

Collective Bargaining Agreement



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Between

Independent School District 281

Hennepin County, Minnesota

And

The Principals' Association

2025-2026
2026-2027

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PREAMBLE

The School Board and the Principals' Association of District 281 recognize that they have a common responsibility beyond their collective bargaining relationship. Each will strive to achieve quality long-term educational goals and programs through the establishment of mutually accepted channels of communication. It is hoped that this joint effort will contribute in significant measure to the advancement of public education in District 281.

AGREEMENT

This agreement entered into between the School Board of independent School District 281, Hennepin County, Minnesota, hereinafter referred to as the School Board, and the Principals' Association of District 281, hereinafter referred to as the association, pursuant to and in compliance with the Public Employment Labor Relations Act of 1971, as amended, hereinafter referred to as the PELRA of 1971, as amended, to provide the terms and conditions of employment for the principals during the duration of the agreement.

RECOGNITION

In accordance with the PELRA of 1971, as amended, the School Board recognized the association as the exclusive representative of principals employed by the School Board, which exclusive representative shall have those rights and duties as prescribed by the PELRA of 1971, as amended, and as described by the provisions of this agreement.

ARTICLE I DEFINITIONS

1-1 Terms and Conditions of Employment

This shall mean the terms of employment, including compensation and fringe benefits, and the working condition of the employees. This does not mean the retirement contributions or benefits nor does it mean the educational policies of the school district.

1-2 Principals

This shall mean all persons in the appropriate unit employed by the School Board in a position for which the person must be licensed by the Minnesota Board of School Administrators as a principal or assistant principal, who are employed for more than 14 hours per week and for more than 67 days per year and who devote more than 50 percent of their time to administrative or supervisory duties in the capacity of a principal or assistant principal.

1-3 Full-time Principal

This shall mean a principal who is employed 1.0 on the principals' salary schedule.

1-4 Probationary Period

1-4-1 All principals hired to any position classified as a principal and covered by the continuing contract laws shall serve a probationary period in accordance with that law.

1-4-1-1 Principals who have never achieved continuing contract status in Minnesota will serve a three (3) year probationary period.

1-4-1-2 Principals who have achieved continuing contract status in a single Minnesota school district other than 281 will serve a one (1) year probationary period.

1-4-2 Any District 281 teacher who has achieved continuing contract status and moves into any principal position will be asked to sign a waiver of continuing contract rights in the principal position and serve one (1) year of probation as a principal.

1-4-3 Any District 281 principal who has achieved continuing contract rights as a principal and is promoted to a different principal position within the organization will be asked to sign a waiver of continuing contract rights in the new principal position and serve one year of probation. A change of building but in the same role does not constitute promoted to a different principal position.

ARTICLE II SCHOOL BOARD RIGHTS

2-1 Inherent Managerial Rights

The association agrees that the School Board is not required to meet and negotiate on matters of inherent managerial policy, which include, but are not limited to, such areas of discretion or policy as the functions and programs of the employer, its overall budget, utilization of

technology, the organizational structure and selection and direction and number of personnel. All management rights and functions not expressly delegated in this agreement are reserved to the School Board.

2-2 Management Responsibilities

The School Board has the right and obligation to manage efficiently and conduct the operation of the school district within its legal limitations and with its primary obligation to provide educational opportunity for the students of the school district.

2-3 Effect of Laws, Rules and Regulations

All employees covered by this agreement shall perform the administrative and supervisory duties prescribed by the District and shall be governed by the laws of the state of Minnesota, federal laws and by the School Board rules, regulations and directions issued by properly designated officials of the school district.

2-4 Reservation of Board's Rights and Duties

This agreement is not intended to abrogate the statutory power of the School Board of the school district to make rules and regulations to manage and to direct all the operations and activities to the full extent authorized by law, relative to anything whatever necessary for the proper establishment, maintenance and management of the public school system.

ARTICLE III PRINCIPAL AND ASSOCIATION RIGHTS

3-1 Right To Join

Principals have the right to join any principal organization, but membership in a principal organization shall not be required as a condition of employment.

3-2 Right To Discuss Complaint

No principal shall be prevented from informally discussing a complaint with the principal's immediate supervisor or processing a grievance on the principal's behalf in accordance with the grievance procedure hereinafter set forth in Article IV.

3-3 Individual and Organizational Rights

Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent any authorized representative of the School Board from meeting with any professional staff member organization representing instructional professional staff members in the bargaining unit for the purpose of hearing the views and proposals of its members except that as to matters presented by such organizations which are proper subjects of negotiations, the association shall be informed of the meeting and be permitted a representative.

3-4 Use of School Building

The association shall be permitted the use of school property at reasonable times provided that this shall not interfere with or interrupt normal school operations.

3-5 Administrative Advisory Committee

The School Board and the association shall jointly maintain an administrative advisory committee for the purpose of discussing educational policies and conditions of principals' employment not specifically regulated by this agreement. Membership of the committee shall be composed of two (2) members appointed by the Superintendent, two (2) members elected by the association to include one (1) member at large and the president of the Principals' Association. This committee shall meet at the request of either party.

ARTICLE IV GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

4-1 Definition

A grievance shall mean an allegation by a principal resulting in a dispute or disagreement between the principal employee and the District as to the interpretation or application of terms and conditions of employment insofar as such matters are contained in the agreement. Where the singular use of the word principal is used, the plural of principals may be substituted, where applicable.

4-2 Representative

The administrator or District may be represented during any step of the procedure by any person or agent designated by such party to act on the administration's behalf. The principal must be present at all steps of the procedure which the principal elects to pursue and the principal may be represented by legal counsel or a representative of the association or both.

4-3 Extension

Time limits specified in this agreement may be extended by mutual written agreement.

4-4 Days

Reference to days regarding time periods in this procedure shall refer to school days. A school day is defined as all days principals are required to be on duty.

4-5 Time Limits

Failure at any step of this procedure to communicate the decision on a grievance within the specified time limits shall permit the aggrieved licensed principal to proceed to the next step. Failure at any step of this procedure to appeal a grievance to the next step within the specified time limit shall be deemed to be acceptance of the decision rendered at that step.

4-6 Computation of Time

In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed by procedures herein, the date of the act, event or default for which the designated period of time begins to run shall not be included. The last day of the period so computed shall be counted, unless it is a Saturday, Sunday or school holiday, in which event the period runs until the end of the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or school holiday.

4-7 Filing and Postmark

All grievances and notices may be filed electronically.

4-8 Adjustment of Grievance

All effort shall be made to resolve any conflict by the licensed principal involved with the supervisor or administrator directly involved. Any grievance must be filed within a reasonable time not to exceed twenty (20) school days from the date of the occurrence alleged to be a grievance and every effort shall be made to keep a grievance from carrying over into another fiscal year. Grievances of a licensed principal, during the course of the principal's employment, shall be presented and adjusted in the following manner:

4-8-1 First Level

The statement of the grievance shall be oral and the proceedings informal. If a satisfactory settlement cannot be reached within five (5) school days, the second level may be initiated within three (3) school days thereafter.

4-8-2 Second Level

Any licensed principal who has not received a satisfactory settlement as outlined in level one shall submit the grievance in writing with a letter of transmittal to the Superintendent of schools. Within ten (10) school days of the receipt of the grievance, the Superintendent or designee shall meet with the aggrieved and the supervisor or administrator directly involved in an effort to reach a satisfactory settlement. The Superintendent shall render their decision in writing to the parties involved, including the association. If a satisfactory settlement cannot be reached within ten (10) school days after the Superintendent's hearing, the third level may be initiated within ten (10) school days thereafter.

4-8-3 Third Level

Within said five (5) working days, either party may voluntarily request mediation through the Bureau of Mediation Services. The mediation process will not normally last more than one (1) day. Both parties must agree to use this voluntary step; If the grievance remains unresolved following mediation, the will proceed to the next step.

4-8-4 Fourth Level

Within said five school days, either party may request arbitration. The parties shall, within ten (10) school days after the request to arbitrate, attempt to agree upon the selection of an arbitrator. If no agreement on an arbitrator is reached, either party may request the Bureau of Mediation Services to submit a list of five (5) arbitrators, providing such request is made within twenty (20) school days after request for arbitration. The parties shall alternately strike names from the list of five (5) until only one (1) name remains who shall be the agreed upon arbitrator. Failure to request a list of arbitrators from the Bureau of Mediation Services within the time periods provided herein shall constitute a waiver of the grievance.

4-9 Hearing

The grievance shall be heard by a single arbitrator and both parties may be represented by such person or persons as they may choose and designate, and the parties shall have the right to a hearing at which time both parties will have the opportunity to submit evidence, offer testimony and make oral or written arguments relating to the issues before the arbitrator. The proceeding before the arbitrator shall be a hearing.

4-10 Decision

The decision by the arbitrator shall be rendered within 30 days after the close of the hearing. Decisions by the arbitrator in cases properly before the arbitrator shall be final and binding upon the parties, subject, however, to the limitations of arbitration decisions as provided in the PELRA of 1971. The arbitrator shall issue a written decision and order including findings of fact which should be based upon substantial and competent evidence presented at the hearing. All witnesses should be sworn upon oath by arbitrators.

4-11 Expenses

Each party shall bear its own expenses in connection with arbitration including expenses relating to the party's representatives, witnesses and any other expenses which the party incurs in connection with presenting its case in arbitration. The parties will share equally fees and expenses of the arbitrator. The cost of a transcript or recording, if requested, shall be borne by the requesting party(ies).

4-12 Jurisdiction

The arbitrator shall have jurisdiction over disputes or disagreements relating to grievances properly before the arbitrator pursuant to the terms of this procedure. The jurisdiction of the arbitrator shall not extend to proposed change in terms and conditions of employment as defined herein and contained in this written agreement; nor shall an arbitrator have jurisdiction over any grievance which has not been submitted to arbitration in compliance with the terms of the grievance and arbitration procedure as outlined herein, nor shall the jurisdiction of the arbitrator extend to matters of inherent managerial policy.

4-13 Appearance and Representation

Hearings held under this procedure shall be conducted at a time and place that will afford a fair and reasonable opportunity for all persons entitled to be present to attend. When such hearings are during school hours, all persons who are required to participate shall be excused with pay for that purpose and that time shall not be deducted from the principal's personal leave. School hours are defined herein as the hours during which the principal is assigned direct control of the students.

4-14 Investigation of Grievances

The investigation of grievances shall not interfere with the orderly process of education in District 281.

4-15 Election of Remedies and Waiver

A party instituting any action, proceeding or complaint in a federal or state court of law, or before an administrative tribunal, federal agency, state agency or seeking relief through and statutory process for which relief may be granted, the subject matter of which may constitute a grievance under this agreement, shall immediately thereupon waive any and all right to pursue a grievance under this article. This section shall not apply to any action to compel arbitration as provided in the agreement or to enforce the award of an arbitrator.

ARTICLE V WORKING CONDITIONS

5-1 Required Personnel Information

Each principal must hold a valid Minnesota administrator's certificate and submit all necessary forms and documentation to comply with existing state and federal mandates and district requirements. This material will be kept on file in the human resources office during the entire time that the principal is employed in the school system.

5-2 Failure to Show Evidence of Certification

Employment will be terminated for any principal who cannot qualify for a Minnesota administrator's certificate, or who after proper notification fails to submit a valid certificate by the first day school is in session in the fall or does not provide evidence by the same date that an effort is being made to comply with certification regulations and that application has not been rejected.

5-3 Health Reports

The School Board may require that a principal furnish a certificate of good health, according to Minnesota Statute 122A.40, subd. 12.

5-4 Holidays

The following will be recognized as paid holidays: Labor Day, teachers' convention day, MEA Friday elementary APs only, Thanksgiving Thursday and Friday, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, and July 4th for those working that week.

5-5 Religious Holidays

Two (2) days may be granted for religious holidays. Principals who wish to be granted time off for a religious holiday must make an application giving full particulars to the office of the Superintendent five (5) days in advance of said holiday for approval to have such leave deducted from current sick leave or personal leave at the principal's option. In the years that it is necessary for some principals to have three school days for religious observances, an additional day may be granted upon application to the Superintendent or the Superintendent's representative for approval.

5-6 Conference Attendance

Upon supervisor approval, a head principal may request to attend a national conference or comparable conference every other year. On the alternate year, they can request to attend a state conference or comparable conference. Assistant principals can request to attend a national conference or comparable conference every third year. On the alternate years, they can request to attend a state conference or comparable conference.

5-7 Professional Dues

The district will provide each principal the cost for dues for one (1) approved national and/or state professional organization.

ARTICLE VI LEAVE OF ABSENCE

6-1 Sick Leave

Starting July 1, 2005, all principals will accrue sick leave at the rate of 15 days per school year and it shall accrue to a limit of 130 days.

6-1-1 Accrued Sick Leave

A principal who has accrued sick leave either as a principal or district employee prior to July 1, 2005, will maintain those days as reserve sick leave. These days can be utilized for sick leave if all current sick leave is exhausted.

6-1-2 Family Illness/Injury

Sick leave may be used by an employee for illness or injury consistent with provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) in the immediate family which shall be defined as spouse, child, parent and legal guardian. Requests to have such family care leaves deducted from sick leave are to be completed through the district notification system. The district may require a doctor's certificate on family care leave claims for three (3) days or more.

6-1-3 Bereavement Leave

Each principal will be granted bereavement leave with pay not to exceed five (5) days due to a death in the immediate family and three (3) days for a death in the extended family. The immediate family will be defined as spouse, child, parent, legal guardian, significant other, brother and sister. Extended family will be defined as grandparent, grandchild, parent in-law, brother or sister in-law, son or daughter in-law, aunt and uncle.

6-2 Sick Leave Pool

Principals will have the option of participating in the district sick leave pool. Sick leave pool bylaws are available in the human resources office.

6-3 Medical Leave

A principal may request in writing to be placed on medical leave. A physician's written statement shall accompany the request for medical leave that includes a diagnosis of the illness/injury, prognosis for recovery, and limitations that may be placed on the principal's ability to perform his/her assigned responsibilities, beginning date of the leave and, if possible, the return date. Principals granted medical leave shall continue to accrue seniority for a maximum of two (2) years.

6-4 Personal Leave

Each principal may be granted up to five (5) days of personal leave per year without salary deduction and without being deducted from sick leave. Personal leave shall be defined as follows: leave granted to an individual for compelling personal affairs that cannot be consummated outside of the school hours. Requests for such leave must be submitted at least three (3) days in advance to the human resources office, or immediately upon return in the event of an emergency. If a principal does not use all of their personal leave days, one (1) personal

leave day may be carried over to the next contract year, for a maximum accumulation of six (6) personal leave days in any contract year.

6-5 Child Care Leave

Child care leave will be granted because of need to prepare and provide for natural born or adopted child or children. This will be paid leave if the principal has accrued sick leave. A maximum of 12 weeks (60 days) may be used. Principals will accrue seniority for 12 weeks of leave of absence. If a principal exhausts their paid time off, the principal may receive up to an additional ten (10) days of paid leave.

6-5-1 Initiation of Leave

Principals who choose and are granted a medical leave for child care will continue to accrue seniority for a maximum total of two (2) years.

6-5-2 Date of Return

The date of return shall be stipulated at the time the leave is requested.

6-5-3 Length of the Leave

Each child care leave shall not exceed one (1) full year excluding the school year in which the leave begins. The principal has the option to apply for an additional year of leave and would accrue seniority during the leave,

6-5-4 Failure to Return

Failure of the principal to return pursuant to the date determined under this section shall be deemed a voluntary resignation unless the school district and the principal mutually agree to an extension of the leave. The district shall send written notice to the principal of the scheduled date of return.

6-5-5 Reassignment - Current School Year

A principal who returns within the 12-week limit of FMLA will be assigned to the same position. Principals who exceed the 12-week limit will be assigned to a comparable position. A principal returning the subsequent school year shall notify the office of human resources by February 1 of his/her intention.

6-5-6 Subsequent School Year Salary

A principal returning from child care leave will be placed at the appropriate step of the salary schedule for the current year.

6-6 Rules Governing Personal Leaves of Absence Without Pay

6-6-1 Service Requirement

A minimum of two (2) consecutive years of employment shall be required to qualify for a personal leave of absence without pay, with the exception of military or child care leave.

6-6-2 Length of Leaves

The duration of leaves without pay shall be for one (1) year with the option to apply for an additional year. If granted, the principal will not earn seniority during the leave.

6-6-3 Purpose

Leaves without pay will be considered for the following purposes: study, educational employment in a foreign country, election, or appointment to perform service in state or national organizations or appointment to an office in government, accompanying spouse on temporary assignment out of the area, travel, recuperation or other purposes approved by the School Board.

6-7 Military Service

6-7-1 Military Leaves

Principals shall be eligible for up to 15 days of military leave without loss of pay in accordance with Minnesota Statute 192.26. Additional unpaid leave may be granted in accordance with 6-6. Requests for such leave shall be submitted to the Executive Director of Human Resources by the principal upon receipt of such orders, but in no event more than two (2) workdays following receipt of such orders.

6-7-2 Involuntary Service

Principals involuntarily called for military service shall receive credit for experience and seniority as if they had been on staff.

6-7-3 Reserve Service

Any principal who is a member of a reserve component of the armed forces who is required to perform active, full-time duty shall be granted leave from the principal's duties for such purpose.

6-8 Extended Leaves of Absence

The district may, at its discretion, grant extended leaves of absence consistent with Minnesota Statute 122A.46. Principals granted such leave shall be solely responsible for all retirement contributions. Approval of the School Board is required. Applications for extended leave must be received by the human resources office no later than February 1 of the school year prior to which it would apply. Exceptions to the February 1 deadline may be granted by the school district at its discretion.

6-8-1 Qualifications

To qualify, the principal must have been employed by District 281 for at least five (5) years and have at least ten (10) years of allowable TRA service and must have been a full-time employee the year prior to the granting of the leave.

6-8-2 Purpose

Since the intention of Minnesota Statute 122A.46 is to minimize the number of layoffs caused by declining enrollments, the district may grant leaves of absence primarily for qualified staff members to explore alternative careers.

6-8-3 Time Limits

Extended leaves of absence shall not exceed five (5) years in duration and may be granted only once.

6-8-4 Reinstatement

After the third year of an extended leave of absence, a principal shall have the right to be reinstated to a position for which the principal is licensed pursuant to Minnesota Statute 122A.46. A principal returning the subsequent school year shall notify the office of human resources by February 1 of his/her intention.

6-8-5 Seniority and Continuing Contract Rights

Any principal who is reinstated to a principal position after an extended leave of absence pursuant to this section shall retain seniority and continuing contract rights in the employing district as though the principal had been a principal in the district during the period when the principal was on the extended leave.

6-8-6 Effect of Leave on Salary

The years spent by a principal on an extended leave of absence shall not be included in the determination of the principal's salary upon the principal's return to a position as principal in the district. The credits earned by a principal on an extended leave of absence shall not be included in the determination of the principal's salary upon the principal's return to service in the district for a period equal to the time of the extended leave of absence.

6-9 Part-time Provision for Principals with 20 or More Years of Allowable Minnesota TRA

The district may, at its discretion, grant such leaves in accordance with Minnesota Statute 354.66. Principals granted such leave shall be solely responsible for all retirement contributions. Approval of the principal's supervisor and the School Board is required. Applications for this type of part-time employment must be received by the district human resources office no later than February 1 of the school year prior to that to which it would apply. Exceptions to the February 1 deadline may be granted by the district at its discretion. Principals on such assignment shall continue to accrue full seniority in District 281.

6-10 Reassignment

Principals returning from any authorized leave shall be entitled to a similar position providing such assignment is not in conflict with any other provisions of this contract.

6-11 Jury Duty

Principals who are summoned for jury duty may serve such duty without loss of salary. A principal who receives such a summons must immediately contact the district human resources office for information pertaining to procedural steps to be taken. Principals called for jury duty shall suffer no loss in compensation from the school district. A copy of the jury duty check should be sent to the Payroll Department as proof of service.

6-13 Longterm Disability

The School Board will participate in the long-term disability insurance program. The Board will pay one-half of the annual premium for all full-time principals who participate in the program and are on the noncafeteria benefit plan. Principals on the cafeteria plan are responsible to pay

for 100% of the premium. The income of the participant, who is forced from work for a long period of time due to reasons of health or accident, will be insured after 90 calendar days out of 130 consecutive work days, or sixty-six point six percent of the principal's regular salary up to the policy limit, as long as the LTD claim is approved by the insurance carrier. If the principal requests it, the School Board will pay thirty-three point three percent of the day salary to those participants who have accumulated more than 65 days of paid time off. Thirty-three point three percent of the days will be subtracted from the total number of remaining paid time off days until all paid time off has been used in full, or the teacher requests such payment be discontinued.

6-14 Minnesota Paid Family Leave

Starting January 1, 2025 the district will apply the provisions of the Minnesota Paid Family Leave, established under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 268B.

ARTICLE VII REASSIGNMENT, UNREQUESTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE AND REINSTATEMENT

7-1 Introduction

In the event a principal subject to this agreement must be reassigned or placed on unrequested leave because of discontinuance of position, lack of pupils, financial limitations, or merger of classes caused by consolidation of districts, the following provision shall apply.

7-2 Seniority Determination

In the event a Principal or Assistant Principal position becomes available within the District, the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee retains the exclusive right to assign, transfer, or reassign employees across the Principal and Assistant Principal categories based on the operational and educational needs of the District. Such assignments may occur without posting or external hiring requirements, consistent with applicable law and Board policy.

Any employee involuntarily reassigned by the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee between administrative categories, grade-level configurations, or assignment groups shall retain previously accrued district administrative seniority. Such reassignment shall not negatively affect the employee's seniority status for purposes of layoff, reduction in force, recall, or retention.

In the event a Principal or Assistant Principal is involuntarily reassigned by the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee to an administrative position with fewer contract days or a lower salary schedule placement, the employee shall retain their current salary and contract length. Such reassignment shall not result in a reduction in compensation or work year unless mutually agreed upon by the employee.

Determination of seniority for purposes of reassignment or placement on unrequested leave shall be based solely on date of hire as a principal. The seniority date will be the date the assignment as principal as approved by the School Board. Principals will accrue seniority in the following classifications: elementary assistant principal, middle school and high school assistant principal, elementary principal, middle school principal or high school principal. For purposes of the order of reassignment, placement on unrequested leave and reinstatement of those principals with the same date of hire as a principal, ties shall be broken using the following criteria: 1) Date of hire to

the district and 2) File folder number on file with the Minnesota Department of Education. The principal with the lowest file folder number will have seniority.

7-3 Reinstatement Process

It shall be the responsibility of principals placed on unrequested leave of absence to maintain a current listing of their name, telephone number and mailing address with the District 281 Human Resources Office. A principal shall have seven (7) days from the date of mailing, personal service, or telephone notification, which will be verified in writing, of recall to advise the Human Resources Office, in writing, of the intent to accept the offer or the intent to reject the offer. If a principal does not respond in the seven (7) day period, the principal waives all right to reinstatement and the School Board may terminate the principal's employment. Principals on unrequested leave of absence who intend to be absent from their current mailing address for an extended period of time, may file with the Human Resources Office using the designated form, their acceptance or rejection of a position vacancy, if such vacancy were to occur during the period of their absence. In addition, principals may designate an individual, on the prescribed form, with the authority to make a decision regarding any such vacancies that arise during the absence of the principal.

7-4 Temporary Assignment

Principals temporarily assigned to positions outside of the unit shall continue to be paid in accordance with the salary schedule attached hereto, and will continue to receive benefits in accordance with this agreement including the continual accrual of seniority.

ARTICLE VIII BASIC SCHEDULES AND RATES OF PAY

8-1 The Basic Salary Schedule Shall Have Eight (8) Steps

The basic salary schedule shall have eight (8) steps for each of the principal categories. Each category will identify a specified number of duty days per contract year.

Elementary Head	225 days
Middle School Head	235 days
High School Head	235 days
Elementary Assistant	205 days
Secondary Assistant	225 days

8-1-1 Elementary Principal Flex Days

With advanced notification, Elementary Head Principals may schedule up to five (5) non-work days at their daily rate of pay during the calendar year for days worked outside of their contracted days. Timecards must be submitted within one week of the date of work.

8-1-2 Professional Responsibility Stipend

See memo of understanding

8-2 Initial Placement on Salary Schedule

The initial placement on the salary schedule shall be made at the time of the initial hiring. The placement shall be on a specific step.

8-3 Longevity

Longevity will be paid starting five years after the completion of step eight. The eligible principal shall receive an annual longevity stipend of five hundred dollars (\$500). The stipend shall be paid annually for each year the principal remains eligible. (Longevity stipend will begin 2026-2027)

8-4 Salary Schedule

The salaries for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 contract years appear on page 21.

Annual salary will be prorated over twenty four (24) pay periods. A principal who has an abbreviated work year and does not complete their annual contract will be required to either have their remaining pay adjusted, personally reimburse the district or both. The repayment amount shall be prorated based on the unworked portion of the contract year.

ARTICLE IX PRINCIPAL WELFARE

9-1 Cafeteria Benefits

The District will provide a cafeteria benefit amount listed below per full time principal. Each principal must enroll in at least a single health insurance plan under the district's group hospitalization/major medical insurance plan and the district's long-term disability plan. A principal may also elect to participate in the district's group dental insurance, vision insurance and/or the district's group life insurance plan of \$250,000, at the group rate plus the option to purchase additional coverage based on the carrier's rates and terms.

If an employee elects to purchase group insurance fringe benefits offered by the school district which results in monthly premium charges greater than the amount allocated to the employee's account pursuant to the above, any cost in excess of the monthly allocation shall be borne by the employee and paid by payroll deduction.

The employee will receive as additional salary any money allocated to the employee for that month which was not charged against the employee's account for purposes of benefit purchases in accordance with above. Monthly allocation to employees for the purposes of purchasing

insurance benefits shall cease on the first of the month following: 1) termination of employment with the district, if it comes before the end of the school year, or 2) leaving on an authorized leave of absence, unless other provisions of this agreement make provision for continuance of the monthly allocation.

9-1-1 For full time principals not enrolled in a co-pay plan will receive a district VEBA or HSA contribution. The minimum deductible to be considered eligible for HSA contribution is determined by the IRS each calendar year.

Effective	Cafeteria Plan	VEBA/HSA
January 1, 2026	\$1,600	\$45.84 per month

9-2 Insurance Limits for a Principal on Unpaid Leave

The board shall allow the principal to continue to participate in benefit programs at no cost to the school district while the principal is on leave without pay unless prohibited by Minnesota Statutes or by the agency or company involved.

9-3 Authorized Deductions

Principals may individually and voluntarily authorize deductions for credit unions, Board-approved bank savings plans, tax-sheltered annuities, dues to professional organizations and district charitable giving options.

9-4 Mileage/Communication

9-4-1

Principals can file for mileage for school related business according to IRS and school district guidelines.

9-4-2

Each principal will be provided a district cell phone. Principals are to give their cellular phone numbers to their office staff and to designated Education Service Center staff. They are to have their cellular phone with them when away from their school buildings during school hours or at school related events.

9-5 Deferred Compensation

The district will provide each principal up to \$2,900 in a deferred compensation match. The deferred compensation match will be paid in 24 payments bi-weekly at the rate of \$120.83. If a principal modifies or ceases his/her deferred compensation match contribution, it is the principal's responsibility to inform the benefits representative in Human Resources of the change.

**ARTICLE X
UNUSED SICK LEAVE**

10-1 Payment for Unused Sick Leave

For principals hired before July 1, 2005, and who chose to not participate in 10-1-1, the amount of pay shall be for the remainder of the unused sick leave up to a maximum of 30 days at the principal's daily rate of pay at the time of retirement. Salary shall be defined as contract salary amount and shall not include any additional compensation. Payment for unused accrued sick leave will be paid into an Employer-Sponsored 403(b) or cash in December of the year in which the principal retires. If more than one principal, who qualifies for severance benefits retires, they will need to agree on the payment option.

10-1-1 Payment for Unused Sick Leave-For Principals Hired after July 1, 2005

On an annual basis, principals hired after July 1, 2005, who have accumulated more than 65 days of a combination of unused annual sick leave and personal leave may surrender up to 15 days of combined sick and personal leave following their fifth year as a principal in the district. In return for those days, the individuals participating during that contract term (contract class), will receive their daily rate of pay times the number of surrendered days to be paid into the employees' paycheck between July 1 and July 15 of the following fiscal year.

ARTICLE XI RETIREE – INSURANCE

11-1 Any principal of District 281 who is a member of the District 281 major medical and hospitalization group plan, who has 15 years of full-time employment and who retires following the age of 55 may continue as a member of the group hospitalization/medical and dental insurance plan provided by the district.

For a principal receiving the cafeteria benefit, the maximum district contribution is determined at the time of retirement, but will not be more than the principal's cafeteria benefit at the time of retirement. If the monthly premium exceeds the maximum district contribution the principal must pay the additional amount. The maximum cafeteria benefit may be used for Single or Family medical and dental premiums.

11-2 The duration of this hospitalization/medical insurance contribution shall be eight (8) years (96 months) after the principal's retirement from the district. After the eight (8)-year period, the retired principal may continue in the group at no cost to the school district unless prohibited by the insurance carrier. When either the retired employee or the spouse of the retired employee accepts Medicare or another similar insurance coverage, he/she must participate in that supplemental insurance plan and the insurance benefits must be coordinated with Medicare of the other similar insurance plan and reimbursement with approved proof of premium payment will be paid on a quarterly, calendar-year basis (Jan-Mar, Apr-Jun, Jul-Sep, Oct-Dec). The district's contribution will not exceed the cost of the supplemental plan. After the eight (8)year period, the retired principal may continue in the group at no cost to the school district unless prohibited by the insurance carrier.

11-2-1 Any head principal of District 281 who is a member of a District 281 medical plan, who is 55 years of age, and who retires and who was not able to accumulate 15

years of service will be granted medical and dental coverage from the district, at the rate of one (1) year of coverage for each year of service to the district. This coverage will be at the same dollar amount as was provided at the time of retirement. After accrued coverage expires, the principal may remain in the group at no cost to the district.

11-2-2 Principals hired after July 1, 2005, who leave the district, may continue in the group medical/dental plans with no cost to the district, unless prohibited by the insurance carrier.

ARTICLE XII INDEMNIFICATION

The school district shall "indemnify" the principals in the conduct of their duties as specified in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 466.07, subdivision 1a. The School Board agrees to defend, hold harmless and indemnify principals against judgments of any amounts paid in settlement in connection with any claim or demand, if such claim, demand, judgment or amounts to be paid in settlement arises out of an alleged act or omission occurring in the course of their employment or performance of their duties. It is understood that this provision shall not apply to intentional acts or criminal offenses.

ARTICLE XIII DURATION AND EFFECT

13-1 Savings Clause

If any provision of this agreement is or shall at any time be contrary to federal, state or local law, then such provision shall not be applicable or performed or enforced, except to the extent permitted by law, and any substitute provision shall be subject to appropriate consultation and negotiation with the association.

13-2 Severability

The provisions of this agreement shall be severable, and if any provision thereof or the application of any such provision under any circumstances is held invalid, it shall not affect any other provisions of this agreement or the application of any provision thereof.

13-3 Effect

This agreement constitutes the full and complete agreement between the School Board and the association representing the principals of the district. The provisions herein relating to terms and conditions of employment supersede any and all prior agreements, resolutions, practices, school district policies, rules or regulations concerning the terms and conditions of employment clearly inconsistent with these provisions. Principals will be expected to report to work during a strike or work stoppage by any other employee groups.

13-4 Finality

Any matters relating to the current contract term, whether or not referred to in this agreement, shall not be open for negotiation during the term of this agreement unless mutually agreed to by the parties.

13-5 Term and Reopening Negotiations

This agreement shall remain in full force and effect for a period commencing on July 1, 2027, through June 30, 2025. If either party desires to modify or amend this agreement commencing on July 1, 2027, they shall give written notice of such intent no later than July 1, 2027.

PRINCIPALS' SALARY SCHEDULE

2025-2026

Step	EL - P	EL - AP	MID - P	HI - P	SEC - AP
1	\$134,952	\$113,045	\$144,370	\$149,300	\$131,730
2	\$138,169	\$116,615	\$147,662	\$151,938	\$134,952
3	\$141,394	\$118,754	\$150,951	\$156,217	\$138,252
4	\$144,612	\$120,889	\$154,242	\$160,491	\$141,393
5	\$147,836	\$123,029	\$157,533	\$164,770	\$144,612
6	\$151,053	\$125,164	\$160,825	\$169,048	\$147,837
7	\$154,031	\$127,628	\$163,993	\$172,382	\$151,264
8	\$155,687	\$129,325	\$165,649	\$174,039	\$152,922

Ph.D. and E.D.D.\$2,147

2026-2027

Step	EL - P	EL - AP	MID - P	HI - P	SEC - AP
1	\$136,099	\$114,006	\$145,597	\$150,570	\$132,850
2	\$139,343	\$117,607	\$148,917	\$153,229	\$136,099
3	\$142,595	\$119,764	\$152,234	\$157,545	\$139,427
4	\$145,841	\$121,916	\$155,553	\$161,856	\$142,594
5	\$149,092	\$124,074	\$158,872	\$166,170	\$145,841
6	\$152,337	\$126,228	\$162,192	\$170,485	\$149,093
7	\$155,340	\$128,713	\$165,387	\$173,848	\$152,550
8	\$157,011	\$130,425	\$167,057	\$175,518	\$154,222

Ph. D and E.D.D. \$2,147

Memorandum of Understanding: Principal
Professional Growth Stipend

The Assistant Superintendent, Executive Director of Human Resources and RAPA (Robbinsdale Association Professional Administrators) will collaboratively develop a rubric to address professional core leadership competencies:

- Managerial
- Instructional
- Cultural
- Strategic
- Communications
- School Community
- Ethical and Professional

The \$1600 professional growth stipend will be allocated based upon the newly designed rubric.

**ARTICLE XIV
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT**

The School Board shall post the principal contract on the district website.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this agreement as follows:
THE PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF DISTRICT 281



9/1/2026

Krista Range, Chief Negotiator

Dated

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 281

	9/1/2026
Amy O'Hern, Executive Director of Human Resources	Dated
	9-1-26
Greta Evans-Becker , Chair of the School Board	Dated
	9/1/2026
ReNae J. Bowman , Clerk of the School Board	Dated