Excelsior Charter Schools

Personnel Rules & Employee Handbook

2026-2027 School Year

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I. Introduction

This Handbook summarizes Excelsior Charter School's ("Excelsior") personnel policies applicable to all employees, volunteers, independent contractors, vendors and visitors. Please review these policies carefully. If you have any questions about the policies outlined in this Handbook or if you have any other personnel related questions, whether related to policies specifically addressed in this Handbook, please consult your supervisor and/or Human Resources**.**

This Handbook is intended only as a guide to Excelsior's personnel policies, outlining and highlighting those policies and practices. It is not, therefore, intended to create any expectations of continued employment, or an employment contract, express or implied. This Handbook supersedes any previously issued handbooks, policies, benefit statements and/or memoranda, whether written or verbal, including those that are inconsistent with the policies described herein.

Excelsior reserves the right to alter, modify, amend, delete and/or supplement any employment policy or practice (including, but not limited to, areas involving hiring policies and procedures, general workplace policies, hours of work, overtime and attendance, standards of conduct, employee benefits, employment evaluation and separation) with or without notice to you.

Once you have reviewed this Handbook, please sign the employee acknowledgement form at the end of this Handbook, keep a copy for your files and provide the original to Human Resources. This signed acknowledgement demonstrates to Excelsior that you have read, understand and agree to comply with the policies outlined in the Handbook.

II. Hiring Policies and Procedures

A. At-Will Employment Status

Except if stated expressly otherwise by an employment agreement, it is the policy of Excelsior that all employees are considered "at-will" employees. Accordingly, either Excelsior or the employee can terminate the at-will employment relationship at any time, for any reason, with or without cause, and with or without advance notice. No one other than the Excelsior Board of Directors ("Board") has the authority to enter into any agreement, express or implied, for employment for any specific period of time, or to make any agreement for employment other than at-will. Only the Board has the authority to make any such agreement and then only in writing signed by the Board President.

B. Equal Employment Opportunity Policy

Excelsior is an equal opportunity employer. It is the policy of Excelsior to afford equal employment and advancement opportunities to all qualified individuals without discrimination with regard to race, religious creed (which includes religious dress and grooming practices), color, national origin (including possessing a driver's license issued under Vehicle Code Section 12801.9), ethnicity, ancestry, sex (which includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and related conditions), gender, gender identity, gender expression, transgender status, transitioning status, sexual orientation, sex stereotype, age, physical or mental disability, marital status, enrollment in any public assistance program, citizenship status, medical condition, genetic characteristics, genetic information, family care, military or veteran or qualified disabled veteran status, status as an unpaid intern or volunteer, or any other legally protected status. These categories include a perception that the individual has any of these characteristics or is associated with a person who has (or is perceived to

have) any of these characteristics. This policy extends to all employees and to all aspects of the employment relationship, including the hiring of new employees and the training, transfer, promotion, compensation and benefits of existing employees. Furthermore, Excelsior prohibits all unlawful discrimination against any employee or applicant for employment in its programs or activities based on any legally protected status stated herein or otherwise protected by law.

Excelsior Charter Schools is committed to maintaining a work environment which is free from discrimination, harassment, bullying and retaliation. In accordance with applicable law, Excelsior Charter Schools prohibits all forms of unlawful harassment of a sexual or other discriminatory nature. Any conduct contrary to this policy is prohibited. This policy applies to all applicants and employees of the School.

To comply with applicable laws ensuring equal employment opportunities to qualified individuals with a disability, Excelsior will make reasonable accommodations for the known physical or mental limitations of an otherwise qualified individual with a disability who is an applicant or an employee unless undue hardship would result. In order to perform the essential functions of the job, any applicant or employee requiring an accommodation should contact Human Resources and request such an accommodation specifying what accommodation he or she needs to perform the job. The School will analyze the situation, engage in an interactive process with the individual, and respond to the individual's request.

If you believe prohibited discrimination has occurred, please follow the complaint procedure outlined in Section III.A., *Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation Prevention Policy*.

C. Immigration Compliance

Excelsior does not discriminate against any individual because of his or her national origin, citizenship or intent to become a U.S. citizen in compliance with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. It is, however, the policy of Excelsior to only employ those individuals that are authorized to work in the United States.

New employees, as a condition of employment, must complete the Employment Eligibility Verification Form I-9 and present original documentation establishing identity and employment eligibility as outlined on the I-9 instruction forms. Former employees who are rehired must also complete the form if they have not completed an I-9 with Excelsior within the past three years or if the previous I-9 is no longer retained or valid.

D. Relationships Between Employees

Excelsior's policies do not permit discrimination based on an individual's marital status, the individual's relations to another Excelsior employee or his or her lawful off duty conduct. However, some situations can create conflicts of interest requiring Excelsior to take the employee's relationship with another employee into account.

An employee should not be in a supervisory role with another employee who is a relative (i.e., sibling, parent, spouse, domestic partner, etc.). Supervisors should avoid situations that result in actual or perceived conflicts of interest with supervised employees and situations of favoritism.

A supervisor should avoid forming special social relationships or dating employees under his or her direct

supervision, or with other employees that would create actual or perceived conflicts of interest and situations of favoritism. If such relationship arises, both employees should notify Excelsior so that appropriate measures can be taken to prevent conflicts of interest or favoritism.

Excelsior reserves the right to take appropriate action if employee relationships interfere with the safety, morale or security of Excelsior, or if the relationship creates an actual or perceived conflict of interest or favoritism.

E. Certification and Licensure of Instructional Staff

Each of Excelsior's core academic teachers shall be required to hold a current California Commission on Teacher Credentialing certificate, permit or other document equivalent to that which a teacher in other public schools would be required to hold and shall be required to meet certain federal requirements related to subject-matter expertise in order to meet federal requirements for "highly qualified teachers." Paraprofessional staff may also be required to document that they meet federal requirements for paraprofessional staff.

It is the responsibility and a condition of continued employment of all instructional staff, including teachers and paraprofessionals to maintain the appropriate credential, certificate, permit or other documentation required for their respective position and to ensure that a current copy is on file in Human Resources at all times.

Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the following:

1. Change of status from Teacher to Substitute Teacher
2. Reduction in pay from Certificated Pay Schedule to Substitute Hourly Rate of Pay
3. Loss of health and welfare benefits
4. Loss of other Excelsior benefits

On occasion an instructional staff employee may be asked to teach a subject outside of their subject matter content area, on these occasions they will be asked to sign a letter of consent. Letters of consent will remain valid throughout the current school year. If an instructional staff employee believes that they are not capable of teaching outside of their subject matter competency, the employee should immediately report the situation to their Supervisor and/or Human Resources**.**

Staff who are required to meet these state and federal certifications, expertise, and related requirements must maintain such qualifications as a condition of employment at Excelsior.

CPR Certification Requirement

CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) certification is required for all employees who work with children and a current copy of the CPR certification must be kept on file in the human resources department at all times.

Although Excelsior may offer CPR training from time to time, the employee is responsible for obtaining CPR certification and recertification that meets the standards for Adult and Child CPR, at the employee's own expense. Failure to provide current CPR certification documentation to the human resources department by the due date could affect the employee's employment status with Excelsior.

F. Athletic Team Coaches

All employees coaching or supervising athletic teams shall be required to have received appropriate training and demonstrate competency in the care and the prevention of athletic injuries, basic sports injury first aide, emergency procedures, coaching techniques and the rules and regulations of the athletic activity being coached. The Superintendent or designee shall specify criteria, in accordance with state regulation, for determining competencies in these areas.

The Superintendent or designee may waive specific competency requirements for persons who enroll and successfully complete appropriate training programs or courses leading to acquisition of the competency. All such persons serve under the direct supervision of a fully qualified temporary athletic team coach until the required competencies are met.

G. Tuberculosis Risk Assessment or Testing

Before the first day of employment, all new employees must have had a tuberculosis test as described in Education Code 49406 or a TB Risk Assessment (pursuant to AB1667) within the past 60 days. Employees transferring from other public or private schools within the State of California must either provide proof of an examination or a completed Risk Assessment within the previous 60 days or a certification showing that he or she was examined within the past four (4) years and was found to be free of communicable tuberculosis. The current physician's statement or Risk Assessment must be on file in the office before the first day of employment. Failure to provide documentation on time may result in delay of your ability to begin work or termination.

All individuals who volunteer at any Excelsior site or facility are required to provide a tuberculosis (TB) certificate of clearance prior to commencing their volunteer services and must renew their certificates at least once every four years.

No employee may work without a valid TB certificate or risk assessment on file showing the employee was examined and found to be free from active tuberculosis. If the certificate expires and the employee has not shown proof of a negative examination or risk assessment, the employee may not be at work until a valid certificate has been submitted to the Human Resources Department. This may result in unpaid time.

The Human Resource Department shall have responsibility for communicating this requirement to all new hires and providing them with a testing information.

The examination for applicants for employment is a condition of initial employment. The cost of the examination required of new and existing employees may be paid for by Excelsior under the following conditions:

1. Employee must go to an authorized vendor (as recommended by the Human Resources Department).
2. Gas mileage is not a reimbursable expense and shall be paid for by the employee.
3. Should the employee choose to use a vendor other than that authorized by Excelsior, the employee shall pay the cost.

The County Health Department may provide skin testing to employees at regular intervals at no cost to the employee. The availability of this testing may be announced by Excelsior.

H. Criminal Background Checks

As a condition of employment, Excelsior requires all applicants for employment to submit two sets of fingerprints to the Department of Justice for the purpose of obtaining criminal record summary information from the Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation. Excelsior will not employ a person who has been convicted of a violent or serious felony or a person who would be prohibited from employment under applicable laws because of his or her conviction for any crime, unless an applicable exception applies. Excelsior will not employ any applicant until the Department of Justice completes its check of the state criminal history file as provided by law. Excelsior shall also request subsequent arrest notification from the Department of Justice and take all necessary action based upon such further notification.

III. General Workplace Policies

A. Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation Prevention Policy

It is the policy of Excelsior to ensure equal employment opportunity without harassment or discrimination based on the basis of race, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding and related medical conditions and is not limited to, a decision to use or access a particular drug, device, product or medical service for reproductive health), color, gender, gender identity, gender expression, immigration/citizenship status or related protected activities (which includes undocumented individuals and human trafficking), national origin (which includes but is not limited to, national origin groups and aspects of national origin, such as height, weight, accent, or language proficiency), ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, registered domestic partner status, age, sexual orientation, military or veteran status or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state or local laws, ordinances, or regulations. These categories include a perception that the individual has any of these characteristics or is associated with a person who has (or is perceived to have any of these characteristics).

Excelsior prohibits any such discrimination or harassment. In addition, we prohibit abusive conduct/workplace bullying in the work environment. It is our mission to provide a professional work and learning environment free of harassment, discrimination and/or workplace bullying that maintains equality, dignity, and respect for all. It shall be a violation of this policy for any student, teacher, administrator, or other employee, including unpaid interns and volunteers of Excelsior to harass, discriminate against or engage in abusive conduct towards other students, teachers, administrators, (including unpaid interns and volunteers) or other employees or anyone associated with Excelsior through conduct or communication. Excelsior will take all reasonable steps to prevent or eliminate unlawful harassment by non-employees, including students, parents, vendors or other third parties, who have workplace contact with our employees. This policy applies to all applicants and employees (or other listed individuals), whether related to conduct engaged in by fellow employees or someone not directly connected to Excelsior (e.g. an outside vendor, consultant or customer). Conduct prohibited by these policies is unacceptable in the workplace and in any work-related setting outside the workplace, such as during business or field trips, meetings and business or school-related social events. The term employee includes teachers, classified staff, administrators, unpaid interns and volunteers.

What is Harassment?

Harassment can take many forms. As used in this Employee Handbook, the terms “discrimination” and “harassment” includes all unwelcome conduct that comprises:

- Offensive remarks, comments, jokes or slurs pertaining to an individual's race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity or expression, age, national origin or ancestry, disability, citizenship, veteran status, or any other protected status as defined by law or regulation whether verbally or by electronic means including email and/or text messages
- Offensive sexual remarks, sexual advances, flirtations, or requests for sexual favors regardless of the gender of the individuals involved and whether verbally or by electronic means
- Offensive physical conduct, including touching, regardless of the gender of the individuals involved, including threats of harm, violence, or assault
- Offensive pictures, drawings or photographs or other communications, including email, text messages, or other forms of electronic communication
- Holding company functions in inappropriate venues, sex or gender based practical jokes, sexual favoritism
- Threatening reprisals due to an employee's refusal to respond to requests for sexual favors or for reporting a violation of this policy
- Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, regardless of gender, when:
  - Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment
  - Submission to, or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment decisions affecting such individual;
  - Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with the individual's work performance or creating an intimidating hostile or offensive working environment.

What is abusive conduct/workplace bullying?

- Conduct of an employer or employee in the workplace, with malice, that a reasonable person would find hostile, threatening, intimidating, humiliating and unrelated to an employer's legitimate business interests.
  - Use of derogatory remarks, insults and/or epithets
  - Verbal or physical conduct that sabotages or undermines a person's work performance that is threatening, humiliating or intimidating.
- Malice is defined as conduct which is "intended by the perpetrator to cause injury to the victim or despicable conduct which is carried on by the perpetrator with a willful and conscious disregard of the rights or safety of others." (CA Civil Code 3294(c)(1))

Responsibility

All Excelsior employees have a responsibility for keeping our work environment free of harassment, discrimination and abusive conduct.

Reporting

Excelsior encourages reporting of all perceived incidents of discrimination, harassment, abusive conduct or retaliation, regardless of the offender's identity or position. Individuals who believe that they have been the victims of such conduct should discuss their concerns with their immediate supervisor or contact the Human Resources Department. In addition, Excelsior encourages individuals who believe they are being subjected to such conduct to promptly advise the offender that his or her behavior is unwelcome and request that it be discontinued. Often this action alone will resolve the problem. Excelsior recognizes, however, that an individual may prefer to pursue the matter through formal complaint procedures. Every effort will be made

to keep such reports as confidential as possible, although it is understood that an investigation will normally require the involvement of third parties. Excelsior is serious about enforcing its policy against harassment; however, Excelsior cannot resolve a harassment problem that it does not know about. Therefore, employees are responsible for bringing any such problems to Excelsior's attention, so it can take whatever steps are necessary to correct the problems.

Retaliation against an individual for reporting harassment, discrimination, abusive conduct or for participating in an investigation of a claim is a serious violation of this policy and, like harassment or discrimination itself, will be subject to disciplinary action. Acts of retaliation should be reported immediately and will be promptly investigated and addressed.

Conclusion

This policy was developed to ensure that all employees could work in an environment free from harassment, discrimination, abusive conduct, and retaliation. Excelsior will make every reasonable effort to ensure that all concerned are familiar with these policies and aware that any complaint in violation of such policies is investigated and resolved appropriately. Any employee who has questions or concerns about these policies should talk with the Assistant Superintendent of School Administrative Services or contact Human Resources. Finally, these policies should not, and may not, be used as a basis for excluding or separating individuals of a particular gender, or any other protected characteristic, from participating in business or work-related social activities or discussions. In other words, no one should make the mistake of engaging in discrimination or exclusion in order to avoid allegations of harassment. The law and the policies of Excelsior prohibit disparate treatment on the basis of sex or any other protected characteristic, with regard to terms, conditions, privileges and perquisites of employment. The prohibitions against harassment, discrimination, abusive conduct, and retaliation are intended to complement and further those policies, not to form the basis of an exception to them.

If you believe you have experienced discrimination, harassment, or abusive conduct you may file a Department of Fair Employment and Housing ("DFEH") or Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") complaint. For information contact the DFEH or EEOC. You may find their phone numbers in the phone directory.

B. Workplace Violence

Excelsior takes the safety and security of its employees seriously and believes that the safety and security of employees and students is paramount. Therefore, Excelsior has adopted this policy regarding workplace violence to help maintain a secure workplace.

Acts or threats of physical violence, including intimidation, harassment and/or coercion, that involve or affect Excelsior, occur on Excelsior's property, or occur in the conduct of Excelsior business off property, will not be tolerated. The prohibition against threats and acts of violence applies to all persons involved in Excelsior's operations, including but not limited to Excelsior students, parents, employees, independent contractors, temporary employees, vendors, and anyone else on Excelsior property or conducting Excelsior business off property. Violations of this policy, by an individual, may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination and/or legal action as appropriate. Suspicious persons or activities should be reported to the Human Resources Department.

Secure your desk or office at the end of the day. When called away from your work area for an extended

length of time, do not leave valuables and/or personal articles in or around your workstation that may be accessible. The security of facilities and the welfare of Excelsior's students and employees depend on the alertness and sensitivity of every individual to potential security risks. You should immediately notify the Human Resources Department when any person(s) are acting in a suspicious manner in or around the facilities or when keys, security passes, or identification badges are missing.

Workplace Violence Defined

Workplace violence includes, but is not limited to, threats of any kind; threatening, physically aggressive, or violent behavior, such as intimidation or attempts to instill fear in others; other behavior that suggests a propensity toward violence, including belligerent speech, excessive arguing or swearing, sabotage, threats of sabotage of Excelsior property; defacing Excelsior's property or causing physical damage to the facilities; and bringing weapons or firearms of any kind on Excelsior's premises or while conducting Excelsior business.

Enforcement / Complaint Procedure

Any person who violates this policy on Excelsior property may be removed from the premises as quickly and safely as possible, at Excelsior's discretion, and may be required to remain off Excelsior's premises pending the outcome of an investigation of the incident.

If an employee becomes aware of an imminent act of violence, a threat of imminent violence, or actual violence, emergency assistance must be sought immediately. In such situations, the employee should contact the law enforcement authorities by dialing 911. Immediately after contacting the law enforcement authorities, the employee must report the incident to the School Administrator or the Human Resources Department.

In all other situations, if any employee observes or becomes aware of any of the above listed actions or behaviors by an employee, student, parent, visitor, or anyone else, he or she must immediately notify his or her supervisor and/or the Human Resources Department. Furthermore, employees should notify the Human Resources Department if any restraining order is in effect or if a potentially violent non-work-related situation exists that could result in violence in the workplace.

All reports of workplace violence will be taken seriously and will be investigated promptly and thoroughly. In appropriate circumstances, Excelsior will inform the reporting individual of the results of the investigation. To the extent feasible, Excelsior will maintain the confidentiality of the reporting employee. However, Excelsior may need to disclose information in appropriate circumstances (for example, in order to protect individual safety). Excelsior will not tolerate retaliation against any employee who reports workplace violence.

Compliance with this anti-violence policy is a condition of employment. Due to the importance of this policy, employees who violate any of its terms, who engage in or contribute to violent behavior, or who threaten others with violence may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including immediate termination.

The School maintains a Workplace Violence Prevention Plan, which is accessible via the School's web site at any time. If you have questions about this Plan, please contact the Director and/or Assistant Director.

C. Open Door Policy

Excelsior is committed to provide the most positive and productive work environment possible. To that end, it has an open door policy where it welcomes employee questions, suggestions or complaints relating to the employee's job or conditions of employment. Other than in situations involving unlawful harassment (as outlined and described above), employees should contact their supervisor with their questions or concerns. If the situation is not resolved to the employee's satisfaction, they should contact the Human Resources Department that will further investigate the issue.

D. Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace

Our employees are our most valuable resource, and their own health and safety are therefore serious concerns. We will not tolerate any drug or alcohol related conduct that imperils the health and well being of our employees. Further, the use of illegal drugs and abuse of controlled substances is inconsistent with law-abiding behavior expected of all citizens. Employees who use illegal drugs or abuse other controlled substances or alcohol tend to be less productive, less reliable, and prone to greater absenteeism resulting in the potential for increased cost and risk.

We believe our employees have the right to work in an alcohol and drug-free environment and to work with persons free from the effects of alcohol and drugs. Employees who abuse alcohol or drugs are a danger to themselves and to other employees. We are therefore committed to maintaining a safe and healthy workplace free from the influence of alcohol and drugs. We hope all employees will join with us in achieving our goal of a safe and productive drug-free workplace.

Possession or use of marijuana remains unlawful under federal law. Although California has legalized marijuana for medicinal and recreational purposes, the Company is not required to allow the medicinal or recreational use of marijuana in the workplace. Use or being under the influence of marijuana is strictly prohibited while on work time and may result in discipline, up to and including discharge. A California Medical Marijuana Identification Card is not sufficient to overcome these prohibitions. If you have a medical issue for which your doctor wants to prescribe marijuana, you may bring this to our attention and we will work with you to consider any available leave of absence or allow you to find another treatment method that does not cause you to be under the influence of marijuana while working for the Company. We will not accommodate an employee who has already violated this policy and is now subject to disciplinary action.

The School prohibits the following:

- Use, possession, manufacture, distribution, dispensation, purchase, or sale of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia on School premises or School business or during working hours;
- Unauthorized use or possession or any manufacture, distribution, dispensation, purchase, or sale of a controlled substance (including medicinal marijuana) on School premises or School business or during working hours;
- Unauthorized use or possession or any manufacture, distribution, dispensation, purchase, or sale of alcohol on School premises or School business or during working hours;
- Storing in a locker, desk, automobile, or other repository on School premises any controlled substance or alcohol whose use is unauthorized, or any illegal drug or drug paraphernalia;
- Being under the influence of an unauthorized controlled substance, illegal drug, or alcohol on School premises or School business or during working hours;
- Refusing to submit to an inspection when requested by management;
- Failing to adhere to the requirements of any drug or alcohol treatment or counseling program in which the employee is enrolled;

- Conviction under any criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in the workplace;
- Failure to keep all prescribed medicine in its original container, which identifies the drug, date of prescription, and the prescribing doctor.

The School may at times conduct unannounced searches of School property for alcohol, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, and/or unauthorized controlled substances or to ensure compliance with any other School-related policy. This includes desks, storage areas, and rooms normally used to store employees' personal property. As a result, employees do not have an expectation of privacy in this regard.

Violation of this Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination, at the School's sole discretion.

Employees should be aware that participation in a rehabilitation program would not necessarily prevent the imposition of disciplinary action, including termination, for violation of this policy. Employees who undergo voluntary counseling or treatment and who continue to work, if any, must meet all established standards of conduct and job performance.

Compliance with this Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy is a condition of employment at the School. Failure or refusal of an employee to cooperate fully, sign any required document, submit to any inspection, or follow any prescribed course of substance abuse treatment will result in discipline, up to and including termination. Because the use, sale, purchase, possession, or furnishing of an illegally obtained substance is a violation of the law, the School may report such illegal drug activities to an appropriate law enforcement agency.

The School may require a test by intoxicator, blood test, urinalysis, medical examination, or other drug/alcohol screening of those persons whom the School reasonably suspects of using, possessing, or being under the influence of a drug or alcohol.

Any refusal to submit to such testing will be considered a positive screen. An employee's consent to submit to such a test is required as a condition of employment, and an employee's refusal to consent may result in disciplinary action, including termination for a first refusal or any subsequent refusal. The School shall determine the manner in which such testing is conducted with the goal being to ensure that the test results are accurate.

E. Smoking

All Excelsior buildings and facilities are non-smoking/vaping facilities.

F. Health, Safety and Security Policies

Excelsior has a long-standing philosophy of taking pride in its practices to ensure the safety, health and well-being of all of our employees. This program serves to outline our commitment to this philosophy and provide guidance to all employees on the standards the School expects its employees to adhere to.

As a condition of employment, all employees will be required to participate in online safety training, which is relevant to the employee's position and as designated by the supervisor.

Excelsior has also instituted an Injury and Illness Prevention Program designed to protect the health and

safety of all personnel. The Injury and Illness Prevention Program is kept by Human Resources and is available for review.

Fires and Other Emergencies:

The facility where you are assigned has an emergency procedures and evacuation plan to follow in the event of fire or other disaster. These are posted prominently in all rooms and bulletin boards of the facility. Exits, fire extinguishers and first aid kits are located on each floor. All employees are expected to familiarize themselves with the location of such equipment.

On-the-Job Injuries/Illnesses:

Any job-related injury or illness, regardless of severity, must be reported immediately to your supervisor or the Human Resources Department for prompt medical attention as necessary. Your supervisor will complete an initial safety incident report and forward it to Human Resources. Even if you do not feel that you need medical attention, an incident report must be filed.

General Safety Rules:

Our employees perform a wide range of functions in various locations. Although some safety rules apply only to specific positions, all employees are expected to comply with the rules in this procedure:

- Use common sense in performing your duties.
- Report any work injury/illness to your supervisor.
- Report unsafe conditions to your supervisor or safety committee member.
- Do not use any equipment, vehicles or materials when overly tired, nauseated, feverish or under the influence of any substance that may affect your judgment.
- Keep your work area neat and tidy.
- Use mechanical devices or request assistance in lifting heavy loads.
- Wear seat belts when operating any School or rented vehicle or driving your own personal vehicle while on School business.
- Do not use tops of cabinets or bookcases for extra storage or displays.
- Be sure that aisles or exits are kept clear; do not let cords interfere with walkways.
- Keep paper clips, tacks, pins and other objects off the floors.
- Store all sharp objects properly when not in use.
- Open and close doors cautiously and use extra caution at blind hallway intersections.
- Open only one file cabinet drawer at a time to avoid tip-over. Cabinets should also be loaded form bottom to top and emptied in the reverse order.
- Report or clean up all spills immediately.

- Use stepstools, platforms or ladders for climbing. Never use chairs.
- Report or replace frayed electrical cords.

Emergency Evacuation Plans and Re-entry:

In any emergency, employees should follow alarms or other alerts to evacuate the building and/or area near the premises. Always follow the basic evacuation procedures but remember that personal safety is paramount and takes precedence.

- Check work area for anything needing to be secured and store it quickly.
- Secure locks on all secured containers and cabinets.
- Leave your work area and report to your designated assembly area.

Administration will coordinate with fire, police or other emergency preparedness personnel to determine when the building may be re-entered.

Improper Health and Safety Practices:

All employees are expected to abide by safe work practices and adhere to general safety rules to ensure their safety as well as the safety of coworkers.

Infractions of School health and safety practices will be dealt with in accordance with the School's policies on discipline and will be based on the following factors:

- Severity of the infraction.
- Whether the infraction endangered only the employee or coworkers.
- Whether the infraction was a first or repeat violation.

In compliance with Proposition 65, Excelsior will inform all employees of any known exposure to a chemical known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity.

G. Video Surveillance Policy

Video Surveillance Camera Use

Purpose These guidelines implement Board Policy USE OF SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS and ensure consistent, lawful use of surveillance cameras while protecting student and staff privacy.

Key Rules (Summary of Board Policy – Read Full Policy)

- Cameras only in permissible locations (Section A). Never in classrooms during instruction, locker rooms, or restrooms.
- No audio recording at any time.
- 30-day general retention (preserve immediately for incidents/requests).
- Footage is treated as a public record under California law but becomes a confidential student record (protected by FERPA) if used for student discipline.

Authorized Access & Logging (Section I) Only the following may access footage:

- Superintendent/designee
- Principal/designee
- Designated security/SRO
- Maintenance
- IT

Never share passwords or allow unauthorized viewing.

Handling Requests for Footage (Section K) All external requests:

Do **not** release footage yourself.

- **Parent FERPA requests**: Forward to principal. Parents may inspect (not automatically copy) within 30 days if it is their child's education record. Viewing must occur with an administrator present.
- **Law enforcement**: Forward request; provide only after approval and proper documentation (subpoena preferred).

H. School Property Inspections

Excelsior is committed to providing a work environment that is safe and free of illegal drugs, alcohol, firearms, explosives and other improper materials. Additionally, Excelsior provides property and facilities to its employees to carry out business on behalf of Excelsior. Accordingly, employees do not have a reasonable expectation of privacy when using any Excelsior property or facilities. In accordance with these policies, all Excelsior facilities and property, including all items contained therein, may be inspected by Excelsior at any time, with or without prior notice to the employee. Excelsior property includes, but is not limited to, all desks, storage areas, workstations, lockers, file cabinets, computers, telephone systems, email systems and other storage devices.

Excelsior provides all necessary equipment for employees to perform essential job duties. Accordingly, Excelsior is not responsible for any personal property that employees bring to Excelsior or Excelsior sponsored activities.

I. Soliciting/Conducting Personal Business While on Duty

Employees are not permitted to conduct personal business or solicit personal business for any cause or organization while on-duty, or when the employee being solicited is supposed to be working. This prohibition includes distributing literature and other material. Distribution of materials is also against Excelsior's policy if it interferes with access to facility premises, if it results in litter or is conducted in areas where other employees are working. Solicitation during non-work time, e.g., paid breaks, lunch periods or other such non-work periods, is permissible. Entry on Excelsior premises by non-employees is not permitted, unless related to official Excelsior business. Solicitation or distribution of written materials by non-employees is strictly prohibited.

J. Use of School Communication Equipment and Technology

The School's electronic communications systems ("Communications Systems") includes, but is not limited

to, computers, laptops, e-mail, telephones, cellular phones, tablets, PDAs, text messaging, instant messaging, video conferencing, voice mail, facsimiles, and connection to the Internet and other internal or external networks. All Excelsior owned Communication Systems remain the property of Excelsior and are provided to the employee to carry out business on behalf of Excelsior, unless previously authorized for non-business use. Employees have no expectation of privacy in any communications made using Excelsior owned equipment and technology. Communications (including any attached message or data) made using Excelsior owned communications equipment and technology are subject to review, inspection and monitoring at any time by Excelsior.

Additionally, Excelsior uses technology protection measures that protect against Internet access (by both minors and adults) to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, child pornography and/or with respect to use by minors, images harmful to minors. These measures may include, but are not limited to, installing a blocking system to block specific internet sites, setting Internet browsers to block access to adult sites, using a filtering system that will filter all Internet traffic and report potential instances of misuse and using a spam filter.

In addition, employees are required to safeguard their passwords to limit unauthorized use of computers by minors in accordance with the Student Internet Use Policy and Agreement. Employees that do not safeguard their passwords from unauthorized student use, or that allow a student to access computers in violation of the Student Internet Use Policy and Agreement, will be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

Prohibited Use

Internet use is for business purposes only. Users must respect all copyrights and licenses to software and other online information, and may not upload, download, or copy software or other material through the Communications Systems without the prior written authorization of the Superintendent of the School. Employees are not permitted to use Excelsior's Communication Systems to view visual images that are obscene, child pornography and/or images harmful to minors.

The e-mail system and Internet access is not to be used in any way that may be disruptive, harassing or offensive to others, illegal or harmful to morale. Users of the Communications Systems are strictly prohibited from using the Communications Systems to deliver a message that is harassing discriminatory or offensive on the basis of race, religious creed (which includes religious dress and grooming practices), color, national origin (which includes, but is not limited to, national origin groups and aspects of national origin, such as height, weight, accent, or language proficiency), ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex (which includes pregnancy, childbirth, breastfeeding, and related conditions), gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, sexual orientation, veteran status, immigration/citizenship status or related protected activities (which includes undocumented individual and human trafficking) or any other consideration made unlawful by federal, state or local laws, ordinances, or regulations. The School has policies against discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, and those policies apply to the use of the Communications Systems. Users are also prohibited from using the Communications Systems for transmitting or making accessible annoying, offensive, defamatory, or harassing material or intentionally damaging or violating the privacy of information of others. The e-mail system and Internet access is not to be used in any manner that is against the policies of Excelsior, contrary to the best interest of Excelsior or for personal gain or profit of the employee against the interests of Excelsior. Employees must not use Excelsior's communications equipment and technology for the unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal information regarding students.

Users must not alter, copy, transmit, or remove School information, proprietary software, or other files without proper authorization from the School.

Employees should not attempt to gain access to another employee's email files or voicemail messages without the latter employee's express permission. Each employee is responsible for the content of the messages sent via his/her Excelsior issued equipment. It is strictly prohibited to use another employee's account to send messages to create the appearance that they are from the latter employee, unless that employee expressly authorizes such use. Anyone who receives an electronic communication for which he or she is not the intended recipient must immediately inform the sender that the message was sent improperly and must delete the message from their e-mail and voice mail mailboxes.

For information on all other school issued equipment/property refer to the related policy located in the Standard Operation Procedure Manual.

Confidentiality and Privileges

Information stored on the Communications Systems is intended to be kept confidential within the School. The School has taken all reasonable steps to assure confidentiality and security. Like other means of communication, however, it is not possible to guarantee complete security of electronic communications either within or outside the School, and care should be exercised when sending or receiving sensitive, privileged, or confidential information electronically. For example, information sent through the Internet can be monitored by external systems en route to its final destination. All users must keep this in mind when forwarding sensitive, confidential, and/or privileged information. Where appropriate, this fact should be disclosed to outside contacts.

Access and Disclosure

The School, as owner of the Communications Systems, to protect the integrity of its systems from unauthorized or improper use, reserves the right for legitimate business reasons, upon authorization of the Superintendent or his or her designee, to monitor, access, retrieve, download, copy, listen to, or delete anything stored in, created, received, or sent over its Communications Systems without the permission of or prior notice to any user.

Although the School entrusts you with the use of voice mail, e-mail, computer files, software, or similar School property, you should keep in mind that these items have been installed and maintained at great expense to the School and are only intended for business purposes. At all times, they remain School property. Likewise, all records, files, software, and electronic communications contained in these systems also are School property. You are advised that electronic files, records, and communications on School computer systems, electronic communication systems, or through the use of School telecommunications equipment are not private. Although they are a confidential part of School property, you should not use this equipment or these systems for confidential messages. The use of passwords to limit access to these systems is only intended to prevent unauthorized access to voice mail, e-mail, and computer systems, files, and records. Additionally, these systems are subject to inspection, search, and/or monitoring by School personnel for any number of business reasons. As a result, employees do not have an expectation of privacy in this regard. Accordingly, these systems and equipment should not be used to transmit personal messages, except in necessary situations or when management specifically sanctions exceptions. Voice mail messages and e-mail messages should be routinely deleted when no longer needed. The School is not responsible for costs incurred when employees use School telephones or e-mail systems for personal matters.

You should be advised to use voice mail and e-mail as cautiously as you would use any more permanent communication medium such as a memorandum or letter. You should realize that e-mail messages:

- May be saved and read by third parties.
- May be retrieved even after "deletion."
- May be accessed by authorized service personnel.
- May be examined by management without notice for business purposes.

There will be times when the School, in order to conduct business, will utilize its ability to access your e-mail, voice mail, computer files, software, or other School property. The School also may inspect the contents of your voice mail, e-mail, computers, computer files, or software to monitor job performance, for training or quality control purposes, or when the School suspects that School property is being used in an unauthorized manner.

The School reserves the right to use and disclose any electronic non-privileged communication on its Communications Systems without the permission of or any prior notice to any user, including disclosure to law enforcement officials.

Discipline for Violations of Policy

Any person who discovers misuse of the Internet access or any of the School's Communications Systems should immediately contact the Assistant Superintendent of School Administrative Services or the Human Resources Department. Any user who violates any part of this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including immediate termination.

K. Social Media, Employee Blogs, Internet Based Business and Websites

While EXCELSIOR CHARTER SCHOOLS (EXCELSIOR) does not wish to police Internet activities or keep employees from enjoying social-networking media and/or social media sites, EXCELSIOR has a more fundamental responsibility to ensure that the integrity, safety, and reputation of EXCELSIOR, its employees and its students are protected. To assist you in making responsible decisions about your use of social media, we have established these guidelines for appropriate use.

Ultimately, you are solely responsible for what you post online. Before creating online content, consider some of the risks and rewards that are involved. Keep in mind that any of your conduct that adversely affects your job performance, the performance of fellow associates or otherwise adversely affects students, the effective learning environment, parents, vendors or the public may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

This policy applies to all employees of EXCELSIOR who use the following:

- Multi-media and social networking websites such as Facebook, Yahoo! Groups, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube or any similar social networking site (this list is not all inclusive);

- Blogs (whether internal to EXCELSIOR or external); and

- Wikis such as Wikipedia and any other sites where text can be posted.

All of these activities are referred to as "Internet postings" in this policy. Please be aware that violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination. Common sense is the best guide if you decide to post information in any way relating to EXCELSIOR. If you are unsure about any particular posting, please refer to this policy, and contact your supervisor or Human Resources.

- Your Internet postings must not disclose any information that is confidential or proprietary to EXCELSIOR or constitutes confidential student information or confidential personnel information.

- Posting of or use of any confidential information, data on decisions, plans, or any other information which might be contrary to the interest of EXCELSIOR without prior written authorization, is prohibited. This includes information about students, their names, their addresses, their personal information or academic information or any other confidential information related to them.

- If you comment on any aspect of EXCELSIOR'S business or any policy issue in which EXCELSIOR is involved and in which you have responsibility, you should clearly identify yourself as an EXCELSIOR employee in your postings or blog site(s) and include a statement that the views are not those of EXCELSIOR.

- Always be fair and courteous to fellow co-workers, students, parents, vendors or others who work on behalf of EXCELSIOR. Keep in mind that you are more likely to resolve work-related complaints by speaking directly with your co-worker or by utilizing our Open Door policy than by posting complaints to a social media outlet. Avoid using statements, photographs, video or audio that reasonably could be viewed as malicious, obscene, threatening or intimidating, that disparage students, co-workers, parents or vendors that might constitute harassment or bullying. Examples of such conduct might include offensive posts meant to harm someone's reputation or posts that could contribute to a hostile work environment on the basis of race, sex, disability, religion, gender, gender identification or any other status protected by law.

- Make sure you are always honest and accurate when posting information or news, and if you make a mistake, correct it quickly. Be open about any previous posts you have altered. Remember that the Internet archives almost everything; therefore, even deleted postings can be searched. Never post any information or rumors that you know to be false about the school, co-workers, students, parents, vendors or others working on behalf of EXCELSIOR.

- Do not create a link from your blog, website or other social networking site to the District's official website without express written permission from the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee.

- Do not use the District's logo or trademark without express written permission from Superintendent or Superintendent's designee.

- Express only your personal opinions. Never represent yourself as a spokesperson of EXCELSIOR. If the District is a subject of the content you are creating, be clear and open about the fact that you are

an employee and make it clear that your views do not represent those of EXCELSIOR other co-workers, students or parents. It is best to include a disclaimer such as "The postings on this site are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of EXCELSIOR.

- Because you are legally responsible for your postings, you may be subject to liability if your posts are found defamatory, harassing, or in violation of any other applicable law.

- Respect copyright laws and reference or cite to sources appropriately.

- The EXCELSIOR logo may not be used when engaging in or depicting in social media any conduct, which violates the EXCELSIOR'S policies or is unlawful. Your Internet postings should respect copyright, trademark, privacy, fair use and other laws.

- Be respectful of EXCELSIOR, other employees, students, parents, and competitors.

- The absence of, or lack of explicit reference to a specific site does not limit the extent of the application of this policy.

- Your Internet postings should not violate any other applicable policy of EXCELSIOR, including those set forth in EXCELSIOR's Employee Handbook, including but not limited to the EXCELSIOR prohibitions on harassment, violence in the workplace, discrimination, prohibitions set forth in the EXCELSIOR'S media policy, and any other conduct that is barred by law or EXCELSIOR'S policy.

- Social media activities should not interfere with your work commitments. Your access to the Internet and making postings to the Internet during work hours should comply with EXCELSIOR's Use of Communication Equipment and Technology policy as found in EXCELSIOR's Employee Handbook.

- Where no policy guidance exists, you are expected to use your professional judgment at all times and take the most prudent action possible. You are expected to consult with your supervisor in the event you are uncertain whether conduct is prohibited or if you have a question regarding whether conduct will violate this policy.

- Retaliation is prohibited. EXCELSIOR prohibits taking negative action against any employee for reporting a possible violation of this policy or for cooperating in an investigation. Any employee who retaliates against another employee for reporting a violation of this policy or for cooperating in an investigation will be subject to disciplinary actions, up to and including termination.

If you have questions about this policy or need further guidance, please contact the human resources department.

L. Artificial Intelligence

Excelsior Charter Schools encourages the responsible, ethical, and innovative use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a supplemental professional tool to enhance teaching, lesson planning, student support, administrative efficiency, creativity, critical thinking, and personalized learning opportunities, consistent

with California Department of Education guidance ("Learning With AI, Learning About AI").

AI can spark new instructional ideas, support differentiated learning, streamline routine tasks, and help staff focus on high-impact human connections—**when used transparently, with professional judgment, and in compliance with this Responsible Use Policy**. Excelsior is committed to balancing innovation with academic integrity, student safety, data privacy, and educator professionalism.

Only Excelsior approved AI tools should be used. Approved tools will be vetted for privacy compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Teachers will clearly state in their course syllabus and/or assignment instructions how AI may (or may not) be used by students.

Definitions of Appropriate vs. Inappropriate Use

Appropriate use of AI means using it as a professional thinking partner or assistant while maintaining human oversight, always reviewing and taking responsibility for final outputs, citing AI use when appropriate, and following all Excelsior AI Policies and SOPs.

Inappropriate use includes relying on AI to replace professional judgment, bypassing required processes, compromising privacy or integrity, or using it for high-stakes decisions without human review.

Examples of Appropriate (Allowed) Staff Use:

- Brainstorming lesson plans, creating rubrics, differentiated activities, or discussion prompts (then customizing and reviewing all content yourself).
- Generating practice questions, summaries, or study guides to support student learning.
- Providing feedback on grammar, clarity, or structure of student drafts (then delivering personalized, human-reviewed feedback).
- Translating materials or explaining complex concepts for accessibility and multilingual support.
- Exploring "what if" scenarios or simulations for instructional design in science, history, or creative subjects.
- Using AI as a research starting point or administrative aid (e.g., summarizing public-domain articles or drafting non-confidential communications), followed by verification with reliable sources.

In all cases, staff must:

- Follow the specific instructions, expectations, SOPs, Policies set by Excelsior, and site administrators. SOPs can be located in the staff portal.
- Not rely on AI as a sole fact-checker or decision-maker—always verify information with credible sources.
- Critically evaluate all AI-generated content for accuracy, potential biases, hallucinations (made-up information), fairness, and alignment with educational goals before using or sharing it.
- Maintain professional judgment and human oversight in all instructional, evaluative, or student-facing decisions.

Examples of Inappropriate (Prohibited) Staff Use:

- Using AI to complete high-stakes tasks such as final grading, performance evaluations, hiring decisions, or disciplinary actions without human review and approval.

- Inputting or sharing any student, staff, or district confidential information with AI tools.
- Using AI to create or display harmful, deceptive, threatening, obscene, disruptive, or sexually explicit material.
- Generating content that harasses, bullies, or disparages others based on race/ethnicity, national origin, sex, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, or political beliefs.
- Bypassing school internet filters, safety measures, or approval processes with AI.
- Creating or using AI-generated deepfakes, synthetic media, or deceptive content intended to mislead, harass, or harm others (including violations of AB 621).
- Inputting copyrighted material into AI tools without permission or submitting AI-generated work in ways that violate copyright or intellectual property laws.

Privacy and Personal Information

Staff shall not share confidential information or personally identifiable information (PII) with any AI system about students, themselves, other staff, or any other person. Even when using district-approved tools, never input sensitive personal or student data unless explicitly directed for a specific educational purpose, and the tool has been vetted for privacy compliance (FERPA, COPPA, and SOPIPA). Excelsior approved AI tools have been vetted for privacy compliance. Only Excelsior approved AI tools should be used.

Examples of PII and confidential information include (but are not limited to):

- Student or staff full name, student ID number, birthdate, or contact information
- Home address, phone number, or email address
- Grades, test scores, health/medical information, or special education records
- Photos, videos, voice recordings, or behavioral notes of students or staff
- Any information from student records protected under FERPA or other laws
- District financial, HR, or operational data not intended for public release

Consequences

Unpermitted or inappropriate use of AI may lead to consequences for professional misconduct, disciplinary action up to and including termination, and/or legal action in accordance with the law. Staff are responsible for guiding and monitoring student AI use in alignment with the Student Use of AI Policy.

M. Participation in Recreational or Social Activities

Employees may participate in recreational or social activities sponsored by or supported by Excelsior. Participation in such activities is strictly voluntary. As such, employees have no obligation to participate in recreational or social activities and no employee has work-related duties requiring such participation. An employee's participation in social and recreational activities is at the employee's own risk and Excelsior disclaims any and all liability arising out of the employee's participation in these activities.

N. Personnel Files and Record Keeping Protocols

At the time of employment, a personnel file is established for each employee. An employee is responsible for notifying the Human Resources Department about changes in the employee's personal information and changes affecting the employee's status (for example, name changes, address or telephone number changes,

marriages or divorces, etc.). This notification by the employee must occur as close to the change as possible, but no later than 30 days following the change.

An employee or former employee (or designee) has the right to inspect or receive a copy of his or her personnel records at reasonable times, at a reasonable place, and on reasonable advance notice to the Superintendent or their designee. All requests should be put in writing preferably on the form maintained by the Human Resources Department. If the request includes a request for copies the employee or former employee may be required to pay for the actual costs of copying. The School will respond to all requests in accordance with applicable law.

Employees are not entitled to inspect or copy: letters of reference, records that relate to an investigation of possible criminal activity, ratings, reports or records obtained prior to employment, prepared by examination committee members or obtained in connection with a promotional examination.

Excelsior will restrict disclosure of employee personnel files to authorized individuals within Excelsior. Only the Superintendent or their designee is authorized to release information about current or former employees. Excelsior will cooperate with requests from authorized law enforcement or local, state or federal agencies conducting official investigations or as otherwise legally required.

O. The CROWN Act

It is the law of the State of California to afford all persons in public schools, regardless of their disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, immigration status or any other specified characteristic, equal rights and opportunities in the educational institutions of the state, and states that the purpose of related existing law is to prohibit acts that are contrary to that policy and to provide remedies for violations of this law.

Under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, it is unlawful to engage in specified discriminatory employment practices, including hiring, promotion, and termination based on certain protected characteristics, including race, unless based on a bona fide occupational qualification or applicable security regulations. The act also prohibits discrimination because of a perception that a person has one of those protected characteristics or is associated with a person who has, or is perceived to have, any of those characteristics.

Senate Bill 188 provides that the definition of race for these purposes also include traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles that include, but are not limited to, braids, locks, and twists.

IV. Hours of Work, Overtime and Attendance

A. Employee Classification

Excelsior's employees are classified in the following categories: Exempt, non-exempt, and full-time, part-time, temporary, and student worker.

Exempt: Exempt employees are those employees with job assignments that meet exemption tests under state

and federal law making them exempt from overtime pay requirements. Exempt employees are compensated on a salary basis, and are not eligible for overtime pay.

Non-Exempt: Non-exempt employees are those employees with job assignments that do not meet exemption tests under state or federal law. Thus, these employees are paid on the basis of hours worked per pay period and receive compensation for overtime.

Full Time: Certificated Full time employees are those employees who are scheduled to work at least 35 hours in a week according to a Notice of Assignment ("NOA"). Classified Full time employees are those employees who are scheduled to work at least 40 hours in a week according to a NOA.

Part Time: Part time employees are those employees who are scheduled to work less than full time according to a NOA.

Temporary: Temporary employees are those employees who are hired for a limited time period, or for a specific project, including but not limited to substitutes and coaches. Temporary employees do not receive a NOA.

B. Work Hours and Schedules

Your supervisor will assign your work schedule.

C. Overtime

Excelsior follows all applicable laws regarding the payment of overtime wages by compensating all non-exempt employees for overtime hours worked. For purposes of overtime calculations for non-exempt employees, Excelsior's workweek begins at 12:00 a.m. Monday and ends the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m. The workday begins at 12:00 a.m. (midnight) and ends the following day at 11:59 p.m. You will be informed when you are required to work overtime hours. All overtime hours worked must be preauthorized in writing by your supervisor.

At times, a non-exempt employee may request to make up work time that is lost or would be lost as a result of a personal obligation of the employee. Should the supervisor approve the employee's request to make up time, the makeup time will not be counted towards computing the total number of hours worked in a day for purposes of the overtime requirements. Rather, an employee may work up to 11 hours per day to make up time but never more than 40 hours in a workweek. Employees should provide a signed and written request for each occasion that the employee makes a request to make up work time pursuant to this section. The form may be requested from the human resources department. The makeup time must be made up within the same workweek that the time is taken off.

D. Meal and Rest Periods

1. Duty-Free Meal Periods:

All non-exempt employees are provided the opportunity to take an uninterrupted duty-free meal period of at least 30 minutes each day they work more than 5 hours. You must commence the meal period before you complete your fifth hour of work. Thus, if you begin working at 8:30 a.m., for example, you must take your meal period prior to 1:30 p.m. In addition, you must record the actual times that you stop and start work to take a meal period. A second meal period of not less than 30 minutes is also required whenever a non-exempt

employee works more than 10 hours in a workday. You must commence your second meal period before you complete your tenth hour of work. Meal periods are unpaid. Working off the clock during any meal period is strictly prohibited. You are entitled to leave the premises for your duty-free meal period. You may not skip your duty-free meal period in order to work unauthorized overtime, to come in late or to leave early without the prior approval of your supervisor.

2. Duty-Free Rest Periods:

All non-exempt employees are authorized, permitted, and strongly encouraged to take a paid duty-free 10-minute rest period every 4 hours worked or major portion Thereof. Your supervisor may schedule your rest periods. Rest periods should be taken as close to the middle of a work period as possible and cannot be taken in conjunction with a meal period. Rest periods are paid work time; they cannot be waived by the employee in order to shorten the workday or used towards additional time off.

Hours Worked	Number of Rest Periods
3.5 hours to 6 hours	1 10-minute rest period
Over 6 hours to 10 hours	2 10-minute rest periods
Over 10 hours to 14 hours	3 10-minute rest periods

Non-exempt employees must observe assigned working hours, the time allowed for rest periods, and report any missed rest period on the days' time record and to the employee's supervisor immediately. Employees are encouraged to report any concerns regarding meal or rest periods to Human Resources.

3. Lactation Accommodation

Excelsior accommodates lactating employees by providing a reasonable amount of break time to any employee who desires to express breast milk for an infant child. The break time shall, if possible, run concurrently with any break time already provided to the employee. Any break time provided to express breast milk that does not run concurrently with break time already provided to the non-exempt employee shall be unpaid.

Excelsior will provide employees who need a lactation accommodation with the use of a room or other private location that is located close to the employee's work area. Such room/location shall not be a bathroom. Excelsior shall also provide access to a sink and refrigerator in close proximity to the employee's workspace. Employees with private offices will be required to use their offices to express breast milk. Employees who desire lactation accommodations should contact their supervisor to request accommodations.

Excelsior is prohibited from discharging, or in any other manner discriminating or retaliating against, an employee for exercising or attempting to exercise lactation accommodation rights. If Excelsior has fewer than 50 employees it may seek an exemption from the requirements of these provisions but if such an exemption is obtained Excelsior shall still make a reasonable effort to provide a place for an employee to express milk in private.

E. Pay Days

All Excelsior employees are paid semi-monthly. Each paycheck will include earnings for all reported work

performed through the end of the payroll period. Employees should promptly notify the Business Office Manager if they have a question regarding the calculations of their paycheck; any corrections will be noted and will appear on the following payroll.

F. Attendance Policy

Regular and timely attendance is an essential function of every position at our School. Employees are expected to adhere to regular attendance and to be punctual. If an employee finds it necessary to be absent or late, they are expected to arrange it in advance with their supervisor**.** If it is not possible to arrange their absence or tardiness in advance, they must notify their supervisor no later than one-half hour before the start of their workday or as soon as reasonably practicable, if you are absent or tardy in accordance with the School's sick leave policy. Because voice mail messages may go unheard for significant periods of time, leaving a voice mail message is not a sufficient method of notifying your supervisor—you must personally contact your supervisor in a timely manner. If you are required to leave work early, you must also personally contact your supervisor and obtain his or her permission.

If an employee is absent from work longer than one day, they are expected to keep their supervisor sufficiently informed of their situation.

Excessive absenteeism and tardiness will not be tolerated and will lead to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. More than three (3) instances of tardiness or unexcused absences by a nonexempt employee or instructional employee during any twelve-month period is considered excessive. Excessive absenteeism by a non-exempt employee or instructional employee is anything beyond your allotted annual leave accrual.

Except as otherwise provided by law, if you fail to report for work without any notification to your supervisor and your absence continues for a period of three consecutively scheduled workdays, the School will, in most cases, consider that you have abandoned your employment and have voluntarily resigned.

G. Time Records

All non-exempt employees are required to track and enter their regular work hours, overtime hours, and meal periods using Excelsior's electronic timesheet.

All absences, tardiness, and overtime must be accurately reflected on the electronic timesheet. Employees may contact the Human Resources department and/or review the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for additional information.

Recording inaccurate time on your timesheet or recording time on another employee's time sheet is a violation of the School policy and may result in discipline, including immediate termination. Employees are strictly prohibited from working "off the clock" or failing to record all time worked. Falsification of any timecard may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

H. Extracurricular Activity Supervision

All members of the Excelsior community are welcomed and encouraged to support students and attend extra-curricular events. Full and part time exempt employees shall be required to supervise an equally distributed amount of activities in accordance with the number of planned activities for each school year and the total

number of exempt employees. Non-exempt employees will not be required to supervise any extracurricular activities. However, non-exempt employees may request in writing to their supervisors to supervise such activities when no other exempt employee is available. Request forms are available from Human Resources. Requests from non-exempt employees will only be considered if exempt employees are unavailable and additional supervision is required. Non-exempt employees shall not supervise any event lasting longer than twelve (12) hours or any overnight events and will be paid overtime, if applicable.

I. Travel

At times Board/Staff members may be required to use their personal car for business purposes. Reimbursement for the operating expenses of the car will be calculated by multiplying the number of miles traveled by the currently approved Standard Mileage Rate published by the IRS. Other expenses must be substantiated by receipts. The costs of commuting (travel between home and the work site) will not be reimbursed.

Board/Staff members who use their cars for business purposes must have current and adequate automobile liability insurance coverage. Staff will not transport Students in their personal vehicles. If transportation of this type is necessary, a school vehicle will be used.

Mileage

1. Mileage will be reimbursed for the round-trip distance between the Board/Staff's work site and the location of the business function being attended. If staff depart from or return to their home instead of their work site, only the miles in excess of the normal daily commute can be claimed as an expense.

2. Employees must document their travel on the Mileage Reimbursement Form (Form BUS-2).

3. Mileage amounts must be verified through the use of commercially available websites (i.e., MapQuest, Google Maps) using the shortest route option from the office and will be submitted with Form BUS-2.

4. Other expenses such as parking and tolls will be reimbursed at the actual cost. Original, itemized receipts must be provided with Form BUS-2.

5. Excelsior's vehicles will be used whenever they are available.

6. The Business Office will assist the individual in scheduling the most efficient and economical means of transportation available.

7. If Staff members choose to drive to a conference, Excelsior will pay for the "shortest route" mileage and meals up to the cost of the lowest logical air fare, with no consideration for food or lodging while driving to the conference.

8. The "shortest route" for business trips involving air travel will allow 2 hours before and after flight times plus mileage to and from the airport.

9. If a car rental is a preferred method of travel to and/or from the business trip, Excelsior will reimburse Staff up to the lowest, logical, "shortest route" amount for mileage and/or air fare. General liability insurance for damages must be obtained from the car rental company.

Allowable Mileage Expenses

Examples of allowable mileage for business purposes include:

- Meetings
- Conferences/Presentations
- Travel between sites for supervisor-approved business
- Site visits
- Work-related errands (post office, office supply store, etc.)
- Approved conferences and workshops

Meals

Excelsior shall provide Staff members meals while traveling or attending approved conferences and workshops subject to the following limitations:

1. The employee shall not be reimbursed for more than the funds budgeted by the Board for the purposes intended.

2. The maximum amount provided for meals shall be up to $70 per day. No receipt is required for meal expenses. An advance meal check will be issued for the business trip.

Other Transportation

Excelsior will reimburse Staff members for other business-related transportation expenses incurred while on a business trip, such as a taxi or shuttle from the airport to the hotel. Original receipts must be provided.

Miscellaneous

Excelsior will not assume any liability or expense for family members traveling with Board/Staff members during Excelsior-authorized business trips.

Lodging

Excelsior shall pay for all necessary business related lodging expenses. Expenses such as any form of room services, room movies, spa treatments, and similar personal items are not included in paid expenses. Original receipts must be provided.

Other Expenses

- Registration Fees: All registration fees shall be paid by Excelsior for approved meetings and conferences.
- Personal Expense: No personal expense will be reimbursable.
- Taxes: All taxes paid will be reimbursable.
- Reasonable tips/gratuities and other required expenditures will be reimbursed.

Expense Reimbursements

Excelsior will reimburse employees for certain reasonably necessary expenses incurred in the furtherance of Excelsior business. In order to be eligible for reimbursement, employees must follow the protocol set forth in Excelsior's policy regarding expenditures, a copy of which may be obtained from the Business Office. In general, all expenses must have been previously approved in writing by the employee's supervisor and the Business Office Manager. All reimbursement forms must be completed and submitted to the Business Office in a timely manner in accordance with Excelsior's policy.

Procedure

All expense claims shall be submitted to Excelsior within three months of the date of the expenditure and no later than June 15 of each year. Prior year claims and claims submitted without appropriate documentation may not be honored.

V. Standards of Conduct

A. Excelsior Basics

Excelsior expects that all employees will demonstrate professional responsibility, integrity, and ethical conduct while on duty. Rather than mandate specific behaviors, leadership worked with staff to develop a set of Values, Beliefs, Parameters and Meeting Guidelines that define the environment for the organization. These along with the Vision, Mission and Motto make up the 'Excelsior Basics'. The Excelsior Basics are printed on a foldable card and staff is encouraged to keep them handy. In order to keep them energized every meeting begins with a focus on the Basics. In addition to abiding by and promoting the Excelsior Basics, the Board believes that certificated staff members should accept as guiding principles and abide by the "Code of Ethics of the Teaching Profession" as adopted and revised by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

Values:

Teamwork

- It is our responsibility to participate as a team member in a collaborative environment using ideas, resources, and information to achieve common goals.
- We consistently strive to improve ourselves and our practices in order to achieve our Vision and Goals.
- We celebrate and encourage one another by recognizing each other's accomplishments.

Enthusiasm

- Be enthusiastic in order to inspire positive attitude, creativity, motivation and innovation so that everyone is successful.

Communication

- We are active listeners and have positive, professional interactions at all levels and in all situations.
- We have a willingness to voice our opinions and we will listen first for understanding and then

to be understood.
- Everyone has a responsibility to tactfully communicate concerns and possible solutions to the appropriate person(s).
- We communicate all activities, events, and situations to all pertinent parties with appropriate feedback and follow-up; phone calls and emails are responded to in a timely manner.

Integrity
- We all have a responsibility to promote integrity by honoring others with respect, honesty, and trustworthiness.
- We take pride in our work which is reflected in our actions.
- We model the behaviors we expect to see in others.

Compassion
- We treat people as individuals with dignity, respect, and sympathy to help them achieve their personal best.
- We address issues in a positive, encouraging way that promotes personal growth.
- We take pride in helping people through positive interactions and mentoring.

Commitment
- We have the commitment to follow through, follow-up and have accountability in the quality of your work.
- We have sincere dedication and total commitment to empower the "education team" in the planning and achievement of their academic and life goals.

Beliefs
- All students can and will achieve
- We believe in doing the right thing even when no one is looking
- Students require a safe environment to learn
- Education is an investment in the future
- Expectations determine the outcome
- Everyone has something valuable to contribute

Parameters
- Always stay financially solvent
- Always be positive and proactive
- Always focus on the Vision
- Always be professional
- Always take responsibility for your actions and outcomes
- Always strive to improve

Meeting Guidelines
1. Have fun; be professional; take care of business
2. Have an agenda and advance notice of meeting
3. Start/End on time; stay on task
4. Be prepared; participate; be there
5. Make subject matter relevant to attendees
6. Don't beat a dead horse and don't shut down

7. Check for understanding, as silence equals agreement
8. Mitigate outside interruptions
9. Support decisions even when we agree to disagree
10. Be respectful of others:
    - Check titles at the door,
    - No side conversations,
    - One person speaks at a time; everyone has the right to be heard,
    - Listen first for understanding and then to be understood,
    - Don't monopolize the conversation,
    - No put downs or criticism; don't be judgmental,
    - No hidden agendas,
    - No bird walking
11. Reminders; important dates; timelines; and calls for action

The following conduct is prohibited and will not be tolerated by Excelsior. This list of prohibited conduct is illustrative only; other types of conduct injurious to security, personal safety, employee welfare, and Excelsior's operations also may be prohibited. Violation of the following standards may result in disciplinary action, up to and including immediate termination:

- Sexual or other harassment, retaliation or discrimination of any kind, against another employee or anyone else affiliated with the School.
- Falsification of employment records, employment information, or other Excelsior records. This includes making false statements or omitting material information in the application procedure for employment.
- Falsifying time records.
- Theft, damage or destruction of any Excelsior property of any employee or client.
- Removing or borrowing Excelsior property without prior authorization.
- Unauthorized use of Excelsior equipment, time, materials, or facilities.
- Provoking a fight or fighting during working hours or on Excelsior property.
- Participating in horseplay on Excelsior time or on Excelsior premises.
- Carrying firearms or any other dangerous weapons on Excelsior premises at any time.
- Causing, creating, or participating in a disruption of any kind during working hours on Excelsior property.
- Insubordination including, but not limited to, failure or refusal to obey the legitimate orders or instructions of a supervisor or administrator, or the use of abusive or threatening language toward a supervisor or administrator.
- Using abusive, profane, threatening, indecent, or foul language and/or having inappropriate physical contact with students, parents, or other employees at any time on Excelsior premises.
- Unreported absences.
- Failure to observe working schedules, including meal and rest periods.
- Working overtime without authorization or refusing to work assigned overtime.
- Working "off the clock" or failing to record or report all hours worked.
- Violation of any safety, health, security, or other Excelsior policies, rules, or procedures.
- Committing a fraudulent act or a breach of trust under any circumstances
- Engaging in unlawful harassment, discrimination, or retaliation.
- Making false or malicious statements about Excelsior or its employees
- Poor attendance, including but not limited to, habitual tardiness and/or absenteeism, leaving early without permission, absence from work without permission, and abuse of time during work hours, to the extent permitted by law.

- Unsatisfactory work performance.
- Sleeping or malingering on the job.
- Failing to keep confidential information pertaining to parents, students, or vendors.
- Violation of the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Policy, including, but not limited to, refusing to submit to a drug/alcohol test mandated by the School.

This statement of prohibited conduct does not alter Excelsior's at-will employment policy. Excelsior and you retain the right to terminate the employment relationship at any time, with or without reason or advance notice.

B. Personal Appearance

Employees are expected to wear clothes that are neat, clean and professional while on duty. Employees are expected to appear well groomed and appear within professionally accepted standards suitable for the employee's position and must at all time wear shoes. Facial Hair should be short, well-trimmed, and neat. Excelsior's objective in maintaining a business dress code is to enable our employees to project the professional image that is in keeping with the needs of our parents, students and community to trust us. Because education requires the appearance of trusted educators and professionals and because we serve clients at our site(s) on a daily basis, a more formal dress code is required for our employees. We must project the image of trustworthy, knowledgeable professional educators for the clients who seek our guidance, input, and professional services. No dress code can cover all requirements, so employees must exert a certain amount of judgment in their choice of clothing to wear to work.

The following is a list of professional acceptable dress. Accordingly, all staff shall adhere to this standard of dress:

- Clothing and jewelry must be safe and appropriate to the educational environment.
- All clothing must be clean wrinkle free and in good repair. Slits or tears in pants or other articles of clothing are not permitted except for modest slits in dresses or skirts that are no higher than three (3) inches above the knee
- Collared shirts
- Neck ties, or Excelsior polo shirts
- Long pants (to be worn on the waist with no portion of an undergarment showing)
- Dresses (no higher than three (3) inches above the knee & no portion of an undergarment showing)
- Skirts (no higher than three (3) inches above the knee
- Appropriate shoes worn at all times (all shoes must have a back)
- Blouses or tops appropriate for the work environment and provide proper coverage.
- Tattoos must be covered when children are present.
- Head coverings, including hats of any kind, except those worn for religious or safety reasons, are not to be worn inside school buildings including assemblies, classrooms, labs and offices. Hats may be worn outside for protection from the sun and inclement weather. All hats are to be removed upon entering school buildings. For exceptions to this policy, your site Administrator must grant prior approval.
- Clothing or jewelry that depict and/or promote gangs (Ed Code 35183), drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, violence, illegal activities, profanity, or obscenity are not permitted.
- Items that are unacceptable include exercise attire; t-shirts; tank tops; spaghetti strap blouses; low cut or revealing blouses or shirts; short blouses or shirts exposing the torso or hip area; flip-flops and other beach sandals; Crocs and Croc style shoes; sweatshirts; sweatpants; provocative clothing; visible and exposed undergarments; vests worn without shirts underneath; tight clothing

including leggings; skorts, shorts excessively baggy pants.

- Some exceptions may apply such as needing to wear exercise attire during the course of work related to a specific school project or job.

If an employee experiences uncertainty about acceptable, professional business attire for work, they should ask their supervisor or the Human Resources department. The Superintendent will be the final arbiter of what is considered to be inappropriate attire. You may be required to return home to change clothing if deemed necessary. Non-exempt employees will not be paid for time away from work to change attire. Principals or Cabinet members may designate "casual days," "college wear days," and a designated day to wear Excelsior polo shirts with appropriate work pants, dress, or skirt. Appropriate guidelines will be provided to you on these occasions.

Excelsior will reasonably accommodate employees with disabilities and employees' religious beliefs and observances, including accommodations for religious dress and grooming practices, gender identity and gender expression. Any employee requesting accommodation should advise their supervisor of the requested accommodation.

C. Confidential Information

You may, during the course of your duties be advised of certain confidential business matters and affairs of the School regarding its business practices, students, suppliers and employees. Your duties may also place you in a position of trust and confidence with respect to certain trade secrets and other proprietary information relating to the business of the School and not generally known to the public or competitors. Such proprietary information includes, but is not limited to, student information, competitive strategies, marketing plans, personnel information and financial information. You shall not, either during your employment with the School or any time in the future, directly or indirectly:

Disclose or furnish, directly or indirectly, to any other person, firm, agency, corporation, client, business, or enterprise, any confidential information acquired during your employment;

Individually or in conjunction with any other person, firm, agency, School, client, business, or corporation, employ or cause to be employed any confidential information in any manner whatsoever, except in furtherance of the business of the School;

Without the written consent of the School, publish, deliver, or commit to being published or delivered, any copies, abstracts, or summaries of any files, records, documents, drawings, specifications, lists, equipment and similar items relating to the business of the School, except to the extent required in the ordinary course of your duties.

Upon termination of employment, employees are required to immediately return to the School all property of the School in as good condition as when received (normal wear and tear excepted) including, but not limited to, all files, records, documents, drawings, specifications, lists, equipment and supplies, promotional materials, and similar items relating to the business of the School.

D. Conflict of Interest

All employees must avoid situations that result in actual or even potential conflicts of interest. Personal, social and economic relationships with competitors, suppliers, customers, parents, or co-employees that may impair an employee's ability to exercise good judgment on behalf of the School or which give the appearance

of such impairment create an actual or potential conflict of interest. For example, romantic or personal relationships between a supervisor and subordinate employee can lead to supervisory problems, claims of harassment and morale problems.

Any employee involved in such situations or relationships must immediately and fully disclose the nature of the situation or relationship to the Human Resources Department so a determination can be made as to whether an actual or potential conflict exists, and if so, how to correct the situation.

Excelsior expects employees to devote their best efforts to the interests of our school. Excelsior recognizes your right to engage in activities outside of your employment, which are of a private nature and unrelated to our business. However, outside activities (second jobs, side businesses, clubs, etc.) must not interfere with your ability to fully perform your job duties at Excelsior or create a conflict of interest with your statutory duty of loyalty to the School. The School prohibits employees from working with another School or external organization that competes with Excelsior whether as a regular employee or as a consultant.

If you have any questions whether an action or proposed course of conduct would create a conflict of interest, you should immediately contact the Human Resources Department to obtain advice on this issue. A violation of this policy will result in immediate and appropriate discipline, up to and including immediate termination.

Outside Employment

If you are a full time employee we expect that you devote your full professional effort to your position at Excelsior. If you wish to participate in outside work activities you are required to obtain written approval from the Human Resources Department prior to starting those activities. Approval will be granted unless the activity conflicts with Excelsior's interests. In general, outside work activities are not allowed when they:

Prevent you from performing work for which you are employed at Excelsior.

Involve organizations that are doing or seek to do business with Excelsior including actual or potential vendors.

Violate provisions of law or Excelsior policies or rules.

Your obligations to Excelsior must be given priority. Full time employees are hired and continue employment with the understanding that Excelsior is their primary employer and that other employment, commercial involvement or volunteer activity that is in conflict with the business interests of the school is strictly prohibited.

E. Staff/Student Interaction

The purpose of this policy to provide additional specificity to the standards of conduct embodied in current Excelsior ethics-related rules and regulations so that staff members clearly understand the prohibitions and behavior boundaries which must govern their conduct. (For purposes of this policy, staff includes all school employees certificated or classified; coaches or advisors; full-time or part-time; and volunteers). The rules of conduct set forth in this policy are not intended to serve as a comprehensive delineation of requirements, limitations, or prohibitions on staff conduct and activities established by this school. Rather, the components of this policy serve:

- To alert staff about some of the more sensitive and often problematic matters involved in staff student relationships.

- To specify Boundaries the crossing of which is contrary to accepted norms of behavior and in conflict with the duties and responsibilities of staff.

- To provide staff members with clear guidance in conducting themselves in a manner that reflects high standards of professionalism. (It is important for Excelsior to maintain a school-wide culture in which students and staff understand their responsibilities to report sexual misconduct without fearing that school leaders will betray them if they do. In order to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation, students and staff must know that the administration will investigate reports about possible misconduct.)

- To clarify that improper action may have significant consequences.

- To provide an environment that empowers staff and students to identify actions that appear to have crossed Boundaries.

- To define the process that Excelsior will use for addressing potential improper conduct.

- To preserve student and staff privacy rights during any pending investigation as much as possible.

General Policy Provisions

Actions by staff members that are inconsistent or in conflict with the values established by Excelsior can harm students, staff members, and the school's operation; therefore, such actions are unacceptable. It is the policy of this school that all employees conduct themselves at all times in a manner that reflects the ethical standards consistent with the rules contained in this policy and otherwise proclaimed by this school. The provisions set forth herein are intended to guide all Excelsior staff members toward conduct that reflects the high standards of behavior and professionalism required of school employees while defining interaction boundaries between students and staff members.

While all Boundaries and/or situations cannot be addressed in a single policy, the issues delineated herein are among those that can be most problematic for staff members and that can have the greatest potential for a negative impact on this school and its community. Staff members should seek guidance in their daily conduct from established policies, procedures, and directives as well as through the guidance and recommendations of school leadership. Although this policy gives specific, clear direction, it is each staff member's obligation to avoid situations that could prompt suspicion by parents, students, colleagues, or school leaders.

Boundaries

Boundaries Defined

For the purposes of this policy, the term "Boundaries" is defined as: "acceptable professional behavior by a staff member while interacting with a student." Further, a staff member who trespasses beyond the parameters of a trustworthy adult/student relationship is deemed to have abused power and betrayed public trust.

Acceptable and Unacceptable Behavior

Some activities may seem innocent from a staff member's perspective, but some of these can be perceived as flirtation or sexual insinuation from a student or parental point of view. The purpose of the following lists of acceptable and unacceptable behaviors is not to restrain innocent, positive relationships between staff and students but to prevent relationships that could lead to, or may be perceived as, sexual misconduct.

Staff members must understand their own responsibilities for ensuring that they do not cross the Boundaries as written in this policy. Disagreeing with the wording or intent of the established Boundaries will be

considered irrelevant for any required disciplinary purposes. Thus, it is critical that all employees study this policy thoroughly and apply its spirit and intent in their daily activities. Although sincere, professional interaction with students fosters the charter mission of "Academic Excellence," student/staff interaction has Boundaries regarding the activities, locations and intentions.

Unacceptable Behaviors

This list, and any subsequent lists, is not meant to be all-inclusive, but, rather illustrative of the types of behavior addressed by this policy:

- Giving gifts to an individual student of a personal and intimate nature.
- Kissing of ANY kind.
- Any type of unnecessary physical contact with a student.
- Intentionally being alone with a student away from the school.
- Making or participating in sexually inappropriate comments.
- Sexual jokes or jokes and/or comments with sexual double-entendre.
- Seeking emotional involvement (which can include intimate attachment) with a student beyond the normative care and concern required of an educator.
- Listening to or telling sexually oriented stories.
- Discussing personal troubles or intimate issues with a student in an attempt to gain their support and understanding.
- Becoming involved with a student so that a reasonable person may suspect inappropriate behavior.
- Remarks about the physical attributes or physiological development of anyone.
- Excessive attention toward a particular student.
- Sending e-mails, text messages, Facebook responses, or letters to students if the content is not about school activities.
- Being alone in a room with a student at school and with the door closed.
- Involving students in non-educational or non-school related issues, including, but not limited to, the employee's employment issues.
- Using profanity with or to a student.
- Being "friends" with a student on any personal or non-School social media website.
- Allowing students in your home without signed parent permission for a pre-planned and pre-communicated educational activity which must include another educator, parent, or other responsible adult.
- Giving students a ride to/from school or school activities without parent permission

Acceptable Behaviors

- Obtaining parents' written consent for any after-school activity on or off campus.
- Obtaining formal written approval (from school site and parents) to take students off of school property for activities such as field trips or competitions.
- E-mails, text-messages, phone conversations and other communications to and with students must be professional and pertain to school activities or classes. (Communication should be initiated via school-based technology and equipment.)
- Keeping the door open when alone with a student.
- Keeping reasonable space between you and your students.
- Stopping and correcting students if they cross your own personal boundaries.
- Keeping parents informed when a significant issue develops about a student.
- Keeping after-class discussions with a student professional and brief.

- Asking for advice from senior staff or administrators if you find yourself in a difficult situation related to Boundaries.
- Involving your supervisor if conflict arises with a student.
- Informing your supervisor about situations that have the potential to become more severe.
- Making detailed notes about an incident that could evolve into a more serious situation later.
- Recognizing the responsibility to stop unacceptable behavior of students and/or co-workers.
- Asking another staff member to be present if you will be alone with any student.
- Asking another staff member to be present, or within close supervisory distance, when you must be alone with a student after regular school hours.
- Giving students praise and recognition without touching them.
- Keeping your professional conduct a high priority during all moments of student contact.
- Asking yourself if any of your actions, which go contrary to these provisions, are worth sacrificing your job and career

Reporting

When any staff member, parent or student becomes aware of a staff member having crossed the boundaries specified in this policy, he or she must report the suspicion to their supervisor immediately. All reports shall be confidential. Prompt reporting is essential to protect students, the suspected staff member, any witnesses, and the school as a whole. Employees must also report to their supervisor any awareness of, or concern about, student behavior that crosses the boundaries, or any situation in which a student appears to be at risk for sexual abuse.

Investigating

An administrator will promptly investigate and document the investigation of any allegation of violation of the Employee-Student Relations Policy, favoritism, or coercion, using such support staff or outside assistance, as he or she deems necessary and appropriate under the circumstances. If the allegation constitutes a reportable allegation under California Penal Code 11166, the administrator shall comply with the legal requirements of immediately reporting the allegation to a child protective agency and shall follow up with a written report within thirty-six (36) hours. Throughout this fact-finding process, the investigating administrator, and all others privy to the investigation, shall protect the privacy interests of any affected student(s) and/or staff member(s), including any potential witnesses, as much as possible. The investigating administrator, if not the school principal, shall promptly notify the Principal that an investigation is in progress; the Principal, in turn, shall notify the Human Resources Department and the Superintendent who will notify the Board of Directors in closed session of the existence and status of any investigations.

Consequences

Staff members who have violated this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including termination and, where appropriate, will be reported to authorities for potential legal action.

Training

This document shall be discussed with and acknowledged by all Excelsior employees as part of their initial employment and again, on an annual basis, as part of ongoing training for all Excelsior employees. A signed copy of this acknowledgement will be placed into each Excelsior employee's personnel folder.

Furthermore, in accordance with AB500, a written copy of this policy will be provided to a parent or guardian of each enrolled pupil in the student/parent handbook at the beginning of the school year and will be posted on the school website.

F. Child Neglect and Abuse Reporting and Mandated Training

A list of persons whose profession qualifies them as "mandated reporters" of child abuse or neglect is found in California Penal Code Section 11165.7. The list is extensive and continues to grow. It includes all school/district employees, administrators, and athletic coaches. All persons hired into positions included on the list of mandated reporters are required, upon employment, to be provided with a statement, informing them that they are a mandated reporter and their obligations to report suspected cases of abuse and neglect pursuant to California Penal Code Section 11166.5.

All persons who are mandated reporters are required, by law, to report all known or suspected cases of child abuse or neglect. It is not the job of the mandated reporter to determine whether the allegations are valid. If child abuse or neglect is reasonably suspected or if pupil shares information with a mandated reporter leading him/her to believe abuse or neglect has taken place, the report must be made. No supervisor or administrator can impede or inhibit a report or subject the reporting person to any sanction.

To make a report, an employee must contact an appropriate local law enforcement or county child welfare agency, listed below. This legal obligation is not satisfied by making a report of the incident to a supervisor or to the school. An appropriate law enforcement agency may be one of the following:

- A police or sheriff's department (not including a school district police department or social security department)
- A county probation department, if designated by the county to receive child abuse reports.
- A county welfare department/Child Protective Services (CPS) 800-827-8724

The report should be made immediately over the telephone at (800) 827-8724 and should be followed up in writing within 36 hours. The form for reporting the incident may be obtained from the human resources department. The form must then be mailed, faxed, or submitted electronically, as designated by the agency taking the report over the phone.

What must be reported?

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Neglect

The mandated reporter must only have reasonable suspicion that a child has been mistreated; no evidence or proof is required prior to making a report.

Failure to report concerns of child abuse or neglect is considered a misdemeanor and is punishable in California by six months in jail and/or up to a $1,000 fine. For the complete law and a list of fully inclusive mandated reporters, please refer to California Penal Codes 11164 and 11174.3.

Mandated reporters are required to give their names when making a report. However, the reporter's identity is kept confidential. Reports of suspected child abuse are also confidential. Mandated reporters have immunity from state criminal or civil liability for reporting as required. This is true even if the mandated reporter acquired the knowledge, or suspicion of the abuse or neglect, outside his/her professional capacity or scope of employment.

After the report is made, the local law enforcement agency is required to investigate all reports. Cases may also be investigated by Child Welfare Services when allegations involve abuse or neglect within families.

VI. Employee Pay and Benefits

A. Pay Schedules

The members of this community are interested in attracting and maintaining a qualified, competent staff to educate their children. The community members and the Board of Directors recognize the importance of an attractive salary schedule and sound salary policies in securing and holding competent staff members. At the time of employment, employees shall be placed on step 1 of the salary schedule classification for which the employee was hired. To receive additional credit for work experience, verification of employment will be required on a school verification form within thirty (30) calendar days from first day of paid service. Changes to step placement will not be considered after thirty (30) calendar days from the first day of paid service.

Excelsior Charter School

CERTIFICATED SALARY SCHEDULE

	Column/Lane 000 BA/BS w/Intern Status, Provisional Intern Permit or Short Term Staff Permit			Column/Lane 001 BA/BS Degree with Preliminary or Clear Credential			Column/Lane 002 BA/BS Degree plus 45 semester units or MA/MS with Preliminary or Clear Credential			Column/Lane 003 BA/BS Degree plus 60 semester units and MA/MS with Preliminary or Clear Credential		
Step	**Annual**	**Daily**	**Hourly**	**Annual**	**Daily**	**Hourly**	**Annual**	**Daily**	**Hourly**	**Annual**	**Daily**	**Hourly**
1	$61,623.29	$ 338.59	$ 48.37	$67,865.09	$ 372.89	$ 53.27	$69,463.20	$ 381.67	$ 54.52	$71,199.78	$ 391.21	$ 55.89
2	$62,946.95	$ 345.86	$ 49.41	$69,463.20	$ 381.67	$ 54.52	$71,373.45	$ 392.16	$ 56.02	$73,157.77	$ 401.97	$ 57.42
3				$71,199.78	$ 391.21	$ 55.89	$73,336.21	$ 402.95	$ 57.56	$75,169.61	$ 413.02	$ 59.00
4				$72,979.78	$ 400.99	$ 57.28	$75,352.96	$ 414.03	$ 59.15	$77,236.78	$ 424.38	$ 60.63
5				$74,804.27	$ 411.01	$ 58.72	$77,425.16	$ 425.41	$ 60.77	$79,360.80	$ 436.05	$ 62.29
6				$77,227.84	$ 424.33	$ 60.62	$79,541.69	$ 437.04	$ 62.43	$81,934.02	$ 450.19	$ 64.31
7				$80,316.35	$ 441.30	$ 63.04	$82,721.33	$ 454.51	$ 64.93	$85,207.33	$ 468.17	$ 66.88
8				$83,526.37	$ 458.94	$ 65.56	$86,032.61	$ 472.71	$ 67.53	$88,617.34	$ 486.91	$ 69.56
9				$86,862.97	$ 477.27	$ 68.18	$89,470.48	$ 491.60	$ 70.23	$92,156.47	$ 506.35	$ 72.34
10				$90,341.33	$ 496.38	$ 70.91	$93,052.64	$ 511.28	$ 73.04	$95,847.48	$ 526.63	$ 75.23
11				$92,148.87	$ 506.31	$ 72.33	$94,913.34	$ 521.50	$ 74.50	$97,763.87	$ 537.16	$ 76.74
12				$93,956.40	$ 516.24	$ 73.75	$96,774.04	$ 531.73	$ 75.96	$99,680.27	$ 547.69	$ 78.24
13				$95,837.36	$ 526.58	$ 75.23	$98,713.21	$ 542.38	$ 77.48	$101,672.61	$ 558.64	$ 79.81
14				$97,715.78	$ 536.90	$ 76.70	$100,647.32	$ 553.01	$ 79.00	$103,664.95	$ 569.59	$ 81.37
15				$97,715.78	$ 536.90	$ 76.70	$102,657.38	$ 564.05	$ 80.58	$105,743.36	$ 581.01	$ 83.00
16				$97,715.78	$ 536.90	$ 76.70	$104,667.45	$ 575.10	$ 82.16	$107,811.65	$ 592.37	$ 84.62
17				$97,715.78	$ 536.90	$ 76.70	$104,667.45	$ 575.10	$ 82.16	$109,968.53	$ 604.22	$ 86.32
18				$97,715.78	$ 536.90	$ 76.70	$104,667.45	$ 575.10	$ 82.16	$112,125.43	$ 616.07	$ 88.01
19				$97,715.78	$ 536.90	$ 76.70	$104,667.45	$ 575.10	$ 82.16	$114,365.87	$ 628.38	$ 89.77
20				$97,715.78	$ 536.90	$ 76.70	$104,667.45	$ 575.10	$ 82.16	$116,611.35	$ 640.72	$ 91.53

Employees who are hired under Intern, Provisional Intern Permit or Short-Term Staff Permit, may be credited year for year up to a Maximum of 2 years of experience on the salary schedule, if hired as a regular employee.

LONGEVITY INCREMENT

At year 16 - 3% added to Base Salary Schedule
At year 21 - 4% added to Base Salary Schedule
At year 26 - 5% added to Base Salary Schedule

A longevity will be added at the beginning of the 16th, 21st, and 26th year of continuous employement with Excelsior to the base salary of the certificated employee. The longevity increment will be prorated withing the school year based on when the 16th, 21st, and 26th anniversary falls, and will begin with the payroll following the anniversary date of the staff member.

Effective 7/1/2026

Excelsior Charter School

CLASSIFIED PAY SCHEDULE

Range	Position
H	Support Specialist II, Senior Lab Specialist
M	Administrative Assistant I
AA	Executive Assistant

	Range		
Steps	**H**	**M**	**AA**
1	$23.47	$27.22	$39.80
2	$24.17	$28.03	$40.99
3	$24.90	$28.88	$42.22
4	$25.66	$29.74	$43.49
5	$26.42	$30.63	$44.80
6	$27.22	$31.56	$46.15
7	$28.03	$32.50	$47.53
8	$28.88	$33.47	$48.95
9	$29.74	$34.47	$50.43
10	$30.63	$35.51	$51.93
11-13	$31.56	$36.57	$53.49
14-16	$32.50	$37.67	$55.09
17-19	$33.47	$38.80	$56.75
20+	$34.47	$39.96	$58.45

LONGEVITY INCREMENT

At Year 16 - 3% added to your Base Salary Schedule
At Year 21 - 4% added to your Base Salary Schedule
At Year 26 - 5% added to your Base Salary Schedule

A longevity will be added at the beginning of the 16th, 21st, and 26th year of continuous employement with Excelsior to the base salary of the classified employee. The longevity increment will be prorated withing the school year based on when the 16th, 21st, and 26th anniversary falls, and will begin with the payroll following the anniversary date of the staff member.

Effective 7/1/2026

Excelsior Charter School
COUNSELOR SALARY SCHEDULE

	Lane 000 Intern			Lane 001 Counselor		
Step	**Annual**	**Daily**	**Hourly**	**Annual**	**Daily**	**Hourly**
1	$81,952.29	$ 438.25	$ 62.61	$94,687.89	$ 506.35	$ 72.34
2	$83,715.05	$ 447.67	$ 63.95	$98,481.56	$ 526.64	$ 75.23
3				$100,449.38	$ 537.16	$ 76.74
4				$102,419.17	$ 547.70	$ 78.24
5				$104,465.85	$ 558.64	$ 79.81
6				$106,512.54	$ 569.59	$ 81.37
7				$108,647.96	$ 581.01	$ 83.00
8				$110,773.52	$ 592.37	$ 84.62
9				$112,989.78	$ 604.22	$ 86.32
10				$115,206.04	$ 616.08	$ 88.01
11				$117,507.08	$ 628.38	$ 89.77
12				$119,814.04	$ 640.72	$ 91.53

Employees who are hired under Intern, Provisional Intern Permit or Short-Term Staff Permit, may be credited year for year up to a Maximum of 2 years of experience on the salary schedule, if hired as a regular employee.

LONGEVITY INCREMENT

At year 16 - 3% added to Base Salary Schedule
At year 21 - 4% added to Base Salary Schedule
At year 26 - 5% added to Base Salary Schedule

A longevity will be added at the beginning of the 16th, 21st, and 26th year of continuous employement with Excelsior to the base salary of the certificated employee. The longevity increment will be prorated withing the school year based on when the 16th, 21st, and 26th anniversary falls, and will begin with the payroll following the anniversary date of the staff member.

Effective 7/1/2026

Excelsior Charter School
MANAGEMENT SALARY SCHEDULE

Lane	Position	Days	Step 1	Daily Rate	Step 2	Daily Rate	Step 3	Daily Rate	Step 4	Daily Rate	Step 5	Daily Rate
1	Assistant Principal 250-500	187	$104,459.64	$ 558.61	$110,262.94	$ 589.64	$116,066.27	$ 620.68	$121,869.60	$ 651.71	$127,672.89	$ 682.74
2	Interim Assistant Principal 250-500	187	$104,459.64	$ 558.61	$104,459.64	$ 558.61	$0.00	$ -	$0.00	$ -	$0.00	$ -
3	Assistant Principal > 500	202	$114,514.59	$ 566.90	$120,876.50	$ 598.40	$127,238.42	$ 629.89	$133,600.36	$ 661.39	$139,962.27	$ 692.88
4	Interim Assistant Principal > 500	202	$114,514.59	$ 566.90	$114,514.59	$ 566.90	$0.00	$ -	$0.00	$ -	$0.00	$ -
5	Certificated Coordinator	219	$115,318.70	$ 526.57	$121,725.29	$ 555.82	$128,131.88	$ 585.08	$134,538.48	$ 614.33	$140,945.09	$ 643.58
6	Micro Site Principal 125<	202	$101,417.13	$ 502.06	$107,051.41	$ 529.96	$112,685.70	$ 557.85	$118,319.99	$ 585.74	$123,954.27	$ 613.64
7	Interim Micro Site Principal 125<	202	$101,417.13	$ 502.06	$101,417.13	$ 502.06	$0.00	$ -	$0.00	$ -	$0.00	$ -
8	Principal 126-250	202	$113,080.10	$ 559.80	$118,734.12	$ 587.79	$124,670.83	$ 617.18	$130,904.37	$ 648.04	$137,449.60	$ 680.44
9	Interim Principal 126-250	202	$113,080.10	$ 559.80	$113,080.10	$ 559.80	$0.00	$ -	$0.00	$ -	$0.00	$ -
10	Principal 251-500	202	$124,743.07	$ 617.54	$130,980.24	$ 648.42	$137,529.25	$ 680.84	$144,405.72	$ 714.88	$151,626.01	$ 750.62
11	Interim Principal 251-500	202	$124,743.07	$ 617.54	$124,743.07	$ 617.54	$0.00	$ -	$0.00	$ -	$0.00	$ -
12	Principal > 500	202	$130,980.24	$ 648.42	$137,529.25	$ 680.84	$144,405.72	$ 714.88	$151,626.01	$ 750.62	$159,207.31	$ 788.16
13	Interim Principal > 500	202	$130,980.24	$ 648.42	$130,980.24	$ 648.42	$0.00	$ -	$0.00	$ -	$0.00	$ -
14	Director	219	$141,977.11	$ 648.30	$149,501.90	$ 682.66	$157,425.50	$ 718.84	$165,769.05	$ 756.94	$174,554.81	$ 797.05

LONGEVITY INCREMENT

At year 6 - 2% added to Base Salary Schedule
At year 10 - 3% added to Base Salary Schedule
At year 15 - 4% added to Base Salary Schedule
At year 20 - 5% added to Base Salary Schedule

A longevity increment at the beginning of the 6th, 10th, 15th, and 20th year of continuous management employment with Excelsior will be added to the base salary of the employee. The longevity increment will be prorated within the school year based on when the 6th, 10th, 15th, and 20th year anniversary falls, and will begin with the payroll following the anniversary date of the staff member.

Effective 7/1/2026

Excelsior Charter School

LEGACY MANAGEMENT SALARY SCHEDULE

Lane	Position	Days	Step 5	Daily Rate
1	Principal < or = 500	202	$152,463.74	$ 754.77

LONGEVITY INCREMENT

At year 6 - 2% added to Base Salary Schedule
At year 10 - 3% added to Base Salary Schedule
At year 15 - 4% added to Base Salary Schedule
At year 20 - 5% added to Base Salary Schedule

A longevity increment at the beginning of the 6th, 10th, 15th, and 20th year of continuous management employment with Excelsior will be added to the base salary of the employee. The longevity increment will be prorated within the school year based on when the 6th, 10th, 15th, and 20th year anniversary falls, and will begin with the payroll following the anniversary date of the staff member.

Effective 7/1/2026

*Placement on the salary schedule according to Vocational/Professional experience is only for classroom teachers of non-core, non-college prep courses as deemed necessary and appropriate by Administration. Required professional experience cannot be used for vertical progression on schedule.

All Units for salary advancement are semester units and must be taken after the award date of the Bachelor's Degree. Quarter units are converted to semester units by multiplying by a factor .667. Advancement across columns is dependent on units obtained from accredited schools (as accepted by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing). Certificated employees requesting advancement on the salary schedule shall submit supporting records of official transcript(s) or other official school document(s) showing completion of the required units or degree, or letter from the college/university. Salary adjustment due to advancement will be given twice per year, August and January. Appropriate documentation must be received by the Human Resources Department by August 31st for salary placement retroactive to the first official duty day of that school year, or by January 31st for salary placement retroactive to January 1.

B. Salary Basis/ Safe Harbor Policy

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) is a federal law which requires that most employees in the United States be paid at least the federal minimum wage for all hours worked and overtime pay at time and one-half the regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 hours in a workweek.

However, Section 13(a)(1) of the FLSA provides an exemption from both minimum wage and overtime pay for employees employed as bona fide executive, administrative, professional or outside sales employees. Section 13(a)(1) and Section 13(a)(17) also exempt certain computer employees. To qualify for exemption, employees generally must meet certain tests regarding their job duties and be paid on a salary basis at not less than $455 per week. Some state laws also provide for exemptions from both minimum wage and overtime pay, which have different requirements than the FLSA. Job titles do not determine exempt status. In order for an exemption to apply, an employee's specific job duties and salary must meet all the requirements of the Department's regulations, as well as any applicable state law requirements.

Salary Basis Requirement

To qualify for exemption, employees generally must be paid at not less than $455 per week on a salary basis. These salary requirements do not apply to outside sales employees, teachers, and employees practicing law or medicine. Exempt computer employees may be paid at least $455 on a salary basis or on an hourly basis at a rate not less than $27.63 an hour. State law requirements may be higher. Being paid on a "salary basis" means an employee regularly receives a predetermined amount of compensation each pay period on a weekly, or less frequent, basis. The predetermined amount cannot be reduced because of variations in the quality or quantity of the employee's work. Subject to certain exceptions delineated by the United States Department of Labor, an exempt employee must receive the full salary for any workweek in which the employee performs any work, regardless of the number of days or hours worked. Exempt employees do not need to be paid for any workweek in which they perform no work. If the employer makes deductions from an employee's predetermined salary because of the operating requirements of the business, that employee is not paid on a "salary basis." If the employer makes deductions from an employee's salary in a partial-day increment, the employee generally is not paid on a "salary basis." If the employee is ready, willing and able to work, deductions may not be made for time when work is not available.

Company Policy

It is our policy to comply with the salary basis requirements of the FLSA and state law. Therefore, we prohibit all company managers from making any improper deductions from the salaries of exempt employees. We want employees to be aware of this policy and that the company does not allow deductions that violate the FLSA or state law.

What To Do If An Improper Deduction Occurs

If you believe that an improper deduction has been made to your salary, you should immediately report this information to the Company's Human Resources Department.

Reports of improper deductions will be promptly investigated. If it is determined that an improper deduction has occurred, you will be promptly reimbursed for any improper deduction made. The Company does not tolerate any retaliation against those who make such reports.

C. Flex Days

All full time 10-month teacher shall have up to two (2) flex days as deemed necessary by their supervisor. Flex days may be used at any time during the two (2) weekdays immediately preceding or following the employees' regular annual work calendar. The corresponding days to be taken off must be taken during the same school year with the prior written approval of the employee's supervisor. Flex days can only be redeemed on Mondays, to minimize disruption to classroom time. Leave request forms are available from your supervisor. For intents and purposes of this section only, flex days must be taken in full day increments only.

D. Sick Leave

Excelsior provides Paid Sick Leave (PSL) to all full and part time employees to enable them to take paid time off for the diagnosis, care, or treatment of an existing health condition of (or preventative care for) the employee or the employee's family member or for a mental health day for the employee. Employees may also use their PSL to take time off from work for reasons related to domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault. An employee must submit a doctor's note to the Human Resources Department if they are out sick for three (3) or more days.

Sick leave is used for the following purposes, upon oral or written request of an employee:

Diagnosis, care, or treatment of an existing health condition of, or preventative care for, an employee or his/her family member, which is [defined as a child [including biological, adopted, foster child, stepchild, legal ward or child to whom the employee stands in loco parentis], parent, which is defined as a biological, (adoptive, foster parent, stepparents, and legal guardian of an employee or the employee's spouse or registered domestic partner, or a person who stood in loco parentis when the employee was a minor child, s included), spouse or , registered domestic partner, grandparent, grandchild, and sibling and designated person.]

A designated person is someone "identified by the employee at the time the employee requests paid sick days." (Lab. Code sec 245.5(c)(8)). Employees are limited to one designated person per twelve month

period for paid sick leave purposes.

New permanent employees may transfer all accrued and unused sick leave days from their previous school district.

Excelsior will automatically deduct from an employee's accrued PSL, when available, for any time requested for the above-mentioned reasons.

Eligible employees accrue PSL time according to the following:

Employee Classification	**PSL Accrual rate**
Exempt, Full Time	1 day per month – Number of months per year is specified on Notice of Assignment (NOA).
Non-Exempt, Full Time	Accrued at a rate of 1 hour for every 30 hours worked.
Exempt and Non-Exempt, Part Time	Pro rata basis - the rate at which their work schedule (as specified on their NOA) relates to full time employment.

Notification

The employee must provide reasonable advance notification, orally or in writing, of the need to use PSL, if foreseeable. If the need to use PSL is not foreseeable, the employee must provide notice as soon as practicable.

Termination

There is no cap limit on sick leave accrual; however, employees will not receive pay in lieu of accrued but unused PSL. Accrued but unused PSL will not be paid out upon termination of employment.

No Discrimination or Retaliation

The School prohibits discrimination or retaliation against employees for using their PSL.

California Paid Sick Leave (AB1522)

Under AB1522, a newly enacted California law, any employee who works 30 days for an employer will be eligible to accrue and use sick leave, effective July 1, 2015. This section only applies to substitute, seasonal, temporary or other employees, not covered under Excelsior's Paid Sick Leave policy as described in the section above.

The following criteria must be met in order to qualify for the leave and applies to this section only:

1. The employee must work a minimum of 30 days in a one-year period.
2. The one-year period is based on a fiscal year (July 1st – June 30th).
3. Newly Hired Employees must satisfy a 90-day waiting period before sick leave may be taken.

Accrual Method and Use of Sick Leave

Employees will earn 1 hour of sick leave for every 30 hours worked within the fiscal year (including regular and overtime hours).

1. The employee must work a minimum of 30 days in a one-year period.
2. The one-year period is based on a fiscal year (July 1st – June 30th).
3. Newly Hired Employees must satisfy a 90-day waiting period before sick leave may be taken.
4. Employees may use sick leave in hourly increments.
5. Sick leave is not a payable benefit upon termination.
6. If the employee resigns from Excelsior or if the employee's work assignment with Excelsior ends, whatever sick leave balance is on record at the time of separation will be restored to the employee if the employee returns to Excelsior within 1 year from the date of separation.
7. Sick leave may be used for diagnosis, care, or treatment of an existing health condition, preventative care for the employee or the employee's family member, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Sick leave is used for the following purposes, upon oral or written request of an employee:

Diagnosis, care, or treatment of an existing health condition of, or preventative care for, an employee or his/her family member, which is [defined as a child [including biological, adopted, foster child, stepchild, legal ward or child to whom the employee stands in loco parentis], parent, which is defined as a biological, (adoptive, foster parent, stepparents, and legal guardian of an employee or the employee's spouse or registered domestic partner, or a person who stood in loco parentis when the employee was a minor child, s included), spouse or , registered domestic partner, grandparent, grandchild, and sibling and designated person.]

A designated person is someone "identified by the employee at the time the employee requests paid sick days." (Lab. Code sec 245.5(c)(8)). Employees are limited to one designated person per twelve month period for paid sick leave purposes.

E. Retirement Matching Program 403(b)

The Staff 403(b) matching program has been developed to help Excelsior Charter Schools Employees further their financial security.

The goal of the program is to encourage staff to consider a well-designed financial plan that will provide financial security and ensures that personal financial goals are met.

The annual limit for the 403(b) matching program is set at $25,000.00, for each school year and is subject to change with or without notice. Eligible employees' contributions to the 403(b) will be matched up to $250 per year.

The Business Department authorizes the matching from school funds allotted for Staff 403(b) Matching program, and is responsible for administration, interpretation and approval for this program.

Eligibility

You are eligible for this program if:

- You are a regular, active, full-time or part time employee.

- Must participate in a 403(b) savings program.

Amount of Reimbursement

Excelsior will match the employee's contribution to the 403(b) program up to a maximum of $250.00 per year.

Based on the amount of matching requests for a specific fiscal year, all or percentage of the amount will be paid until the amount allotted for the yearly matching is completely spent. Administration is allowed the discretion to limit the matching amount during the year for budgetary considerations. The fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th.

F. Insurance Benefits

1. Health Insurance

Full-time employees are entitled to health insurance benefits in accordance with Excelsior's health insurance plan. The coverage chosen by the employee will determine how much of the employee's portion of monthly premiums will be deducted from the employee's paycheck, if any.

If medical insurance premium rates increase, employees may be required to contribute to the cost of increased premiums to retain coverage.

Full time employees are eligible for health insurance benefits on the first day of the month after their date of hire.

Health insurance benefits end on the last day of the month in which the employee worked.

All employees who work an average of 30 hours per week or 130 hours per month and work more than 120 days in a year are eligible to purchase health benefits offered by Excelsior, and in accordance with the Affordable Care Act, for the employee and his or her dependents.

Independent contractors and consultants are not employees of Excelsior and are not eligible for benefits provided by Excelsior.

Eligible staff members will be entitled to a "cash option" in lieu of health benefits. This is based on a plan year from July 1 through June 30. Eligibility for the "cash option" is based on the following criteria:

(a) Married couples that are both full-time staff members of Excelsior (only one would be eligible to waive benefits).

(b) Eligible staff members whose health benefits are covered by a spouse's employer, or elsewhere (with verification).

For those staff members who are eligible for the "cash option" in lieu of health benefits and who waive medical benefits, a specified amount is available to be contributed to a 403(b) plan. This specified amount will consist of two installments, which will be included in the November and May payrolls and will be distributed, in a timely manner, to the pre-designated 403(b) account.

Eligible staff members who wish to waive benefits and receive the "cash option" must sign and return a waiver to the Business Office prior to or during the open enrollment period.

2. Disability Insurance

All employees are enrolled in California State Disability Insurance (SDI), which is a partial wage-replacement insurance plan for California workers. Employees may be eligible for SDI when they are ill or have non-work related injuries, or may be eligible for work related injuries if they are receiving workers' compensation at a weekly rate less than the SDI rate. Specific rules and regulations relating to SDI eligibility are available from the Employment Development Department State of California website.

3. Family Leave Insurance

Employees covered by the California Disability Insurance program are also covered by the California Paid Family Leave Insurance program. Eligible employees are entitled to receive up to six weeks of wage replacement benefits when they suffer a wage loss for taking time off to care for a seriously ill child, spouse, parent or domestic partner or to bond with a new child within one year of birth or placement of the child in connection with foster care or adoption. Specific rules and regulations relating the Family Leave Insurance are available from the Employment Development Department State of California website.

Employees may apply with the Employment Development Department. Employees may be eligible for up to 6 weeks of Paid Family Leave benefits within a 12-month period. The six weeks of benefits can be paid consecutively or may be split up while the employee is working part-time or intermittently as a result of their family leave.

Paid family leave benefits are being expanded to up to 8 weeks if the leave starts on or after July 1, 2020.

4. Workers' Compensation Insurance

Eligible employees are entitled to Workers' Compensation Insurance benefits when suffering from an occupational illness or injury. This benefit is provided at no cost to the employee. See below for a further description of making a claim for Workers' Compensation Insurance benefits. Eligible employees who are placed on a Workers' Compensation leave will be placed on FMLA/CFRA leave if/or when the Workers' Compensation leave will extend beyond 2 workweeks. Medical benefits will remain active during the FMLA/CFRA leave.

If an Employee's Workers' Compensation leave will extend beyond the legally mandated 12 workweeks of FMLA/CFRA leave; the Human Resources Department will contact the employee to set up a reasonable accommodation meeting to determine if any additional leave can be accommodated. If any additional leave can be accommodated, the employee will be placed on inactive status and their medical benefits will be terminated; COBRA letters will be sent to the employee for the option of purchasing medical insurance.

If any additional leave cannot be accommodated, the employee will be placed on inactive status for the remainder of their Workers' Compensation leave, their benefits will be terminated and their position will be filled, and COBRA be sent. At this time the employee will also be placed on a Rehire List for up to 1 year.

Anytime during the employee's inactive a status if they are released from Workers' Compensation leave and there is a position open that they meet the qualifications for, Human Resources will contact them about filling the position. If at any time during the employee's Workers' Compensation leave or time on the rehire list,

they employee finds other employment or wishes to resign their position at Excelsior, they will need to submit an official letter of resignation to the Human Resources Department.

G. Leaves of Absence

This Handbook summarizes leave that may be available to employees. Most leave policies have differing requirements for eligibility, duration, benefits, etc. Therefore, employees should contact Human Resources to request specific information relating to a particular leave policy. Employees must submit requests for leaves of absence in writing to their supervisor as far in advance as is practicable. Employees on job-protected leave must notify their supervisor if their return to work date changes or they need an extension of their current leave status. If an employee's leave expires and he/she fails to return to work without contacting their supervisor, it will be presumed that the employee abandoned his/her position with Excelsior and employment may be terminated. If an employee is unable or unwilling to return to work at the expiration of his/her leave of absence, his/her employment may be terminated.

While out on a leave of absence, employees may not accept employment with another company or person unless agreed to in advance in writing by Excelsior's Superintendent. Acceptance of employment in violation of this policy will be considered an abandonment of the employee's position with Excelsior, and employment may be terminated. Employees shall not apply for unemployment compensation insurance while out on leave.

1. Family Care and Medical Leave/ California Family Rights Act

Eligible employees may request a family and medical leave of absence under the circumstances described below.

Employees may be eligible for FMLACFRA leave if they have:

- Been employed by ECG for at least twelve (12) months. The employment need not be twelve (12) consecutive months – employees working intermittently are entitled to have the intermittent periods of work aggregated, and breaks in service may be disregarded if within seven (7) years of the FMLA leave. Employment periods preceding a break in service of more than seven (7) years must be counted in determining whether the employee has been employed by the employer for at least twelve (12) months where: the employee's break is due to his/her USERRA covered service obligation; or a written agreement exists concerning the employer's intention to rehire the employee.; and
- Worked at least one thousand fifty (1,250) hours during the twelve-month (12)-month period immediately preceding commencement of the FMLA leave; and

Worked at a location in which the employer has at least fifty (50) employees within seventy-five (75) miles radius of the employee's work site for FMLA or worked at a location with five (5) or more employees for CFRA.

Ordinarily, you must request a planned family and medical leave at least 30 days before the leave begins. If the need for the leave is not foreseeable, you must request the leave as soon as practicable. You should use the School's request form, which is available upon request from Human Resources, and as outlined below. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in a delay of the start of the leave.

A family and medical leave may be taken for the following reasons:

- For your own serious health condition;
- Care for a family member with a serious health condition (FMLA defines a family member as a parent, child or spouse; CFRA defines a family member as a parent, child, grandparent, grandchild, sibling [sibling is defined as "a person related to another person by blood, adoption, or affinity through a

common legal or biological parent"], spouse, registered domestic partner, parent-in-law or a "designated person" [a "designated person" is defined as "any individual related by blood or whose association with the employee is the equivalent of a family relationship"]);

- Bonding with a newborn, an adopted child or a child placed in foster care;
- For any q qualifying exigency arising relating to a close family member's military service (FMLA allows up to twenty-six (26) weeks per twelve (12)month period) to care for an ill or injured service member, including the fact that your spouse, son, daughter, or parent is on covered active duty status or call to covered active duty status (or has been notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty).
    - Covered active duty or call to covered active duty status for a member of the Regular Armed Forces means duty during the deployment with the Armed Forces to a foreign country. The active duty orders of a member of the Regular components of the Armed Forces will generally specify if the member is deployed to a foreign country.
    - Covered active duty or call to covered active duty status in the case of a member of the Reserve components of the Armed Forces means duty during the deployment of the member with the Armed Forces to a foreign country under a Federal call or order to active duty in support of a contingency operation as further explained in 29 C.F.R. § 825.126.

A "designated person" may be identified at the time the employee requests leave to care for that person.

A "serious health condition" is one that requires inpatient care in a hospital or other medical care facility or continuing treatment or supervision by a health care provider. You may take a leave under paragraph (2) above only if due to a serious health condition, your spouse, child, parent, or registered domestic partner requires your care or assistance as certified in writing by the family member's health care provider. If you are seeking a leave under paragraph (3) above, you must provide the School with a medical certification from your health care provider establishing eligibility for the leave, and you must provide the School with a release to return to work from the health care provider before returning to work. You must provide the required medical certification to the School in a timely manner to avoid a delay or denial of leave. You may obtain the appropriate forms from Human Resources.

Family and medical leave may be taken for up to 12 workweeks during the designated 12-month period (with the exception of qualifying leaves to care for a member of the Armed Services who has a serious illness or injury, which may be taken for up to a total of 26 workweeks of leave during a single 12-month period). The 12-month period will be defined as a "rolling twelve months" looking backward over the preceding 12 months to calculate how much family and medical leave time has been taken and therefore determine the amount of leave that is available. Qualifying leaves to care for a member of the Armed Services who has a serious illness or injury will be calculated on the 12-month period looking forward. All time off that qualifies as family and medical leave will be counted against your state and federal family and medical leave entitlements to the fullest extent permitted by law.

You will be required to use any accrued PSL during unpaid family and medical leave that is due to your own or a family member's serious health condition. However, if an employee is receiving benefit payments pursuant to a disability insurance plan (such as California's State Disability Insurance plan or Paid Family Leave program) or workers' compensation insurance plan, the employee and the School may mutually agree to supplement such benefit payments with available PSL.

Benefit accrual, such as PSL, and holiday benefits, will be suspended during the approved leave period and

will resume upon return to active employment. During a family and medical leave, group health benefits will be maintained as if you were continuously employed. However, you must continue to pay your share of applicable premiums (for yourself and any dependents) during the leave.

If you do not return to work on the first workday following the expiration of an approved family and medical leave, you will be deemed to have resigned from your employment. Upon returning from such a leave, you will normally be reinstated to your original or an equivalent position and will receive pay and benefits equivalent to those you received prior to the leave, as required by law. In certain circumstances, "key" employees may not be eligible for reinstatement following a family and medical leave. The School will provide written notice to any "key" employee who is not eligible for reinstatement.

Procedures for Requesting and Scheduling FMLA Leave

An employee should request FMLA leave by completing a Request for Leave form and submitting it to Human Resources**.** An employee asking for a Request for Leave form will receive a copy of Excelsior's then-current FMLA leave policy.

Employees should provide not less than 30 day notice or if such notice is not possible, as soon as is practicable, for foreseeable childbirth, placement or any planned medical treatment for the employee or his/her spouse, child or parent. Failure to provide such notice is grounds for denial of a leave request, except in situations where the need for FMLA leave is an emergency or otherwise unforeseeable.

If an employee needs intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment for the employee or a family member, the employee may be transferred temporarily to an available alternative position for which he/she is qualified that has equivalent pay and benefits and that better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the employee's regular position.

In most cases, Excelsior will respond to a FMLA leave request within five (5) business days of acquiring knowledge that the leave is being taken for an FMLA-qualifying reason and, in any event, within ten (10) days of receiving the request. If an FMLA leave request is granted, Excelsior will notify the employee in writing that the leave will be counted against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement. This notice will explain the employee's obligations and the consequences of failing to satisfy them.

Return to Work

Upon timely return at the expiration of the FMLA leave period, an employee is entitled to the same or comparable position to the employee's original position in terms of pay, benefits and working conditions, including privileges, perquisites and status, unless the same position and any comparable position(s) have ceased to exist because of legitimate business reasons unrelated to the employee's FMLA leave.

2. Pregnancy Disability Leave

The School provides pregnancy disability leaves of absence without pay to eligible employees who are temporarily unable to work due to a disability related to pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. Employees should make requests for pregnancy disability leave to their supervisor at least 30 days in advance of foreseeable events and as soon as possible for unforeseeable events. A health care provider's statement must be submitted, verifying the need for such leave and its beginning and expected ending dates. Any changes in this information should be promptly reported to the School. Employees returning from pregnancy disability leave must submit a health care provider's verification of their fitness to return to work.

The School will make a good faith effort to provide reasonable accommodations and/or transfer requests when such a request is medically advisable based on the certification of a health care provider. When an employee's health care provider finds it is medically advisable for an employee to take intermittent leave or leave on a reduced work schedule and such leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment because of pregnancy, the School may require the employee to transfer temporarily to an available alternative position. This alternative position will have equivalent rate of pay and benefits and must better accommodate recurring periods of leave than the employee's regular job.

Eligible employees are normally granted unpaid leave for the period of disability, up to a maximum of four months (or 17 1/3 weeks or 693 hours) per pregnancy. Employees will be required to use any accrued sick time during any unpaid portion of pregnancy disability leave. If an employee is receiving benefit payments pursuant to disability insurance plan (such as California's State Disability Insurance plan or Paid Family Leave program), the employee and the School may mutually agree to supplement such benefit payments with available sick leave. Pregnancy Disability Leave prohibits an employer from requiring an employee to use PTO or vacation during the leave.

Benefit accrual, such as sick leave, and holiday benefits, will be suspended during the approved pregnancy disability leave period and will resume upon return to active employment. Group health benefits will be maintained during the approved pregnancy disability leave as if you were continuously employed. However, you must continue to pay your share of applicable premiums (for yourself and any dependents) during the leave.

So that an employee's return to work can be properly scheduled, an employee on pregnancy disability leave is requested to provide the School with at least one week's advance notice of the date she intends to return to work.

When an approved pregnancy disability leave ends, the employee will be reinstated to the same position, unless the job ceased to exist because of legitimate business reasons. An employee has no greater right to reinstatement to the same position or to other benefits and conditions of employment than if she had been continuously employed in this position during the pregnancy disability leave or transfer. If the same position is not available, the employee will be offered a comparable position in terms of such issues as pay, location, job content, and promotional opportunities, if one exists. An employee has no greater right to reinstatement to a comparable position or to other benefits or conditions of employment than an employee who has been continuously employed in another position that is being eliminated.

If you have any questions regarding pregnancy disability leave, please contact Human Resources.

3. Coordinating CFRA Leave, PDL and PFL

If you have been employed with us for at least one continuous year (not necessarily continuous) and worked at least 1,250 hours in the year preceding your request for leave, you may request CFRA leave of up to twelve work weeks to bond with your child after your physician has released you from your post-delivery PDL. This unpaid CFRA leave is separate from the right to take PDL (and concurrent FMLA leave, if applicable), which is explained in the preceding sections of this handbook. There is no need to establish a serious health condition for you or your child to take CFRA leave. Your baby-bonding leave must be taken in minimum increments of two weeks and is available to you only within one year after your child's birth.

The maximum possible combined unpaid leave for a pregnant woman is up to four months for pregnancy disability if medically required (which includes any period of disability certified by a physician

after the birth of the child), plus 12 work weeks to care for and bond with the newborn child. CFRA leave may overlap with the Paid Family Leave referenced in the previous section.

For more information regarding your eligibility for an unpaid CFRA leave, the impact of the leave on your benefits and coordination with PDL, please contact the Authorized Person.

4. Disability Leave

In addition to any legally-mandated leave to which you may be entitled, we will make every effort to reasonably accommodate your need for an unpaid leave of absence in the event of a disability, as long as it will not pose an undue hardship for the Company. If you require a disability leave, make a written request to the Human Resources Manager.

You must notify the Human Resources Manager of your intent to resume work at least one week prior to your expected return date. Before returning to work after a disability leave of absence, you must provide us with a written statement from your physician, stating your ability to return to your regular duties and any restrictions you may have.

Although we cannot guarantee that your job will be held open for you until you return from a disability leave, we will make every effort to return you to the same or a similar job position. If no job opening exists for which you are qualified, you will be separated from employment.

5. Medical Leave of Absence

Requirements and Status upon Returning from Medical and/or Worker's Compensation Leave

In order for the employee to return to work, the attending physician must release the employee to return to work on full duty. The employee cannot return to work without a full work release of the attending physician.

In the event that the employee is released to work light/modified duty, the employee's physician's statement must specify what the work restrictions are. During a scheduled Reasonable Accommodation meeting, Excelsior will make every effort to accommodate a light/modified assignment but will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Ultimately, it is at Excelsior's discretion and based upon business needs. If an employee's additional leave cannot be accommodated and their position is filled (due to the needs of Excelsior), Excelsior will place the employee on a inactive rehire list for up to 1 year from the time of inactivation. If during the year a position becomes open, that the employee meets the qualifications for, the Human Resources Department will contact the employee about potentially filling the position.

6. Paid Family Leave

Under California's Paid Family Leave Act ("PFL"), you may be eligible to receive payments from the state Employment Development Department while you are on leave for up to six weeks of leave to care for an ill family member (defined as parent, parent-in-law, child, spouse, sibling, grandparent, grandchild or domestic partner) or for bonding with a newborn or recent adoptee.

Employees may apply with the Employment Development Department. Employees may be eligible for up to 6 weeks of Paid Family Leave benefits within a 12-month period. The six weeks of benefits can be paid consecutively or may be split up while the employee is working part-time or intermittently as a result of their family leave.

Paid family leave benefits are being expanded to up to 8 weeks if the leave starts on or after July 1, 2020.

For further information on this benefit, please contact the Human Resources Department.

7. New Parent Leave Act

Employees are eligible for parental leave under the New Parent Leave Act if they: (1) have worked for their employer at least 12 months, (2) have worked at least 1,250 hours over the past 12 months, and (3) work at a location where the company employs between 20 – 49 employees within 75 miles.

An eligible employee may take up to 12 weeks of job-protected parental leave to bond with a new child in the 12 months following the child's birth, adoption, or foster care placement. (Parental leave under the New Parent Leave Act is counted separately from leave taken under California's Pregnancy Disability Leave law, so leave under the New Parent Leave Act is in addition to any time you take off from work for pregnancy or childbirth related health conditions). Employees may take the leave intermittently or all at once. Upon return, an employer must reinstate an employee to his or her same or a comparable position.

If both parents are employed by the same employer, the employer is not required to grant more than 12 weeks total of bonding leave to the parents. In addition, the employer is not required to, but may, grant simultaneous leave to both employees.

An employer must maintain and pay for coverage under a group health plan for an eligible employee who takes parental leave under the New Parent Leave Act at the same level and under the same conditions that coverage would have been provided if the employee had continued to work. An employer may recover the premium that the employer paid for maintaining coverage for the employee under the group health plan during his or her leave if: (1) the employee fails to return to work after the period of job-protected leave ends; and (2) the failure of the employee to return from leave is for a reason other than the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a serious health condition or other circumstances beyond the control of the employee.

Employees may use accrued vacation pay, paid sick time, other accrued paid time off, or other paid or unpaid time off negotiated with the employer, during their parental leave. Employees who pay into State Disability (SDI) may apply for partial wage replacement during New Parent Leave Act bonding leave through California's Paid Family Leave program (PFL). Visit: http://www.edd.ca.gov/. Otherwise, the leave is unpaid. Check your paystub to see if you pay into State Disability Insurance.

It is unlawful for an employer to interfere with or deny an employee's right to leave or to retaliate or discriminate against an employee for exercising rights under the New Parent Leave Act.

Interactions with PDL/FMLA, CFRA

After a baby is born, an employee is entitled to additional leave under CFRA for baby bonding. No medical certification is required.

8. Funeral/Bereavement Leave

To be eligible for bereavement leave, an employee must be employed for thirty (30) days before the commencement of the leave. Employees may take up to five (5) days of bereavement leave per covered immediate family member, or per occurrence. Bereavement leave can be taken intermittently and does not need to be consecutive, (e.g., two days off after the death of the immediate family member, then three days off a couple of weeks later for a memorial service). Bereavement leave must be taken within ninety (90) calendar days following the death of an immediate family member. Covered family members include a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, state-registered domestic partner, and parent-in-law,

using the same definitions as the California Family Rights Act (CFRA) for family and medical leave. Bereavement leave does not count against an employee's 12 workweeks of available CFRA leave each year. Employees must provide certification of the need for bereavement leave within 30 days of the first day of leave or else the leave will be considered unpaid days. Acceptable documentation includes a death certificate, a published obituary, or written verification of death, burial, or memorial services from a mortuary, funeral home, burial society, crematorium, religious institution, or governmental agency.

Reproductive Loss Leave

Eligible employees may take leave for a reproductive loss based on qualifying events and have been working for the school for at least 30 days prior to the leave's commencement.

Eligible employees may take up to 5 unpaid days, or may choose to use their available accrued leave when they suffer a reproductive loss event, which is the day, or the final day for a multiple day event, of the following:

- Failed adoption
- Failed surrogacy
- Miscarriage
- Stillbirth
- Unsuccessful assisted reproduction

The five days of loss leave may be nonconsecutive. If an employee experiences more than one reproductive loss event within a 12 month period, an employee can receive another five days of leave, but reproductive loss leave is capped at 20 days within any 12 month period.

Reproductive loss leave must be taken within 3 months of a qualifying event; however, if prior to or immediately following a reproductive loss event, an employee is on or chooses to go on leave under California's pregnancy disability law, the California Family Rights Act, or any other leave provided by state or federal law, then the employee may complete their reproductive loss leave within 3 months of the end of the other leave.

9. Military Leave of Absence

If you are on full-time duty in the armed services, we will give you all leave of absence, benefits and reinstatement rights guaranteed to you by current laws. If you are a member of a National Guard or Military Reserve (including State Military Reserve) unit, we will give you an unpaid leave of absence for your annual military training (typically two weeks per year). You must give your official duty orders to the Human Resources department and submit a written request for a military leave of absence. You may apply your accrued paid time off benefits to receive pay for any leave period not covered by your military base pay, or you can choose to take the time off without pay. We will not discriminate or retaliate against you based upon your membership or service in any state or federal military force, as it pertains to any term, condition or privilege of employment with our Company.

10. Military Family Leave

You are entitled to up to ten days of unpaid leave when your military spouse or registered domestic partner is home on leave from active service in the Armed Forces, National Guard or Reserves. Your leave must take place while your military spouse or registered domestic partner is on leave from deployment to an area of "military conflict," defined as a period of war declared by Congress or authorized under the federal Armed Forces Code. To be eligible for this leave, you must be working an average of 20 or more hours per week, and you must request leave from Authorized Person within two business days of receiving official notice that your military spouse or registered domestic partner will be on leave from deployment. You can apply any accrued paid leave time to this leave.

11. Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Leave

Excelsior will reasonably accommodate an employee who voluntarily enters and participates in an alcohol or drug rehabilitation program, including potentially providing unpaid leave to participate in the program. Excelsior will not pay for the costs incurred in attending a rehabilitation program. An employee who wishes to identify him or herself as an individual in need of the assistance of an alcohol or drug rehabilitation program may contact the Human Resources Department. Excelsior will take all reasonable steps necessary to maintain the employee's privacy in this situation. The employee may use accrued sick leave, if any, during requested leave.

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit Excelsior from refusing to hire or discharge an employee who, because of his or her current use of alcohol or drugs, is unable to perform his/her duties or cannot perform the duties in a manner that would not endanger his/her health or safety or the health or safety of others.

12. Time Off to Attend Child's School Discipline

Any employee who is a parent or legal guardian of a child that has received written notice from the child's school requesting his or her attendance at a disciplinary conference is entitled to take unpaid leave to attend the conference. Please contact your supervisor to determine eligibility and scheduling before taking any leave to attend a disciplinary conference.

13. Time Off to Attend Child's School Activities

If you are the parent, stepparent, foster parent, grandparent, guardian or a person standing in loco parentis of a child who is in school up to grade 12, or who attends a licensed day care facility, you may take up to 40 hours of unpaid leave per year to participate in the activities of the school or day care facility, to find, enroll or reenroll your child in a school or with a licensed child care provider and/or to address a child care provider or school emergency. You may take no more than eight hours off for this purpose in any one calendar month. Unless it is to address an emergency, you should schedule this time off with your supervisor in advance.

You may be asked to provide documentation from the school or day care facility that you participated in the activity to confirm your attendance at its facility for reasons covered under this policy on the specific date and time that you took the leave. On the specific date and at the specific time that you took the leave. You are to utilize any available paid leave for purposes of this time off; if you do not have any accrued paid leave, the time off is unpaid.

14. Time Off to Serve as Election Official

Any employee who serves as an election official is eligible for unpaid leave on Election Day for purposes of service. Employees should notify their supervisor of their commitment to act as an election official as far in advance as possible.

15. Time Off for Jury and Witness Duty

Full and part time employees will be allowed up to twenty (20) paid days during any one school year to serve on a jury. Staff members are paid for the time they are absent (up to 20 days) less any monies received from the court for their jury duty service. Employees shall not be reimbursed for mileage or other expenses. Compensation for jury duty is limited to normal jury duty hours as they fall within the employee's regularly scheduled work shift.

Jury duty shall be granted without any loss of credit to the employee's length of service with Excelsior. Sick Leave and other benefits will continue to accrue while the staff member is on jury duty. Excelsior shall have the right to request that the court consider postponing jury service if the staff member's absence would seriously interrupt the operations of Excelsior.

Staff members must give advance notice of the need for time off due to jury duty. A copy of the summons should accompany the request. Should a staff member be dismissed from jury duty at least four (4) hours prior to the end of the business day, the staff member is required to report back to work. Staff members are required to submit proof of their jury duty service for each day they report to jury duty.

Excelsior will also provide employees unpaid leave to appear in court or other judicial proceeding as a witness, as permitted by law, to comply with a valid subpoena or other court order. Employees should notify their supervisor of their commitment to serve on a jury or as a witness as far in advance as possible.

16. Time Off for Victims of Crime or Domestic Violence

If you are a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault and/or stalking, you may take time off to obtain or attempt to obtain judicial relief, such as obtaining restraining orders, to help insure your health, safety or welfare or that of your child(ren). Employees may use available vacation/PTO (if applicable) or accrued PSL. Otherwise, the time off is unpaid. All employees can take time off from work to get medical attention or services from a domestic violence shelter, program, or rape crisis center, or receive psychological counseling or safety planning related to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking victim's leave for medical treatment does not exceed or add to the unpaid leave time that FMLA/CFRA allows.

You must give the School reasonable notice unless advance notice is not feasible, and provide certification that you are seeking such assistance.

Certification may be sufficiently provided by any of the following:

- A police report indicating that you were a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking;
- A court order protecting or separating you from the perpetrator of an act of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking, or other evidence from the court or prosecuting attorney that you appeared in court; or,

- Documentation from a medical professional, domestic violence advocate, health care provider, or counselor that you are undergoing treatment for physical or mental injuries or abuse resulting in victimization from an act of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.

Employees have the right to ask the School for help or changes in their workplace to make sure they are safe at work. The School will work with its employees to see what changes can be made. Changes in the workplace may include putting in locks, changing shifts or phone numbers, transferring or reassigning the employee, or help with keeping a record of what happened to the employee. The School may ask the affected employee for a signed statement certifying that this request is for a proper purpose and may also request proof showing the need for an accommodation.

The School will, to the extent allowed by law, maintain the confidentiality of an employee requesting leave under this provision. The School will not discharge, discriminate or retaliate against an employee who exercises their rights under this law.

Excelsior Charter Schools is committed to ensuring employees are not treated differently or retaliated against because of any of the following:

- The employee is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
- The employee asked for time off to get help.
- The employee asked Excelsior Charter Schools for help or changes in the workplace to ensure safety at work.

If any employee believes that he or she has experienced retaliation or discrimination as a result of conduct protected by this policy, the employee may file a complaint with his or her supervisor and/or the Labor Commissioner's Office.

For more information, contact the Labor Commissioner's Office by phone at 213-897-6595 or visit a local office by finding the nearest one on website: www.dir.ca.gov/dlse/DistrictOffices.htm. The Labor Commissioner's Office provides an interpreter at no cost to the employee, if needed.

17. Time Off for Victims of Crime

An Employee who is a victim of certain crimes (violent felonies, felony thefts and serious felonies as defined by law) or is an immediate family member of a victim, is a registered domestic partner of a victim or the child of a registered domestic partner of a victim will be given time off as necessary in accordance with the law. Employees may be required to provide reasonable advanced notice of the need for time off if feasible and documentation establishing the right to such time off may be requested. Excelsior will take all reasonable steps to maintain the confidentiality of any employee requesting crime victim leave. Employees should notify their supervisor of their need for time off as far in advance as possible. As applicable, an employee may use accrued sick leave for crime victim leave purposes.

18. Volunteer Firefighter/Peace Officer/Rescue Personnel

If you are a volunteer firefighter, reserve peace officer or emergency rescue personnel (including any officer, employee or member of a disaster medical response team sponsored by the state), you may take all necessary unpaid time off from employment to perform your emergency duty. You may also take up to 14 days of unpaid leave each calendar year for the purpose of engaging in fire, law enforcement or emergency rescue training]. You must provide as much advance notice as possible to Authorized Person and you must provide documentation of your need for leave. If you are a health care provider you must notify us at the time you become designated as "emergency rescue personnel" and when you are notified of deployment based on that designation.

19. Time Off for Voting

The School encourages its employees to fulfill their civic responsibilities by participating in elections. Because polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m., employees generally are able to find time to vote either before or after their regular work schedule.

Employees who do not have sufficient time outside of their regular working hours to vote in a statewide election may request time off to vote. If possible, employees should make their request at least two days in advance of the election. Up to two hours of paid time off will be provided, at the beginning or the end of the employee's regular shift, whichever will allow the most free time for voting and the least time off work. Employees should notify their supervisor of their request and schedule time off to vote. Employees must submit a voter's receipt on the first working day following the election to qualify for paid time off.

20. Worker's Compensation Leave

Employees that are temporarily totally disabled due to a work-related illness or injury will be placed on workers' compensation leave. The duration of their leave will depend upon the rate of their recovery and the business needs of Excelsior. Workers' compensation leave will run concurrently with FMLA/CFRA or any other applicable medical leave of absence. Eligible employees who are placed on a Workers' Compensation leave will be placed on an FMLA/CFRA leave if/or when the Workers' Compensation leave will extend beyond 2 workweeks. Medical benefits will remain active during the FMLA/CFRA leave.

If an Employee's Workers' Compensation leave will extend beyond the 12 workweeks of FMLA/CFRA leave; the Human Resources Department will contact the employee to set up a reasonable accommodation meeting to determine if any additional leave can be accommodated. If any additional leave can be accommodated, they employee will be placed on inactive status and their medical benefits will be terminated; COBRA letters will be sent to the employee for the option of purchasing medical insurance.

If any additional leave cannot be accommodated, the employee will be placed on inactive status for the remainder of their Workers' Compensation leave, their benefits will be terminated and their position will be filled, and COBRA be sent. At this time the employee will also be placed on a Rehire List for up to 1 year.

Anytime during the employee's inactive a status if they are released from Workers' Compensation leave and there is a position open that they meet the qualifications for, Human Resources will contact them about filling the position. If at any time during the employee's Workers' Compensation leave or time on the rehire list, they employee finds other employment or wishes to resign their position at Excelsior, they will need to submit an official letter of resignation to the Human Resources Department.

21. Organ Donor/Bone Marrow Leave

If you volunteer to donate an organ you may take up to thirty (30) days paid leave per year for this process or up to five (5) days paid leave for the donation of bone marrow.

You must give as much notice as is practicable and must provide certification of the medical necessity of the procedure. You will be required to use up to two weeks of any accrued paid leave (sick and/or vacation) for organ donation and up to five (5) days accrued paid leave (sick and/or vacation) for bone marrow donation. Depending upon the circumstances of the leave, FMLA/CFRA may apply to your request for donor leave.

You may take this leave incrementally, as medically necessary, or all at one time. All health benefits shall be maintained during this leave to the extent they exist at the time of the leave. This leave shall not be considered a break in service and the employee shall continue to accrue paid time off and other benefits as if they had continued working. The Employee shall be required to pay any portion of their benefits they are currently paying.

An employee shall not have any greater rights during this leave than if he or she had been actively working during this time but will be reinstated to their same or equivalent job prior to the leave. No employee shall be discriminated or retaliated against for taking an organ donation or bone marrow leave.

22. Civil Air Patrol Leave

If you are a member of the California Civil Air Patrol, you are entitled to time off to serve when called, and you will be reinstated to your position when your service is complete. To request a leave of absence, submit documentation of your service to Authorized Person.

23. Adult Literacy Leave

Pursuant to California law, the School will reasonably accommodate any eligible employee who seeks to enroll in an adult literacy education program, provided that the accommodation does not impose an undue hardship on the School. The School does not provide paid time off for participation in an adult literacy education. However, you may utilize accrued vacation if you want compensation for this time off. If you do not have accrued vacation available, you will be permitted to take the time off without pay.

VII. Employment Training, Evaluation and Separation

A. Employee Reviews and Evaluations

Excelsior will strive to conduct performance reviews annually. The frequency of performance evaluations may vary depending upon length of service, job position, past performance, changes in job duties or recurring performance problems.

The performance evaluations are intended to make the employee aware of his/her progress, areas for improvement and objectives or goals for future work performance. Favorable performance evaluations do not guarantee increases in salary or promotions or job retention. Salary increases and promotions are solely

within the discretion of Excelsior and depend upon many factors in addition to performance. After the review, the employee will be required to sign the evaluation report simply to acknowledge that it has been presented to them, that they have discussed it with their supervisor**,** and that they are aware of its contents. The employee may make a written response to the evaluation. The response shall be attached to the evaluation and permanently placed in the employee's personnel file. The evaluation system in no way alters the at- will employment relationship.

B. Staff Development

The Board of Directors recognizes that a well-trained staff is essential to carrying out its goals. Besides providing opportunities for personal growth, staff development is viewed as necessary, continuous, and a systematic effort to improve Excelsior's educational programs by involving all staff members in activities that improve their skills and broaden their perspectives. Accordingly, Mondays have been designated for staff collaboration and training. All staff development shall be in alignment with Excelsior's Vision, Mission, Objectives and Goals.

Excelsior further views professional development and continuous learning as necessary to maintain the quality of staff, continued readiness, and the ability to contribute effectively to the mission and goals of Excelsior.

Excelsior encourages its staff to obtain single subject credentials or added authorizations and may reimburse for the professional development activities, including, CSET Preparation, CSET Exam, and/or Pedagogy class, upon successful completion, and with prior authorization from the Superintendent or his or her designee. In addition, employees who obtain single subject credentials and/or added authorizations with prior approval, as defined below, shall receive a one-time annual stipend of $500 upon successful completion of the credential requirements.

Eligibility

An employee is eligible for the benefits provided by this policy if the employee's job performance is rated as satisfactory or better.

Scope

Only the following subject/credential areas will be considered:

- Education Specialist
- Math
- Science
- Foreign Language: Spanish and/or French

Definitions

Guidelines for Time Spent in Professional Development

The amount of time spent on professional development programs will vary with the individual employee.

General Provisions

The department head, in consultation with the supervisor shall determine whether, and the degree to which, an employee's participation in a professional development activity shall be supported by the department.

Please contact the Human Resources department for additional information.

Mandatory Training

All new and existing Excelsior employees are mandated to take a series of annual Safe Schools training courses. These training courses are mandated by the state and must be completed in a timely manner. Employees will have thirty (30) days to complete their training. If employees are unable to complete their training within thirty (30) days, they must notify the Human Resources Department. Human Resources may be able to grant one (1) additional week. If the employee fails to complete the training courses within the allotted time, they will be required to report to the Human Resources Department. Failure to complete training courses or to report to Human Resources will result in disciplinary action.

C. Tuition Reimbursement

The Staff Tuition Reimbursement Program has been developed to help Excelsior Charter Schools Employees further their knowledge, skills and job effectiveness through higher education in fields of interest to the Organization.

The goal of the program is to reimburse eligible employees for educational expenses not covered by any other source of educational assistance.

The Human Resources Department authorizes payment from school funds allotted for tuition reimbursement, and is responsible for administration, interpretation and approval/disapproval for this program. Only courses taken at nationally recognized accredited colleges, universities and technical schools will be approved for reimbursement.

Eligibility

You are eligible for this program if:

- You are a regular, active, full-time or part time employee.
- Must have clear alignment between the employee's educational ambitions and the organization's needs.

Amount of Reimbursement

Eligible employees will be reimbursed up to a maximum of $1,000.00 per year.

Based on the amount of reimbursement requests submissions for a specific fiscal year, all or percentage of the amount will be paid until the amount allotted for the yearly reimbursements is completely spent.

Administration is allowed the discretion to limit tuition reimbursement to employees during the year for budgetary considerations. The fiscal year runs from July 1st to June 30th.

Allowable Reimbursement Costs

This program reimburses eligible employees for educational expenses not covered by any other source of educational assistance.

In order to be reimbursed, the employee must show proof of payment of educational expenses along with proof of satisfactory course completion.

Other Educational Assistance Benefits

This program does not duplicate other educational assistance an employee may receive. On the Benefit Application and on the Request for Payment Form, an employee must report any veterans' education benefits, scholarship or other financial aid received for course or degree program to be considered under this program.

If an employee receives education assistance, the amount reimbursable under this program will be based on the amount less any and all financial aid received as shown in the examples above.

Acceptable Hours

Approved course(s) and or program(s) are not to be taken during regular working hours. Class attendance should not conflict with your job in any way. Any other arrangements during work hours must be discussed and approved by the employees' supervisor.

Taxation of Reimbursement

Please check with your tax consultant regarding taxation rules and regulations for tuition reimbursement.

Terminating Employees

If a staff member's employment ends with Excelsior Charter Schools for any reasons, He/she will only be eligible for reimbursement if he/she satisfactorily completes said course(s) of study before his/her official date of termination.

Appeal Process

If a Benefit Application is denied, an employee has the right to appeal the denial. Human Resources will notify the employee in writing as to the reason(s) behind the applications denial.

If an employee wishes to appeal the decision, the employee must submit, in writing, the reason(s) why the course(s) or program should be considered eligible for reimbursement. An Appeals Committee comprised of three (3) staff members will review appeals of this nature.

NOTE: The Appeals Committee will notify the employee in writing of their decision upon review. Time constraints may make it impossible for the Appeals Committee to review an employee's appeal prior to course registration.

D. Discipline and Involuntary Termination

Violation of Excelsior's policies and rules may warrant disciplinary action, which may take multiple forms,

including verbal warnings, written warnings, suspensions or termination. Excelsior's disciplinary system is informal and Excelsior may, in its sole discretion, utilize any form of discipline it deems appropriate under the circumstances, up to and including termination of employment upon the first offense. The School's use of varying forms of discipline does not alter the at-will employment relationship in any way. Employment is at the mutual consent of the employee and the School. Accordingly, either the employee or the School can terminate the employment relationship at-will, at any time, with or without reason and with or without notice.

E. Involuntary Transfer Policy

This policy provides guidance on involuntary staff transfers that may be required due to significant changes in student enrollment or organizational needs. The goal is to maintain operational efficiency across the organization while keeping employees in the same or similar positions whenever possible.
An *involuntary transfer* is a reassignment of an employee to a different position or work location within the organization, initiated by Excelsior due to staffing needs related to enrollment changes or organizational needs. This policy applies to all staff members whose positions are affected by enrollment shifts at any school within the district.

Involuntary transfers may occur when:

- There is a significant increase or decrease in student enrollment at a school site.
- Staffing levels must be adjusted to meet required student-to-staff ratios.
- Program or service needs change as a direct result of enrollment trends.

Excelsior will make every reasonable effort to maintain the employee in a similar position, including grade level, subject area, or job classification. Decisions will be based on staffing needs, certification or qualifications (if applicable), and equitable distribution of resources.

Employees will be notified in writing as early as possible when a transfer is being considered. The notification will include the reason for the transfer, the effective date, and the new assignment. Excelsior will strive to provide at least 10 working days' notice prior to the effective date of the transfer.

Reasonable support will be provided to assist with the transition, including any necessary orientation or training. Staff members who have been involuntarily transferred may be considered for reassignment to their original site or another preferred location if a suitable position becomes available in the future.

Excelsior is committed to treating all staff transfers with transparency, fairness, and respect for each employee's professional role.

F. Voluntary Termination

Either the employee or Excelsior may terminate the employment relationship at any time, with or without notice and with or without cause. While it is not required, Excelsior requests that employees electing to

resign give as much advance notice as possible (preferably two weeks) to allow Excelsior to plan for your departure. The Board authorizes the Superintendent or designee to accept an employee's written resignation and to set its effective date. Once the Superintendent or designee has accepted and set an effective date for this resignation, the employee may not thereafter withdraw the resignation.

An exit interview or survey may be scheduled on the last day of work with the Human Resources Department. The purpose of the exit interview is to review eligibility for benefit conversion, ensure that all necessary forms are completed, collect any School property (including keys, equipment, documents and records) that may be in the employee's possession, review the employee's obligations regarding confidential information, and provide the employee with the opportunity to make any constructive comments and suggestions on improving the working environment at Excelsior. Excelsior appreciates receiving candid opinions of the employee's employment. Final pay will be provided in accordance with state law.

EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AT-WILL AGREEMENT

ALL EMPLOYEES MUST READ THIS EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK AND FILL OUT AND RETURN THIS PORTION TO HUMAN RESOURCES WITHIN ONE WEEK OF RECEIPT.

I have received a copy of the School's Employee Handbook. I understand that it is my responsibility to carefully read and understand its contents and I agree to follow the policies stated therein. Unless specified otherwise in an agreement between the School, and me I agree that the School and I both have the right to terminate my employment at any time, with or without notice, and with or without cause. I further understand that transfers, demotions, suspensions, employee discipline, and changes in the terms and conditions of employment may be administered at the sole and absolute discretion of the School. Unless specified otherwise in an agreement between the School, and me I understand that I am an at-will employee.

I understand that these conditions of my employment may not be modified orally and may only be modified in a writing signed by the Superintendent of the School and me.

I understand that nothing in the Handbook is intended, nor should be construed, as a limitation of my right and the School's right to terminate the employment relationship at any time, with or without notice, and with or without cause, or the School's absolute right to transfer, demote, suspend, administer discipline, and change the terms and conditions of employment at its sole discretion. I understand that nothing in the Handbook is intended, nor should be construed, to create an implied or express contract of employment contrary to this express at-will agreement or to the School's absolute right to transfer, demote, suspend, administer discipline, and change the terms and conditions of employment at its sole discretion. I understand that the School reserves the right to depart from and modify the policies stated in the Handbook at its sole discretion, with the exception of my at-will status and the School's absolute right to transfer, demote, suspend, administer discipline, and change the terms and conditions of employment. The foregoing constitutes the entire terms of the agreement between me and the School regarding the duration and at-will nature of my employment and the School's absolute right to transfer, demote, suspend, administer discipline, and change the terms and conditions of employment at its sole discretion.

_____ _____

Employee Name (print) Employee Signature

_____

Date