatives to the other and to authorize said representatives to reach agreement subject to ratification.
- F. The parties to the bargaining process may call upon consultants to assist in preparing for bargaining and to advise them during conference sessions. The Executive Director of the Association and the Superintendent of Schools may attend at any time.
- G. During the bargaining process, either party may, with advance notice, request and receive from the other party information directly pertinent to matters under consideration.

- H. When consensus is reached covering the areas submitted to negotiations, the proposed agreement shall be reduced to writing and submitted to the Board and the support professionals for ratification. Until ratification by both parties has been accomplished, the Agreement shall have no power or effect.
- I. Until agreement on all issues under consideration is reached, neither party shall be bound by tentative agreements on certain articles of the total package unless mutually agreed to by Stipulation of Agreement during the life of the contract.
- J. If either party refuses to ratify the Agreement reached by the negotiation teams, the rejecting party shall state in writing to the other party the reasons for rejection. Said notification of the failure to ratify shall result in the resumption of negotiations within seven (7) calendar days. When both parties approve the negotiated Agreement, upon receipt of official action by the PESPA unit, the Board at the next official meeting will take action to consider ratification of the proposed Agreement.
- K. The parties agree to negotiate in good faith to reach agreements which are in the best interest of all stakeholders.
- L. In the event that impasse is declared by either side, said impasse shall be resolved according to the rules of the Public Employees Relations Commission.
- M. Negotiations shall be conducted at a time acceptable to the parties. Should such time conflict with the normal school day, representatives of the Association shall be granted temporary duty elsewhere leave.
- N. All bargaining shall be conducted according to the rules of the Public Employees Relations Commission, in a manner which assures the implementation of Article I, Section 6 of the Constitution of the state of Florida.
- O. Should negotiations be completed after the start of a fiscal year,

salary/health benefits agreed to under the terms of the agreement shall apply for the entire fiscal year unless expressly agreed to by the parties. In order for an employee to be eligible for retroactive salary/health benefits, the employee must be on active pay status at the time this Agreement is ratified by both parties.

ARTICLE 3 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A. Definitions

1. A "grievance" is an allegation by an affected employee, a group of employees, or the Association of a violation, misinterpretation, or misapplication of the provisions of this Agreement.
2. The "aggrieved person" or "grievant" is the employee or group of employees, or the Association, asserting the grievance.
3. The term "days" when used in this Article shall, except where otherwise indicated, mean working school days of a majority of all employees.

B. Purpose

1. The purpose of this procedure is to secure, at the lowest possible level, equitable solutions to grievances.
2. Nothing contained herein shall be construed as limiting the right of any employee having a grievance to discuss the matter informally with any appropriate member of the Administration or with any appropriate representative of the Association at any time.

C. Time Limits

1. Since it is important that a grievance be processed as rapidly as possible, the number of days indicated at any level should be considered as a maximum, and every effort should be made to expedite the process. In order for a grievance to come within the scope of the grievance procedure outlined

herein, it must be filed within thirty (30) working days of the day of the event or knowledge of the event giving rise to the grievance unless an extension is mutually agreed upon.

2. In the event that a grievance is filed on or after April 15, the time limits set forth herein should be reduced so that the grievance procedure may be exhausted prior to the employee's last day of duty.

D. Procedure

The parties agree that it is most desirable for an employee and the appropriate administrator to whom the employee is responsible to discuss the matter informally in an effort to resolve the problem. An Association representative may be requested to assist in efforts to resolve the problem informally with the appropriate administrator not including any person who is a member of any bargaining unit recognized by the Board. Should informal procedures fail to satisfy the aggrieved person, then the grievance shall be formally processed as follows:

1. **LEVEL ONE (1) - Appropriate Administrator**

An employee with a grievance (not remedied through informal discussion) shall submit their grievance in writing to their appropriate administrator (principal and/or designated supervisor) within thirty (30) working days of its occurrence. The written grievance shall set forth all of the pertinent facts, enumerate the specific provisions of the Agreement asserted to be violated, and specify the remedy requested. The appropriate administrator shall meet with the employee and their representative to discuss the grievance. The appropriate administrator shall issue a written decision within five (5) working days of such meeting.

2. **LEVEL TWO (2) - Superintendent**

If the aggrieved person is not satisfied with the disposition of their grievance at LEVEL ONE, or if no decision has been rendered within ten (10) working days

after the presentation of the grievance they may forward their grievance in writing to the Chief Human Resources Officer or their designee within ten (10) working days of receiving the decision or if such response was not given when due. The Chief Human Resources Officer or their designee, shall request the grievant and their representative to meet with them to discuss the grievance, provided such meeting shall be scheduled no later than ten (10) working days following the filing of the grievance at LEVEL TWO. The Chief Human Resources Officer or their designee shall respond in writing to the grievance within ten (10) working days of the filing or of the meeting, with a copy to the Association.

3. **LEVEL THREE (3) - Arbitration**

If the Association is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at LEVEL TWO, or if no decision has been rendered within the time limits prescribed at LEVEL TWO, it may submit the grievance to binding arbitration by giving notice of the same in writing to the Superintendent or their designee within forty- five (45) working days of the LEVEL TWO response, or if such response was not given, when due. If the parties cannot agree upon an arbitrator within seven (7) working days of such notice, the arbitrator shall be selected utilizing the procedures of the American Arbitration Association or the rules of Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service.

- a. The arbitrator selected shall confer with representatives of the Board and the Association. A prompt hearing will be held and the arbitrator shall issue a decision no later than thirty (30) working days from the conclusion of the hearing. If oral arguments have been waived, a decision will be issued after final documents are submitted. The arbitrator's written decision shall set forth findings of fact, reasoning and conclusion on the issues submitted. The arbitrator shall not alter or amend any provisions

of the Agreement.

- b. In the event that arbitrability of a grievance is at issue between the parties, the arbitrator shall resolve the same in accordance with established arbitral practice, provided this section shall not be construed as to limit the right of either party to seek judicial intervention or interpretation.

E. Costs

1. Should either party request a transcript of the proceedings at LEVEL THREE, then the party shall bear the full cost of the transcript. If each party requests a transcript, the cost of the transcripts will be divided equally between the parties.
2. The costs of the services of an arbitrator, including per diem expenses, if any, and actual and necessary travel, subsistence expenses and the cost of the hearing room shall be borne equally by the Board and the Association. Any other expenses incurred shall be paid by the party incurring same.
3. Each party shall bear the full cost of its representation at levels of the grievance procedure.

F. Rights of Employees to Representation

1. Employee and Association
 - a. No employee shall be required to discuss a grievance if an Association representative is not present.
 - b. A representative of the Association may be present at any formal meeting of this procedure.
2. Reprisals - No reprisals shall be taken because of participation in the grievance procedure.

G. **Miscellaneous**

1. The parties will cooperate in the investigation of any grievance and provide pertinent non-confidential information necessary for the processing of a grievance.
2. **Group Grievances**
 - a. In order to prevent the filing of a multiplicity of grievances on the same question of interpretation or compliance where the grievance covers a question common to a number of employees, it shall be processed as a single grievance. Any group grievance shall set forth thereon the names of the persons of the group and the title and specific assignments of the people covered by the group grievance.
 - b. Grievances arising at a level other than the building level shall be processed in the same manner as building grievances except that the grievance will be initiated with the appropriate county administrator rather than with the principal.
3. **Separate Grievance File** - All records dealing with the processing of a grievance shall be filed in a separate grievance file and shall not be kept in the personnel file of any of the participants.
4. **Forms** - Forms for filing grievances, serving notices, taking appeals, making reports and recommendations, and other necessary documents shall be prepared jointly by the Superintendent or their designee and the Association President or their designee and given appropriate distribution to school buildings and work locations. The appropriate form is located in Appendix C.

5. **Meetings and Hearings** - All meetings and hearings under this procedure shall not be conducted in public and shall include only such parties in interest and their designated or selected representatives heretofore referred to in this ARTICLE provided the Board may be represented at any such meeting or hearing.
6. As provided by law, and except as otherwise provided herein, the Association retains the exclusive right as the bargaining agent for the management of the grievance procedure on behalf of all employees.

ARTICLE 4 EMPLOYEE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

- A. Employees may wear unobtrusive insignias signifying membership in the Association or its affiliates, provided however, that during working hours, employees shall not involve students, other employees of the Board, or members of the public in any controversy or dispute between the Board and the Association or its members.
- B. The parties acknowledge that all employees be treated in a professional manner and that employees interact with each other in a professional manner as well.
- C. Provisions shall be made to provide reasonable access to district email accounts and the district website within the workday. The union president or building representative shall have the right to use the district's email system for the limited purpose of announcing the date and time of union meetings.
- D. The Board will not tolerate bullying or harassment of employees by parents, other citizens, students and/or other employees.

ARTICLE 5 ASSOCIATION RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

- A. **Requests for Information**
 1. The Board shall furnish to the Association, in response to

reasonable written requests from the Association President or designee, public information concerning the financial resources of the district, including the current audit, annual financial report, and budget. Nothing herein shall be construed as to require the Board to research or compile information.

2. The directory of personnel shall be available to the Association electronically.
3. The Board shall invite a representative of PESPA to serve as a member on district wide calendar committees which will affect their working conditions each year. The Board agrees to provide the Association with drafts of all proposed personnel calendars for its input.

B. Participation in Meetings

Whenever any representative of the Association is mutually scheduled to participate in negotiations, conferences, grievance hearings, or arbitrations during normal working hours, he/she shall suffer no loss in pay.

C. Association Meetings and Visitations by Officers/Staff

1. Association officers and staff shall be permitted to visit any work site to conduct Association meetings or communicate with Board employees. Visits shall not interfere with or interrupt work operations or performance of employee's duties. Meetings shall require prior approval of the appropriate administrator.
2. When visiting a work site, the Association representative shall give reasonable advanced notice to the appropriate administrator and shall report to the office upon arrival. Except as otherwise authorized by the Chief Human Resources Officer, no more than six (6) Association representatives shall visit a work site at one time.
3. Nothing herein justifies interference whatsoever with the performance of an employee's assigned duties and responsibilities.

4. Association members in each work site shall have the exclusive right to elect their Association Representatives according to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association. Where there is no Association representation, the PCTA representative may act as representative for Association members or the PESPA President may appoint one until such time as one is elected. The Association representative shall act as the official representative. Administrators shall maintain communications with administration on professional matters.
5. Association members may hold open or closed meetings with prior notification to the appropriate administrator. Such meetings shall not interfere with the normal student day and may not interfere with regularly assigned duties. When such meetings have been scheduled, conflicting meetings shall not be scheduled.
6. The use of designated areas for such meetings shall be arranged with the appropriate administrator in advance. All requests for building use shall conform to Board rules and regulations provided, however, that there shall be no cost to the Association for such meetings so long as no overtime custodial cost is involved.

D. Use of School Mailboxes

The Association shall have the right to use the school mailboxes if provided for some or all employees, subject to reasonable building and/or district wide regulations. No employee shall open mail not addressed to them.

E. Association Use of Interschool Communication System

To the extent provided by law and district policy, the Association shall have the right to use the in-school communication systems.

F. Association Use of School E-Mail System

To the extent provided by law and district policy, the Association shall have the right to the use of the district's email system in order to announce Association meetings and visits.

G. Use of Bulletin Board

1. The Association shall have the right to use a reasonable amount of space on bulletin boards. If bulletin boards are not available, the Association shall supply one to be mounted at the Association's cost in a visible location approved by the responsible administrator or supervisor.
2. Materials oriented to the election of candidates for public office, or of a derogatory nature, shall not be posted on Association bulletin boards.
3. All items to be posted on Association bulletin boards shall appear on identifiable Association stationery or the appropriate communications masthead and be dated. Other Association communiqués shall be initialed by the designated Association representative.

H. Association Exclusivity

The rights and privileges of the Association and its representatives as set forth in this Agreement shall be granted only to the Association as the exclusive representative of the employees, and to no other organization(s) representing or seeking to represent members of this bargaining unit.

ARTICLE 6 PERSONAL FREEDOM

The private life of an employee is their own so long as it does not impinge upon the ability of the employee to perform their duties and to meet all of their responsibilities. Any assertion of violation of this ARTICLE shall not be appealable to LEVEL THREE of the Grievance Procedure unless the employee and the Association shall execute a full and complete waiver and agreement that no action, suit, or complaint will be brought in any

court of law or equity or before any regulatory or administrative agency with respect to such alleged violation.

ARTICLE 7 VOLUNTARY TRANSFERS AND PROMOTIONS

A. Definition

A voluntary transfer is when an employee requests a change in work location. Voluntary transfers are not promotional.

B. Postings

The Board shall post notice of vacant promotional positions for which employees might reasonably be expected to be qualified to fill. The Board reserves the right to fill vacant promotional positions from within the work site prior to posting such vacancies throughout the district.

C. Procedures for Filling Vacancies

1. Prior to filling, on a permanent basis, any vacancy created in the bargaining unit by a transfer, retirement or termination, the Board shall post all vacancies for interested personnel to apply. All qualified in-house employees shall have equal opportunities to apply and be considered for promotional positions.
2. In appointing a replacement for a vacancy, factors to be considered may include, but not be limited to, up to three (3) years of performance appraisals, academic background, seniority, attendance, qualifications and skills, interview performance, if requested, and previous test results if required for the position. Probationary and substitute employees are eligible to apply and may be considered for promotional vacancies only after it is determined that there are no fully qualified regular employees who have skills appropriate to the position to be filled. Priority for interview for such positions shall be given to lateral transfer applicants. If a lateral transfer is not granted, the Board shall fill the vacancy through the normal promotional selection procedures.

3. When a probationary or substitute employee's name appears on the spread sheet, it will be noted that such employee is not eligible to be interviewed unless there are no qualified full-time regular employees.
4. All final offers of employment, including but not limited to transfers and reassignments, shall be made through the Human Resources Office. No offers of employment, except those authorized through these procedures shall be deemed valid.
5. The Board agrees to the development of a fair and consistent testing situation. Issues to be addressed shall include, but not be limited to: testing site, equipment, frequency of testing and scoring of the tests used. Equipment used in testing shall be maintained in good condition. Employees shall have the right to make an appointment to review the results of their tests and to receive feedback.
6. Employees selected to fill vacant promotional postings shall be entitled to assume their new duties within fifteen (15) working days of the date of acceptance of the position. Extensions of this period shall only be by mutual agreement between the employee and the appropriate supervisor. Interview and selection shall be completed in a reasonable period of time.
7. Employees who are asked to interview during the work day shall be given TDE assignment for such interview time.

D. Processing of Requests

In the determination of requests for voluntary reassignment and/or transfer, the wishes of the employee shall be honored to the extent that the transfer does not conflict with the best interest of the school system. If an employee's request for transfer has been denied, the Superintendent or their designee

shall notify the employee in writing of the reasons for the denial of transfer. Copies of the notice to employee for assignment or denial shall be provided to the PESPA President.

ARTICLE 8 INVOLUNTARY TRANSFERS AND REASSIGNMENTS

A. Definition

1. An involuntary transfer is a transfer instituted by the Administration.
2. When circumstances dictate a reduction in position(s) other than a districtwide reduction in force, the Board shall first solicit volunteers from among the group or class to be reduced or transferred. Those who volunteer to transfer shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of Article 7. Should further reduction be necessary, the Board shall transfer remaining employees to positions for which they are deemed qualified elsewhere in the district.

B. Meeting and Appeal

An employee who is involuntarily transferred shall be offered a meeting with their appropriate administrator to discuss the reason(s) for such transfer. At the employee's request, an Association representative may accompany the employee at such meeting. Upon request, a letter of explanation will be given to any employee involuntarily transferred.

- C. The Board shall give reasonable notice prior to the effective date of transfer or as soon as practicable.

D. Priority in Reassignment

An opportunity to discuss open positions in the school district shall be made available to all employees being involuntarily transferred or reassigned. Such employees may request the positions, in order of preference, to which they desire to be transferred. An employee being involuntarily transferred or

reassigned shall be compensated at the appropriate pay for the new position in compliance with the adopted salary plan.

ARTICLE 9 EMPLOYMENT PROCEDURES

A. Reduction In Force

1. Should circumstances dictate a general reduction in force, the Board shall take whatever steps are necessary to assign personnel to appropriate positions within the district for which they are qualified, consistent with this Agreement and law. In the event the Board is unable to maintain all employees, it shall immediately meet with the Association to provide for an orderly method of reducing and recalling affected employees.
2. Reductions in support staff during summer programs will be determined by Continuous Pinellas Experience considering the specific skills required to meet the student needs.

B. Procedures for Recall

A laid-off employee shall have recall rights for ninety (90) calendar days following termination. Notice of recall to work shall be addressed to the employee's last address appearing on the records of the school district, by certified mail. Within ten (10) calendar days from receipt of such notice of recall or within fifteen (15) calendar days of the date of the mailing, whichever shall first occur, the employee shall notify the director of the department involved, in writing, whether or not (s)he desires to return to the work involved in the recall. If (s)he fails to reply or indicates a desire not to return to such work, (s)he shall forfeit all rights to recall. If (s)he indicates a desire to return to the proposed assignment, (s)he must report to such work within ten (10) calendar days from the date the recall notice was received, or the time period set forth in a written extensions signed by the director or designee of the department. If an employee terminates employment with the district for any reason and subsequently accepts an assignment to a position different than the position he or she held prior to the lay-off, the employee shall

be subject to a new probationary period not to exceed six (6) months and shall sign an "at will" form provided by the district. Failure to return to work shall result in forfeiture of seniority and all rights to recall.

C. Procedures for Reduction in Personnel or Hours Due to Staffing Changes

When it is determined that a specific reduction in personnel or hours is necessary, the responsible administrator shall seek volunteers. If there are no volunteers, the following procedure shall be applied:

1. The specific needs of the program or school center shall be established and considered.
2. The individual skills, education and abilities of potential candidates for reduction shall be reviewed by the appropriate administrator.
3. If all of the above factors are substantially equal, length of service within the bargaining unit shall be the determining factor.
4. The decision of the appropriate administrator shall be final.

D. Substituting

Except as otherwise provided for and/or authorized by law or agreement, and except in an emergency, it shall not be the practice of the Board to use members of the unit as substitutes for certificated personnel. In such an emergency, employee substituting shall be paid at 1 ½ times their normal salary.

Whenever feasible, the supervisor will seek and accept volunteers. The parties agree that it is not a desirable practice to consistently use any member of this bargaining unit to cover for another employee.

The district shall refrain from hiring substitutes for permanent

positions within this unit. Temporary substitutes may be hired for short-term until a permanent replacement can be hired.

Notwithstanding the above, in situations when a Child Development Associate (CDA) or P.E. Assistant is absent, another CDA or P.E. Assistant may be called upon by the Principal to substitute and in such cases will be paid at 1 1/2 their normal salary.

E. Resignation

1. An employee who is resigning from their position shall give at least two (2) weeks' notice.
2. Earned vacation shall be paid promptly following termination of employment.

F. Notification of Employment

All employees shall be notified of their employment status for the ensuing year no later than two weeks prior to the end of the regular school year, if feasible.

G. Employee Job Description

Job descriptions represented by this unit shall be available on the Pinellas County Schools website, or upon request, through the Office of Compensation Administration.

H. Disciplinary Action

If a meeting with an administrator could result in any disciplinary action, the employee must be notified in advance so that the employee can make arrangements for Association representation if so desired. If necessary, the employee may request the opportunity to reschedule the meeting when proper representation is available.

I. Review of Disciplinary Actions

Appeal Procedures - Upon completion of the probationary period, employees shall continue from year to year unless the Superintendent terminates the employee for just cause. The provisions of Board Policy relative to employee discipline shall

define just cause. Should the Superintendent suspend without pay or seek termination of an employee, the exclusive forum of appeal shall be through the Administrative Procedures Act (Chapter 120, Florida Statutes).

J. **Official Use of Personal Automobile**

Employees who are required to utilize their personal automobiles for official business, such as home visitation, with advance approval of their principal or appropriate administrator, shall be compensated for mileage at the current rate.

K. **Probationary Period**

All newly hired or rehired employees, shall be subject to a six (6) months (120 workdays) probationary period and shall sign an “at will” form provided by the district. Prior to the expiration of a probationary period, Management may, at its sole discretion, extend the probationary period for one ninety (90) workday increment and the employee shall sign the cover sheet or cover memo and shall sign and receive a copy of any related appraisal or documentation. Probationary period extensions shall not be subject to the grievance procedure.

L. **Absenteeism**

Unauthorized absence shall be defined as any absence which is not properly chargeable to accrued leave or which has not been approved under any of the other leave provisions provided for in this Agreement. Absence due to emergencies will be given full, fair and equitable consideration. Excessive absenteeism or patterns of absenteeism may be cause for disciplinary action and may be reflected on the employee’s annual performance appraisal. Prior to completion of the performance appraisal, an employee must be apprised of administration’s concerns regarding absenteeism through a documented conversation between the employee and the supervisor or written notice of such concerns. Notwithstanding any other provision set forth herein, five (5) days of unauthorized absence in any one pay period or ten (10) days of unauthorized absence in the most recent twelve month period shall constitute grounds for

termination and any employee who is absent for three (3) consecutive work days and who fails to notify their appropriate administrator of the reason, except in extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the employee, may be terminated for abandonment of position.

ARTICLE 10 EMPLOYEE WORK SCHEDULE

A. Length of Employee Workday

1. Paraprofessionals and Medical Behavior Associates (MBA)- The normal workday for paraprofessionals and MBA shall be seven scheduled hours plus a one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) hour unpaid meal period. The federally funded Assistants and paraprofessionals may be assigned workdays other than those above both when circumstances dictate and after a discussion with PESPA Leadership.
2. Secretarial and Clerical - The normal workday for secretarial and clerical employees shall be seven and one-half ($7\frac{1}{2}$) hours plus a one (1) hour unpaid meal period, seven and one-half ($7\frac{1}{2}$) hours plus a one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) hour unpaid meal period, or eight (8) hours plus a one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) hour unpaid meal period as currently prescribed by work assignment and work location. Subsequent changes in length of workday will be subject to negotiation.
3. The normal workday for other Student Service Professionals shall be six scheduled hours plus a one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) hour unpaid meal period (non ESE, CNAs), seven (7) scheduled hours plus a one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) hour unpaid meal period, and seven and one-half ($7\frac{1}{2}$) scheduled hours plus a one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) hour unpaid meal period as currently prescribed by work assignment and work location. Subsequent changes in length of workday will be subject to negotiation.
4. The "normal workday" as used herein means the number of continuous hours that an employee can be expected

to be available for employment. (The normal workday includes a duty-free meal period and relief periods) The use herein of "normal workday" shall not be construed to mean that any employee is assured of employment for any minimum number of hours in any day, or that an employee shall earn compensation for any period of time not, in fact, worked unless provided for in other articles of this Agreement (i.e. sick leave, personal leave) or that an employee cannot be required to work in excess of the normal workday as stated in Section A-1, A-2, and A-3 on a non-regular basis provided overtime pay is granted for hours worked in excess as stated in Section H.

B. Daily Work Hours

1. Employee work schedules will be made available to all employees.
2. Any modification of the employees' daily work schedule shall be conveyed to them in writing.

C. Breaks

1. Employees shall be provided a paid fifteen (15) minute rest period during each three and one half (3½) hours of work. The break would not be at the beginning or end of the workday unless previously agreed to by both parties. Employees may ask their supervisor for flexibility.
2. Employees riding buses to satisfy student IEP needs shall be given adequate break time before boarding and after arrival on the bus.

D. Duty Free Lunch

Employees who work at least six (6) continuous hours shall be provided an unpaid duty-free meal period of at least thirty (30) minutes.

E. Vacation Schedule - Twelve (12) Month Employees

1. Vacation eligibility shall be determined as of July 1 of

each year.

2. Vacation time shall be scheduled to coordinate with the work schedule and shall be subject to the approval of the appropriate administrator. Such approval shall not be arbitrarily withheld. Employees shall be eligible for vacations on the following basis:
 - a. One (1) work day per month (twelve days per year) for employees who have been employed for five years or less. Accrual will begin after completion of the first month of employment.
 - b. One and one fourth ($1\frac{1}{4}$) work days per month (fifteen days per year) for employees who have been employed for more than five years; and
 - c. One and one half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) work days per month (eighteen days per year) for employees who have been employed for more than ten years.
3. Accrual of vacation shall begin on the most recent date of hire or rehire to a twelve-month assignment. Vacation accrual shall not be applicable to service rendered in prior assignments which were of less than twelve months duration. Utilizing the formula in Section 2 above, employees shall not be permitted to accrue more than sixty-two (62) days of unused vacation. However, a maximum of only sixty (60) days of accrued vacation, pursuant to Florida Statute, may be paid at time of termination.

F. Work on Holidays

1. Employees required to work on paid holidays shall be compensated at a rate of one and one-half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) times their base rate of pay for all hours worked in addition to their straight-time holiday pay. Employees required to work on unpaid holidays shall be compensated at their straight time base rate of pay for all hours worked up to and including forty (40) in one week.

2. As used herein, “holidays” mean those days designated as such in the calendar adopted by the Board. Except with the expressed approval of the responsible administrator, vacation, personal leave and compensatory time shall not be used to extend holidays or used on professional development days in the calendar.
3. Paid holidays will be in accordance with the school and payroll calendars.

G. **Shelter Duty**

In accordance with Florida Statute and Board policy, designated support service professionals will report to shelter duty. District personnel will prepare and distribute a shelter duty assignment list based on hiring seniority. In the event of shelter openings, volunteers will be sought from the existing roster.

These volunteers will be placed at the bottom of the roster for the remaining school year after completing shelter duty. If there are not enough volunteers to fill positions required, shelter duty assignments will revert to the beginning of the shelter duty assignment list (based on seniority-recent hires at top of list).

All supporting service professionals who serve shelter duty will be moved to the bottom of the shelter duty assignment list for the current school year of the event. Assignment list will revert to seniority for the following and subsequent school years. All supporting services professionals will be paid pursuant to the reimbursement guidelines established by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for public employees required to provide shelter duty service during emergencies.

ARTICLE 11 EMPLOYEE FACILITIES, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS

A. Storage of Materials and Supplies

The Board shall provide employees with closet or space in which they may store materials necessary to perform their jobs.

B. Employee Facilities

Where dining, lounge, parking, and/or restroom facilities are provided by Board for staff professionals separate from those made available for students, such facilities shall be available to PESPA employees.

C. Materials and Supplies

Employees will be provided with materials and supplies required to enable them to do their assigned duties. Where applicable, a copy of the text used in each course shall be provided. *The Handbook for Support Professionals Who Ride the School Bus* shall be made available to eligible employees.

D. Secure Storage

The Board shall provide employees with secure, locked space in which they may store their personal belongings.

ARTICLE 12 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Professional education activities shall be developed cooperatively with the staff and the administration and shall be evaluated on an annual basis.

B. The Association shall be involved in the planning and evaluation of development programs for support professionals. PESPA shall be represented on the Professional Development Advisory Committee.

C. Educational support professionals will be included in site-based professional education programs where attendance is mutually agreed to be appropriate by the responsible administrator and the employee.

- D. Employees of the bargaining unit who hold a valid Florida teaching certificate may be considered for component courses and summer institutes on a space available basis. Upon written request of the employee to the Office of Teacher Certification in the Human Resources Department, the Board will assist employees by notifying them of the need to renew their certificates consistent with district procedures. The Board assumes no liability for any action taken against an employee's certificate as a result of this provision. It shall be the employee's responsibility to notify the Human Resources Department of their desire to receive notification.
- E. The parties agree to allow all unit employees to choose the training they feel is essential to their performance and student achievement. The parties further affirm that professional development activities should involve unit employees being given the choice to attend activities that are relevant to their duties and goals. Therefore, unit employees shall be provided greater choice in the selection of training opportunities except under the following conditions:
1. Where the administration has identified a deficiency that would require training for remediation.
 2. Where the training is required to effectively implement curriculum or instructional strategies as determined by the Required Training Process Team.
 3. Where the training is mandated by district, state or federal program requirements.
- F. Professional Development Advisory Committee – The team agrees to investigate a number of professional development and training issues including: establishing a partnership with the Pinellas County Education Foundation and local education institutions to create scholarships for educational support professionals; offering flexible scheduling for support professionals returning to school; revising the support services

job posting application form to reflect training; providing alternative delivery models such as distance learning and career ladder training opportunities.

- G. The Certificate of Distinction Program recognizes support services professionals for their continuous development and their valued contribution to the district's high performing workforce. It is a voluntary program that fosters continuous learning and supports the district's vision of success for all students. In addition to the framed certificate, successful completers of this program will be awarded an annual supplement of \$275.

An Annual supplement of \$300 shall be provided for employees who have completed all three strands of the requirements for Certificate of Distinction II. This amount will be in addition to any compensation received for completion of Certificate of Distinction I.

If a recipient moves to a non-eligible position (e.g. substitute, temporary, or teacher position) prior to the stipend pay date in December, they are only eligible for stipend payment the year in which they moved to the non-eligible position.

Recipients who are on unpaid sick leave or have changed to a non-support position, must notify their appropriate administrator by January 15th of their unpaid status or change of position and may arrange for pick-up of the check at the school/site. Participants who complete in subsequent years will be eligible for payment based on renewal of the funding agreement with the district.

- H. The Board and the Association recognize that medication administration and medical services must occur at school to promote the safety and well-being of students. Board Policies will follow Florida Statutes on this issue. School Health Services personnel will conduct an annual health needs assessment at each worksite; updating as situations change. Staffing model for medical professionals will adjust to the medical need.

- I. When medication administration and/or medical services must be delegated to non-medical support professionals, the following process will occur:
 1. The appropriate Administrator and designee will be trained in medication administration and/or medical services by a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse, under the direction of the School Health Services professionals.
 2. Training time will be sufficient in length to allow for instruction, questions, and return demonstration of procedures expected to be performed. No activities can be delegated to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP) without demonstrated competence.
 - a. Non-medical support professionals may request to decline duty after training if they deem themselves unable to responsibly perform the procedures.
 - b. Health professionals may recommend that the appropriate administrator assign a different designee when the applicant is deemed unable to responsibly perform the trained procedures.
 - c. The school administrator will determine which school staff member will be responsible.
 3. Non-medical district support professionals shall not be allowed to perform invasive medical services that require special medical knowledge, nursing judgment and nursing assessment.
 4. There should be no liability for civil damages as a result of administration of such medication and/or medical service when the person administering such procedure acts as an ordinarily reasonable prudent person would have acted under the same or similar circumstances.

5. Licensed medical support service professionals in this unit will follow pertinent Florida Statute, provisions of the Nurse Practice Act, and Board Policy.

ARTICLE 13 EVALUATION PROCEDURE

A. Evaluation Procedure

It is the philosophy of this Agreement that an evaluation is a developmental process. All evaluations shall be directed to identifying strengths as well as weaknesses. Evaluations shall be the responsibility of the administration and shall not be delegated to any non-managerial employee. However, nothing contained herein shall preclude the administrator from receiving input from appropriate personnel in gathering data for evaluation purposes. Discussions regarding evaluations shall be confidential and no adverse comments shall be made in the presence of pupils or staff. The Superintendent shall establish procedures for evaluating the performance of duties and responsibilities. PESPA will be involved in the formation of any new evaluation system which impacts bargaining members.

1. All support staff will receive an annual evaluation which will include a conference between the employee and their appropriate administrator/supervisor. All formal observations of the work performance of an employee shall be conducted with the knowledge of the employee.
 - a. An employee shall be given a copy of each written evaluation report within five (5) workdays which they shall acknowledge. No employee shall be required to acknowledge a blank or incomplete evaluation form.
 - b. An employee's signature on an evaluation does not necessarily mean they agree with the statements presented but indicates that an employee has seen said evaluation.
 - c. If an employee does not agree with the

evaluation report given to them, they shall be allowed a conference with the evaluator if requested. The conference shall occur within ten (10) days of the request. The employee may submit a written response to the evaluation which must occur within ten (10) days.

2. **Responsibility of Employer to Employee** - Should the administration determine the need for remediation, specific recommendations, including timelines and training for areas of improvement shall be communicated to the employee and their representative through an interim evaluation. If additional training is required, the employee must be on the clock for the training. If the required training occurs after hours the employee will be paid. Specific documentation shall be maintained and shall be given to the employee in the event no improvement is evidenced.
3. **Communication of Comments** - All comments regarding an employee's professional performance shall be communicated directly to the affected employee, verbally and in writing. Unsatisfactory ratings shall be based only on documentation shared with the employee and documented within a timely manner not to exceed 20 working days of the occurrence or knowledge of event.
4. Personnel records and files shall be maintained in compliance with appropriate Florida Statutes and Board administrative procedures. An employee shall have the right to make an appointment to review the contents of their personnel file at the work site and/or the county office providing such review can be accomplished without interference with the employee's performance of their duties. An employee shall be entitled to have a representative of the Association accompany them during this review. A representative of the Board shall also be present. Nothing shall be permanently removed from the file

in the course of such review. However, the employee may request and receive copies of documents contained within. No secret files shall be maintained either in the worksite or in Central Administration. Material that has not been brought to the attention of the employee shall not be admissible in any disciplinary action against the employee.

B. Confidentiality

All matters related to an employee's performance or status shall be confidential except as otherwise required by law.

ARTICLE 14 PROTECTION OF EMPLOYEES

A. Conditions of Work

Employees shall not be required to work under unsafe or hazardous conditions. An employee shall be required to report, in writing, any unsafe conditions to the responsible administrator for review and appropriate action.

B. Workers' Compensation

The Board provides Workers' Compensation Insurance for all employees. Payment for sick leave salary by the Board and the payment for compensation under Workers' Compensation Insurance provided by the Board shall not be made to result in double payment for any period of service or disability.

C. Use of Reasonable Force

An employee may use reasonable force as is necessary to protect himself/herself from attack.

D. Cases of Assault/Battery

1. If an employee shall be assaulted while acting within the scope of their employment and pursuant to the Board policy and administrative direction, the Board shall give full support to such employees in dealing with the appropriate authorities in criminal cases.
2. If the employee is unable to work as a consequence of injuries received in such an assault, the employee shall receive benefits pursuant to Section 440, Florida

Statutes. The employee may be eligible for accident/illness in the line of duty leave. Such leave shall be authorized for a period not to exceed ten (10) days if the worker's compensation doctor indicates the employee must be out of work or if the worksite cannot accommodate the assigned restrictions. Such leave shall be applicable only to the year during which the accident or illness occurred.

Claims for psychological damages as a result of such incidents shall not be compensable and are not covered by this provision.

E. Reports of Assault/Battery Cases

Employees shall immediately report cases of assault suffered by them in connection with their employment to their appropriate administrator and may report the incident to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

F. Defense in Assault/Battery Cases

If criminal or civil proceedings are brought against an employee alleging that he/she committed an assault in connection with their employment, such employee may request the Board to furnish legal counsel to defend them in such proceedings. Any assistance rendered by the Board shall be in its sole discretion and non-precedential as respect to any other assault or employee.

G. Sexual Harassment

No person shall on the basis of age, sex, race, color, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, or any other characteristic protected by federal or state law or Board policy, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to unlawful discrimination or harassment with respect to employment. Employees are encouraged to report any allegations of discrimination or sexual harassment to their administrators or the applicable district-level departments for prompt investigation in accordance with School

Board policies.

ARTICLE 15 TEMPORARY LEAVES OF ABSENCE

A. Sick Leave

All full-time employees shall be credited with four (4) days sick leave following completion of their first month of employment each fiscal/school year. Thereafter, full-time employees shall be credited with one (1) day of sick leave following completion of each month of employment, but not to exceed one (1) day of sick leave times the number of months the employee works per year. If an employee terminates their employment and has not accrued the four (4) sick days available to them, the Board may withhold from final pay an amount equal to the pay for sick days utilized but unearned by the employee. Employees may take sick leave in increments of fifteen minutes.

1. Sick Leave is to be used for illness of the employee or illness or death of an immediate family member including father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, child, other close relative, or member of his or her own household.
2. Full-time employees shall be granted days of sick leave each year in accordance with the following formula:
 - a. Ten-month employees - ten (10) days sick leave.
 - b. Eleven-month employees - eleven (11) days sick leave.
 - c. Twelve-month employees - twelve (12) days sick leave.
3. Employees who work four (4) or more hours per day in permanent positions shall accrue sick leave at the rate of one paid day for each month of service. A month of service for this purpose shall be defined as employment in a paid status for eleven (11) or more days during the

same month.

4. All unused sick leave days shall accumulate from year to year without limit.
5. Accumulated sick leave days may be transferred from another Florida county upon request of the employee.
6. Returning employees, who because of illness or accident are unable to report for duty at the beginning of the school year, may apply accumulated sick leave.
7. The parties agree to maintain a sick leave bank into which unit employees may place days and withdraw same in the event of catastrophic illness or for the bereavement of any person covered by Section A.1 of this Article. Guidelines shall be established by the parties.
8. Employees who are in sick leave status, for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days, will have the right to return to their same position.
9. Use of Sick Leave by Family Members: Under the following guidelines district employees may authorize their spouse, child, parent or sibling who is also a district employee, to use sick leave that has accrued to the authorizing employee.
 - i. The recipient must have used all of their personal accumulation of sick leave (and vacation leave, if applicable).
 - ii. Maximum transfer for any one (1) illness, injury or complications arising thereof, shall be thirty (30) days per school year.
 - iii. Days used may not result in double compensation when combined with other

benefits such as workers compensation or tort damage awards.

- iv. The recipient and the donor must complete the appropriate form from the human resources office.
- v. The human resources administrator approving the form may require documentation of the recipient's relationship to the authorizing employee.

10. Summer Term Sick Leave Eligibility - Supporting services personnel employed during the summer term shall be eligible for accrual of one (1) day of sick leave for emergency purposes under the following conditions:

- a. The employee must have completed one (1) year of continuous employment in the district prior to appointment to a summer term position.
- b. Sick leave may only be used for legitimate illness of the individual employee or his or her immediate family as defined by state law.
- c. Employees must work twenty (20) days during the summer term in order to be eligible to earn one additional day of sick leave.
- d. Attendance shall be a criterion for future selection to summer term positions.

11. Types of Leave

Employees shall be entitled to the following temporary noncumulative leaves of absence with full pay each school year.

- a. *Personal* – Five (5) days leave of absence for personal reasons, charged to unused sick leave.

- b. *Legal Processes Leave* - Temporary duty elsewhere shall be granted to employees who are called for jury duty or are subpoenaed as a witness in a legal proceeding. TDE is not available for employees who are plaintiffs or defendants in court actions.
- c. *Temporary Military* - Temporary military leave will be granted for time necessary for persons called into temporary active duty of any unit of the United States Reserves or the State National Guard. Any employee shall be paid their regular pay in addition to any pay which they receive from the state or federal government to a limit of seventeen (17) days during the same school year.
- d. *Temporary Duty Elsewhere* - An employee rendering services in the performance of their assigned duties is not considered on professional leave even though they are away from their usually assigned work location. In such cases, the employee is performing their assigned duty and is not on regular duties and places of employment for the purpose of performing educational services through action initiated by the Board. Employees on temporary duty shall receive their regular pay and may be allowed expenses as provided by the Board.
- e. *Illness in the Line of Duty* - Any member of the bargaining unit who must be absent from duty because of personal injury received in the discharge of duties or because of illness certified by a physician from contagious disease contracted in school work shall be entitled to illness in the line of duty leave. Such leave shall be authorized for a period not to exceed ten (10) days and shall be applicable only to the year during which the accident or illness occurred. Any extension beyond this amount shall

require action of the Board.

- f. The parties agree that leave will be granted to a limited number of employees to conduct Association business subject to guidelines determined by the parties.

ARTICLE 16 EXTENDED LEAVES OF ABSENCE

A. Association

The Board agrees that no more than one (1) employee designated by the Association shall, upon request, be granted a leave of absence with pay for up to three (3) years for the purpose of engaging in activities of the Association or its affiliates. The three-year term shall be renewable. The employee will retain all benefits allowable under law and the Association will reimburse the Board for all costs incurred. Upon return from such leave, the employee shall be assigned the same or similar position.

B. *Family Medical and Leave Act.* Qualifying Reasons and Length of FMLA and Military Family Leave. Under FMLA, eligible employees may take up to twelve (12) work weeks of job-protected, unpaid leave, or substitute appropriate paid leave if the employee has earned or accrued it, for the following reasons:

- a. the birth and/or care of a newborn child of the staff member, within one (1) year of the child's birth;
- b. the placement with the staff member of a child for adoption or foster care, within one (1) year of the child's arrival;
- c. the staff member is needed to provide physical and/or psychological care for a spouse, child, or parent with a serious health condition;
- d. the staff member's own serious health condition makes them unable to perform the functions of their position; or

- e. any qualifying exigency (as defined in applicable Federal regulations) arising out of the fact that the staff member's spouse, son, daughter, or parent is a covered military member (i.e., a member of the National Guard or Reserves, but not a member of the Regular Armed Forces) on active duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty) in support of a contingency operation ("Qualifying Exigency Leave").

Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA. In addition, an eligible employee who is a spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness may take up to a total of twenty-six (26) work weeks of job-protected, unpaid leave, or substitute appropriate paid leave if the staff member has earned or accrued it, during a "single twelve (12) month period" to provide physical and/or psychological care for the covered service member. A covered service member is defined as a current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness. Serious injury or illness for purposes of Military Caregiver Leave is defined as an injury or illness incurred by a service member in the line of duty on active duty that may render the service member medically unfit to perform the duties of their office, grade, rank, or rating. The "single twelve (12) month period" for leave to care for a covered service member with a serious injury or illness begins the first day the staff member takes leave for this reason and ends twelve (12) months later, regardless of the twelve (12) month period established below for general FMLA leave. During the "single twelve (12) month period", an eligible staff member is limited to a combined total of twenty-six (26) work weeks of unpaid leave for any FMLA-qualifying reason. (Only twelve (12) of the twenty-six (26) work weeks total may be for a FMLA- qualifying reason

other than to care for a covered service member.)

C. Extended Personal Leave

Any employee who has exhausted their FMLA, Military Caregiver Leave or any other leave approved under this Article may extend their unpaid leave up until the end of the current school year. This leave shall be granted for adoption, childcare, or long-term sick leave. If return is within six (6) months, the employee, by mutual consent of their administrator, may be reassigned to the same position. If return is subsequent to six (6) months, every effort will be made to return the employee to the same position if recommended by their administrator, or to a similar position. Assignments shall be contingent upon availability of vacancies at the time of return.

D. Professional Leave

Full-time regular employees may be granted, upon request, unpaid leave not to exceed two (2) years for educational purposes. In order to be eligible for professional leave, an employee must have completed three (3) years of continuous service in Pinellas County. Requests for such leaves shall clearly identify the program of study to be completed and why the leave will benefit the Board. For purposes of this leave, an employee must be enrolled in not less than nine (9) credit hours per semester or eighteen (18) credit hours per year in a planned program of studies. The employee shall, during the course of such leave, provide documentation to the Board of full-time attendance in a formalized course of studies, justifying this leave. Upon return, the employee shall be reassigned to a similar position contingent upon availability of vacancies at the time of return.

The parties agree to maintain a limited number of enhanced professional leaves that will provide a mutual benefit to the employee and the Board by virtue of allowing the employee to complete degree requirements in areas of critical shortage.

E. Temporary Inactive Status

Extended absence without pay on temporary inactive status may be granted for health or other personal reasons. Application is as follows:

1. Such request is made in writing and is on an appropriate form.
2. The appropriate administrator recommends approval or disapproval.
3. Any appeal shall be made to the Assistant Superintendent for Personnel or their designee.
4. Such request is not for a period in excess of thirty (30) working days.

F. Return from Leave Benefits

1. Employees may apply for insurance benefits (subject to carrier requirements) within thirty-one (31) days of return from leave of absence. Accumulated sick leave and credits toward retirement consistent with Florida Retirement System requirements, shall be restored to them upon his/her return, and he/she shall be assigned to the same or similar position which he/she held at the time said leave commenced.
2. Leaves made necessary by sudden emergencies shall be considered as granted in advance if the employee makes a prompt report concerning the nature of the emergency to their appropriate administrator.

G. Extensions and Renewals

All extensions or renewals of leaves shall be applied for and granted in writing.

H. Miscellaneous Leave Provisions

1. With the exception of FMLA, no employee shall be granted more than two (2) long term leaves (leaves of more than 30 days) in a five (5) year period.

2. Employees who are granted a long-term leave of absence from Pinellas County schools shall not be permitted to receive full-time compensation from any other employer during the period authorized. To do so will release the Board from any obligations specified in this Agreement.
3. When, by mutual agreement of the parties, it is proven to be in the best interests of the district to do so, retirement and leave incentives will be developed and implemented to avoid layoffs and non- reappointment of support services personnel that may be precipitated by state or local revenue shortfalls. Such extensions shall apply only to the year in which the projected shortfall will affect supporting services staff and shall in no way be considered a continuing benefit to employees covered by this Agreement.

ARTICLE 17 SALARY ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR PESPA SALARY SCHEDULES

SALARY SCHEDULE

The salary of each employee covered by this Agreement is set forth in Appendix B which is attached hereto and made a part thereof.

A. Effective Date

The effective date of the provisions set forth in the following procedures and salary schedules shall be July 1 of the fiscal year, unless otherwise indicated. Only employees on the active payroll, or on approved leave of absence at the time the annual increases are ratified and are approved by the Board, would be eligible to receive any new salary adjustments.

Base salary/rate is defined as an employee's un-equalized hourly rate of pay, exclusive of shift differential or any other applicable onus.

An individual's base rate of pay will not be less than the lowest level for the pay grade of the assigned position, except when the

intern procedure is recommended or in the case of temporary promotions.

For consistency in administration, base hourly rates are used for calculation purposes in applying the following procedures.

B. Placement on Salary Schedule

1. A newly hired individual may be placed on the applicable salary schedule as follows:
 - a. At the lowest level of the Pay Grade for the position unless it is determined by the supervisor and approved by Human Resources that credit for outside experience warrants initial placement at a higher pay Level.
 - b. If outside experience credit is deemed appropriate based on comparable work experience, an additional Level for each five years of comparable experience may be granted. When salary credit is granted for outside experience, Human Resources may review to ascertain the impact on internal equity. The specific related experience must be submitted to Human Resources within 3 months of date of hire.
2. Intern Procedure: An internal applicant who does not meet all minimum qualifications for a job may be hired as or promoted to an intern position at a rate of pay ten percent (10%) below the applicable rate of pay for the job for which the employee is interning. Payment at the intern rate is not to exceed one (1) year. When the minimum qualifications are met, the employee shall receive the appropriate rate of pay for the position. If minimum qualifications are not met after one (1) year, employee is subject to termination or reassignment.

C. **Procedures for Salary Increases**

1. Salaries will be negotiated annually. A portion or all of the total salary increase may be designated for a COLA increase. A COLA increase (whether a flat amount or a percentage increase) will be applied equally throughout the salary structure.
2. **Part-Time Regular Employees:** Employees in an active pay status or on an approved leave of absence at the time the annual increases are approved by the Board shall be eligible for increases at the same hourly rate as full-time time employees.
3. **Retroactive Pay:**
The above increases will be retroactive to the beginning date of the employee's annual payroll calendar, unless otherwise indicated. Part-time regular employees are included in the receipt of retroactive pay.

D. **Promotional Salary Increases**

1. **Promotion to a Higher Pay Grade**
When an employee is promoted to a position assigned a higher Pay Grade, the following will apply:
 - a. If the new position is one Pay Grade higher, the employee shall be placed at the same pay Level at the higher Pay Grade.
 - b. If the new position is two (2) or more Pay Grades higher, the employee will be placed at the higher of the minimum for the new Pay Grade or the Level which is closest to but does not exceed a fifteen (15%) percent increase.
2. **In-Grade or Lateral Adjustments**
When an employee is transferred to a position within the same Pay Grade, the employee shall be paid at the same Pay Grade and Level of the prior position.

3. **Temporary Assignment to a Higher Pay Grade**
Employees temporarily assigned to assume the duties of an absent employee in a higher Pay Grade for more than ten (10) work days, shall receive the amount he/she would have received had the employee actually been promoted to the position on a regular basis.

E. Reclassifications

Reclassification to a Higher Pay Grade: When a position is reclassified to a higher pay grade, the incumbent's current rate of pay shall be increased in accordance with the promotion guidelines. If there is a Reclassification to a Lower Pay Grade: Procedures for downgrade will apply.

F. Procedures for Downgrade

1. When an employee is moved to a lower Pay Grade, the following procedures shall apply:
 - a. If the new position is one (1) Pay Grade lower, the employee shall be placed at the same pay Level at the lower Pay Grade.
 - b. If the new position is two (2) or more Pay Grades lower, the employee will be placed at the higher of either the same Level in the new Pay Grade or the Level which is closest to but does not exceed a fifteen (15%) decrease, but in no case will they be paid more than the highest level.
2. If an employee is downgraded or promoted then returns to the previous job within one (1) year, the employee will revert to their previous rate of pay.

G. Termination and Reinstatement

1. An employee who terminates employment and is rehired within one (1) year in the same job classification shall receive the previous rate of pay. In all other instances the procedures for regular employment shall apply.

2. A substitute or temporary employee who returns within one (1) year to a previously held regular position, will be restored to the pay rate previously held and receive adjustments under this article.

H. **Overtime Eligibility**

Non-exempt employees required to work more than forty (40) hours in any single week shall be compensated at one and one-half (1-1/2) times their base rate of pay for those hours over forty (40), unless the compensatory time provision of these procedures is used.

1. **Work on Holidays:** Non-exempt employees required to work on paid holidays shall be compensated at a rate of one and one-half (1-1/2) times their base rate of pay for all hours worked in addition to their straight-time holiday pay. Non-exempt employees required to work on unpaid holidays shall be compensated at their straight time base rate of pay for all hours worked up to and including forty (40) in one week.
2. **Two or More Jobs at Different Rates of Pay:** A non-exempt employee who works over forty (40) hours in a work week with two (2) or more jobs at different rates of pay will receive the overtime rate of pay in accordance with applicable Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) regulations.
3. **Compensatory Time:**
 - a. Compensatory time is defined as time required by management beyond an employee's normally scheduled hours to accomplish a specific task or to provide supervision under specified conditions. A non-exempt employee will be eligible for compensatory time off for hours worked in excess of the assigned workweek as approved in advance by their director/supervisor. Compensatory time may be offered in lieu of overtime especially where overtime pay

is not available due to financial restrictions. In this regard, it shall be the employee's choice to work offered overtime or additional hours beyond their regular shift for compensatory time as an alternative to overtime pay. The employee and the supervisor must mutually agree to how the time is to be earned and used within a six month prescribed time frame.

- b. Management-approved compensatory time will be part of the payroll reporting process. Employees are responsible for providing written documentation of compensatory time approved by the appropriate administrator to the person responsible for departmental payroll administration. Compensatory time will be tracked using the TERMS system unless the compensatory time is earned and used within a single pay period.
- c. Employees who have requested the use of compensatory time shall be permitted to use the time within a reasonable period after making the request if the use of time does not unduly disrupt operations. An employee may use a full day as compensatory time if approved by their supervisor.
- d. Compensatory time for all employees must be used within six (6) months from the date on which the time is earned. It will be the supervisor's responsibility to keep track of this time limit. Compensatory time not used within six (6) months will be paid.
- e. Employees can accrue up to 240 hours of compensatory time (160 hours of overtime work). Any work performed over the 240 hours

maximum must be paid overtime compensation.

- f. Compensatory time may be used for purposes of voting when approved by the appropriate administrator so long as release from assignment does not impact normal operations or essential services provided to students and staff.

I. Facility Lease Hours

When an organization leases School Board facilities that require the services of PCSB employees and said functions are conducted in a school facility on a Saturday, Sunday, holiday or any other non-scheduled workday, the employee assigned to said function shall be compensated as follows:

1. An affected employee shall receive either straight time or overtime for all hours worked whichever is appropriate. For non-exempts, this will depend on the total number of hours worked by the employee during the normally scheduled workweek.
2. An affected employee shall receive time and one-half (1-1/2) and appropriate shift differential for all hours worked regardless of the total number of hours worked during the workweek whenever the employee has not had the opportunity (excluding the use of sick, personal, or vacation hours) to accomplish the normal forty (40) "sweat" hour requirement for the computation of overtime, i.e., spring break, Thanksgiving, winter holiday period.

J. Shift Differential

1. Applies to any full-time or part-time employee whose regularly assigned shift ends at 7 p.m. or after shall receive a shift differential of thirty-five cents (\$.35) per hour for all hours worked.
2. Any hourly shift differential received by an employee

shall be paid only on actual hours worked in any pay period and shall be excluded from holiday, vacation, and sick leave pay.

K. Call-Back and Call-In Procedures

1. An employee who is called to report for work at times other than the regularly scheduled hours shall receive the applicable rate of pay, or compensatory time, for all time worked. In no event will the employee receive less than two (2) hours straight time pay or compensatory time due to the inconvenience. It is not required that an employee work a minimum of two (2) hours if the task for which the employee was called to perform can be accomplished in less time.
2. An employee who reports for work at the regularly scheduled time shall receive a minimum of two (2) hours work at the applicable rate of pay, or two (2) hours pay at the straight-time hourly base rate unless:
 - The employee leaves earlier based on their own decision.
 - The employee is suspended or dismissed.
 - Work is not available for reasons such as fire, flood, power failure, hurricane, tornado, explosion, strike, or civil disturbance.

L. Requests to Create New Jobs

New job title classifications must be requested by the appropriate Cabinet member, recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board. The classification and pay grade of each new job shall be recommended by the Compensation Administration Section of the Human Resources Department and submitted to the Cabinet for their concurrence. The Superintendent will then make a recommendation to the Board for approval.

Additional personnel slots must be requested through budget.

Job title and pay grade will be determined by Compensation Administration.

M. Bus Assistant Supplements and Guidelines

Support Professionals who are assigned to ride buses to supervise students with disabilities shall receive a supplement determined by appropriate parties.

1. The assignment of support professionals to assist on a bus will be the decision of the IEP Committee, and their primary responsibility is to the safety of those students.
2. Bus assignment is to be determined on the basis of seniority at the commencement of the school year OR a documented process by an all-inclusive committee structure that provides for input from MBA and administration. Bus assignments will be provided to MBA first. If additional bus assignments exist, other support professionals may volunteer to be bus assistants.
3. The supplement for riding the bus shall be a maximum of \$7.50 per day or \$3.75 per shift and shall be paid only for those days when the MBA rides the bus. On days when an MBA is absent, the supplement shall be paid to the substitute.
4. Schools with Support Professionals who ride the bus will develop a plan to give adequate breaks to Support Professionals prior to boarding and after arrival from bus.
5. Bus drivers are responsible for writing bus referrals for all students. Referrals will be tied to behavior goal violations or a major violation of guidelines for all students. MBA may give input to the referral and both parties may sign. If the bus driver is not aware of the incident, the bus driver will write the referral stating "as related to me by..." and both parties will sign.
6. If an intervention plan for bus behavior is written for a

student both the bus driver and the MBA will be informed.

7. Support Professionals should park on school board property whenever possible. If this is not an option, the driver and the support professional must agree on a safe location, get approval from the transportation department and obtain written approval from the management of the property.
8. Commitment of the worksite to return Support Professionals to their cars in cases of personal emergency: the school will develop a documented process that ensures that the Support Professionals will be returned to their car in cases of emergency. This process can state that another member of the staff provides the transportation or that paid transportation (taxi fare) will be provided.
9. Language in *The Handbook for Support Professionals Who Ride the School Bus* shall be consistent with this contract and shall be revised only by both parties – PESPA and Transportation – with any contentious language being brought to the appropriate bargaining team.

ARTICLE 18 FRINGE BENEFITS

- A. Benefit Program - The Board agrees to provide a comprehensive benefits program to include but not limited to health, dental, life, vision, accidental death and dismemberment and income protection insurance. Health Care Reimbursement and Dependent Day Care Reimbursement Accounts are also provided. The amount of Board contribution and employee deductions will be determined annually through the bargaining process.

The Board will pay approximately 80% of the annual health insurance premium for the duration of this Agreement. Individual

amounts will vary based on the plan selected.

- B. Section 125 Cafeteria Plan - The Board agrees to provide a Cafeteria Plan with a premium conversion option, which enables employees to pay their portion of most insurance premiums on a pre-tax basis. Enrollment in the Flex Plan is automatic for eligible employees and participation continues from year to year, unless the risk management and insurance department is notified by the employee in writing to cancel participation. The cancellation request must be received by the department within thirty (30) days of a qualifying life event or during the annual open enrollment period.

Premium payments for insurance coverage are deducted from the employee's gross salary before taxes are taken. Because FLEX is considered by IRS as a salary reduction plan elections may only be made annually. Employees may not change their election during the calendar year unless a change in family status occurs. The IRS defines a change in family status as: marriage, death, divorce, birth, adoption, loss or gain of spouse or dependent's employment, loss of plan eligibility, change of residence or work, entitlement to Medicare or Medicaid, or a judgment decree or court order requiring coverage of dependents. Regulations for salary reduction are independent from insurance carrier provisions for change in coverage.

- C. Eligibility - Regular employees who work at least thirty (30) hours per week, job share employees and employees who work two part-time regular jobs totaling more than thirty (30) hours per week are eligible for benefits. Dependent eligibility guidelines will be in accordance with provisions outlined in the Beneflex Guide.
- D. Enrollment - Initial Enrollment: Enrollment and change forms are due in the risk management and insurance department within thirty (30) calendar days of hire or change of eligibility status. Coverage becomes effective the first day of the month following 60 days of employment or change of eligibility status.

Open Enrollment: The Board provides an annual enrollment period during which an employee may add, cancel, or change coverage.

- E. Changes in Coverage - In accordance with IRS guidelines and carrier contracts, employees may make certain changes during the plan year if a change in family status occurs. A completed Enrollment & Change Form and supporting documentation must be received by Risk Management within thirty (30) days of the qualifying event. The change in coverage will be effective the first of the month following the qualifying event and receipt of the enrollment form by Risk Management.
- F. Termination of Coverage - Insurance coverage ends the last day of the month in which an employee no longer meets eligibility requirements, retires, terminates employment or fails to pay the required premiums when due.
- G. Basic Board Life - The Board shall provide, to eligible employees, group term life insurance in the amount of one times annual salary rounded up to the next one thousand dollars (\$1,000) with a minimum amount of \$15,000.
- H. Board Contribution - Recognizing the importance of stabilizing the health insurance rates and expanding the number of persons participating in the group health insurance programs, the parties agree to continue a plan of variable Board contributions and to minimize the adverse impact of annual health insurance premium increases.

The Board contributes toward the cost of employee benefits each pay period September through June when a Board issued paycheck is received (not to exceed twenty (20) contributions per calendar year) In any period during which a paycheck is not earned, the employee will owe both the Board contribution amount and normal insurance deductions. Board contribution amounts vary and are negotiated annually.

When an employee chooses health insurance coverage, the Board contribution amount is automatically credited toward the per-pay-period health insurance premium.

No Health Option - If an employee does not select health insurance coverage, the employee may apply the predetermined "No-health Board contribution" toward the purchase of certain supplemental insurance benefits. The parties agree to provide benefits eligible employees who do not elect health insurance up to \$75 a pay period in flex credits to be used to purchase supplemental benefits including Dental, Vision, AD & D, Short-Term and Long-Term Disability, the Hospital Confinement Plan and the Health Care Reimbursement Account (HCRA). The maximum amount of board provided flex credits elections into the HCRA may not exceed \$25 a pay period and the minimum election amount may not be less than \$5.

Funds deposited into the HCRA will be administered in accordance with IRS guidelines and the district's administrative procedures governing its Flex plan. The maximum amount that the district will continue annually to the HCRA is \$500. Any unused flex credits will be forfeited. Due to the monthly administration fee, a minimum of \$5 per pay has been established.

Employees may not use these credits to purchase Optional Employee or Dependent term life or apply toward the dependent care reimbursement accounts or MetLife Voluntary products. Board contribution is not cumulative and Board contribution not used is forfeited.

Eligible married Board employees, both working for the District, who wish to be covered by the same health insurance plan and have at least one additional dependent (total of three persons), may select the Two Board family option.

- I. Insurance Deductions - Premiums for insurance plans are due in advance; therefore deductions begin the month before the insurance effective date. Deductions are taken over twenty (20)

pay periods with no scheduled deductions taken in the summer. In the event that an employee's coverage in any insurance plan is effective after January 1st, or if a change in coverage occurs due to a change in family status, the employee's payroll deduction will be adjusted to ensure that adequate premiums have been collected.

For all insurance programs, payment of premiums does not guarantee that coverage is in effect. Coverage and eligibility are determined by the insurance contract and the policies and procedures of the Risk Management Department. If premiums are collected in error, a refund will be issued. In the event of a discrepancy in coverage, Risk Management records are determinative, unless the employee can provide a copy of an approved enrollment form to the contrary.

Enrollment in a Board benefit plan authorizes the Board to payroll-deduct any and all required insurance premium(s). Employee rates are reflected in the Beneflex Guides.

- J. Payment of Insurance While on Leave - While on an approved, non-FMLA, unpaid leave of absence, employees are required to pay the entire cost of all insurance plans, including Board paid life insurance in order for coverage to continue. Payment must be received by the Risk Management and Insurance Department by the first of each month. Insurance coverage will be canceled for nonpayment if full payment is not received by the due date. When an employee is on an approved Family Medical Leave (FMLA), the employee is responsible only for payment of the portion of premium(s) the employee normally pays. Nonpayment of premiums will result in cancellation of coverage.
- K. Payment of Insurance While Suspended Without Pay - While on suspension without pay, an employee is considered to be on unpaid leave of absence. As such, the employee is entitled to maintain insurance coverage by paying the total cost of insurance. If the employee elects to continue insurance and is reinstated, the employee will be refunded the Board contribution paid during the period of suspension. If the employee elects to

continue insurance and is not reinstated, the insurance will terminate the last day of the month in which the employee is dismissed. If the employee chooses not to continue insurance and is reinstated, insurance will be reinstated the first of the month following the date of the final order and the employee will be responsible for any regular employee contribution.

- L. Retiree Insurance - An employee covered under the Florida Retirement System Defined Benefit Plan who retires with eight (8) years of service and elects to receive a state retirement check is eligible to participate in the retiree insurance program. An employee who retires under the FRS investment plan with eight (8) years of service and is at least fifty-nine and one half (59 ½) year of age or has completed thirty (30) or more years of service may participate in the retiree insurance program. Benefit election must be made within thirty (30) days of the effective date of retirement. Employees who do not enroll at retirement shall be ineligible for future participation in the Board retiree insurance program.

Retirees may only continue the health insurance in effect at the time of retirement. Basic board provided life insurance benefits may be continued or decreased but may not be increased. Life insurance benefits are subject to age reduction formulas as determined by the carrier. Retirees may also maintain dental coverage only as allowed by the provider and may also maintain coverage in the vision plan. Accidental death and dismemberment and Optional term life insurance benefits may be continued as an individual contract subject to insurance company procedures. Income protection coverage ends upon retirement.

Retirees may make changes in coverage in accordance with carrier guidelines.

- M. Employee Assistance Program - The Board provides an Employee Assistance Plan (EAP) to all part and full-time employees, and family members living with an employee. Employees and family members may utilize the EAP even if they are not enrolled in the

Board health plan. Participation in the EAP is voluntary and all records and discussions with the EAP are confidential.

- N. Voluntary Retirement Programs - Pinellas County Schools provides eligible employees an optional 403(b), 457 and Roth deferred compensation programs. The Board is not responsible for the actions of nor recommends any company or investment product. Contributions must be made through payroll deduction and therefore are considered a salary reduction. Change requests must be in writing on the appropriate form to the attention of Risk Management & Insurance.
- O. Workers' Compensation - The Board provides Workers' Compensation benefits pursuant to Florida Statute, Chapter 440. Workers' Compensation indemnity benefits paid in combination with an employee's sick leave or vacation time shall not exceed the employee's bi-weekly salary. Whenever possible the Board will provide for up to ninety (90) days, light or modified duty for any employee returning to work after a job-related injury. Reasonable accommodations will be made in accordance with restrictions of the authorized treating physician. The employee is required to report for work on the day indicated by the authorized treating physician.
- P. Employee Benefit Guidelines - All other provisions regulating group benefits shall be governed by the policies and procedures of the Risk Management Department, insurance contracts, and this Agreement.
- Q. Dental Coverage - The Board will contribute towards the cost of optional dental coverage. The annual amount will be determined through the bargaining process.
- R. Vision Coverage – The Board will provide Employee Only vision coverage to all benefit eligible employees at no cost (employees must enroll). Employees may elect to cover a spouse and/or dependents through voluntary payroll deduction or flex credits.

- S. Employee Benefit Guidelines – All other provisions regulating group benefits shall be governed by the policies and procedures of the Risk Management Department, insurance contracts, and this Agreement.

ARTICLE 19 TERMINAL PAY

A. **Receipt of Benefit**

Employees (other than those in their initial probationary period) shall be entitled to pay for unused accrued vacation hours at time of termination for any reason.

B. **Terminal Pay**

Terminal pay shall be granted to an employee at retirement or to their beneficiary if service is terminated by death. "Retirement" shall mean eligibility for retirement benefits under the Florida Retirement System (FRS), at normal retirement or disability retirement as provided by law. Evidence of service retirement shall be determined by a signed copy of the "Application for Service Retirement." Evidence of disability retirement shall be determined by a statement of disability from the retirement office. Payment for such terminal pay benefits shall be as follows:

1. **Termination by Retirement or upon death:** The employee, upon retirement or their beneficiary upon death shall receive payment for unused accrued sick leave under the following formula:

During the first 3 years	35%
Years 4 through 6	40%
Years 7 through 9	45%
Years 10 through 12	50%
Years 13 through 15	75%
Years 16 through 20	85%
Years 21 through 24	95%
Years 25 and after	100%

ARTICLE 20 DEDUCTIONS FROM SALARY

A. Authorization to Deduct

Payroll deductions shall be made by the Board when authorization has been given by the employee for insurance coverage and other benefits available under Article 18 as well as Credit Union, Workplace United Giving Campaign, direct deposit, Pinellas Education Foundation, tax sheltered annuities. The Association will be granted one payroll slot for non-district sponsored benefits provided under Article 18. The Association may request additional payroll slots for non- district sponsored benefits, and while not required to be granted, will be given careful consideration by the district. In all cases, the vendor must utilize electronic files and not cause any undue hardship on the district.

B. Termination of Deduction

Any deduction shall be terminable according to the terms of the authorization or upon written notice by the employee within thirty (30) calendar days or upon cessation of employment.

ARTICLE 21 GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Board Policy Consistent with Terms of Agreement

If any provision of this Agreement or any application of this Agreement to any employee or group of employees is held to be contrary to law, then such provision or application shall not be deemed valid and subsisting, except to the extent permitted by law, but all other provisions or applications shall continue in full force and effect. In the event of any conflict between this Agreement and Board Policy (which is expressly not incorporated herein), this Agreement shall prevail.

This Agreement shall supersede any policies, rules, regulations, or practices of the Board which shall be contrary to or inconsistent with the terms of this Agreement.

B. Printing Agreement

The Agreement shall be made available on the district web site and can be downloaded at the desire of the employee.

C. Notice

Whenever any notice is required to be given by either of the parties to this Agreement to the other, pursuant to the provision(s) of this Agreement, either party shall do so at the following addresses:

1. If by the Association, to the Board at 301 Fourth Street SW, Largo, FL 33770.
2. If by the Board, to the Association at 650 Seminole Boulevard, Largo, FL 33770.

D. Negotiations with Recognized Bargaining Agent

The Board agrees not to negotiate concerning said employees in the negotiating unit as defined in ARTICLE 1 of this Agreement, with any other organization other than the Association for the duration of this Agreement.

E. Requirement for Renegotiations

The parties mutually agree that the terms and conditions set forth herein represent the full and complete understanding between the parties, that all negotiable items have been discussed leading to this Agreement, therefore that negotiations will not be reopened during the life of the Agreement except as outlined in Article 22 or more frequently if special circumstances dictate.

F. Omission or Oversight in Preparation of Agreement

No employee employed within the bargaining unit shall, as a result of clerical omission or oversight in the preparation of this document, suffer a reduction in pay or lose experience credit previously granted, or to be otherwise deprived of any economic advantage enjoyed during employment in the 2021-2024 school year.

G. Conformity with State Statutes

All procedures of bargaining shall be conducted according to the rules established by the Public Employees Relations Commission. Bargaining shall be conducted in accordance with Florida State Statute, Chapter 447, and in a manner that guarantees the implementation of Article I, Section 6 of the Florida Constitution as provided for in Florida Statute.

H. Management Rights

Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, the operation and management of the schools, and all other activities of the Board, and the direction of employees remain exclusively with the Board. The School Board likewise retains all rights to establish and administer school policy insofar as such is not expressly inconsistent with this Agreement.

ARTICLE 22 DURATION OF AGREEMENT

A. Duration Period

This Agreement shall become effective when executed and ratified by the Association and approved by the Board and shall continue in full force and effect until the 30th day of June, 2027, unless amended as herein provided.

The Agreement shall be amended at any time during its term by mutual consent and ratification of parties as provided in Article 2 of this Agreement. However, the Administration and Board may stipulate on matters not expressly provided for in the Agreement by means of a written memorandum of understanding between the Board and the Association. A memorandum of understanding is binding upon execution by the Superintendent and the Association President but requires subsequent ratification unless its duration is for a period of one year or less.

ARTICLE 23 LICENSING & PRE-K

- A. For any of the below certifications paid through June 30, 2025, the Board will pay the cost of renewal of the following license/certification:

- Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant license to the Department of Health (\$60 every two years)
 - Registered Physical Therapist Assistant license to the Department of Health (\$135 every two years)
 - Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) (\$55 every two years)
 - Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) license to the Board of Nursing (\$75 every two years)
 - For CDAs--any course not offered through the district to fulfill the 15-hour literacy requirement and VPK standards, the district will pay the cost of taking the course offered by the Department of Children and Families
- B. The Board will continue to provide free Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 education for employees' children, to 'sunset' on June 30, 2025.

APPENDIX A - JOB CLASSIFICATIONS (BY ALPHA ORDER)

Job Title	Pay Grade
Account Clerk	D09
Accounts Payable Coordinator	D11
Agricultural Docent	D07
Animal Caretaker	D05
Assistant to Bookkeeper	D07
Attendance Progress Assistant	D08
Attendance Specialist	D11
Auditor	D13
Background Technical Specialist	D09
Behavior Technician	D09
Benefits Analyst	D13
Benefits Assistant	D10
Bilingual Assistant I	D05
Bilingual Specialist	D11
Bilingual Translator	D10
Bookstore Assistant	D07
Braille Transcriber Level I-Provisional	D09
Braille Transcriber Level II-Credentialed	D10
Braille Transcriber Level II-Professional	D11
Buyer I	D10
Buyer II	D11
Campus Activities Monitor	D11
Central Information Receptionist	D07
Central Printing Services Assistant	D09
Cert Occupational Therapy Asst	D12
Certification Clerk	D10
Certified Nursing Assistant	D07
Child Development Associate	D09
Clerical Assistant	D05
Clerk Specialist I	D07
Clerk Specialist II	D08
Clerk Typist 1	D05
Clerk Typist Evening	D07

Job Title	Pay Grade
Clerk Typist II	D07
Community Outreach Partner	D10
Computer Operator	D10
Computer Support Analyst	D12
Computer Support Assistant	D09
Customer Service Representative	D08
Data Management Technician	D08
Document Systems Operator	D09
Edu Interpreter DHH I – Provision	D10
Edu Interpreter DHH II – Credentialed	D12
Edu Interpreter DHH III – Professional	D14
Family & Community Liaison	D07
Graphic Designer	D11
Group Asst Child Care Program	D06
Group Leader Child Care Program	D09
Human Resources Representative	D10
Infant Toddler Specialist	D12
Intern	-----
Internal Accounts Technician	D11
Leave Specialist	D09
Library Media Assistant	D05
Licensed Practical Nurse	D10
Mail Services Tech	D09
Medical/Behavioral Assistant	D07
Paraprofessional	D07
Payroll Coordinator	D11
Payroll Technician	D10
Physical Education Assistant	D07
Placement Coordinator	D12
Property Control Clerk	D09
Purchasing Analyst	D13
Purchasing Technician	D11
Records Retention Assistant	D08
Records Retention Clerk	D07
Registered Physical Therapy Assistant	D12
Risk Management Technician	D11

Job Title	Pay Grade
School Bookkeeper I	D08
School Bookkeeper II	D10
School Office Clerk I	D07
School Office Clerk II	D08
Secretary I	D06
Secretary II	D07
Secretary III	D08
Secretary IV	D11
Senior Account Clerk	D10
Senior Computer Operator	D12
Senior Data Management Technician	D10
Senior Data Management Technician – Medicaid	D10
Senior Document Systems Operator	D11
Senior Payroll Technician	D11
Senior Risk Management Tech	D12
Senior User Support Technician	D11
Senior Word Processing Operator	D08
Service Contracts Technician	D10
Staff Accountant	D11
Student Reporting Assistant	D10
Student Testing Coordinator	D10
Substitute Placement Specialist	D10
Teacher Assistant	D05
Technology Technician	D10
Title I Support Assistant	D07
Transc Assistant Visually Impaired	D09
Transportation Routing Coordinator	D13
User Support Technician	D10
Vision Auditory Screening Assistant	D05
Word Processing Operator	D07

APPENDIX B - JOB CLASSIFICATIONS (BY PAY GRADE)

Pay Grade	Job Title
-	Intern
D05	Animal Caretaker, Bilingual Assistant I, Clerical Assistant, Clerk Typist I, Library Media Assistant, Teacher Assistant, Vision Auditory Screening Assistant
D06	Group Assistant Child Care Program, Secretary I
D07	Agricultural Docent, Assistant to Bookkeeper, Bookstore Assistant, Central Information Receptionist, Certified Nursing Assistant, Clerk Specialist I, Clerk Typist Evening, Clerk Typist II, Family & Community Liaison, Medical/Behavioral Assistant, Paraprofessional, Physical Education Assistant, Records Retention Clerk, School Office Clerk I, Secretary II, Title I Support Assistant, Word Processing Operator
D08	Attendance Progress Assistant, Clerk Specialist II, Customer Service Representative, Data Management Technician, Records Retention Assistant, School Bookkeeper I, School Office Clerk II, Secretary III, Senior Word Processing Operator
D09	Account Clerk, Background Technical Specialist, Behavior Technician, Braille Transcriber Level I-Provisional, Central Printing Services Assistant, Child Development Associate, Computer Support Assistant, Document Systems Operator, Group Leader Child Care Program, Leave Specialist, Mail Services Tech, Property Control Clerk, Transc Assistant Visually Impaired

D10	Benefits Assistant, Bilingual Translator, Braille Transcriber Level II-Credentialed, Buyer I, Certification Clerk, Computer Operator, Community Outreach Partner, Edu Interpreter DHH I – Provision, Human Resources Representative, Licensed Practical Nurse, Payroll Technician, School Bookkeeper II, Senior Account Clerk, Senior Data Management Technician, Senior Data Management Technician – Medicaid, Service Contracts Technician, Student Reporting Assistant, Student Testing Coordinator, Substitute Placement Specialist, Technology Technician, User Support Technician
D11	Accounts Payable Coordinator, Attendance Specialist, Bilingual Specialist, Braille Transcriber Level III-Professional, Buyer II, Campus Activities Monitor, Graphic Designer, Internal Accounts Technician, Payroll Coordinator, Purchasing Technician, Risk Management Technician, Secretary IV, Senior Document Systems Operator, Senior Payroll Technician, Senior User Support Technician, Staff Accountant
D12	Cert Occupational Therapy Asst, Computer Support Analyst, Edu Interpreter DHH II – Credentialed, Infant Toddler Specialist, Placement Coordinator, Registered Physical Therapy Assistant, Senior Computer Operator, Senior Risk Management Tech
D13	Auditor, Benefits Analyst, Purchasing Analyst, Transportation Routing Coordinator
D14	Edu Interpreter DHH III - Professional

APPENDIX C – GRIEVANCE FORM

PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD and PINELLAS EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION-FEA GRIEVANCE FORM

Name of Grievant: _____

Work Site/ Address/Phone: _____

Home Address: _____

Personal Phone: _____

Personal Email: _____

Grievance Representative's Name: _____

Phone: _____

Date cause of grievance occurred: _____

Provision of Contract allegedly or School Board policy violated
(specify Articles(s) and Sections):

Statement of Grievance: _____

Relief Sought: _____

Signature of Grievant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Receiving Official: _____ Title: _____

Printed Name: _____ Date: _____

Level 1 filed: _____ Level 2 filed: _____ Level 3 filed _____

APPENDIX D – 2024/2025 SALARY SCHEDULE



NON-EXEMPT PESPA SALARY SCHEDULE "D"

2024/2025 School Year

PESPA SUPPORT STAFF HOURLY RATES*

Pay Grade	Level E	Level F	Level G	Level H	Level I	Level J	Level K	Level L	Level M	Level N	Level O	Level P	Level Q	Level R	Level S	Level T	Level U
5	15.0000	15.7500	16.2000	16.2375	16.2750	16.3125	16.3500	16.3875	16.4250	16.6624	17.1788	17.7074	18.2609	18.8266	19.4168	20.0194	20.6466
6	15.0000	15.7500	16.3125	16.3500	16.3875	16.4250	16.6499	17.1663	17.6953	18.2487	18.8142	19.4044	20.0071	20.6341	21.2861	21.9500	22.6386
7	15.0000	15.7500	16.4250	16.6378	17.1543	17.6830	18.2362	18.8020	19.3923	19.9947	20.6219	21.2737	21.9378	22.6262	23.3395	24.0772	24.8397
8	16.3568	17.1068	17.8429	18.2362	18.8020	19.3923	19.9947	20.6219	21.2737	21.9378	22.6262	23.3395	24.0772	24.8397	25.6269	26.4384	27.2746
9	17.9806	18.7306	19.5397	19.9702	20.5974	21.2367	21.9008	22.5895	23.3027	24.0404	24.8029	25.5898	26.4014	27.2376	28.0984	28.9839	29.9060
10	19.7928	20.5428	21.4335	21.9008	22.5895	23.3027	24.0404	24.8029	25.5898	26.4014	27.2376	28.0984	28.9839	29.9060	30.8530	31.8366	32.8452
11	21.7580	22.5080	23.4871	24.0159	24.7660	25.5406	26.3523	27.1886	28.0493	28.9347	29.8446	30.7916	31.7631	32.7713	33.8165	34.8864	35.9930
12	23.9350	24.6850	25.7621	26.3276	27.1639	28.0247	28.9100	29.8200	30.7670	31.7384	32.7468	33.7919	34.8618	35.9685	37.1121	38.2926	39.5101
13	26.3238	27.0738	28.2584	28.8978	29.8079	30.7546	31.7259	32.7345	33.7795	34.8495	35.9563	37.0999	38.2804	39.4978	40.7521	42.0555	43.3958
14	28.9478	29.6978	31.0005	31.7014	32.7098	33.7428	34.8126	35.9194	37.0629	38.2435	39.4609	40.7152	42.0187	43.3590	44.7487	46.1751	47.6507

With rounding to 4 decimal places

08/21/24 Board Approved

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the following Ratification by PESPA on August 8, 2024, and approved by the School Board on August 21, 2024, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be signed and attested by their respective representatives to be effective for the time period July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2027.

The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida

By: Kevin K. Hendrick
Kevin K. Hendrick, Superintendent

Date: 8/21/2024

By: Scott Barnum
Nelly Henjes, President
Scott Barnum

Date: 8/21/2024

By: Laura Hine
Laura Hine, Chairperson

Date: 8/21/2024