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**AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE STATE OF OHIO  
AND THE STATE COUNCIL OF  
PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OEA/NEA  
ARTICLE 1 - BARGAINING UNIT**

**1.01 - Recognition**

The Agreement is made and entered into pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 4117 of the Ohio Revised Code by and between the State of Ohio, represented by the Office of Collective Bargaining (OCB), hereinafter referred to as “Employer” and the State Council of Professional Educators (SCOPE), Ohio Education Association (OEA) and National Education Association (NEA), hereinafter referred to as the “Association.”

This Agreement is made for the purpose of promoting cooperation and harmonious labor relations among the Employer, employing agencies, employees of the bargaining unit, and the Association, establishing an equitable and peaceful procedure for the resolution of differences, and protecting the public interest by assuring the orderly operations of state government.

**1.02 - Bargaining Unit**

The Employer hereby recognizes the Association as the sole and exclusive bargaining representative for the purpose of collective bargaining on all matters pertaining to wages, hours, or terms and other conditions of employment, and continuation, modification, or deletion of an existing provision of the Agreement for employees within the bargaining unit, state Unit 10, in the classifications listed in Appendix G.

For the purpose of this Agreement, the following definitions shall apply to employees holding classification titles listed in Appendix G:

- A. A full-time** employee is paid by warrant of the Director of Budget and Management and is

regularly scheduled to work a work week as defined in Article 23. Said employee shall be included in the bargaining unit on the date of hire.

- B.** A **part-time** employee is paid by warrant of the Director of Budget and Management and is regularly scheduled to work less than the work week for full-time employees. Said employee shall be included in the bargaining unit on the date of hire.
- C.** An **interim** employee is paid by a warrant of the Director of Budget and Management and is hired to work a definite continuous period of one (1) month or more. Said employee will temporarily fill a position which is vacant as a result of sickness, authorized disability leave, authorized leave of absence or promotion.
- D.** An **intermittent** employee is paid by warrant of the Director of Budget and Management and works an irregular schedule which is determined by the fluctuating demands of the work and is generally characterized as requiring less than one thousand (1,000) hours per calendar year; provided however, if the intermittent is hired into a position where there are insufficient employees to address an operational or programmatic need or is hired to provide additional service hours, the intermittent may exceed one thousand (1,000) hours per calendar year.

The bargaining unit shall be composed of all full-time, part-time and intermittent employees within the classifications listed in Appendix G.

All intermittent positions are in the unclassified service. All intermittent positions are scheduled at the discretion of the Employer, with no rights under Article 23, except Sections 23.02 and 23.03. An employee in an intermittent position may be terminated at will without recourse, and such

termination is considered for just cause.

Employees in intermittent positions shall be hired at Step 1 of the appropriate pay range for their classification; provided however, employees hired into intermittent positions where there are insufficient permanent employees to address an operational or programmatic need or to provide additional service hours may be paid at a step and pay range consistent with his/her education and experience as well as additional factors including, but not limited to, skills, specialty, shift, or weekend. Nothing in this paragraph changes the current practice of substitute teachers. The employees in the intermittent positions shall not serve a probationary period. The employees in the intermittent positions are not eligible for step increases or longevity or any contractual benefits received by permanent employees (e.g., vision, dental, life, health insurance (except as required by law), holiday pay, leave accruals, any other paid leave, shift differential, pay supplements, etc.). No contribution will be made to the Union Benefits Trust (UBT) for the intermittent positions.

Intermittent positions are not subject to the reduction in work force provisions of Article 18. Employees in intermittent positions shall be terminated before any full or part-time permanent employee in the same classification and work unit, as mutually agreed, is laid off. Employees in intermittent positions shall not have recall rights.

Excluded from the bargaining unit are interim employees within the classifications listed in Appendix G.

The Employer will promptly notify the Association of its decision to establish all new classifications. If a new classification is a successor title to a classification covered by this Agreement with no substantial change in duties, the new classification shall automatically become a part of this Agreement.

If a new classification contains a significant part of the

work now done by any classifications in these bargaining units or shares a community of interest with classifications in one of the bargaining units, the Association may notify the Employer that it believes the classification should be in the bargaining unit within thirty (30) days of its receipt of the Employer's notice. The parties will then meet within twenty-one (21) days of such notice to review the classification specifications, and if unable to agree as to its inclusion or exclusion, shall submit the question to the State Employment Relations Board (SERB) for resolution.

### **1.03 - Classifications**

Classifications in the bargaining unit are to be found in Appendix G.

### **1.04 - Legal References**

This Agreement governs the wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment of employees within the bargaining unit. The provisions of this Agreement shall be interpreted in accordance with, and be subject to, the provisions of Chapter 4117 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). Pursuant to ORC Section 4117.10 (A), where this Agreement makes no specification about a matter, the Employer and employee are subject to all applicable state laws pertaining to the wages, hours, terms and conditions of employment for public employees.

### **1.05 - Savings Clause**

This Agreement shall be interpreted to be in conformance with the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Ohio, all applicable federal laws, and Chapter 4117 of the ORC.

Should specific provision(s) of this Agreement be declared invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, all other provisions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

In the event of invalidation of any portion(s) of this Agreement by a court of competent jurisdiction, and upon

written request by either party, the Employer and the Association shall meet within thirty (30) days at mutually convenient times in an attempt to modify the invalidated provision(s) by good faith negotiations.

#### **1.06 - Mid-Term Contractual Changes**

The Employer and the Association have the power and authority to enter into amendments of this Agreement during its term constituting an addition, deletion, substitution or modification of this Agreement. Any amendment providing for an addition, deletion, substitution or modification of this Agreement must be in writing and executed by the Association through its designee and the Director of the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) or designee. Upon its execution, such amendment shall supersede the affected provision(s) of this Agreement in accordance with its terms and shall continue in full force and effect for the duration of this Agreement. All other provisions of this Agreement not affected by the amendment shall continue in full force and effect for the term of this Agreement.

#### **1.07 - Memorandum of Understanding Duration**

All Memoranda of Understanding, amendments, Letters of Intent, or any other mutually agreed to provisions, shall be reviewed by OEA, the OCB, and Agency representatives for determination of their force and effect. Those documents which have been mutually agreed to have any continuing effect shall be posted on the appropriate Agency website and reference to the document title listed herein. All other documents, except those which have or do confer an economic benefit, shall expire on the effective starting date of this Agreement and have no further force and effect.

### **ARTICLE 2 - NON-DISCRIMINATION**

#### **2.01 - Non-Discrimination**

Neither the Employer nor the Association shall unlawfully discriminate against any employee on the basis of race, sex, creed, color, religion, age, national origin, political

affiliation, military service, disability, sexual orientation, or any protected class defined in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Section 123:1-49-01(A), or as amended in the application or interpretation of the provisions of this Agreement. Subject to the provisions of Section 2.03, neither the Employer nor the Association shall discriminate on the basis of family relationship.

The Employer and the Association hereby state a mutual commitment to affirmative action/equal employment opportunity in regards to job opportunities within the bargaining unit.

The Employer may also undertake reasonable accommodation to fulfill or ensure compliance with the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and corresponding provisions of Chapter 4112 of the ORC. Prior to establishing reasonable accommodation which adversely affects rights established under this Agreement, the Employer will discuss the matter with the Association President or other designated Association representatives.

## **2.02 - Bona Fide Occupational Qualifications**

Bona fide occupational qualification(s) may be established by the Employer subject to, and in compliance with Section 2.01 and the laws of the United States, State of Ohio, or Executive Order(s) of the State of Ohio.

The Employer agrees that where bona fide occupational qualification(s) have been established for any position(s), such bona fide occupational qualification(s) will be listed on the posting for the position(s) when a vacancy is to be filled.

## **2.03 - Nepotism**

The Employing Agency shall provide an employee with a direct supervisor who is not a member of the Employee's immediate family. "Immediate family" is defined for the purposes of this Section to include: spouse or significant other ("significant other" as used in this Agreement is defined to mean one who stands in place of a spouse and who resides



with the employee), child, step-child, parent, step-parent, grandparent, brother, sister, step-sibling, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, or legal guardian or other person who stands in place of a parent.

## **ARTICLE 3 - MANAGEMENT RIGHTS**

### **3.01 - Management Rights**

The Association agrees that all of the functions, rights, powers, responsibilities and authority of the Employer, in regard to the operation of its work and business and the direction of its workforce which the Employer has not specifically abridged, deleted, granted or modified by the express and specific written provision of the Agreement are, and shall remain, exclusively those of the Employer.

Accordingly, the Employer retains the rights to: 1.) hire and transfer employees, suspend, discharge and discipline employees for just cause; 2.) determine the number of persons required to be employed or laid off; 3.) determine the qualifications of employees covered by this Agreement; 4.) determine the starting and quitting time and the number of hours to be worked by its employees; 5.) make any and all rules and regulations; 6.) determine the work assignments of its employees; 7.) determine the basis for selection, retention and promotion of employees to or for positions not within the bargaining unit established by this Agreement; 8.) determine the type of equipment used and the sequences of work processes; 9.) determine the making of technological alterations by revising the process or equipment, or both; 10.) determine work standards and the quality and quantity of work to be produced; 11.) select and locate buildings and other facilities; 12.) transfer or subcontract work; 13.) establish, expand, transfer and/or consolidate, work processes and facilities; 14.) consolidate, merge, or otherwise transfer any or all of its facilities, property, processes or work with or to any other municipality or entity or affect or change

in any respect the legal status, management or responsibility of such property, facilities, processes or work; 15.) terminate or eliminate all or any part of its work or facilities.

## **ARTICLE 4 - ASSOCIATION RIGHTS**

### **4.01 - Voluntary Dues Deduction**

The Employer will deduct biweekly membership dues and, if appropriate, initiation fees, payable to the Association upon receipt of a voluntary written individual authorization from any employee on a form developed and maintained by the Association. The form shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations as well as any Executive Orders. The Association shall ensure that the form contains sufficient identifying information in order to allow the Employer to identify the employee named on the form in order to permit proper processing of the form. If such information is not provided, then the Employer is not obligated to deduct membership dues. No deduction will be made from an employee who has not affirmatively consented to such deduction. Employee membership in the Union is voluntary and is not a condition of employment.

The Employer will terminate dues deduction for any of the following reasons: 1.) the employee signs a cancellation notification; 2.) the employee is reduced in force; or 3.) the employee is terminated, resigns or is permanently assigned to a classification title which is excluded from the bargaining unit. Upon receiving a cancellation notification, the Association shall provide timely notice of the cancellation to the Employer.

The Employer shall withhold other Association deductions from those employees who have voluntarily and individually authorized such deductions by executing a written authorization form developed and maintained by the Association. The form shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations as well as any Executive Orders. The Association shall ensure that the form

contains sufficient identifying information in order to allow the Employer to identify the employee named on the form in order to permit proper processing of the form. If such information is not provided, then the Employer is not obligated to deduct other Association deductions. Such deductions shall remain in effect until the Employer is properly notified in writing by the employee to terminate such deductions. Upon receiving a cancellation notification, the Association shall provide timely notice of the cancellation to the Employer.

The Association may establish a dues payment plan for its members allowing them to pay annual dues directly to the Association and without any payroll deduction. The Association shall provide the Employer with a list of employees who are paying their dues in this manner and for whom no payroll deduction is to be made, no later than September 30th of each membership year.

#### **4.02 - Notification of the Amount of Dues**

Notice of the amount of the annual dues shall be transmitted by the Association to the Employer on or about September 15th of each calendar year for the purpose of determining amounts to be payroll-deducted.

#### **4.03 - Reserved for Future Use**

#### **4.04 - Transmittal of Specified Bargaining Unit Information and Association Monies Collected by the Employer**

The Employer shall transmit to the Association within one (1) week from the end of the pay period, a list of all monies collected on behalf of the Association. Included within the list shall be the names of each employee from whom a deduction was taken, the pay period covered, the purpose of the deduction, and the amount deducted. The Employer shall also provide the Association on a biweekly basis a list of all employees in the bargaining unit including those employees in an inactive pay status. The list shall

contain the employee's name, home address, department, institution, classification title and number, and employee identification number.

#### **4.05 - Indemnification of the Employer**

The Association recognizes the Ohio Attorney General as counsel to defend the Employer against all claims or actions arising under this article. The Association agrees to indemnify the Employer for any liability incurred as a result of the implementation and enforcement of this provision provided that: 1.) the Employer shall give the Association thirty (30) days written notice from the date of receipt of any claim made or action filed against the Employer by an employee for which indemnification may be claimed; 2.) the Employer agrees to (a) give full and complete cooperation and assistance to the Association and its counsel at all levels of the proceeding(s), (b) permit the Association or its affiliates to intervene as a party if so desired, (c) not oppose the Association's or its affiliates' application to file briefs amicus curiae in the action, and/or (d) permit the Association to participate in all settlements of any claims arising under this Article; 3.) the Employer shall not incur excessive costs under this Section. In those cases where the Attorney General's Office directly provides representation there shall be no charge to the Association for attorneys' fees. Further, the Association shall indemnify and hold harmless the Employer from and against any liability incurred to any third parties and any and all claims, suits, orders, or judgments brought against the Employer that arise from the dues deduction form, including any deduction of membership dues or other Association deductions by the Employer.

#### **4.06 - Reserved for Future Use**

#### **4.07 - Site Representatives**

The right of the Association to appoint Site Representatives is recognized. The Association shall be entitled to appoint one (1) Site Representative at each work

facility. Designated Site Representatives will be granted release time as set forth in this Article and other portions of the Agreement.

Site Representatives shall have completed their initial probationary period, be employed in and limit their representative activities to the work facility to which they are appointed.

The Association shall provide written notification to the Employing Agency of the appointment of any Site Representative(s) seven (7) days prior to the effective date of any such designation. No appointment shall be recognized until such notification is received by the Employing Agency.

Release time shall be granted to Association Site Representatives, limited to the presentation of employee grievances and the representation of employees in pre-disciplinary conferences. Release time may be granted by the Employing Agencies to Association Site Representatives for other functions where such release time is expressly provided for in this Agreement and/or authorized by the Employing Agencies. Release time shall be granted to one (1) Association Site Representative if an OEA Labor Relations Consultant, hereinafter referred to as "OEA LRC," and/or other designated Association representative is present at any grievance meeting or pre-disciplinary conference, provided that the OEA LRC or other designated Association representative request the presence of the Site Representative.

An Association Site Representative may use a reasonable amount of working time to receive and investigate complaints and grievances of employees on the premises of the Employer where such activity does not interfere with or interrupt normal school or Agency operations and prior approval has been granted by the Site Representative's supervisor.

Employees needing an Association Site Representative's

presence during working time shall direct their request to the Site Representative. The Site Representative shall request release through his/her immediate supervisor. Association Site Representatives will, upon entering any work area other than their own, and prior to engaging in any representative duties, report to the supervisor involved.

Before an Association Site Representative takes time away from his/her job duties to administer the Agreement, the Association Site Representative must inform his/her supervisor or designee of the approximate duration of time the Association Site Representative expects to be away from his/her job duties, and if the Association Site Representative is leaving the work area, the duration of time expected to be away from the work area.

The OEA LRC or other designated Association representative shall conduct business with the prior notification of the Employer at work facilities at reasonable times and shall not interfere with or interrupt normal school or facility operations. The OEA LRC or other designated Association representative shall adhere to any existing policies regarding non-employee access to the work facility.

The Employer shall provide the OEA LRC or other designated Association representative with a private space to meet with the employee(s).

Any disputes regarding this Article may be filed at the Agency Step of the grievance procedure.

#### **4.08 - Association Requests for Time Away from Job Duties for Association Work**

- A.** Each Agency may require that all requests for any form of time away from job duties pursuant to this Article be made by completing a form or log provided by the Agency. No employee will be permitted time away from job duties pursuant to this Article, without completing the form or log prior to the utilization of such time and securing of

permission to utilize such time from the employee's supervisor or designee. The employee shall enter on the form the time the employee begins performing union work and the time the employee returns to the employee's job duties. Employees who do not return to their worksite prior to the end of the employees' workday shall complete the form at the beginning of the employees' next workday. Employees, who normally work out of the office, will work out an acceptable alternative procedure with their supervisor. No more than one (1) Association representative will be released per event related to the administration of Articles 5 and 13.

- B.** The Employer agrees to provide the Association with a bank of one thousand one hundred and twenty-five (1,125) hours each fiscal year (Association Leave).

Association representatives, delegates and officers may utilize this bank of hours to attend conferences, conventions, training sessions, and any other functions not covered under Section 4.07. Any leave time used pursuant to Section 4.07 above does not count toward the bank of Association Leave. The Association will provide notification in the electronic grievance system ten (10) calendar days prior to the event to OCB with a copy to the Employing Agency for all approvals of Association Leave. No use of such leave will be authorized by OCB unless notification of the eligibility of the employee making the request is received by OCB from the Association. The Association representative will provide OCB with the purpose of their meeting, the location, date, start and end time, duration, and a phone number where the

Association representative can be contacted.

The Association shall notify OCB of the dates of national conferences and conventions to which Association delegates may be sent at least ninety (90) days in advance of the event. Requests for use of leave time for such events must be submitted in writing to OCB ninety (90) days in advance of the event. Other uses of time by Association representatives will require notification in the electronic grievance system ten (10) calendar days prior to the event to OCB. This time limit may be waived at OCB's discretion.

Association representatives may utilize Association Leave in increments of two (2) hours. No site representative may utilize more than sixty (60) hours of Association Leave in a fiscal year. The elected officers, other than the President, may utilize no more than one hundred and twenty-five (125) hours of Association Leave in a fiscal year. The President, up to six hundred (600) hours, but no more than the remaining balance of the one thousand one hundred and twenty-five (1,125) hours of Association Leave not used by other representatives. The Association President, or designee, will notify OCB as to those employees designated as Association site representatives and elected officers.

- C. The Association's seven (7) bargaining team members will be provided three (3) days each to be utilized for bargaining preparation to negotiate the successor agreement.
- D. Employees on approved Association Leave pursuant to this Section shall suffer no loss for leave accrual purposes as specified in Articles 26, 27 and 30.



- E. Requests to utilize such leave will be granted dependent upon adequacy of staff to cover the work unit and such requests will not be unreasonably denied. In the event of an emergency, the approved leave may be cancelled.
- F. The Association President or his/her designee may cross Employing Agency lines while using Association leave.

#### **4.09 - Orientation and Association Membership**

A designated Site Representative or OEA LRC shall be given the opportunity to address orientation programs conducted by the Employing Agency for new employees. The presentation shall be for a reasonable amount of time and at a time mutually agreed to, in advance, by the Employing Agency and the Association. If the Employing Agency does not conduct an orientation program, a designated Site Representative or OEA LRC may meet with new employees during non-working hours at the worksite at the employee's option. A list of all employees in the bargaining unit, including new hires, shall be provided to the Association on a biweekly basis through the OAKS process and report.

Any questions regarding Association membership should be addressed directly to the Association President.

#### **4.10 - Bulletin Boards**

The Employing Agency shall provide a suitable bulletin board at each work facility where ten (10) or more employees are assigned. Where ten (10) or less employees are assigned, an alternate space will be provided. The purpose of the bulletin board or alternate space is to post notices and other materials affecting employees. The posting of any Association materials shall be restricted to such bulletin board or alternate space as provided. Any material posted shall be dated and signed by the appropriate Association representative.

No such material may be posted at any time that contains

any of the following: 1.) personal attacks upon any other employee; 2.) attacks on any other employee organization; 3.) derogatory attacks upon management or; 4.) partisan campaign literature.

If the posting is not authorized, the Association will not accept any liability and will immediately remove the materials from the bulletin board or alternate space.

Upon notice of a violation of this Section, an Association representative shall remove such prohibited material.

#### **4.11 - Mail Service**

Each Employing Agency shall designate a representative at work facilities where mailboxes for employees currently exist or are created during the term of this Agreement. The Employing Agency representative shall have the responsibility to promptly place in such mailboxes materials received from an authorized Association representative. All materials placed into the mailboxes on behalf of the Association shall be the property of the employee to whom it is addressed. No other employee organization shall have the right to have materials placed in mailboxes.

The Association may use the mail service distribution no more than twice each month. All Association materials must also conform to standards established by existing or revised mail policies of the affected Employing Agency.

The Employing Agency shall be held harmless for deliveries stemming from such usage of these mailboxes.

Once per year, notification for professional development events contained within this Agreement may be delivered either through interoffice mail or USPS via Employing Agency mailrooms.

#### **4.12 - Electronic Mail System Use**

The Association shall be permitted to utilize the electronic mail system of each Employing Agency in accordance with the Employing Agency's established electronic mail system policies, solely for contract

enforcement and interpretation and grievance processing matters. Grievants may communicate by electronic mail with Association representatives in regard to the Association's representation of the bargaining unit. It is understood that there is no expectation of privacy in any electronic communication sent or received hereunder.

#### **4.13 - Committee Members and Representatives**

The Association retains the exclusive right for the selection of its own committee members and representatives.

### **ARTICLE 5 - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

#### **5.01 - Purpose**

The Employer and the Association recognize that in the interest of harmonious relations, a procedure is necessary whereby employees are assured of prompt, impartial and fair processing of their grievances. Such procedure shall be available to all employees and no reprisals of any kind shall be taken against any employee initiating or participating in the grievance procedure. The grievance procedure shall be the exclusive method of resolving both contractual and disciplinary grievances except where otherwise provided by this Agreement.

The parties intend that every effort shall be made to share all relevant and pertinent records, papers, data and names of witnesses to facilitate the resolution of grievances at the lowest possible level. Where available and with forty-eight (48) hours' notice to the Association, speakerphone and/or teleconferencing or videoconferencing may be utilized for the purpose of conducting grievance meetings. The parties agree to virtual ADR hearings (e.g., grievance mediation and Non-Traditional Arbitration done remotely).

An employee who elects to pursue a claim through any judicial or administrative procedure shall be precluded from processing the same claim and incident as a grievance. This restriction does not preclude, however, pursuing a claim which has been heard in the grievance and arbitration

procedure, in another forum, subject only to the State's right to file a motion for deferral.

## **5.02 - Definitions**

- A. Grievance** refers to an alleged violation, misinterpretation or misapplication of specific provision(s), article(s), and/or section(s) of this Agreement.
- B. Disciplinary grievance** refers to a grievance involving a written reprimand, a working suspension, a suspension, or termination.
- C. Day** refers to calendar day, except where otherwise specified. Times shall be computed by excluding the first and including the last day. For the initial filing of a grievance, when the last day falls on a Saturday, a Sunday or a legal holiday, the initial filing may be done on the next succeeding day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday.
- D. Appointing Authority** refers to the public official of a department, board, commission or body who has the statutory authority to appoint or discharge an employee. The term "Appointing Authority" also includes the public official's designee.
- E. Employing Agency** refers to the department, board, commission, or body within which the employee is appointed. If there is more than one (1) Appointing Authority within the Employing Agency, the term Employing Agency refers to the entire department under the control of the director of the department.
- F. Grievance number** refers to the number assigned by the electronic grievance system at the level the grievance is originally filed. The assignment of a number is merely for tracking purposes and shall not be construed as a recognition that it is a valid grievance. The Employer and the Association are committed to utilizing all available technologies to

ensure prompt and efficient processing of grievances.

### **5.03 - Qualifications**

A grievance may be brought by any employee or group of employees or the Association setting forth the name(s) or group(s) of the Grievant(s). When filing the grievance in the electronic grievance system, the Grievant must specify the specific provision(s) of the Agreement alleged to have been violated and the desired resolution. The parties shall use the electronic grievance system for the processing of grievances.

Where a group of employees or the Association desires to file a grievance involving an alleged violation which affects more than one (1) employee in the same way, the grievance may be filed by the Association. Grievances so initiated shall be called class grievances. The caption of the grievance shall bear the name of one (1) affected employee. Class grievances shall be filed within twenty (20) days of the date on which any of the affected employees knew or reasonably could have had knowledge of the event giving rise to the class grievance. Grievances shall be initiated at the Agency Step of the grievance procedure.

The Association will provide to OCB the names of those Association representatives with the authority to file and sign class grievance on behalf of the Association. OCB will transmit to each Employing Agency a list of these representatives. The Association will inform OCB of any changes, additions, or deletions to this list.

### **5.04 - Termination of Grievance**

When a decision has been resolved by the appropriate parties at any step of this grievance procedure, the grievance shall be terminated. Should the Grievant fail to comply with the time limits specified herein, that grievance shall be terminated and considered resolved in favor of the Employing Agency.

## **5.05 - Grievance Procedure Informal Discussion of Grievance**

An employee having a complaint may first attempt to resolve it informally with his/her immediate supervisor at the time the incident giving rise to the complaint occurs or as soon thereafter as is convenient. At this meeting there may be an Association representative present. If the employee is not satisfied with the result of the informal meeting, if any, the employee may pursue the formal steps of the grievance process below.

The following steps apply to the processing of grievances:

### **A. Agency Step**

An employee or Association representative having a grievance shall file it in the electronic grievance system within twenty (20) days of the date on which the employee knew or reasonably could have had knowledge of the event giving rise to the grievance. If being on approved paid leave prevents a Grievant from having knowledge of an occurrence, then the timelines shall be extended by the number of days the employee was on such leave except that in no case will the extension exceed ninety (90) days after the event. The parties shall reference the date the grievance was submitted in the electronic grievance system to confirm timeliness.

Within fifty (50) days of receipt, a meeting shall be held and a response issued to the Grievant. The Agency must enter the meeting date and any agreed upon extensions in the electronic grievance system. Should the parties agree to cancel or extend the Agency Step meeting date, but fail to enter the new meeting date, the grievance will be reverted to Agency Step to allow the parties time to meet and

respond to the grievance. Where the parties have established agreed upon monthly rotation dates, the agency will enter an extension that reflects the rotation date in the electronic grievance system.

Grievant shall receive notification at least two (2) days prior to the meeting. This notification may be waived by the Grievant. An Association Site Representative, and/or other authorized Association representative, shall attend the meeting to represent the Association's contractual rights under Article 4 and shall represent the Grievant if requested. The Grievant may choose to waive Association representation at this meeting. The OEA LRC or the Association Site Representative will serve as spokesperson for the Association during the meeting unless otherwise designated. If the grievance is not resolved at the Agency Step or no Agency response is received within fifty (50) days from submission or the date of the agreed upon extension, the grievance shall be automatically eligible for appeal. Grievances not appealed within thirty (30) days of eligibility for appeal will close if no action is taken.

Provided however, for grievances concerning placement on the pay scale, advancement through the pay scale, or tuition reimbursement, the Agency Step shall consist of a meeting including the Grievant and/or Association representative, Agency representative, OCB representative, and other representative(s) from DAS, as necessary. Where available, participants may attend via teleconference or videoconference at the participant's option. The meeting shall be held within fifty (50) days of receipt of the grievance; no request for an extension shall be denied. Grievance

filing and appeal timelines as specified above apply to grievances of this nature. If the grievance is not resolved at this meeting, no response will be issued and the grievance shall be automatically eligible for appeal within fifty (50) days from submission or the date of the agreed upon extension. Grievances not appealed within thirty (30) days of eligibility for appeal will close if no action is taken.

**B. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)**

Should the Grievant or the Association not be satisfied with the answer received at the Agency Step or no management response is issued within fifty (50) days of the submission or the date of agreed upon extension, within fifteen (15) days after receipt thereof or the date such answer was due, whichever is earlier, the grievance may be appealed to ADR. The appeal of the grievance shall be timely, if it is submitted to ADR within the appeal period.

The parties agree that any grievances currently at ADR may, by mutual agreement, be subjected to the mediation procedure. Mediation meetings will be organized and conducted pursuant to this section.

The parties shall mutually agree to a panel of arbitrators to serve on the Grievance Mediation panel. Those arbitrators shall be used for the grievance mediation procedure described below. No mediator/arbitrator shall hear a case at both mediation and arbitration, unless mutually agreed upon. The fees and expenses of the mediator shall be shared equally by the parties. The mediator shall be selected by mutual agreement of the parties for each mediation day. Either the Employer or the Association may notify the other of its intent to terminate a panel member. Within five (5) days of receipt of such notification, the parties shall notify



the panel member by joint letter that his/her services are terminated. Any successor panel member(s) shall be mutually agreed to by the Employer and the Association.

The function of the mediator is to hear a summary of the issue and arguments from both sides of the dispute, and to encourage settlement or withdrawal of the issues and cases at any time during the meeting. There shall be no procedural constraints regarding the review of facts and arguments. The mediator(s) may employ all of the techniques commonly associated with mediation, including private caucuses with the parties.

No witnesses shall be called during mediation. The taking of oaths and the examination of witnesses shall not be permitted, and no verbatim record of the proceeding shall be taken. However, at the discretion of the Association, the Grievant may be present. Each party may have no more than two (2) representatives present. One (1) of the two (2) representatives shall be vested with the authority to settle the grievance. Representative(s) for the Association shall be provided administrative leave at base rate of pay for attendance at mediation meetings. The parties may also have in attendance an observer, who may serve as a facilitator with their respective parties. The parties will argue each case individually, using any relevant documents, statements or precedents to support their case. Written material presented to the mediator will be returned to the party at the conclusion of the mediation meeting. The comments and opinions of the mediator, and any settlement offers put forth by either party shall not be admissible in subsequent arbitration of the grievance nor be introduced in any

future arbitration proceedings.

At the end of each case, the mediator may encourage the parties to either settle or withdraw the case. In the event of settlement or withdrawal, the documents to execute the action shall be prepared and signed by all appropriate parties at the end of the meeting.

If a grievance remains unresolved at the end of the mediation meeting, the mediator will provide an oral statement regarding how he/she would rule in the case based on the facts presented to him/her. Cases not resolved under this procedure shall be subsequently scheduled for arbitration in accordance with this Section, without prejudice by an arbitrator on the regular arbitration panel.

OCB will enter the results of the ADR meeting into the electronic grievance system, including any closing paperwork for each grievance.

The parties will consolidate cases for ADR and the OEA LRC may attend the meeting and shall represent the employee if requested. An OCB representative may be present at such meeting.

By mutual agreement, the Association and Employing Agency may waive any preceding step of the grievance procedure.

### **C. Arbitration**

Grievances which have not been resolved under the ADR procedure shall be considered eligible for arbitration.

The Employer and the Association shall maintain a panel of arbitrators that shall be assigned cases based upon availability and mutual agreement of the parties. If the parties are unable to mutually agree upon the selection of an arbitrator from the panel for a particular arbitration case, either party

may request a Labor arbitrator list through the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS); provided however, FMCS shall not be used for discipline/discharge cases and non-selection cases under Article 17, unless mutually agreed otherwise. When a Labor arbitrator through FMCS is to be used, OCB shall contact FMCS for a list of seven (7) Labor arbitrators who are members of the National Academy of Arbitrators (NAA) and are residents of or have a business office within Ohio from which one shall be selected. The costs of obtaining the initial FMCS list shall be borne by the party requesting the use of a Labor arbitrator through FMCS. The parties shall first attempt to mutually select an arbitrator from the FMCS list. Failing to mutually agree upon an arbitrator from this list, the parties shall strike names alternately, with the parties' right to strike (i.e., the choice to strike first or second) to be determined by the flip of a coin. Prior to beginning the striking procedure, either party shall have the option to completely reject the list of names and request another list once per case, provided the request is made within ten (10) days of receiving the list. The party completely rejecting the list of names and requesting another list will pay any additional costs associated with the production of another list. Upon receiving a subsequent list, the parties will again first attempt to mutually select an arbitrator and, if failing to mutually agree upon an arbitrator from this list, then the parties shall strike names alternately. If a selected arbitrator refuses to accept an appointment after the parties have followed this procedure, the parties will first attempt to mutually select an arbitrator from any of the lists received from FMCS

for the applicable case, and if a mutual selection cannot be made then another list shall be requested from FMCS, the cost will be shared equally by the parties, and the selection process shall continue as described herein.

Either party may notify the other of its intent to terminate an arbitrator. Within five (5) days of receipt of such notification, the parties shall notify the arbitrator by joint letter that his/her services are terminated. The arbitrator shall conclude his/her services by rendering a decision on any grievances previously heard within forty-five (45) days of such notification. Any successor arbitrator(s) shall be mutually agreed to by the Employer and the Association. The parties may, by mutual agreement, change an arbitrator's appointment from the Arbitration panel to the Grievance Mediation panel.

Once a case is scheduled for arbitration, it must be cancelled or postponed by mutual agreement. If the parties cannot agree, upon notice to the other party either party may appeal to the arbitrator for a postponement. The Association may request a postponement of an arbitration hearing and if agreed to by the Employer and the arbitrator, the liability of the Employer for back pay will cease with the originally scheduled hearing date of the case.

Unless mutually agreed otherwise, the Employer and the Association shall meet monthly to schedule requests for arbitration. Meetings shall occur during the workday at times which are least likely to require a substitute employee and at times which are least disruptive to the operation of the Employer. The designated Association representative shall be permitted two (2) hours per month at his/her rate of pay to attend such meetings

and such release time shall be by mutual agreement.

All fees and expenses of the arbitrator and hearing shall be borne equally by the Employing Agency and the Association, excepted as provided in this Section. The arbitrator shall submit an account for the fees and expenses of arbitration to OCB and the Association. If only one (1) party desires a transcript of the proceedings, the total cost for such transcription shall be paid by that party. If both parties desire a copy, then the total cost for such transcription shall be shared equally. All other costs incurred by each party will be paid by the party incurring the costs.

Only disputes involving the interpretation, application or alleged violation of provisions of this Agreement shall be subject to arbitration. The arbitrator shall have no power to add to, subtract from or modify any of the terms of this Agreement; nor shall the arbitrator impose on either party a limitation or obligation not specifically required by the express language of this Agreement. Questions of arbitrability shall be determined by the arbitrator.

The arbitrator shall have authority to subpoena witnesses and documents pursuant to Section 2711.06 of the ORC. Upon receiving a request to issue a subpoena(s), the arbitrator shall contact the other party and hear and consider any objections to the issuance of said subpoena(s). If the arbitrator sustains the objection to the issuance of the subpoena, the arbitrator shall inform the parties at least five (5) days prior to the hearing. The arbitrator shall not knowingly subpoena persons to offer repetitive testimony, nor shall he/she subpoena persons who do not have direct knowledge of the incident giving rise to the grievance or whose

testimony is not relevant to the grievance.

When the arbitrator determines that so many employees from the same work facility have been subpoenaed that the number of subpoenaed employees would impede the ability of the Employer to carry out its mission or inhibit the Employer's ability to conduct an efficient operation, arrangements shall be made to take the testimony desired in such a manner to alleviate these concerns.

Seven (7) days prior to the start of an arbitration hearing, the parties shall deliver the names of all witnesses to each other. A reasonable number of relevant witnesses that have direct knowledge of the event(s) that led to the grievance will be released with no loss of pay to attend arbitration for the sole purpose of being a witness. The Employer agrees to compensate at base rate of pay, employees subpoenaed as witnesses by the Association. The Association shall assume all costs for transportation, meals, and lodging for the Grievant's witnesses called by the Association. If there is a dispute regarding the reasonableness of the request or the relevancy of the witness(s)' testimony, either party may request that the arbitrator decide the reasonableness of the request prior to the hearing by notifying the other party and scheduling a conference call.

The sequestration of witnesses will be at the discretion of the arbitrator. If the arbitrator orders the witnesses to be sequestered, the parties will be entitled to the following representatives: Association—Grievant(s) and one person other than the advocate and Management—one person plus an Agency representative other than the State's advocate.

Where either party will make an issue of “intent,” that party will notify the other party ten (10) days prior to the hearing.

The parties agree to attempt to arrive at a joint stipulation of the facts and issues to be submitted to the arbitrator. Prior to the start of the hearing, the representatives of the Employer and the Association shall attempt to reduce to writing the issue(s) to be placed before the arbitrator and any stipulations that may be agreed upon. At the meeting, if the parties cannot agree upon the issue(s) they shall at that time submit separate versions of the issue(s) to the arbitrator at the hearing. Where such a statement is submitted, the arbitrator’s decision shall address itself solely to the issue(s) presented and shall not impose upon either party any restriction or obligation pertaining to any matter raised in the dispute which is not specifically related to the submitted issue(s). The Association and/or Employer will make reasonable efforts to share documents, books, papers or witnesses reasonably available from the other party and relevant to the grievance under consideration seven (7) days in advance of the hearing. Such requests will not be unreasonably denied. When arbitration is virtual, exchange of documents and submission to the arbitrator may occur in advance based upon mutual agreement.

All arbitration cases will normally be scheduled at OCB. The parties may mutually agree to change a hearing site.

The arbitrator shall render a decision as quickly as possible, but in any event, no later than forty-five (45) days after the close of the record unless the parties agree otherwise. The arbitrator’s decision

shall be submitted in writing and shall set forth the findings and conclusions with respect to the issues submitted to arbitration. The arbitrator's decision shall be final and binding upon the Employer, the Association and the employee(s) involved, except as provided in Chapter 2711 of the ORC.

#### **5.06 - Association Representation**

- A. In each step of the grievance procedure, certain specific Association representatives are given approval to attend meetings. Any time away from job duties under this Section shall be indicated on the Agency's form or log if required under Section 4.08 of this Agreement.

However, in the interest of resolving grievances at the earliest possible step, it may be beneficial that other individuals, not specifically designated, be in attendance provided that their presence will not interfere with or interrupt normal school or work facility operations.

In regard to the adjustment of grievances and the formalization of settlements at the Agency Step, the Association shall designate those employees who have the authority to act on behalf of the Association. The Association President shall serve written notice to the OCB Deputy Director identifying employees. Where feasible, the employee designated to attend such meetings shall be an employee of the Employing Agency in which the grievance was filed. An Association representative who is an employee shall be granted administrative leave with pay, per Section 4.07(B), to attend a meeting held to facilitate the adjustment of a grievance, so long as attendance does not adversely impact the adequacy of the workforce at the Employing Agency.



- B.** A Grievant and the Association Site Representative shall be allowed time off, with pay at base rate, from regular duties for attendance at scheduled meetings under the grievance procedure. Grievance meetings will usually be held during normal business hours.
- C.** The Association shall be the exclusive representative of the employee in all matters pertaining to the enforcement of any rights of the employee under the provisions of this Article and in accordance with Chapter 4117.03(A)(5) of the ORC.
- D.** The Association shall have the final authority in respect to any aggrieved employee, to decline to process a grievance to arbitration if, in the judgment of the Association, the grievance lacks merit or justification under the terms of this Agreement or has been adjusted or rectified under the terms of this Agreement to the satisfaction of the Association. At any step in the grievance procedure, the Association may decline to file an Association grievance or to withdraw an Association grievance for good reason.
- E.** In the event an employee refuses or fails to attend a mediation, an arbitration, or any other alternative dispute resolution proceeding, the Association must proceed with the hearing or withdraw the grievance.

#### **5.07 - Time Extensions and Step Waivers**

- A.** The Grievant or the Association representative and representatives of the Employer may mutually agree in writing at any step to a short time extension. Any step in the grievance procedure may be waived by written mutual consent. In emergency situations as defined by the Governor, an Appointing Authority, Employing Agency Director, or the OCB Deputy Director, the grievance step time limitations shall be suspended for the duration of the emergency. In the

absence of such extensions or emergency situations, at any step where a grievance response of the Employer has not been received by the Grievant and the Association representative within the specified time limits, the Grievant may file the grievance to the next successive step in the grievance procedure within the same number of days from the date the decision was due as specified in Section 5.06 of this Article. Except as provided above, grievances shall be processed within the specified time limits.

## **5.08 - Disciplinary Grievance Procedure**

### **A. General**

An employee who wishes to grieve a suspension, a fine, a discharge, or a disciplinary demotion shall have such discipline subjected to the grievance/arbitration procedure as outlined in this Article. The following provisions shall apply to disciplinary grievances:

1. An employee who is serving in his/her original probationary period does not have the right to file a disciplinary grievance;
2. An employee who is reduced during the probationary period following promotion does not have the right to file a disciplinary grievance.

### **B. Written Reprimands**

Written reprimands shall be grievable through the Agency Step. If a written reprimand was not addressed at the Agency Step, and becomes a factor in a disciplinary grievance that goes to arbitration, the arbitrator may consider evidence regarding the merits of the written reprimand, since it could not be submitted to arbitration. Otherwise, written reprimands may only be used to show progression in an arbitration proceeding.

### **C. Non-Traditional Arbitration**

The parties agree to utilize a variety of Non-Traditional Arbitration mechanisms. Such mechanisms may include but not be limited to, presentation of argument based on factual stipulations, presentation of argument without factual stipulations, and presentation of more than one case on a given day with written bench decisions being rendered by the arbitrator. The arbitrator shall issue a written decision to the parties by the end of the hearing day. Decisions issued pursuant to this procedure shall have precedence for progressivity purposes only unless mutually agreed otherwise by the parties.

The grievances presented to the arbitrator under this Section consist of disciplinary actions of suspensions or fines of five (5) days or less and non-selection grievances where the sole issue is whether an employee met the minimum qualifications for the position. The Employer and the Association are limited to no more than two (2) witnesses each, unless mutually agreed otherwise. The arbitrator may ask questions of the witness and/or the Grievant. Disciplinary grievances adjudicated in this forum shall not be mediated. Non-selection grievances where the sole issue is whether an employee met the minimum qualifications for the position shall be mediated prior to being heard at Non-Traditional Arbitration.

### **5.09 - Settlement Agreements**

Settlement agreements that require payment or other compensation shall be initiated for payment within two (2) payroll periods following the date the settlement agreement is fully executed. If payment is not received within three (3) pay periods, interest at the rate of one percent (1%) shall

accrue commencing the first day after the payment was due and on the same date of subsequent months.

### **5.10 - Scheduling**

The parties shall strive to schedule all grievances for arbitration other than discharge grievances within two hundred and forty (240) days from the date of mediation or the date of the mediation waiver. The timeframe may be waived by mutual agreement between OEA and OCB.

### **5.11 – Electronic Grievance Filing**

Grievances shall be filed using the electronic grievance system. Bargaining unit employees and the Association shall have access to the electronic grievance system from their Agency website (intranet), OEA/SCOPE website, and/or the OCB website. The electronic grievance system may be accessed from a home or a work computer or a computer in a designated Association office. State of Ohio agencies shall ensure access to the internet in the workplace is sufficient for use of the electronic grievance system to facilitate the processing of grievances. If a system/programming error occurs which makes the electronic grievance system unavailable prohibiting the timely initial filing of a grievance, the initial filing timeline in this Article shall be automatically extended until the end of the employee's next scheduled shift.

Where there is no computer and internet available for the Association to use during any grievance hearings, the Association may use their own computer/tablet and WI-FI access device for the purpose of accessing virtual grievance meetings and the electronic grievance system. The computer/tablet and WI-FI access device used by the Association must be password protected. The local Association will be responsible for obtaining and maintaining the necessary password protection for the computer/tablet and WI-FI access device.

## **ARTICLE 6 - RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE**

## **ARTICLE 7 - HEALTH AND SAFETY**

### **7.01 - Health and Safety: General Duty**

The Employer and the Association agree that the health and safety of employees is a matter of great importance.

### **7.02 - No Reprisal**

When the procedures provided for in this Article have been followed, no employee shall be subject to restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination, or reprisal for filing a report of an unsafe or unhealthy working condition or for participation in occupational safety and health program activities provided in this Article.

### **7.03 - Compliance**

The Employer and employees shall comply with all Employing Agency safety rules and regulations and the safety and health standards and regulations as provided for under the State of Ohio Public Employment Risk Reduction Program. Such safety and health standards and regulations shall be made readily available for review to all employees.

The Employer shall provide to the Association all notices required by applicable laws and regulations. Such notice shall be served upon the Association President.

### **7.04 - Access to Information about Toxic Substances**

All employees shall have access to information on all toxic substances in the workplace pursuant to applicable laws and regulations.

### **7.05 - Duty to Report**

Employees shall cooperate with the Employing Agency in maintaining safe and healthful working conditions. All employees shall promptly report unsafe conditions related to physical plant, tools, equipment and their employment, on an incident report, to their respective supervisor. If the supervisor does not abate the problem, the matter should then be reported to the Employing Agency's Designee as identified in Agency Policy.

An Employee who is injured or who is involved in an

accident during the course of employment shall immediately report the accident, no matter how slight, to his or her supervisor and file an accident report on a form furnished by the Employer.

#### **7.06 - Unsafe Conditions**

An employee shall not be disciplined for a good faith refusal to engage in or work in a situation which is allegedly life-threatening or presents the potential for serious injury or which is abnormal to his/her place of employment and/or position description, subject to any three (3) of the following conditions:

- A. The employee believes in good faith that performing a task would place him/her in imminent physical danger;
- B. The employee has brought the hazard to the attention of the Employing Agency's Designee as identified in Agency Policy, has sought to have it corrected and has allowed the Employing Agency a reasonable period of time to correct the problem;
- C. The employee has identified an ongoing or reoccurring hazard and/or violation, has followed the steps in Section 7.06(B) with no resolution and has filed a grievance over the alleged hazard(s) or violation(s); or
- D. There is no time to remedy the problem through other means outlined in this Agreement, or Agency policies. Such refusal shall be immediately reported to an Employing Agency Designee as identified in Agency policy, for evaluation. An employee confronted with an alleged unsafe situation must assure the health and safety of any person entrusted to their care or for whom they are responsible by performing his/her duties according to Agency policies and procedures before refusing to perform an alleged unsafe or dangerous act or practice

pursuant to this Section.

#### **7.07 - Health and Safety Committees**

In the following agencies, each institution having five (5) or more employees shall have a Health and Safety Committee to recommend those actions and procedures necessary to ensure that the Employer is in compliance with all appropriate health and safety rules and regulations:

Ohio Deaf and Blind Education Services (ODBES)

Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DRC)

Department of Youth Services (DYS)

State Library of Ohio (SLO)

The Association shall appoint one (1) representative to serve on each committee; provided however, the Association shall appoint (1) representative from each school at ODBES. No agreement may be reached on any matter that would alter in any way the terms of this Agreement. The committees will meet and schedule a meeting at least twice each calendar year unless the parties mutually agree otherwise, and minutes of said meetings will be made available to employees. The committees will attempt to resolve issues raised. Such committees will be comprised of other bargaining representatives where applicable.

Employees who are committee members will be paid base rate of pay for attendance at such meetings. In no event shall reimbursement exceed the employees' regular daily rate of pay. All meetings will be held during normal business hours.

#### **7.08 - First Aid**

Each institution shall make available personnel trained in first aid and shall provide first aid equipment and supplies.

#### **7.09 - Restroom Facilities**

Restroom facilities for employees shall be cleaned, supplied and properly maintained.

#### **7.10 - Fire/Tornado Safety**

Fire/tornado drills and/or procedural reviews shall be

conducted periodically, but at least twice a year. The existing fire extinguishers, smoke detector systems and sprinkler systems shall be inspected in accordance with state law and, where necessary, repaired and/or replaced. Emergency exits shall be properly lighted and identified, and a facility evacuation plan shall be conspicuously posted.

#### **7.11 - Classroom Assistance**

The Employing Agency shall continue to provide method(s) for teachers to call for assistance in the classroom during emergencies.

#### **7.12 - Smoking Policies**

The Employer has authority to make reasonable rules regulating smoking. Such policies shall be discussed in the Labor/Management Committee prior to implementation.

#### **7.13 – Ohio Employee Assistance Program**

The Ohio Employee Assistance Program (Ohio EAP) through the Joint Labor/Management Committee, shall be maintained.

The Employer shall cooperate fully with the Association in developing awareness of the available services under Ohio EAP.

Confidentiality of records shall be maintained at all times within Ohio EAP. Information concerning an individual's participation in the program shall not enter his/her personnel file. In cases where the employee and the Employing Agency jointly enter into a voluntary agreement in which the Employing Agency defers discipline while the employee pursues a treatment program, the employee shall waive confidentiality to the extent that the Employing Agency shall receive regular reports as to the employee's continued participation and success in the treatment program.

#### **7.14 - Drug-Free Workplace Policy**

Employees shall be subject to the State of Ohio Drug-Free Workplace Policy set forth in Appendix F of this Agreement and such other rules regarding drug testing and



use as may be promulgated by the Employer. The Employer may randomly test, for drugs and alcohol, employees who have direct contact with inmates or youths, in DRC, DYS and the ODBES.

### **7.15 - Communicable Diseases**

- A.** Mandatory Tuberculosis screening may be conducted annually for all employees in agencies with higher incidence of risk. Based on the risk assessment, some employees or work areas may need to be tested more often than annually. Such additional testing will be based upon Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. The Employer will hold the employee harmless from any costs incurred as a result of additional tests or x-rays incurred as a result of a positive test.
- B.** The Employer recognizes that some employees who work with individuals infected with hepatitis B virus may be at an increased risk of acquiring hepatitis B infection. In accordance with the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines, hepatitis B vaccinations shall be made available to employees who have a high-risk occupational exposure to the virus. Low risk employees will have vaccinations made available post exposure, within the timelines required under federal regulations (i.e., if exposed to blood or other potentially infectious materials). Post exposure evaluation and follow-up consultations will be made available for all employees who experience an exposure incident. "Occupational exposure" shall have the same meaning in this Agreement as is contained in the OSHA guidelines. All hepatitis B vaccinations and related medical procedures pertaining to its administration are to be made available at no cost to

the employee.

### **7.16 - Working Alone**

In the Institutions of DRC and DYS, working alone shall be governed by the Employing Agency policy. A periodic check on the safety of employees who work alone in potentially hazardous areas shall be made.

## **ARTICLE 8 - PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

### **8.01 - Performance Evaluation**

The Employer and the Association recognize the importance and value of a procedure for assisting and evaluating the performance, progress and success of employees.

The evaluation serves as a structured means of communication between the supervisor and employee and provides the supervisor with an increased awareness of the employee's working conditions, job efficiency, and productivity. The evaluation will provide the employee an opportunity to correct specific performance problems and give the supervisor an opportunity to commend satisfactory and/or outstanding work performance.

### **8.02 - Evaluation Observation**

Employees in the Teacher 1-4, Teaching Coordinator and Teacher, while serving a probationary period following any original appointment, shall be observed by the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Principal, Assistant Principal, and/or immediate supervisor no less than one (1) time in each half of the probationary period for a consecutive period of not less than twenty (20) minutes. The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Principal, Assistant Principal, and/or immediate supervisor shall discuss the classroom observation with the employee at a post-observation conference.

Employees who have completed the probationary period shall be observed no less than one (1) time in a calendar year for a consecutive period of not less than twenty (20) minutes.

The evaluator shall discuss the classroom observation with the employee at a post-observation conference.

### **8.03 - Performance Evaluation Procedures**

It is intended that evaluations shall be accurate, fair and non-prejudicial. The frequency of performance evaluations shall not be used to harass employees. All formal performance evaluations of employees shall be completed on a form provided by the Employer. The evaluator shall discuss the performance evaluation with the employee. The employee shall sign the completed evaluation only to indicate that he/she has discussed the evaluation with the evaluator and received a copy of the evaluation form. The employee's signature does not necessarily indicate agreement with its content. Refusal of the employee to sign the evaluation at the time of receipt shall constitute waiver of the employee's right to a review of the performance evaluation by the Employing Agency. When an employee refuses to sign the evaluation, the supervisor shall document such refusal on the evaluation form.

Within three (3) working days after the employee's receipt of the completed evaluation form, the employee shall have an opportunity, if desired, to make written comment concerning the evaluation. Such comment shall be made on the evaluation form or attached wherever the evaluation is maintained.

### **8.04 - Probationary Evaluation**

The first performance evaluation shall be completed within thirty (30) days before or after the conclusion of the first half of the probationary period. The second performance evaluation shall be completed no later than ten (10) days prior to the completion of the second half of the probationary period. Should the employee be given a probationary separation following original appointment or reduction following a promotion during the second half of the probationary period, the second probationary evaluation will

be made at or before the time of separation or reduction.

Probationary evaluations need not be signed by the employee for a probationary removal or reduction to be effective.

### **8.05 - Annual Performance Evaluation**

All non-probationary employees shall be given an employee performance evaluation annually on a schedule selected by the Agency.

Employee performance evaluations shall be used for all purposes for which employee evaluations are normally used, including but not limited to, merit-based incentive programs designed to award employees for a specific form of job performance. The parties agree to impact bargain on the implementation of merit-based programs. If either party declares impasse the Employer reserves the right to implement its program. Any disagreement regarding the implementation of merit-based programs is not subject to the grievance and arbitration procedures in Article 5.

The performance evaluation shall include a summary conclusion section for the supervisor to rate the employee's overall performance as either "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory." The Association shall be provided with an opportunity to review and consult on the form developed as well as the instructions for implementation.

### **8.06 - Annual Performance Evaluation Review**

Performance evaluations may be appealed by submitting a "Performance Evaluation Review Request" to the Management designee (other than the Employing Agency representative who performed the evaluation) within seven (7) days after receipt by the employee of the completed evaluation. A conference shall be scheduled within seven (7) working days and a written response submitted within seven (7) working days after the conference.

If the employee is still not satisfied with the response, the employee may appeal his/her performance evaluation to

the Employing Agency designee (e.g., Human Resources, Labor Relations). This level of appeal shall not be available to any employee who has received a rating of “Meets” or “Above” in all categories.

The appeal shall contain a reason and/or documents to identify why the performance evaluation is not accurate. Any documents used by the Employer in evaluating an employee’s performance shall be furnished by the Employer to the employee upon request. The Employing Agency designee may hold a conference or do a paper review of the performance evaluation. A written response will be issued within fourteen (14) calendar days after the appeal is requested. The performance evaluation appeal process is not grievable, except as outlined below:

If an employee is denied a step increase because his/her overall performance is rated “unsatisfactory,” the employee may appeal such action directly to the Agency Step of the grievance procedure. If the grievance is unresolved at the Agency Step, appeal may be taken to OCB. No further appeal may be taken. Should the appeal be successful, the step increase shall be retroactive to the date on which it was due. If the employee’s performance evaluation is not completed on time, the employee shall not be denied a step increase.

### **8.07 - Applicability**

This Article does not apply to teachers at ODBES, or DYS who are subject to the standards-based teacher evaluation policy adopted by each Agency.

## **ARTICLE 9 - CLASSROOM CLIMATE**

### **9.01 - Educational Climate Improvement**

The Employer recognizes the responsibility to provide reasonable support and assistance to teachers and teaching coordinators with respect to the maintenance of control and discipline in the educational setting. The Employer, the Association, and employees also recognize the special needs

exhibited by the varied populations served at the work facilities.

The Employer and the Association further recognize the importance of providing a teaching environment which is conducive to learning. Therefore, the Labor/Management Committees shall discuss issues relating to the educational environment including classroom size and teacher assistance.

### **9.02 - Student Assignments**

Where operational needs allow, teachers at DYS shall be notified a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours prior to the assignment of a new student or students to their classes. This requirement excludes orientation and assessment periods. Teachers at DYS may access new student information online. At all other agencies, this minimum shall continue to be forty-eight (48) hours.

### **9.03 - Pupil Personnel Discipline Policies**

To provide reasonable support and assistance while appropriately serving the special needs of the varied populations, each work facility shall develop policies regarding pupil personnel discipline. Each facility shall form and/or maintain a committee which includes Association representatives to provide input for revision (if necessary) of the facility pupil personnel discipline policy.

The educational supervisor shall hold a faculty meeting at each facility not less than once per year to review and discuss the pupil personnel discipline policies.

The pupil personnel discipline policy at each work facility shall include, but not be limited to, the following: 1.) a requirement that an employee testify and/or offer a written statement regarding alleged disruptive behavior of a pupil; and 2.) availability to the employee of the disposition regarding the alleged disruptive behavior of a pupil; and 3.) if the alleged disruptive behavior includes a complaint of sexually inappropriate behavior, the Employing Agency shall inform the employee of the disposition regarding the alleged

behavior of the pupil.

In DYS, to provide reasonable support and assistance to employees:

1. The Directives concerning youth discipline shall be made available to each employee upon hire and at other times as revised or modified. These written procedures at each DYS institution shall also be made available in the same manner to each employee at the affected work facility.
2. It is recognized that DYS and the Association have established an Education Team to address issues of a student code of conduct and student discipline, this committee shall consist of three (3) members appointed by the Association and three (3) members appointed by DYS. The Team shall convene once each year per DYS policy to make recommendations for changes to the DYS School District student code of conduct and discipline policy.

Upon issuance of this report, DYS and the Association shall meet within thirty (30) days after issuance of the report to discuss implementation of the committee's recommendations.

#### **9.04 - Development of Student Plans**

In those facilities where an interdisciplinary team is utilized and the Employer requires an Individual Education Plan (IEP), the teacher or an educational alternate shall write the IEP for input into the treatment goals and objectives.

The Employer recognizes the teacher who has primary responsibility for the students as a core team member. The Employer will comply with Federal and/or State regulations regarding teacher attendance at the Interdisciplinary IEP Development Team Meeting.

In those facilities where an interdisciplinary team is utilized and where federal and/or state regulations require an

IEP, the teacher or an educational alternate shall write recommendations for the educational component of the IEP.

When the IEP has an educational component, the teacher shall be considered a part of the treatment team. In those instances, a teacher shall be in attendance at the meeting.

#### **9.05 - Classroom Temperature**

The Labor/Management Committee shall meet within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this Agreement to discuss temperature extremes as they affect the learning environment. The Labor/Management Committee may recommend procedures to be followed during temperature extremes and heating/cooling system failures including alternative spaces to teach.

Within forty-five (45) days of receipt of the Committee's recommendations, the Employer, having considered those recommendations, shall develop and implement procedures to be followed during temperature extremes and heating/cooling system failures.

For those agencies that have established a procedure for heating and/or cooling extremes, the Employer shall maintain during the term of this Agreement the procedures which have been established.

#### **9.06 - Class Size**

The teacher-pupil ratio in each individual classroom shall not violate OAC as set forth by the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Development (DEW). Otherwise, any other State or Federal laws and/or regulations regarding special populations shall apply.

### **ARTICLE 10 - CAREER DEVELOPMENT/LICENSURE**

#### **10.01 - Career Development**

The Employer recognizes the value of continuing education and professional development of its employees.

Each employee has the responsibility to obtain and/or to maintain current certification(s) required for his/her present



classification title and parenthetical subtitle.

In DRC and DYS, all credentialed staff must possess licensure and shall have valid teaching credentials (two (2) years or more) on July 1 of each year as defined by DEW for their specific parenthetical subtitle. Any employee who fails to comply with these provisions by July 1 of each year (as referenced above) is subject to termination and shall only be able to grieve such action through the Agency Step of the grievance process.

When the Employer posts a vacancy for Career Technology Teacher (1-4), the posting shall clearly indicate that it is incumbent upon the employee filling the position to pay for all courses and expenses necessary to obtain proper licensure. The Employing Agency shall make all applicants aware of this requirement, both orally and in writing, during the initial interview for such positions. Nothing in this Section prevents the Employing Agency from assuming part or all of the costs for course work and expenses necessary to obtain proper licensure in instances where monies are available.

### **10.02 - Continuing Education Programs**

Employing Agencies which are certified by DEW as Continuing Education Grantors shall offer program(s) to employees in the Teacher and Teaching Coordinator classification titles which will provide at least one (1) continuing education unit each calendar year. An additional unit will be offered providing at least fifty percent (50%) of those employees requiring continuing education for recertification, take the first unit of continuing education. Employees will also be informed of any information the Employing Agency possesses relative to loans and grants which may assist the employee in career development.

### **10.03 - Reimbursement/Fee Waivers**

At the discretion of the Employing Agency, an employee who participates in employee-initiated training and/or an

educational program may be reimbursed for all or a portion of tuition or receive a fee waiver, if applicable. Such requests must be made pursuant to the policies of the Employing Agency and will be granted dependent upon the applicability of the proposed course to the applicant's present job and performance level, availability of funds, frequency of such requests, and availability of adequate staff to cover the work unit.

### **Tuition Reimbursement, Seminars and Conferences Fund**

The Employer is committed to the upgrading and maintenance of the educational and skill levels of employees.

The Employer will establish a tuition reimbursement fund for use by employees. The fund will make available two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in each fiscal year under this Agreement for non-optional/required fees and expenses for attendance at seminars, workshops, conferences, tuition reimbursement, and reimbursement for either one (1) professional license and one (1) endorsement or for one (1) professional permit, or periodic fees to renew one (1) professional license and one (1) endorsement or to renew one (1) professional permit. Each employee has a cap of four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500) in any one (1) fiscal year. Reimbursement shall be at one hundred percent (100%).

Any changes in the fund shall be discussed at the State-Wide Labor/Management Committee. These discussions shall include the usage of the fund to pay for necessary Continuing Education Units and Continuing Education Units leading to the renewal of certification.

Reimbursement for travel, food and lodging shall be governed by the Office of Budget and Management (OBM) Expenses and Travel reimbursement policies.

Agencies may allocate additional funds within their Agency for the purpose of providing reimbursement to

employees for approved attendance at seminars and conferences, or for tuition reimbursement. In Agencies where such a fund exists Agency employees must apply first for seminars, workshops and conferences and tuition reimbursement from the fund established by this Article. Upon exhaustion of this fund, employees may then apply for the Agency funds. Regardless of funding source, all funds received shall count toward the personal cap.

Each Employing Agency shall attempt to share information on seminars, workshops and conferences with interested employees, consistent with the local procedure for distribution and retention of that type of material.

The Employer will disburse to SCOPE sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) in each fiscal year from this fund for the purpose of providing an education program and professional development to employees covered by this collective bargaining agreement. This disbursement shall not increase the two hundred and fifty thousand dollar (\$250,000) allotment. The disbursement shall be made by January 1. Any employees who are scheduled to work may request release time to attend the professional development day, subject to operational need. Employees will not receive any additional compensation for attending the professional development day. Upon request, SCOPE shall provide to the Employer a list of all employees who attended the professional development day. The information shall be provided to the Employer within thirty (30) days of the request, but in no case later than November 30 of the calendar year in which the professional development day occurred.

#### **10.04 - Required Training**

If the Employing Agency requires the employee to attend training sessions or conferences, the employee will be reimbursed as stipulated by existing OBM regulations. Reimbursement under this Section shall not include courses or continuing education units required to obtain or maintain

certification.

#### **10.05 - Educational Leave**

- A.** Classroom teachers in DRC and DYS, including Career Technology Teachers, and DYS employees in the classifications of 71221 through 71224, shall not be eligible for educational leave. This includes, but is not limited to, time off for conferences, workshops, District Education days, service programs sponsored by affiliates of the National Education Professions or any other professional development functions. This does not preclude the Employer from granting educational leave in the following circumstances: 1.) Career-Technical Path to Five Year Licensure; 2.) Special Education Temporary License conversion to five (5) year license; 3.) Waivers for school system needs only, as determined by management. Each Employing Agency will work with colleges and universities to offer opportunities for continuing education during the two (2) week inter-session breaks, as referenced in Section 30.01.
- B.** All other employees who are not classroom teachers in DRC and DYS may be allowed leave with pay at base rate to attend job-related courses or training at an approved educational institution. The maximum amount of paid leave shall not exceed one-tenth (1/10) of the employee's normal work week for part time employees or four (4) hours weekly for full time employees, unless otherwise agreed to by the Employing Agency. The Employer may also grant leave with pay at base rate for professional meetings, conferences and workshops.

These employees shall be required to provide the Employing Agency evidence of registration for all leave requests and successful completion of all

job-related and/or college courses they have been released to attend. Additionally, the employee shall provide evidence of all meetings, workshops and/or conferences attended.

### **10.06 - Professional Development**

All other employees who are not classroom teachers in DRC and DYS shall be granted two (2) days of administrative leave per year to attend any of the following meetings, conferences or workshops: 1.) district education association in-service day; or 2.) in-service programs sponsored by a professional library association; or 3.) service programs sponsored by an affiliate of the United Education Professions. Additional days of administrative leave may be granted upon mutual agreement between the employee and the Employer.

Requests for such leave for employees other than classroom teachers shall be scheduled subject to the availability of adequate staff to cover the work unit.

### **10.07 - Local Professional Development Committees**

The Local Professional Development Committees shall be appointed in accordance with Section 3319.22 of the ORC. Time spent serving on such committees shall be without compensation, unless agreed to by the employee's Employing Agency.

### **10.08 - Inter-session Breaks**

Management agrees that Joint Labor/Management Committees will not normally be scheduled during the inter-session breaks as referenced under Section 30.01. If the committees do meet during the inter-session breaks, the employee will be compensated at their straight rate of pay for the hours necessary to complete the committee work.

Any issues related to the two (2) week inter-session breaks, including but not limited to, the scheduling of committees during the break, any cost impacts, leave usage concerns, and classroom teaching schedules may be

discussed and reviewed at any Agency Labor-Management meeting.

## **ARTICLE 11 - LABOR/MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES**

### **11.01 - Objective**

It is the objective of the Employer and the Association to maintain the highest standards of public service and professionalism which is to be fostered by the establishment of Labor/Management Committees.

The purpose of these committees is to provide a means for continuing communication between the parties and for promoting a climate of constructive employee-Employer relations. Issues shall be resolved in a timely manner with any deadlines set mutually agreed upon by both Association and management representatives. Labor/Management Committee meetings and agenda items shall be initiated by a letter from the designated management representative to the Association representative or from the designated Association representative to the designated management representative. Agenda items will be discussed and agreed upon by these representatives no later than fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the meeting. No agreement may be reached on any matter that would alter in any way the terms of this Agreement. Neither party has an obligation to resolve the issues raised. Persons who are specialists in the subject matter under discussion may be brought into the committee by mutual agreement of the parties. Should either party wish to schedule additional meetings, such meetings shall be at the mutual consent of the parties. Upon mutual agreement of the Labor/Management Committee, additional subcommittees may be formed to meet on issues designated by the Labor/Management Committee. Scheduling of work hours is an appropriate subject for discussion by Agency Labor/Management Committees.

### **11.02 - Statewide Labor/Management Committee**

The Employer and the Association shall each appoint three (3) members to the statewide Labor/Management Committee. This committee will meet at least biannually.

### **11.03 - Agency Labor/Management Committees**

The Employer and the Association shall each appoint no more than three (3) members to Labor/Management Committees in each of the following agencies:

Department of Rehabilitation and Correction

Department of Youth Services

State Library of Ohio

Ohio Deaf and Blind Education Services

These committees will meet to discuss issues relating to the Employing Agency biannually unless the Employing Agency and the Association agree to meet more often.

### **11.04 - Facility Labor/Management Committees**

The Employer and the Association may mutually agree to form a Labor/Management Committee at any facility. Such committees may meet to discuss any issues relating to the facility.

### **11.05 - Payment of Committee Members**

Employees who are committee members shall be paid base rate of pay for attendance at such meetings. In no event shall reimbursement exceed the employee's regular daily rate of pay. All meetings will be held during normal business hours. Travel and meal expenses shall be made in accordance with OBM regulations.

## **ARTICLE 12 - PERSONNEL FILES**

### **12.01 - Access**

Each employee shall have the right to inspect the content of his/her personnel file upon request except material which may not be disclosed in accordance with Chapter 1347 of the ORC during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Access to the employee's personnel file shall also be granted to the employee's designated

representative upon written authorization by the employee. Any person inspecting an employee's file shall sign indicating he/she has reviewed the file.

The employee's personnel file shall not be made available to any person or organization other than the Employer without the employee's express written authorization unless pursuant to court order, subpoena or written request made pursuant to the Ohio Public Records Act.

### **12.02 - Official File**

There shall be only one (1) official personnel file for each employee. The official file shall be maintained at a location designated by the Employing Agency, who shall advise the Association of such locations within sixty (60) days of the opening of any new facility and within ten (10) days of any location change. Additional personnel files may be established and maintained provided that no material relative to conduct, discipline or job performance shall be maintained in any file that is not also maintained in the official file. A copy of all documents relating to conduct, discipline or job performance shall be given to the employee at the time of its placement in the official file.

### **12.03 - Review of Documents**

An employee who wishes to dispute the accuracy, relevance, timeliness or completeness of materials contained in his/her personnel file shall have the right to submit a memorandum to the Appointing Authority requesting that the documents in question be reviewed.

The Appointing Authority shall within ninety (90) days of receipt of the request inform the employee of the action to be taken. The Appointing Authority shall delete any information which cannot be verified or is found to be inaccurate.

The employee shall have a right to submit a written statement noting his/her objections to the material in question



to be placed in the file within thirty (30) days after notification of the Employing Agency's action.

#### **12.04 - Department of Administrative Services' Files**

DAS shall continue to retain such documents as necessary to support payroll and personnel actions.

### **ARTICLE 13 - PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE**

#### **13.01 - Standard**

Employees shall only be disciplined for just cause.

#### **13.02 - Employee Investigations**

- A. The employee shall be informed prior to an investigatory interview of the purpose of the interview and whether the employee is a subject of the investigation or a witness in the investigation.
- B. An employee may request "Garrity." Should the employee be granted "Garrity," a form shall be provided to the employee and signed by the employee. The employee shall be provided a copy of the signed form. The employee shall be required to respond to the allegations unless he/she is subject to criminal penalties and a "Garrity" request has been denied.
- C. An employee shall, upon request, have an Association representative present during a meeting with representatives of the Employing Agency held for the purpose of investigating allegations which might reasonably lead to disciplinary action against the employee. The Employing Agency shall not interfere with, restrain or coerce employees in the exercise of their rights to this representation. The right to representation does not extend to day-to-day communications which occur between an employee and his/her Employing Agency, such as: performance evaluations, training, job audits, counseling sessions, work-related instructions, or where an employee is informed of the disciplinary

action. No polygraph of an employee will be conducted during an administrative investigation without the employee's consent. The Employing Agency will email the site representative before any bargaining unit member is placed on administrative leave or before an investigatory interview.

### **13.03 - Pre-Suspension or Pre-Termination Conference**

When the Appointing Authority plans to initiate a suspension, fine, termination or demotion, a written notice of pre-disciplinary conference shall be given to the employee who is the subject of the pending discipline and to the OEA LRC. Written notice shall include a statement of the charges against the employee, contemplated disciplinary action, and the date, time and place of the conference. The conference will be held at a reasonably convenient location determined by the Employing Agency and shall be scheduled no earlier than three (3) days following the notification to the employee.

At work facilities having no designated Site Representative, employees may request through a supervisor that a fellow employee accompany him/her to a scheduled pre-disciplinary conference.

An employee may request that a representative designated by the Association be present at the conference. The OEA LRC or other Association representative will represent the employee. The employee, or his/her Association representative, may make a written request to the Employing Agency for continuance of up to forty-eight (48) hours. Such continuance shall not be unreasonably requested or denied. A continuance beyond forty-eight (48) hours may be arranged by mutual agreement, but in no case longer than sixty (60) days. In the event an employee refuses or fails to attend a pre-disciplinary meeting, an Association representative shall represent the employee. Where the affected employee is on disability, or applying for disability, and is unable or unwilling to attend the meeting, he/she shall

be offered the right to participate by telephone. The call shall be initiated via speakerphone in the presence of the Association representative and Employing Agency representative or designee. Failure of the employee to respond to the offer or phone call shall result in the meeting proceeding without his/her presence. Any action resulting from this meeting shall not be challengeable on the basis of the employee's absence or lack of participation.

Prior to the conference, the Employing Agency may take temporary action to reassign the duties of the affected employee or place the employee on administrative leave until final disposition. Such action may not be unreasonable in duration or result in loss of pay for the employee involved and shall not constitute discipline under this Article.

The pre-disciplinary conference shall be conducted by a designee of the Appointing Authority who is not directly associated with the incident(s) which led to contemplated disciplinary action against the employee. At the conference, the employee shall be provided with all documents used to support the possible disciplinary action which are known of and available at that time. Documents which are not known or available at the time of the hearing shall be provided to the Association for examination prior to the issuance of a written decision. The Association will have ten (10) days to examine the new documentation and provide a written response to the Employer. The employee may, but is not required to, respond to the allegations or present his/her side of the story.

The Appointing Authority, or designee, shall issue a written decision within forty-five (45) workdays after the conclusion of the conference and transmit the written notification to the employee and the OEA LRC. "Workdays" refers to Monday through Friday excluding legal holidays. Times shall be computed by excluding the first and including the last day. In the event that additional documentation has been identified and forwarded to the Association, the timeline

on the written decision by the Employer may be extended by the ten (10) days during which the Association will examine and respond to the new evidence.

The forty-five (45) workday requirement will not apply in cases where a criminal investigation occurs and the Appointing Authority decides not to make a decision on the discipline until after disposition of the criminal charges.

The employee may waive this conference by written notification. Absent extenuating circumstances, failure of the affected employee to appear at the conference will result in a waiver of that employee's right to a conference.

### **13.04 - Progressive Discipline**

The Employer shall follow the principles of progressive discipline. Disciplinary action shall include: 1.) one (1) or more written reprimand(s); 2.) working suspension whereby an employee is required to report to work for the hours designated as working suspension hours, is paid regular rate of pay for hours worked, but a working suspension has the same effect as a suspension without pay for purposes of disciplinary progression; 3.) one (1) or more fines in an amount of one (1) to five (5) day(s) pay; the first fine for an employee shall not exceed three (3) days' pay; 4.) one (1) or more days of suspension(s) without pay; 5.) reduction of one (1) step which shall not interfere with the employee's normal step anniversary. (Solely at the Appointing Authority's discretion, this action shall only be used as an alternative to termination of employment.) 6.) termination of employment.

Disciplinary action shall be commensurate with the offense. The deduction of fines from an employee's wages shall not require the employee's authorization for the withholding of fines from the employee's wages.

If an employee receives discipline which includes lost wages or fines, the Employer may offer the following forms of corrective action: 1.) Actually having the employee serve the designated number of days suspended without pay; or pay

the designated fine or; 2.) Having the employee deplete his/her accrued personal leave, vacation, or compensatory leave banks of hours, or a combination of any of these banks under such terms as may be mutually agreed to between the Employer, employee, and the Association.

If a working suspension is grieved, and the grievance is denied or partially granted by an arbitrator and all appeals are exhausted, whatever portion of the working suspension is upheld will be converted to a fine. The employee may choose a reduction in leave balances in lieu of a fine levied against him/her.

### **13.05 - Removal of Disciplinary Documents from Personnel Files**

Records of written reprimands and all documents related thereto shall be removed from the personnel file twenty-four (24) months after the effective date of the reprimand providing there are no intervening disciplinary actions during the twenty-four (24) month period. If there is such intervening discipline, the written reprimand may be retained for an additional twenty-four (24) month period.

Records of suspension and all documents related thereto shall be removed from the personnel file thirty-six (36) months after the effective date of the suspension providing there are no intervening disciplinary actions during the thirty-six (36) month period. If there is such intervening discipline, the suspension may be retained for an additional thirty-six (36) month period.

The retention period shall be extended by a period equal to employee leaves of fourteen (14) consecutive days or longer, except for approved periods of vacation leave. In any case in which a written reprimand, a suspension, a fine, a reduction or termination of employment is disaffirmed or otherwise rendered invalid, all documents relating thereto will be removed from the personnel file.

Employees, whose employment is terminated and

subsequently returned to work through arbitration, shall have the termination of employment entry on their Employee History on Computer (EHOC) stricken.

## **ARTICLE 14 - WORK RULES**

### **14.01 - Work Rules**

Work rules shall be all those written policies, regulations, procedures, and directives which regulate conduct of employees in the performance of the Employer's services and programs.

Work rules shall not conflict with any provision of the Agreement. The Association shall be furnished with a copy of the work rules a minimum of fifteen (15) working days in advance of the effective date. The Association shall designate an address for receipt of this communication.

Work rules shall be made available to affected employees prior to effective date.

In emergency situations, as defined by the Employer or the Employing Agency, the provisions of this Section may not apply. The Association and affected employees will be notified promptly of such declared emergencies and duration.

### **14.02 - Uniformity**

It is the intent of the Employer that work rules shall be interpreted and applied uniformly to all affected employees.

### **14.03 - Technology**

No employee should have an expectation of privacy while on work time. The Employer may make reasonable use of technology to assure that employees are appropriately engaged in work activities while on work time. The Employer shall respect employees' constitutional and legal rights when it uses technology as described in this Section.

## **ARTICLE 15 - CLASSIFICATION**

The Association shall have the opportunity to provide input before any changes are made in classifications or compensation levels assigned to classifications in the bargaining unit. No change in the compensation level of any

current classification shall be made without agreement of the Association.

If the Association disputes the proposed compensation levels of a proposed new classification, then the Association and the Employer shall meet for an evaluation conference to discuss the compensation levels which have been assigned to the classification. Should the parties not be able to agree on the compensation levels, the Association may submit the issue to arbitration under Article 5 of this Agreement. The arbitrator selected shall be knowledgeable in occupations and compensation.

If a new classification is a successor title to a classification covered by this Agreement with no substantial change in duties, the new classification shall automatically become a part of this Agreement.

The Employer and the Association agree to establish a joint committee to study ways in which the current classification system can be amended for purposes of enhancing employee opportunity and flexibility through the use of concepts such as broad-banding, skill-based pay, and similar systems associated with high performance workplaces. The committee shall consist of three (3) persons designated by each party and employee members will serve without loss of pay or travel expenses, exclusive of overtime.

The committee will include in its work a study of the relationship between workforce development and high performance systems, including training requirements, career development paths, the effects of technology, licensure requirements, concepts of "same and similar" classifications, workplace redesign and the impact of existing provisions of the Agreement, and may recommend the implementation of pilot programs within the context of this system. The parties agree that, except as may be mutually agreed otherwise, no pilot or project initiated as a result of this effort will conflict with, amend or abridge any provision of this Agreement. It

is further agreed that no pilot or project initiated as a result of this effort will result in loss of pay or benefits, nor shall it result in a layoff of any employee.

## **ARTICLE 16 – WORKING OUT OF CLASS**

### **16.01 - Position Descriptions**

New employees shall be provided a copy of position descriptions. When position descriptions are changed, employees shall be furnished a copy. Any employee may request and will receive a copy of his/her current position description.

### **16.02 – Working out of Class Grievance**

#### **A. Agency Designee**

If an employee believes that he/she has been assigned duties substantially beyond the scope of his/her current classification, and the assigned duties have been performed for more than four (4) consecutive workdays, then the employee may file a grievance in the electronic grievance filing system. The employee or the Union must specifically state in the grievance form the different duties being performed and the amount of time those duties are performed, the classification that contains those duties and how those duties differ substantially from those normally assigned to the classification of the employee or the grievance will not be arbitrable. Filing a grievance under this Article bars an employee from filing a subsequent grievance regarding job duties for one (1) calendar year from the date of signing the grievance if his/her position number has not changed.

The Employing Agency designee will review the grievance filed, conduct an investigation if necessary, and issue a written decision within fifty (50) calendar days. If the Employing Agency designee determines that the Grievant is performing duties not contained in his/her classification, the Employing Agency designee will direct the appropriate management representative to



immediately ensure that the Grievant stops performing those particular duties. No meeting shall be held.

If the Employing Agency designee determines that the Grievant is performing duties of a higher classification the Agency designee will issue an award of monetary relief.

**B. Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)/ Non-Traditional Arbitration (NTA)**

If the Association is not satisfied with the Employing Agency's decision, the grievance may be appealed to ADR/NTA within fifteen (15) days of the Agency answer. If the Employing Agency does not meet and respond to the grievance within fifty (50) days of filing or the agreed upon extension date, the grievance shall be automatically eligible for appeal. The Associate or designee must appeal the grievance to ADR/NTA within fifteen (15) days of eligibility for appeal. Regardless of whether a response is submitted by the Employing Agency, the grievance will close if no action is taken by the union within thirty (30) days of eligibility for appeal.

The parties shall schedule an arbitrator using Non-Traditional Arbitration as referenced in Section 5.08(C), but with only one (1) witness per side, to determine if an employee was performing duties substantially beyond the scope of his/her classification and for what period of time. Present at the hearing shall be the employee, and an Association representative and a management representative. Both sides will present arguments to the arbitrator. The arbitrator will issue a binding bench decision at the conclusion of the hearing, which will identify if the employee was working out of classification and for what period of time. The expenses of the arbitrator shall be borne equally by the parties.

### **C. Remedy**

If it is determined that the Grievant is performing duties substantially beyond the scope of his/her classification, the arbitrator shall direct the Agency to immediately discontinue such assigned duties.

If the duties are determined to be those contained in a classification with a lower pay range than that of the employee's current classification, no monetary award will be issued and appropriate duties shall be given to the employee.

If the duties are determined to be those contained in a classification with a higher pay range than that of the employee's current classification, the arbitrator shall issue an award of monetary relief, provided that the employee has performed the duties for a period of four (4) or more consecutive workdays. The amount of the monetary award shall be the difference between the Grievant's regular hourly rate of pay and the hourly rate of pay (at the applicable step) of the higher classification. The applicable step shall be the step in the higher pay range which is approximately four percent (4%) higher than the current step rate of the employee. If a step does not exist in the higher pay range that guarantees the employee approximately a four percent (4%) increase, the employee will be placed in the last step of the higher pay range. In no event shall the monetary award be retroactive to a date earlier than four (4) workdays prior to the date of the original grievance. It will end on the date of the award.

### **D. Emergency Duties**

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 16.02 (C), if the employee was assigned the improper duties during the existence of an emergency, the grievance shall be denied.

## **ARTICLE 17 - TRANSFERS AND PROMOTIONS**

### **17.01 - Vacancy**

As used in this Agreement a **vacancy** is defined as a new or existing permanent full-time or permanent part-time position in the bargaining unit which the Employer has determined to fill. A position for which a recall or reemployment list exists is not a vacant position.

### **17.02 - Posting of Vacancies**

All job vacancies within Unit 10 shall be posted for a minimum of five (5) consecutive days on [careers.ohio.gov](https://careers.ohio.gov). The posting notice shall include:

1. The posting and closing dates;
2. The classification title and parenthetical subtitle of the vacant position;
3. The salary of the vacant position;
4. The Agency, work facility, work unit, and normal work hours of the vacant position;
5. Subject or skills taught (if applicable);
6. Minimum qualifications as specified in the classification specification for the vacant position and special experience and/or training, certifications and bona fide occupation qualifications as specified by the position description for the vacant position; and
7. The type of application which must be completed and any other documents which must be forwarded.

To be considered for a vacant position, an employee must complete the application through [careers.ohio.gov](https://careers.ohio.gov) by the closing date on that notice. Applications which are received after the closing date will not be considered.

### **17.03 - Notification**

The Employer will notify all applicants in writing after a selection has been made or if the Employer determines that the vacancy will not be filled.

## 17.04 - Selection

### A. Definitions

1. **Consideration**, as used in this Agreement, is defined as having been granted an interview and being given serious thought in hiring, only if all other qualifications among applicants are equal.
2. **Promotion**, as used in this Agreement is defined as the act of placing an employee in a position for which the classification title carries a higher salary base rate than previously held. Movement from a Librarian 1 - Non-Degreed to Librarian 1 - Degreed and from a Librarian 2 - Non-Degreed to a Librarian 2 - Degreed shall not be considered a promotion under this Article.
3. An **internal transfer**, as used in this Agreement, is defined as a transfer for which an employee is qualified, initiated by the employee and approved by the Employer, in which the employee wishes to transfer from one classification to another classification assigned to the same pay range or from one parenthetical subtitle to another parenthetical subtitle within the same facility.
4. A **lateral transfer** as used in this Agreement is defined as a transfer initiated by the employee and approved by the Employer in which the employee wishes to transfer from one facility or Agency to another within the same classification title or into another bargaining unit vacancy for which the employee is qualified.

### B. Filling of the Vacant Position

The Employer shall give first consideration to those

applicants within the Employing Agency where the vacancy exists. Second consideration shall be given to applicants unit-wide.

All timely filed applications shall be considered in the following sequential order:

1. Applicants within the Employing Agency where the vacancy exists;
2. Unit-wide.

Employees shall have no right to grieve non-selection.

If a position is not filled pursuant to paragraph two of 17.04(B) the Employer will give consideration to any Unit 10 member affected by a job abolishment, layoff or institutional closing who at the time of displacement held the same classification (and/or parenthetical subtitle) and meets and is proficient in the minimum qualifications as specified in the classifications specification and position description. Non-selection for positions after said consideration shall not be grievable.

The following criteria shall be utilized for consideration when filling vacant positions: qualifications; work record, as reflected by a review of the employee's performance evaluation(s) and a review of active disciplinary record(s) within the preceding three (3) years; ability; and State seniority. Where these criteria are relatively equal, State seniority shall be the deciding factor for selection. For purposes of unit-wide consideration, State seniority shall mean each applicant's State seniority. Any employee with an active discipline greater than a written reprimand shall have no right to grieve non-selection.

The Employer and the Association hereby state a mutual commitment to Affirmative Action in regards to job opportunities within the agencies covered by the contract. Therefore, when all other qualifications are

relatively equal in the opinion of the Employer, Affirmative Action may be the most qualifying factor. This selection process supersedes and voids the provisions of civil service law as to promotions and transfers in the bargaining unit.

If no selection is made from these pools of applicants, the Employer will then consider applicants for original appointment.

### **C. Employee Initiated Reductions**

Job movement to a classification with a lower salary base rate is a reduction. Employee requested reductions shall only be made with the approval of the Employer.

## **17.05 - Probationary Period**

During a promotional probationary period, the Employer maintains the right to place the employee back in the classification that the employee held previous to the promotion if the employee fails to perform the job requirements of the new position to the Employer's satisfaction. Management's decision to return unsatisfactory employees to previous classification during the probationary period shall not be grievable.

## **17.06 - Reassignment**

A reassignment is a change of assignment of an employee within the same work facility, which may be temporary or permanent effected upon the Employer's initiative. The Employer will first attempt to effectuate reassignments by seeking volunteers. If the employee's reassignment is temporary, the employee will be allowed to return to his/her prior position at the end of the temporary period.

# **ARTICLE 18 - REDUCTION IN THE WORK FORCE**

## **18.01 - Pre-Reduction in Force Action**

- A.** A reduction in force of employees may only be affected by the Employing Agency when such action is based upon any of the following reasons:

1.) a reorganization for the efficient operation of the Employing Agency; 2.) for lack of funds or lack of work to sustain current staffing; 3.) for reasons of economy; a reduction in force may be either of temporary (less than one (1) year) or permanent (more than one (1) year) duration.

At least forty-five (45) days prior to the anticipated effective date of a reduction in force, the Association must be afforded an opportunity to meet with the Employing Agency. At this meeting, the Association must be provided a written rationale, with supporting documentation if any has been prepared, setting forth the basis for the reduction in force. At this meeting, the Employing Agency must also inform the Association of the anticipated classification(s) where reductions may occur, the particular position(s) and appointment types which may be reduced, the names of employee(s) in the classification(s) where the reduction is anticipated with the seniority dates of employees within the classification(s) and series affected, the expected duration of the reduction in force, the facility or facilities to be affected and a listing of any vacancies which might be available for displacement.

Either at this meeting or within ten (10) days thereafter, the Association shall be provided an opportunity to challenge the rationale offered and/or to discuss the reduction in force with the Employing Agency so as to offer suggestions as to how the reduction in force may be avoided or its impact lessened. Input from the Association shall be seriously considered before any final decision is made as to a reduction in force.

Within five (5) days after the Association provides its input, but no later than thirty (30) days

prior to the proposed effective date of the reduction in force, the Employing Agency shall make a final decision as to whether it will affect a reduction in force. Such final decision shall be communicated to the Association. If a reduction in force is to be affected, the Employing Agency shall supply to the Association a written rationale with supporting documentation, if any and revised as necessary, setting forth the basis for the final decision.

The Association shall also be provided with a final listing of the classification(s) where reduction in force will occur, the particular position(s) and appointment types, names of employees affected with seniority and work facility or facilities, vacancies available, and the expected duration of the reduction in force. The Association shall also be provided a complete seniority list of all employees within each facility affected, and the facilities within the county and counties contiguous to each facility affected.

When the Employing Agency makes its final decision to affect a reduction in force, it may not move employees into or out of affected classifications within the affected facility and facilities in the county of or counties contiguous to the affected facility by means of promotions, transfers, voluntary reductions (as per Article 17), classification changes, or reassignments, except that transfers out of a classification or implementation of the findings of a position audit commenced prior to the Employing Agency's final decision may be implemented.

- B.** After the Employing Agency makes a final decision to implement a layoff, job abolishment or institutional closing, the Employing Agency in



which the layoff, abolishment, closing occurs shall cause notice of the job action to be sent to all the other Agencies employing bargaining unit members. The notice shall specify the number of employees being laid off or abolished general job titles, and when the employee will be available for other employment.

Employing Agencies and institutions receiving notice of a layoff, job abolishment or institutional closing shall respond to such notice if the Agency or institution has any bargaining unit vacancies. Responses to the notice shall be issued within five (5) working days of the receipt of the notice and shall be transmitted by telephone/facsimile machine.

The Employing Agencies and institutions receiving notice of available job vacancies shall make the information about the vacancies available to employees who are being laid off.

- C. Should the Association disagree with the Employing Agency's rationale to affect a reduction in force, it may grieve the final decision for a determination of its substantive validity or any procedural errors regarding this Article, directly to the Agency Step in accordance with Article 5. Such a grievance shall be filed by the Association within twenty (20) calendar days of the date the Association receives the final decision from the Employing Agency. In expedited arbitration, the Employer bears the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence the substantive reason for the proposed reduction in force.

## **18.02 - Implementation**

If no grievance is received by the Employing Agency and OCB within the twenty (20) calendar day time period

specified above, the Association waives any and all rights it may possess to arbitrate or appeal the substantive validity of the Employing Agency's final decision and the Employer shall proceed to implement the reduction in force.

### **18.03 - Reduction in Force Order**

A reduction in force shall proceed within the Employing Agency in the affected facility so that the employee with the least State seniority in a classification title and/or parenthetical subtitle and appointment type in which a reduction in force is to occur shall be first reduced in force. The reduction in force shall proceed by inverse seniority within the classification title and/or parenthetical subtitle and affected appointment type except as provided for in Sections 18.05(A)(8) and (A)(9). If both full-time and part-time employees are to be reduced within the same classification title and/or same parenthetical subtitle, all part-time employees within the classification title and/or parenthetical subtitle shall be reduced in force prior to the reduction of full-time employees.

### **18.04 - Notification of Reduction in Force or Displacement**

#### **A. Notification**

Each employee whose particular position is reduced in force or displaced shall be given advance written notice by the Employing Agency. Such written notice shall be hand-delivered to the employee at work or mailed by certified mail to the employee's last known address on file within the official personnel file of the Employing Agency. If hand-delivered, such notice shall be given at least fourteen (14) days before the effective date of reduction in force or displacement and the date of hand delivery shall be the first day of the fourteen (14) day period. If mailed, such notice shall be mailed at least seventeen (17) days before the effective date of reduction in force or displacement. The date the letter is

mailed shall be the first day of the seventeen (17) day period.

## **B. Content of Notice**

Each notice of reduction in force or displacement shall at a minimum contain the following information:

1. The reason for reduction in force or displacement;
2. The effective date of reduction in force or displacement;
3. The employee's State seniority;
4. A statement advising the employee that he/she may have the right to displace another employee and that he/she must exercise his/her displacement rights within five (5) days of the date he/she is notified that he/she is displaced or is notified of the reduction in force and that failure to provide timely notice shall result in a waiver of the employee's right to displace;
5. A statement advising the employee of the right to recall;
6. A statement that the employee is responsible for maintaining a current address with his/her Employing Agency which shall be maintained in the employee's official personnel file;
7. A statement setting forth any conversion of benefit rights which the employee may exercise;
8. A statement indicating that the arbitration procedure may be directly utilized by an employee, with the approval of the Association, concerning any of the following matters: selection of the employee for reduction in force pursuant to Section 18.03; displacement of an employee as a result of the reduction in force; timeliness of the notice of reduction,

displacement or recall; or failure of the employee to be placed on a recall list or to be properly recalled from reduction in force or displacement.

**C. Posting of Reduction in Force List**

At least fourteen (14) days prior to any reduction in force, the Employing Agency shall prepare and post for inspection in a conspicuous and public place accessible to affected employees a list containing for the work facility of the reduction in force or displacement jurisdiction, the names, dates of appointment, types of appointment, classification, and seniority listing of all employees in the affected classification series and shall indicate thereon which particular positions will be reduced in force. The posting shall also include a statement that employees may volunteer, regardless of seniority, to be reduced in force or displaced pursuant to Section 18.11 of this Article with an explanation as to how to submit such a request.

**18.05 - Displacement Rights**

- A. Each employee reduced in force or displaced as a result of a reduction shall have the right to displace another employee in the manner and order provided in subparagraphs 1-10, subject to the requirements set forth in Section 18.06, only if the affected employee has given the Employing Agency written notification of intent to exercise his/her displacement rights within five (5) days of the date he/she is notified of the reduction in force or displacement. In the order specified in subparagraphs 1-7, full-time employees are to displace first against other full-time employees. After subparagraphs 1-7 have been applied, full-time employees may displace part-time, interim and

intermittent employees as specified in subparagraphs 8 and 9. Part-time employees may only displace other part-time employees. Displacement shall occur in the manner and order specified below:

1. Within any available vacancy in the classification title and/or same parenthetical subtitle from which the employee was reduced in force or displaced: first, within the work facility of the reduction or displacement, second, within work facilities within the same county operated by the Employing Agency implementing the reduction in force or displacement, and third, within work facilities within contiguous counties which are operated by the Employing Agency implementing the reduction in force or displacement;
2. Within any available vacancy in the classification title and different parenthetical subtitle from which the employee was reduced in force or displaced: first, within the work facility of the reduction or displacement, second, within work facilities within the same county operated by the Employing Agency implementing the reduction in force or displacement, and third, within work facilities within contiguous counties operated by the Employing Agency implementing the reduction in force or displacement;
3. Against the employee with the least State seniority within the same classification title and/or parenthetical subtitle from which the employee was reduced in force or displaced: first, within the work facility of the reduction or displacement, second, within work facilities

within the same county operated by the Employing Agency implementing the reduction in force or displacement, third, within work facilities within contiguous counties operated by the Employing Agency implementing the reduction in force or displacement;

4. Against the employee with the least State seniority in the same classification title from which the employee was reduced in force or displaced and different parenthetical subtitle; first, within the work facility of the reduction or displacement, second, within work facilities within the same county operated by the Employing Agency implementing the reduction in force or displacement, and third, within work facilities within contiguous counties which are operated by the Employing Agency implementing the reduction in force or displacement;
5. Against the employee with the least State seniority within the next lower classification title to include parenthetical subtitles or successively lower classification titles as set forth in Section 18.07 in which the reduction in force or displacement occurred; first, within the work facility of the reduction or displacement, second, within work facilities within the same county operated by the Employing Agency implementing the reduction in force or displacement, and third, within work facilities within contiguous counties which are operated by the Employing Agency implementing the reduction in force or displacement;
6. Against the employee with the least State seniority in the classification title to include

parenthetical subtitles most recently held by the employee within the last five (5) years provided that the classification is a lower or equivalent classification to the employee's current classification and further provided that the classification is included within the bargaining unit; first, within the work facility of the reduction or displacement, second, within work facilities within the same county operated by the Employing Agency implementing the reduction in force or displacement, and third, within work facilities within contiguous counties which are operated by the Employing Agency implementing the reduction in force or displacement;

7. Against the employee with the least State seniority in the classification title he/she next previously held, and in successive previous classifications, provided that the classification(s) is included within the bargaining unit; first, within the work facility of the reduction or displacement, second, within work facilities within the same county operated by the Employing Agency implementing the reduction in force or displacement, and third, within work facilities within contiguous counties which are operated by the Employing Agency implementing the reduction in force or displacement;
8. If a full-time employee is unable to exercise displacement rights against another full-time employee under subparagraphs 1-7 above, then the most senior full-time employee may displace in the order specified in subparagraphs 1-7 the least senior part-time employee even if

the part-time employee has more seniority than the full-time employee. However, a full-time employee may waive the right to displace a part-time employee without adversely affecting the full-time employee's right to recall;

9. If a full-time employee is unable to exercise displacement rights against another full-time employee under subparagraphs 1-7 above, and is unable or unwilling to exercise displacement rights against a part-time employee under subparagraph 8 above, then the most senior full-time employee may elect to displace in the order specified in subparagraphs 1-7 first, the least senior interim employee at the work facility only and secondly, the least senior intermittent employee at the work facility only, even if the interim or intermittent employee has more seniority than the full-time employee exercising displacement rights. A full-time employee may waive his/her right to displace an interim employee without prejudicing his/her right to displace an intermittent employee. A full-time employee's right to recall will not be affected regardless of whether the displacement option against an interim or intermittent employee is exercised as herein provided.
  10. An employee so displaced by an employee possessing more State seniority may displace an employee in the order and manner specified in paragraphs A (1-9) subject to exceptions set forth in Section 18.06.
- B.** This Section does not apply to teachers at ODBES, or DYS who are subject to the standards-based teacher evaluation policy adopted by the boards of



education for each school.

## **18.06 - Displacement Requirements**

The following requirements apply to displacement:

- A.** No employee may displace into a classification title which has a higher classification base than the classification title from which the employee was reduced.
- B.** No employee shall displace any employee possessing more State seniority than the employee wishing to exercise his/her displacement rights except as provided in subparagraphs 8 and 9 of Section 18.05 (A).
- C.** No employee shall displace an employee for whose position or classification there exists special minimum qualifications, as established by a position description, classification specification or bona fide occupational qualification, unless the employee desiring to displace another employee possesses the requisite minimum qualifications for the position or classification.
- D.** An employee, with the exception of Librarian 1 and 2, who wishes to exercise displacement rights and who is qualified for employment in two (2) or more parenthetical subtitles of a classification title shall displace the employee with the least State seniority in any of the parenthetical subtitles for which the employee exercising displacement rights is qualified for employment.
- E.** If the employee finds no displacement rights under (C) or (D) above, then the employee may displace within the classification series for which he/she meets the minimum qualifications as outlined in the classification specification and/or position description.
- F.** This Section does not apply to teachers at ODBES,

or DYS who are subject to the standards-based teacher evaluation policy adopted by the boards of education of each school.

### **18.07 - Classification Series**

Classification series are recognized for purposes of displacement and recall. Classification titles within the bargaining unit are listed in Appendix G.

For the purposes of displacement, the parties recognize the following classification series.

1. Teachers Deaf and Blind
2. Library Series
3. Any employee covered by Section 21.02 of the Agreement.

### **18.08 - Displacement List**

Within ten (10) days after all displacements have occurred when a reduction in force has been implemented, the Employing Agency shall furnish to the Association a complete listing of displacements which have occurred. The listing shall indicate the name(s) of all displaced employees with seniority and work facility or facilities, classification(s), and appointment types.

### **18.09 - Employees on Leave**

Employees on sick leave, authorized leave of absence or authorized disability leave shall be treated for the purpose of reduction in force and displacement the same as all other employees and must meet any notification requirements as set forth in this Article. Any temporary vacant position resulting from displacement exercised by employees on authorized sick leave, leave of absence or disability leave may be temporarily filled by the Employing Agency by interim employment until the displacing employee returns from authorized leave.

An employee who is reduced in force while on authorized disability leave shall continue to receive disability leave payments for such period of time as such leave is

approved by the DAS Director under the provisions of Chapter 123:1-33 of the OAC.

### **18.10 - Displacement Compensation**

An employee exercising his/her displacement rights shall be paid according to either the pay range assigned at Section 21.10 or according to the salary index at Section 21.02 based upon the classification title into which the employee displaced. Under Section 21.10, the employee shall be assigned to a rate in the pay range assigned to the new classification, which is equivalent to or nearest to, but not exceeding, the rate the employee was paid in his/her previous classification. If the rate the employee was assigned in his/her prior classification exceeds the highest rate in the pay range assigned to the new classification, the employee will be assigned the highest rate assigned to the new classification. An employee will only receive supplements if such supplements were assigned to the position and classification title into which the employee displaced. Under Section 21.02, the employee shall be assigned to the rate of pay attained pursuant to Section 21.02 prior to displacement.

### **18.11 - Voluntary Reduction in Force**

When the Employer determines to reduce the work force, employees within the affected classification titles to include parenthetical subtitles may volunteer in writing to be reduced in force or displaced (“laid-off”) without consideration of seniority. If granted, the Employing Agency shall report to the Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) that it has “laid-off” the employee and shall not contest the employee’s eligibility for unemployment compensation. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to constitute a waiver of such employee’s recall rights unless the employee voluntarily waives such recall rights in writing. The fourteen (14) days’ notice requirement of reduction in force as indicated in Section 18.04 shall be waived for employees granted voluntary reduction in force. Should any employee’s

request for voluntary reduction in force be granted by the Employing Agency, the most senior names on the reduction in force list shall be deleted accordingly in direct number to the number of employees granted voluntary layoff.

### **18.12 - Recall Rights and Procedures**

During the two (2) year period following the reduction in force or displacement, the Employing Agency shall not hire, transfer, or promote any person into a classification title and/or parenthetical subtitle in a facility operated by the Employing Agency for which a recall list exists.

Employees reduced in force or displaced as a result of the reduction in force shall have recall rights for a period of two (2) years from the effective date of reduction in force or displacement.

#### **A. Recall Rights**

1. Recall rights shall exist statewide within the Employing Agency in which the reduction in force or displacement occurred. Within five (5) days of the notification of the reduction in force, the employee who is subject to recall may select the counties in which he/she is willing to accept recall. If no counties are designated, the employee shall be placed on the Agency statewide recall list.
2. Within five (5) days of the notification of the reduction in force or displacement, the employee who is qualified for reinstatement in two (2) or more parenthetical subtitles may select in writing the parenthetical subtitles for which the employee wishes to be recalled. If the employee makes no selection, then the employee shall only be placed on the recall list for the classification and parenthetical subtitle held at the time of the reduction or displacement.

3. Each Employing Agency which has implemented a reduction in force shall prepare recall lists of all employees displaced or reduced as a result of a reduction in force. Such recall lists will be by classification and parenthetical subtitles and will include the employee's seniority, appointment type, and the counties to which the employee wishes to be recalled. Employees who have been reduced in force or displaced to a classification title and different parenthetical subtitle, or a lower classification title in classification series shall be placed on recall lists for each classification in the classification series equal to or lower than the classification in which the employee was employed at the time of reduction or displacement.
4. The reduced in force employee or an employee who exercised displacement rights with the most seniority shall be the first recalled to a position within the specific classification title and/or parenthetical subtitle which the employee held at the time of reduction in force or displacement, or into any classification in which displacement occurred, provided that the recalled employee is currently fully qualified for the position as established by the classification specification. If the employee displaces outside his/her classification series, the employee shall only be recalled to the classification (including different parentheticals) held at the time of displacement.

**B. Notification of Recall**

1. Each employee recalled shall be notified of the offer of reinstatement by certified letter to the

address maintained in the employee's official personnel file. The notice shall also specify under which conditions the employee's declining of an offered position may cause his/her removal from that or other recall lists.

2. The employee shall be allowed fourteen (14) days from receipt of the notice of recall to respond to the notice and/or report to work by accepting the offer of reinstatement. Such time limit shall be explained in the notice of recall. In the event of extenuating circumstances (illness, injury, absence from the state or other good cause as solely determined by the Employing Agency) preventing return to work within fourteen (14) days, a reasonable extension, not to exceed sixty (60) days, may be granted for return to work.

#### **C. Removal from Recall List**

1. An employee who declines recall to a classification lower in the class series than the classification from which the employee was reduced or displaced shall thereafter only be entitled to recall to a classification higher than the classification declined, up to and including the classification from which the employee was reduced or displaced in the classification series.
2. An employee who declines recall to a classification and different parenthetical subtitle from which the employee was reduced shall be removed from all Agency recall lists.
3. An employee accepting recall to a classification and different parenthetical subtitle from which the employee was reduced or displaced shall thereafter only be entitled to recall to the classification and parenthetical subtitle from

which he/she was reduced or displaced.

4. An employee accepting or declining recall to the same classification and same appointment type from which the employee was reduced or displaced shall be removed from the Agency recall list.
5. Failure of an employee who was reduced or displaced to respond to a notification of recall within fourteen (14) days of the mailing of the notification of recall by certified mail to the employee's current address, as maintained by the Employing Agency, shall cause the employee's name to be deleted from any recall list and will result in the loss of the right to recall.
6. If, after an employee has exercised his/her displacement rights, the employee is to be reduced in force or displaced due to a subsequent reduction in force, the employee's displacement right shall be in accordance with the classification from which he was subsequently displaced provided, however, he/she has right to recall in his/her previous classification. In the event any displaced employee is subsequently reduced in force or displaced after recall, such employee's name shall be removed from the recall list two (2) calendar years after the subsequent reduction in force or displacement action.

#### **D. Recall Qualifications**

1. In no event shall an employee on a recall list be offered a position in a classification with a higher rate of pay than that of the classification or appointment type from which the employee was laid off or displaced.

2. An employee recalled under this Section shall serve a probationary period only if that employee was reduced during an original or promotional probationary period. Upon recall the employee shall begin a new probationary period only if recalled to the classification title held at the time of reduction or displacement.
3. An employee who exercises his/her recall rights must at the time of notification of recall, verify with appropriate documents to the Employer, that said employee is currently and fully qualified for the position as established by a position description, classification specification or by bona fide occupation qualification(s). Failure to present evidence of such qualifications or for such to be contained in the official personnel file of the employee to be recalled at the time such employee notifies the Employer of his/her desire to be recalled, will result in the employee's name to be deleted from any recall list and will result in the loss of the right to recall. The Employer shall maintain an accurate recall list which shall be open to inspection by employees subject to recall, and provided, upon request, to the Association.

### **18.13 - Reduction in Force or Displacement Appeal**

An employee, who has been reduced in force or displaced, with the approval of the Association, may file a grievance as outlined in Article 5 of the Agreement, within ten (10) days of receipt of the notification of reduction in force, displacement or recall.

The only matters which may be grieved by the employee are:

1. Selection of the employee for reduction in force pursuant to Section 18.03;



2. Displacement of an employee as a result of a reduction in force;
3. Timeliness of the notice of reduction, displacement or recall; or
4. Failure of the employee to be placed on a recall list or to be properly recalled from reduction in force or displacement.

Under no circumstances shall the State Personnel Board of Review (SPBR) have any jurisdiction over any appeal resulting from a reduction in force initiated after July 1, 1986.

#### **18.14 - Seniority**

For purposes of calculating seniority under this Article, "State seniority" shall apply as stipulated in Article 20 of this Agreement.

#### **18.15 - Out-Placement**

When an employee has been reduced in force, the Employing Agency agrees to assist the employee by offering the employee career counseling and resume writing services and/or job retraining services.

#### **18.16 - Bidding Rights for Employees on Layoff**

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 17 and the other provisions of this Article, an employee who has received a notice of layoff under Section 18.04 and who is to be laid-off after exhausting all rights contained in Section 18.05, may submit an application for any posted vacancy, covered by this Agreement, in the classification from which he/she is proposed to be laid-off or displaced. This opportunity shall be offered to all employees who are to be laid-off and who have no discipline which exceeds a one (1) day suspension and shall be offered only in the Employing Agency from which the employee was laid-off. Applications from such laid-off employees shall be sorted and considered before any other applications pursuant to the provisions of Article 17. Among such employees submitting applications who meet the minimum qualifications as stated in the

position description and classification specification, the most senior qualified applicant shall be awarded the vacancy. A laid-off employee who is offered a position and declines shall not be automatically awarded other positions for which he/she applies.

A laid-off employee who is unable to acquire a position after exhausting all rights under this Section shall, in addition to the reinstatement rights contained in Section 18.12, have re-employment rights for the same two (2) year period as recall rights.

### **Re-employment Rights**

Each laid-off employee in addition to recall rights set forth in this Article shall have the right to reemployment with other Employing Agencies. The right to reemployment is predicated on the employee meeting the minimum qualifications as listed in the classification specification and position description and is limited to the same classification from which the layoff initially occurred.

A reemployment list for laid-off employees shall be established by State seniority as established in Article 20 for the bargaining unit. No employee may be placed in a position from the reemployment list as long as a recall list exists for an Employing Agency.

The following criteria shall be utilized when filling vacant positions by reemployment based on the following qualifications: work history; education and training background; work record, as reflected by a review of the employee's performance evaluation(s) and a review of active disciplinary record(s) within the preceding two (2) years; discipline in excess of a one (1) day suspension shall bar the employee from being considered for reemployment ability; and state seniority. When these criteria are relatively equal, state seniority shall be the deciding factor for selection.

### **Implementation**

Each employee whose particular position is reduced in

force or displaced shall be provided with ADM 4138 prior to the effective date of the reduction in force. This form shall be hand-delivered to the employee at work or mailed by certified mail to the employee's last known address on file within the official personnel file of the Employing Agency. If hand delivered, such forms shall be given at least fourteen (14) days before the effective date of the reduction in force or displacement and the date of hand delivery shall be the first day of the fourteen (14) day period. If mailed, such notice shall be mailed at least seventeen (17) days before the effective date of the reduction in force or displacements. The date the letter is mailed shall be the first day of the seventeen (17) day period. The form must be postmarked no later than fourteen (14) calendar days from the date the employee received the form. Each employee shall indicate the counties to which they wish to be considered for reemployment. Failure to denote any specific county (counties) or return the form within the prescribed time frame will result in the employee being placed on a statewide reemployment list.

The reemployment list shall be administered by the State Services Unit within the HR Support Section at DAS. This list will be administered in the same fashion as those established pursuant to the ORC and OAC. When an Agency determines to fill a vacancy for which a reemployment list exists, the State Services Unit will furnish the name of the most senior eligible employee to the Employing Agency.

The employee accepting a position across Agency lines will serve a probationary period of ninety (90) days. Probationary periods under this provision will begin following completion of the pre-service training for all positions. This period shall include evaluations as specified in Articles 8.01, 8.02 and 8.03. These evaluations shall occur within four (4) to six (6) weeks of employment and no later than ten (10) days before the end of the probation. Probationary evaluations shall be discussed with the

employee. Removals during probation shall not be subject to the grievance process.

Reemployment shall be across Employing Agency lines. Acceptance of reemployment by an employee shall remove his/her name from the recall list of the Employing Agency which laid the employee off. Refusal to accept a reemployment offer shall cause removal of the employee's name from the reemployment list but shall not affect an employee's recall to his/her Employing Agency. A removal during the probationary period shall cause the employee's name to be removed from both the recall and reemployment list. The above provisions shall not apply to ODBES.

### **18.17 - Placement**

Notwithstanding any other provisions of Article 17, the Association and the Employing Agency or Employing Agencies may agree, in writing, to place an employee to be laid off in an existing vacancy which may not be otherwise available. Such agreement shall take precedence over any other Section/Article of this Agreement. However, such placement shall not result in a promotion of the affected employee. All employees placed into existing vacancies under this Section shall retain recall and reemployment rights pursuant to the provisions of this Article.

### **18.18 - Group Benefit Participation**

The Employing Agency shall permit separated employees the option of continued participation in the employee's health plan for eighteen (18) months after separation, provided the affected employee meets the following eligibility requirements:

1. The employee is covered by a group health insurance at the time of the separation;
2. The employee has not been fired for gross neglect; and,
3. The employee is not covered or entitled to be covered for similar benefits under any other group

coverage or by Medicare. The employee shall notify, in writing, the appropriate administrative officer of the Employing Agency at the time of reduction in force, if he/she wishes to continue to participate in a health insurance plan. The employee must pay the entire health insurance premium (Employer and employee share) each month. This Section does not apply to life insurance. In the event of conflict, the provisions of the COBRA Act of 1986 shall prevail over this Section.

### **18.19 - Alternative Procedures**

Each Agency, with OCB's approval, may negotiate with the Union to establish mutually agreed upon procedures for moving positions and personnel in lieu of the procedures in this Article. Where the parties mutually agree upon alternate procedures under this Section, it is neither a prerequisite nor a requirement that a written rationale be created or submitted or any other notice or disclosure requirements be followed.

## **ARTICLE 19 - PROBATIONARY PERIOD**

### **19.01 - Probationary Period Duration**

Each employee shall serve a probationary period of three hundred and sixty-five (365) days following an original appointment, or promotion to a permanent position.

Newly hired employees' probationary period shall begin on the date of hire.

A teacher may at the discretion of the Employer have his/her probationary period extended by three hundred and sixty-five (365) days, if he/she is unable to obtain appropriate licensure.

### **19.02 - Probationary Termination or Reduction**

Prior to the initiation of a probationary termination following original appointment, or a reduction during a promotional probationary period, an employee shall have the opportunity to meet with the Appointing Authority or designee. The purpose of this meeting shall be to discuss the

reasons for the termination or reduction.

The final decision of the Appointing Authority shall not be subject to Article 5 of this Agreement.

When an employee is reduced during a promotional probationary period, his/her salary shall be the same received prior to promotion, except for any increase to which the employee would have otherwise been entitled in the lower classification.

### **19.03 - Extension of Probationary Period**

A probationary period for an employee may be extended by the Employer. An employee's probationary period shall be extended by a period equal to unpaid leave pursuant to Article 29 or employee leaves of fourteen (14) consecutive days or longer, except for approved periods of vacation leave or inter-session break. For example, disability leave, Adoption/Childbirth, or any other leaves of fourteen (14) consecutive days or longer shall not be counted toward the employee's initial or promotional probationary period.

### **19.04 - Cross-Collective Bargaining Agreement Rights**

Employees who are in a classification outside of those covered by this Agreement and who accept a position in a classification covered by this Agreement shall serve an initial probationary period. If the employee fails to perform the job requirements of the new position to the Employing Agency's satisfaction, the Employer may separate the employee from service. The employee may not challenge such separation.

### **19.05 - Inter-Agency Transfer Rights**

Employees who initiate a lateral transfer from one Employing Agency to another shall serve an initial probationary period. If the employee fails to perform the job requirements of the new position to the Employing Agency's satisfaction, the Employing Agency may separate the employee from employment. The employee may not challenge such separations.

## **ARTICLE 20 - SENIORITY**

### **20.01 - Seniority Definitions**

**State seniority** is defined as the total length of continuous service which an employee has in a position or succession of positions within the employ of the State of Ohio, its political subdivisions, its public libraries or public library districts dating back to the employee's first date of hire, except as provided in the following paragraph.

For employees originally appointed on or after July 1, 1992, credit for State seniority shall be granted only for service in positions paid for by warrant of OBM.

### **20.02 - Continuous Service**

Continuous service, in reference to State seniority, shall commence on the date an individual becomes employed. For other than full-time employees, continuous service shall be calculated on the basis of completed hours of service as converted into days of service in active pay status (i.e., each eight (8) hours of service equals one (1) day of service). For full-time employees, continuous service shall reflect all uninterrupted service of the employee as calculated by days of service. Continuous service shall be interrupted only when a "break in service" occurs.

A "break in service" shall not occur if an employee is reinstated due to the disaffirmance of a discharge. An employee who has a "break in service," and who is subsequently rehired or reinstated, shall receive continuous service except for the period of time in which the "break in service" occurred.

A "break in service" occurs only in the following instances:

1. Separation because of resignation, except where an employee is rehired within thirty (30) days of resignation;
2. Discharge;
3. Failure to return from an authorized leave of

absence;

4. Failure to respond to the notification of recall;
5. Any period of State employment outside the bargaining unit longer than thirty (30) days.

Each full-time employee shall be credited with one seniority credit for each pay period of continuous service. Part-time employees will be credited with .0125 seniority credit for each non-premium hour of compensation in each pay period not to exceed one (1) seniority credit in a pay period. Service credit shall be computed in years, months, and days and shall be credited for all periods for which “seniority credits” are granted.

### **20.03 - Seniority Lists**

Each Employing Agency shall furnish to the Association two (2) copies of a list of all employees by work facility, which shall indicate each employee’s name, state seniority, Agency seniority, and classification. Where available, the Employing Agency shall provide an electronic posting of the list. The Employing Agency shall also make this quarterly seniority list available for review by employees. The Employer also agrees to explore means to make State and Agency seniority information available on employees’ paycheck stubs. Seniority shall be stated in years and days of service. Only service as defined in Section 20.01 will qualify as service for the purpose of calculation.

Newly hired employees shall submit all evidence of prior public service in positions paid directly by warrant of the Director of OBM within ninety (90) days of employment. The employee shall be provided with written information concerning the method for claiming prior service under Section 20.01. The employee will acknowledge receipt of same by signing for it.

The Employing Agency shall attempt to verify the information submitted by each employee and will post a corrected seniority list in a place accessible to employees



within forty (40) days of receipt of the employee claim for a seniority adjustment. The employee shall have ten (10) working days to review the corrected list and to dispute his/her seniority and to furnish to the Employing Agency additional information.

Employees who do not submit a request for adjustment of seniority within ninety (90) days of employment and/or within the ten (10) working days period for disputing seniority determination, shall forever be barred from requesting the Employer to adjust seniority.

#### **20.04 - Identical Hire Dates**

When two (2) or more employees have the same State or Agency seniority, seniority shall be based upon the last four (4) digits of each employee's social security number. The employee with the lowest number shall be considered the most senior. Seniority lists shall not display any employee's social security number.

#### **20.05 - Conversion**

The following principles and procedures shall apply to the conversion from a date-based seniority system to a system based upon seniority credits:

- A.** Principles, methods or understandings used to determine seniority standing or to resolve disputes over relative seniority ranking under prior Agreements will not be altered by the provisions of this Agreement. That is, if a seniority dispute has previously been raised and resolved, the prior resolution of that matter will stand.
- B.** Effective July 1, 2006, seniority credits shall replace seniority dates as the basis for determining relative seniority standing or seniority rights under this Agreement.
- C.** In the event that non-bargaining unit employees enter the bargaining unit, the Association shall have the opportunity to contact OCB to review and verify

those employees' seniority credits. This review is to be initiated within six (6) pay periods of the pay period in which the Association is notified of the personnel action.

- D.** Employees who have earned seniority under provisions of prior SCOPE/OEA Agreements shall not have their seniority changed by the implementation of Section 20.02(A)(5) which shall become effective January 14, 2016.

## **ARTICLE 21 - WAGES**

### **21.01 - Definitions of Rates of Pay**

As used in this Agreement the following definitions shall apply:

- A. Classification salary base** is the minimum hourly rate of the pay range for the classification to which the employee is assigned.
- B. Step rate** is the specific value within the pay range to which the employee is assigned.
- C. Base rate** is the employee's step rate plus longevity adjustment.
- D. Regular rate** is the base rate (which includes longevity) plus all applicable supplements.

### **21.02 - Teacher 1-4 (including all parenthetical subtitles), Teaching Coordinator, Educational Specialist 1-4, Vocational Appraisal Specialist, and Guidance Counselor 1-2**

Employees in the classification titles of Teacher 1-4 (all parenthetical subtitles), Teaching Coordinator, Educational Specialist 1-4, Vocational Appraisal Specialist, Corrections Job Placement Specialist and Guidance Counselor 1-2 shall be compensated according to the pay tables set forth in sub-section E.

There shall be a freeze on step movement beginning with employees whose step date is June 21, 2009 or thereafter. Step movement shall resume beginning with the employees

whose step date is June 21, 2011. No retroactive movement shall occur for the two (2) years that have been skipped. Freezing of step movement shall not affect the performance evaluation schedule.

Employees shall be placed on the appropriate step and column of the salary schedule index in compliance with:

**A. Years (Step)**

Effective with this Agreement each employee will be credited with the same number of years that the last payroll prior to the effective date of this Agreement lists as years of service. Employees hired on or after the effective date of this Agreement shall be given credit for years of experience in accordance with the provisions of Sections 3317.13 (A)(1)(a), (b), (c), and (d) of the ORC provided that a total of not more than ten (10) years of experience shall be credited. Service time earned between July 1, 2003 and June 30, 2005, inclusive, shall be excluded from this calculation. Service time earned between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2011 shall also be excluded from this calculation. Employees hired on or after the effective date of this Agreement who are eligible for prior service credit under this section shall present proof of prior service within ninety (90) days of hire. If presented within ninety (90) days of hire, the employee's step rate will be adjusted back to the employee's date of hire. If prior service time is presented after more than ninety (90) days of hire without a good faith effort to present proof within ninety (90) days of hire, the employee's step rate shall only be adjusted prospectively. The Employer and the Association will make a good faith effort to provide new employees with notice of this provision upon hire. An employee will advance to the next step upon satisfactory completion of a year of service and the salary advancement will be reflected in the next payroll.

## **B. Pay Levels**

Effective July 1, 2000, progression through the levels will be governed by the following:

1. BA - attainment of a Bachelor's Degree or less.
2. BA + 20 - degreed teachers with attainment of at least a Bachelor's Degree and twenty (20) additional quarter hours but less than a Master's Degree, or non-degreed Career Technology Teachers who have completed an approved pre- and in-service education program and at least three (3) years of career technology teaching experience, or who have obtained a five (5) year Professional License or four (4) year provisional certificate in the area they are teaching.
3. MA - attainment of at least a Master's Degree but less than a Master's Degree and thirty (30) additional post-graduate quarter hours. Non-degreed Career Technology Teachers shall be moved to the Master's Schedule after they have obtained the eight (8) year Professional Career Technology Certificate in the area they are teaching. Those individuals who currently hold a four (4) year teaching certificate or who have obtained a five (5) year Professional License, in the area they are teaching, three (3) years teaching experience, and forty-five (45) quarter hours after attainment of the license/certificate shall also be moved to the Master's Schedule. All such hours or equivalent shall be approved by the Employing Agency, one-half of which must be course work shown on a transcript, taken at a college or university.
4. MA + 30 - attainment of at least a Master's Degree and thirty (30) additional post-graduate

quarter hours. Non-degreed trade and Career Technology Teachers who have met the requirements and have been placed on the Master's Schedule, shall be moved to the MA+30 column upon attainment of an additional subsequent thirty (30) quarter hours. All such hours or equivalent shall be approved by the Employing Agency, one half of which must be course work shown on a transcript, taken at a college or university.

5. Each employee will advance to the next training column upon satisfactory completion of the proper educational requirements and the salary advancement will be reflected in the second payroll after proper notification to the Employing Agency.

#### **C. Transfers into Bargaining Unit**

An employee of the State who transfers or is otherwise placed, other than through a layoff, into a classification covered by this Agreement will be placed in a step of the salary schedule that is consistent with his/her educational attainment and closest to, but not less than, his/her current rate. This is not considered a promotion.

#### **D. Placement on the Teacher's Salary Schedule**

For teachers hired after July 1, 1997, an Agency may give credit for prior teaching experience in another state.

To give such credit, the Agency shall determine that the applicant's prior teaching experience is relevant to the Mission of the Agency or is necessary for the recruitment of the applicant.

Such teaching experience shall be credited solely for the purpose of placement on the Teacher's Salary Schedule in Section 21.02 of this Agreement and may

only be given to the applicant upon mutual agreement with the Association.

The amount of such teaching experience shall not exceed the limit set forth in Section 21.02(A) of the Agreement.

#### **E. Salary Base**

Employees of DRC presently receiving a three percent (3%) Hazardous Duty Pay Supplement under the provisions of Section 21.06 of the Agreement shall continue to receive such supplement until step 11 is reached. Upon assignment to step 11, the three percent (3%) Hazardous Duty Pay Supplement shall cease. Employees hired after July 1, 1997, shall not be eligible for the three percent (3%) Hazardous Duty Pay Supplement.

- a) All new hires with zero (0) to two (2) years of teaching experience pursuant to Section 21.02 start at Step 1. All other new hires will be placed in the schedule based on their years of teaching experience. Applicants with more than two (2) years of teaching experience will be placed at the step which is equivalent to their teaching experience as follows:

Effective July 1, 2016:

<b>Years of Service</b>	<b>Step</b>
0, 1, 2	1
3	2
4	3
5	4
6	5
7	6
8	7
9	8
10	9
11	10

<b>Years of Service</b>	<b>Step</b>
12	11
13 - 19	12
20 - 24	13
25 or more	14

- b) All schedule movement is subject to provisions in Article 8.05.
- c) Effective January 1, 2001, departments facing recruiting problems may, at their discretion, initial hire up to Step 2. Any teacher at that respective institution where there is an advance step hire who is below the step of the new hire shall be moved to that step.
- d) Beginning with the pay period that includes July 1, 2016, Step 13 becomes effective upon attainment of 20 years of teaching service and Step 14 becomes effective upon attainment of 25 years of teaching service, subject to Section 21.02.
- e) For purposes of implementing this Article, experience may be credited as years of service subject to Section 21.02.

Effective with the pay period which includes July 1, 2024, the pay schedules shall be increased by five (5%) percent.

<b>Steps</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Years of Service</b>	0,1,2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13-19	20-24	25
<b>BA</b>	\$24.71	\$25.58	\$26.43	\$27.31	\$28.18	\$29.05	\$29.94	\$30.80	\$31.67	\$32.56	\$33.42	\$34.29	\$34.73	\$35.16
<b>BA+20</b>	\$25.77	\$26.78	\$27.78	\$28.75	\$29.76	\$30.73	\$31.70	\$32.71	\$33.68	\$34.68	\$35.67	\$36.67	\$37.15	\$37.63
<b>MA</b>	\$27.32	\$28.43	\$29.54	\$30.64	\$31.75	\$32.82	\$33.94	\$35.04	\$36.15	\$37.23	\$38.34	\$39.43	\$40.01	\$40.53
<b>MA+30</b>	\$28.86	\$30.07	\$31.30	\$32.54	\$33.74	\$34.94	\$36.17	\$37.39	\$38.60	\$39.81	\$41.01	\$42.25	\$42.86	\$43.47

Effective with the pay period which includes July 1, 2025, the pay schedules shall be increased by four and one half (4.5%) percent.

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Years of Service</b>	0,1,2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13-19	20-24	25
<b>BA</b>	\$25.82	\$26.73	\$27.62	\$28.54	\$29.45	\$30.36	\$31.29	\$32.19	\$33.10	\$34.03	\$34.92	\$35.83	\$36.29	\$36.74
<b>BA+20</b>	\$26.93	\$27.99	\$29.03	\$30.04	\$31.10	\$32.11	\$33.13	\$34.18	\$35.20	\$36.24	\$37.28	\$38.32	\$38.82	\$39.32
<b>MA</b>	\$28.55	\$29.71	\$30.87	\$32.02	\$33.18	\$34.30	\$35.47	\$36.62	\$37.78	\$38.91	\$40.07	\$41.20	\$41.81	\$42.35
<b>MA+30</b>	\$30.16	\$31.42	\$32.71	\$34.00	\$35.26	\$36.51	\$37.80	\$39.07	\$40.34	\$41.60	\$42.86	\$44.15	\$44.79	\$45.43



Effective with the pay period which includes July 1, 2026, the pay schedules shall be increased by three (3%) percent.

<b>Steps</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Years of Service</b>	0,1,2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13-19	20-24	25
<b>BA</b>	\$26.59	\$27.53	\$28.45	\$29.40	\$30.33	\$31.27	\$32.23	\$33.16	\$34.09	\$35.05	\$35.97	\$36.90	\$37.38	\$37.84
<b>BA+20</b>	\$27.74	\$28.83	\$29.90	\$30.94	\$32.03	\$33.07	\$34.12	\$35.21	\$36.26	\$37.33	\$38.40	\$39.47	\$39.98	\$40.50
<b>MA</b>	\$29.41	\$30.60	\$31.80	\$32.98	\$34.18	\$35.33	\$36.53	\$37.72	\$38.91	\$40.08	\$41.27	\$42.44	\$43.06	\$43.62
<b>MA+30</b>	\$31.06	\$32.36	\$33.69	\$35.02	\$36.32	\$37.61	\$38.93	\$40.24	\$41.55	\$42.85	\$44.15	\$45.47	\$46.13	\$46.79

### **21.03 - Librarian 1, Librarian 2**

The pay ranges for the following classifications are:

<b>Classification</b>		<b>Pay Range</b>
64311	Librarian 1 (Non-Degreed)	9
64312	Librarian 1 (Degreed)	10
64313	Librarian 2 (Non-Degreed)	10
64314	Librarian 2 (Degreed)	11

Except for employees in the State Library of Ohio, librarians who obtain a valid teaching certificate with Librarian/Educational Media K-12 Certification shall, upon showing evidence of the same to the Employer, be placed upon the teachers' matrix. Any librarian holding a valid teaching certificate shall be subject to teaching assignment as required by the state.

There shall be a freeze on step movement beginning with employees whose step date is June 21, 2009 or thereafter. Step movement shall resume beginning with the employees whose step date is June 21, 2011. No retroactive movement shall occur for the two (2) years that have been skipped. Freezing of step movement shall not affect the performance evaluation schedule.

### **21.04 - Library Consultant and Education Liaison**

Employees in the classification titles of Library Consultant and Education Liaison shall be assigned to pay range 12.

There shall be a freeze on step movement beginning with employees whose step date is June 21, 2009 or thereafter. Step movement shall resume beginning with the employees whose step date is June 21, 2011. No retroactive movement shall occur for the two (2) years that have been skipped. Freezing of step movement shall not affect the performance evaluation schedule.

### **21.05 - Teachers at the Ohio Deaf and Blind Education**

## **Services**

### **A. Pay Levels**

Effective July 1, 2000, progression through the levels will be governed by the following:

1. BA - attainment of a Bachelor's Degree or less.
2. BA + 20 - degreed teachers with attainment of at least a Bachelor's Degree and twenty (20) additional semester hours but less than a Masters' Degree, [or non-degreed Career Technology Teachers who have completed an approved pre- and in-service education program and at least three (3) years of career technology teaching experience, or who have obtained a five (5) year Professional License or four (4) year provisional certificate in the area they are teaching].
3. MA - attainment of at least a Master's Degree but less than a Master's Degree and twenty (20) additional post-graduate semester hours. [Non-degreed Career Technology Teachers shall be moved to the Master's Schedule after they have obtained the eight (8) year Professional Career Technology Certificate in the area they are teaching.] Those individuals who currently hold a four (4) year teaching certificate or who have obtained a five (5) year Professional License, in the area they are teaching, three (3) years teaching experience, and thirty (30) semester hours after attainment of the license/certificate shall also be moved to the Master's Schedule. All such hours or equivalent shall be approved by the Employing Agency, one half of which must be course work shown on a transcript, taken at a college or university.

4. MA + 20 - attainment of at least a Master's Degree and twenty (20) additional post-graduate semester hours. [Non-degreed Trade and Career Technology Teachers who have met the requirements and have been placed on the Master's Schedule, shall be moved to the MA+20 column upon attainment of an additional subsequent twenty (20) semester hours]. All such hours or equivalent shall be approved by the Employing Agency, one half of which must be course work shown on a transcript, taken at a college or university.
5. Each employee will advance to the next training column upon satisfactory completion of the proper educational requirements and the salary advancement will be reflected in the first payroll of the school year following proper notification to the Employing Agency of the educational attainment.

### **B. Pay Tables**

Notwithstanding ORC Section 124.15(L), all teachers at the Ohio Deaf and Blind Education Services shall be paid in accordance with the following salary schedule:

Effective with the first payroll of the 2024-2025 academic year, the pay schedules shall be increased by five (5%) percent.

<b>Steps</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Years of Experience</b>	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>BA-Spread</b>	\$24.90	\$26.05	\$27.17	\$28.29	\$29.42	\$30.55	\$31.67	\$32.81	\$33.93	\$35.07	\$36.18
<b>BA-Actual</b>	\$35.00	\$36.61	\$38.18	\$39.76	\$41.35	\$42.93	\$44.51	\$46.11	\$47.68	\$49.29	\$50.85
<b>BA+20-Spread</b>	\$26.13	\$27.31	\$28.52	\$29.73	\$30.16	\$32.08	\$33.26	\$34.51	\$35.67	\$36.85	\$38.07
<b>BA+20-Actual</b>	\$36.72	\$38.38	\$40.08	\$41.78	\$42.39	\$45.09	\$46.75	\$48.50	\$50.13	\$51.79	\$53.50
<b>MA-Spread</b>	\$27.70	\$29.09	\$30.49	\$31.87	\$33.26	\$34.65	\$36.05	\$37.45	\$38.84	\$40.21	\$41.60
<b>MA-Actual</b>	\$38.93	\$40.89	\$42.85	\$44.79	\$46.75	\$48.70	\$50.66	\$52.63	\$54.58	\$56.51	\$58.46
<b>MA+20-Spread</b>	\$28.62	\$30.08	\$31.56	\$33.03	\$34.78	\$35.98	\$37.47	\$38.94	\$40.43	\$41.89	\$43.36
<b>MA+20-Actual</b>	\$40.22	\$42.28	\$44.36	\$46.42	\$48.88	\$50.56	\$52.66	\$54.73	\$56.82	\$58.87	\$60.94

<b>Steps</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Years of Experience</b>	11	12	13	14	18	21
<b>BA-Spread</b>	\$37.33	\$38.44	\$39.57	\$39.57	\$41.26	\$42.65
<b>BA-Actual</b>	\$52.46	\$54.03	\$55.61	\$55.61	\$57.99	\$59.94
<b>BA+20-Spread</b>	\$39.26	\$40.45	\$41.65	\$41.65	\$44.24	\$45.45
<b>BA+20-Actual</b>	\$55.18	\$56.85	\$58.53	\$58.53	\$62.17	\$63.87
<b>MA-Spread</b>	\$42.99	\$44.37	\$45.77	\$47.15	\$48.80	\$49.96
<b>MA-Actual</b>	\$60.42	\$62.36	\$64.33	\$66.27	\$68.59	\$70.22
<b>MA+20-Spread</b>	\$44.85	\$46.31	\$47.80	\$49.29	\$50.22	\$51.79
<b>MA+20-Actual</b>	\$63.03	\$65.09	\$67.18	\$69.27	\$70.58	\$72.78

Effective with the first payroll of the 2025-2026 academic year, the pay schedules shall be increased by four and one half (4.5%) percent.

<b>Steps</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Years of Experience</b>	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>BA-Spread</b>	\$26.03	\$27.22	\$28.39	\$29.56	\$30.75	\$31.92	\$33.09	\$34.28	\$35.46	\$36.65	\$37.81
<b>BA-Actual</b>	\$36.58	\$38.26	\$39.90	\$41.55	\$43.21	\$44.86	\$46.51	\$48.18	\$49.83	\$51.51	\$53.14
<b>BA+20-Spread</b>	\$27.30	\$28.54	\$29.80	\$31.07	\$31.52	\$33.53	\$34.76	\$36.06	\$37.28	\$38.51	\$39.78
<b>BA+20-Actual</b>	\$38.37	\$40.11	\$41.88	\$43.66	\$44.30	\$47.12	\$48.85	\$50.68	\$52.39	\$54.12	\$55.91
<b>MA-Spread</b>	\$28.95	\$30.40	\$31.86	\$33.31	\$34.76	\$36.21	\$37.67	\$39.13	\$40.59	\$42.02	\$43.47
<b>MA-Actual</b>	\$40.68	\$42.73	\$44.78	\$46.81	\$48.85	\$50.89	\$52.94	\$55.00	\$57.04	\$59.05	\$61.09
<b>MA+20-Spread</b>	\$29.91	\$31.44	\$32.99	\$34.52	\$36.35	\$37.60	\$39.16	\$40.69	\$42.25	\$43.77	\$45.31
<b>MA+20-Actual</b>	\$42.03	\$44.18	\$46.36	\$48.51	\$51.08	\$52.84	\$55.03	\$57.19	\$59.38	\$61.52	\$63.68

<b>Steps</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Years of Experience</b>	11	12	13	14	18	21
<b>BA-Spread</b>	\$39.01	\$40.17	\$41.35	\$41.35	\$43.12	\$44.57
<b>BA-Actual</b>	\$54.82	\$56.46	\$58.11	\$58.11	\$60.60	\$62.64
<b>BA+20-Spread</b>	\$41.03	\$42.27	\$43.52	\$43.52	\$46.23	\$47.49
<b>BA+20-Actual</b>	\$57.66	\$59.41	\$61.16	\$61.16	\$64.97	\$66.74
<b>MA-Spread</b>	\$44.93	\$46.37	\$47.83	\$49.27	\$51.00	\$52.21
<b>MA-Actual</b>	\$63.14	\$65.17	\$67.22	\$69.25	\$71.68	\$73.38
<b>MA+20-Spread</b>	\$46.87	\$48.40	\$49.95	\$51.51	\$52.48	\$54.12
<b>MA+20-Actual</b>	\$65.87	\$68.02	\$70.20	\$72.39	\$73.76	\$76.06

Effective with the first payroll of the 2026-2027 academic year, the pay schedules shall be increased by three (3%) percent.

Steps	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Years of Experience	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>BA-Spread</b>	\$26.81	\$28.04	\$29.24	\$30.45	\$31.67	\$32.88	\$34.09	\$35.31	\$36.52	\$37.75	\$38.94
<b>BA-Actual</b>	\$37.68	\$39.41	\$41.10	\$42.80	\$44.51	\$46.21	\$47.91	\$49.63	\$51.32	\$53.06	\$54.73
<b>BA+20-Spread</b>	\$28.12	\$29.39	\$30.70	\$32.00	\$32.47	\$34.53	\$35.80	\$37.14	\$38.39	\$39.66	\$40.98
<b>BA+20-Actual</b>	\$39.52	\$41.31	\$43.14	\$44.97	\$45.63	\$48.53	\$50.32	\$52.20	\$53.96	\$55.74	\$57.59
<b>MA-Spread</b>	\$29.81	\$31.31	\$32.82	\$34.30	\$35.80	\$37.30	\$38.80	\$40.31	\$41.80	\$43.28	\$44.77
<b>MA-Actual</b>	\$41.90	\$44.01	\$46.12	\$48.21	\$50.32	\$52.42	\$54.53	\$56.65	\$58.75	\$60.82	\$62.92
<b>MA+20-Spread</b>	\$30.80	\$32.38	\$33.98	\$35.56	\$37.43	\$38.73	\$40.33	\$41.92	\$43.52	\$45.09	\$46.67
<b>MA+20-Actual</b>	\$43.29	\$45.51	\$47.75	\$49.97	\$52.61	\$54.43	\$56.68	\$58.91	\$61.16	\$63.37	\$65.59

Steps	12	13	14	15	16	17
Years of Experience	11	12	13	14	18	21
<b>BA-Spread</b>	\$40.17	\$41.38	\$42.59	\$42.59	\$44.41	\$45.91
<b>BA-Actual</b>	\$56.46	\$58.15	\$59.85	\$59.85	\$62.42	\$64.52
<b>BA+20-Spread</b>	\$42.26	\$43.54	\$44.82	\$44.82	\$47.62	\$48.91
<b>BA+20-Actual</b>	\$59.39	\$61.19	\$62.99	\$62.99	\$66.92	\$68.74
<b>MA-Spread</b>	\$46.27	\$47.77	\$49.27	\$50.75	\$52.53	\$53.78
<b>MA-Actual</b>	\$65.03	\$67.13	\$69.24	\$71.33	\$73.83	\$75.58
<b>MA+20-Spread</b>	\$48.28	\$49.85	\$51.45	\$53.05	\$54.06	\$55.74
<b>MA+20-Actual</b>	\$67.85	\$70.06	\$72.31	\$74.56	\$75.97	\$78.34

## **21.06 – Supplements Longevity**

Employees who are paid under Section 21.02 and 21.05 shall no longer be entitled to receive pay supplements set forth in Section 124.181 of the ORC. Employees in the classification titles listed in Sections 21.03 and 21.04 shall only be entitled to receive a longevity supplement pursuant to Section 124.181 (E) of the ORC. An employee who has retired in accordance with the provisions of any retirement plan offered by the State and who is employed by the state or any political subdivision of the State on or after June 24, 1987, shall not have his/her prior service with the State or any political subdivision of the State counted for the purpose of computing longevity.

### **Hazardous Duty**

Employees in DRC hired prior July 1, 1997 shall receive an additional Hazardous Duty Pay Supplement of three percent (3%). However, upon assignment to Step 11 of the salary schedule, employees of the department cease to receive the Hazardous Duty Pay Supplement. Employees hired into the Department after July 1, 1997 shall not be eligible for the three percent (3%) Hazardous Duty Pay Supplement.

### **Retention and Recruitment Supplement**

The Employer may establish a supplement at any amount up to twenty percent (20%) of the employee's regular rate. This supplement may be increased to thirty percent (30%) with prior approval from OCB. Such supplement shall be used solely as an incentive to fill positions for which there is difficulty in recruiting or retaining employees. The incentive may be established to compensate for geography, institution/facility location, certification, specialty or any other reason determined by the Employer to warrant consideration under this provision. The following provisions apply to the administration of the Retention/Recruitment Supplement:



1. The Agency shall have the sole authority to designate any positions to which a supplement will apply.
2. The Agency shall have the sole authority to designate the percentage amount of any supplement for any particular position or group of positions.
3. For supplements initially granted before the effective date of the agreement, January 7, 2019, once granted, the supplement shall become a permanent component of the employee's compensation, so long as the employee remains in the position(s) for which it was originally granted. The supplement shall be removed from the employee's compensation upon leaving the particular position for which it was established. For supplements initially granted after the effective date of the agreement, January 7, 2019, the Agency shall have the sole authority to establish, begin or end supplement(s) in its discretion; provided however, supplement(s) may be ended after five (5) years from this initial date of issuance by either the Agency or the union.
4. For position supplements initially granted before the effective date of the agreement, January 7, 2019, when the Employer determines to establish a supplement for a particular position, employees of positions which carry the identical certification, specialty, geographic, institution/facility location or other factor for which there have been recruitment or retention problems will be granted the same percentage supplement. For position supplements initially granted after the effective date of the agreement, January 7, 2019, the Agency shall have the sole authority to establish, begin or end supplement(s) in its discretion; provided however,

supplement(s) may be ended after five (5) years from this initial date of issuance by either the Agency or the union.

5. Issues arising out of the application of the supplement may be raised at the Agency's Labor Management Committee. Should the issue not be resolved, the Association may file a grievance pursuant to Article 5. The timeframes for filing the grievance begin the date of the Labor Management Committee. If the matter remains unresolved, the Association may appeal to alternative dispute resolution. Such grievances shall not be subject to arbitration.

### **21.07 - Pay Schedule Movement**

The employee's step date shall be the employee's date of hire. For an employee of the State who transfers into a classification covered by this Agreement that is paid in accordance with Section 21.02 or 21.05, the employee's step date shall be the date the employee transfers into the new classification. For employees at ODBES, an employee will only be eligible for salary advancement in the first payroll of the school year. An employee who is promoted to a classification title shall be placed into a step which will guarantee an increase of approximately four percent (4%).

### **21.08 - Payment of Salary**

Employees shall be paid the annual salary in twenty-six (26) payments. Payments to the employee shall be on alternating Fridays.

### **21.09 - Compensation for the Librarian Classification and Education Liaison**

All employees in the Librarian classification, and Education Liaison classification shall be paid in accordance with the following salary schedules.

Effective with the pay period which includes July 1, 2024, the pay schedules shall be increased by five (5%)

percent.

<b>Range</b>	<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Step 4</b>	<b>Step 5</b>	<b>Step 6</b>	<b>Step 7</b>
<b>8</b>	\$22.18	\$22.91	\$23.63	\$24.58	\$25.53	\$26.58	
<b>9</b>	\$23.63	\$24.58	\$25.53	\$26.58	\$27.83	\$29.09	
<b>10</b>	\$25.53	\$26.58	\$27.83	\$29.09	\$30.37	\$31.91	
<b>11</b>	\$27.83	\$29.09	\$30.37	\$31.91	\$33.45	\$35.07	\$36.84
<b>12</b>	\$30.37	\$31.91	\$33.45	\$35.07	\$36.83	\$38.58	\$40.48

Effective with the pay period which includes July 1, 2025, the pay schedules shall be increased by four and one half (4.5%) percent.

<b>Range</b>	<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Step 4</b>	<b>Step 5</b>	<b>Step 6</b>	<b>Step 7</b>
<b>8</b>	\$23.18	\$23.94	\$24.69	\$25.69	\$26.68	\$27.78	
<b>9</b>	\$24.69	\$25.69	\$26.68	\$27.78	\$29.08	\$30.40	
<b>10</b>	\$26.68	\$27.78	\$29.08	\$30.40	\$31.74	\$33.35	
<b>11</b>	\$29.08	\$30.40	\$31.74	\$33.35	\$34.96	\$36.65	\$38.50
<b>12</b>	\$31.74	\$33.35	\$34.96	\$36.65	\$38.49	\$40.32	\$42.30

Effective with the pay period which includes July 1, 2026, the pay schedules shall be increased by three (3%) percent.

<b>Range</b>	<b>Step 1</b>	<b>Step 2</b>	<b>Step 3</b>	<b>Step 4</b>	<b>Step 5</b>	<b>Step 6</b>	<b>Step 7</b>
<b>8</b>	\$23.88	\$24.66	\$25.43	\$26.46	\$27.48	\$28.61	
<b>9</b>	\$25.43	\$26.46	\$27.48	\$28.61	\$29.95	\$31.31	
<b>10</b>	\$27.48	\$28.61	\$29.95	\$31.31	\$32.69	\$34.35	
<b>11</b>	\$29.95	\$31.31	\$32.69	\$34.35	\$36.01	\$37.75	\$39.66
<b>12</b>	\$32.69	\$34.35	\$36.01	\$37.75	\$39.64	\$41.53	\$43.57

## **21.10 - Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)**

Effective July 1, 2006, all employees shall receive their pay via direct deposit. Employees shall authorize the direct deposit of the employee's compensation into a financial

institution of the employee's choice or execute the required documentation to authorize the direct deposit into a financial institution designated by the Board of Deposits for the benefit of the employee.

## **ARTICLE 22 – EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY PROGRAMS**

### **22.01 - Compensation for Employees at Agencies Other than the Ohio Deaf and Blind Education Services**

Employees who volunteer and are responsible for specific extracurricular activity programs or for additional classes or programs outside of their work schedule shall execute a supplemental contract with the appropriate representative of the Employing Agency. The Employer reserves the exclusive right to determine which extracurricular programs are offered and to select persons to carry out the extracurricular activities, additional classes or programs. The supplemental contract shall specify any compensation provided for performing the additional functions. Compensation for extracurricular activities are based on completion of all duties set forth in the posting of the programs. Compensation will be prorated for duties that are not performed. Extracurricular Positions are forfeited during a leave of absence.

The following chart applies only to DYS:

<b>Extracurricular Activities</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
Basketball Coach	\$3,700
Book Club Leader	\$1,300
Cultural Club Leader	\$2,500
Debate Club Leader	\$1,300
Drivers Education Instructor	\$3,500
Environmental Awareness Club Leader	\$1,300
Financial Club Leader	\$1,300
Fine Arts Club Leaders	\$1,300

<b>Extracurricular Activities</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
Football Coach	\$3,700
Freedom School Leader	\$3,500
Political Clubs Leader	\$1,300
Step Team Leader	\$1,300
Student Publication Leader	\$1,300
Subject Specific Club leader	\$1,300
Track and Field Coach	\$2,500

DRC teachers who are issued a supplemental contract to perform the duties of Resident Educatory Summative Assessment (RESA) mentor shall be compensated bi-weekly through their pay as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> year - up to six hundred dollars (\$600) per year, prorated if less than full year service.

2<sup>nd</sup> year - up to five hundred dollars (\$500) per year, prorated if less than full year service.

## **22.02 - Compensation for Employees of the Deaf and Blind Education Services**

All extracurricular activity programs for each ensuing year will be posted for ten (10) days, each March 1. The determination of which extracurricular activity programs are posted is at the discretion of the Employer. If no teachers apply for a posted Extracurricular Position, then the administration will consider other applicants or will seek volunteers before assigning the responsibility to a teacher. When there are multiple applicants equally qualified, seniority will be given consideration.

The administration of ODBES reserves the exclusive right to select persons to carry out the Extra Duty functions. If a teacher is selected to fulfill such extra duties at the request of the administration, the teacher will be compensated at his/her regular hourly rate times the number of hours listed, calculated based on twenty-six (26) biweekly pay periods. Compensation for Extracurricular Positions and for Extra

Duty Assignments are based on completion of all duties set forth in the posting of the programs. Compensation will be prorated for duties that are not performed. Extracurricular Positions and Extra Duty Assignments are forfeited during a leave of absence.

### **OHIO STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND**

<b>Extracurricular Positions</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
Cheerleading	\$2,600
Cheerleading, Assistant	\$2,000
Cheerleading, Little NC	\$1,000
Cheerleading Assistant, Little NC	\$700
Forensics	\$3,300
Forensics, Assistant	\$2,300
Goalball, (Boys)	\$2,400
Goalball, (Girls)	\$2,400
Goalball, Little NC	\$1,000
Goalball Assistant, Little NC	\$700
Leo Club Sponsor	\$1,000
Marching Band Director	\$3,300
Pep Band Director	\$3,300
Student Council Advisor	\$1,600
Swimming, (Girls)	\$3,100
Swimming, (Boys)	\$3,100
Swimming, Little NC	\$1,000
Swimming, Assistant Little NC	\$700
Track, (Boys)	\$2,400
Track, (Girls)	\$2,400
Wrestling	\$2,600
Wrestling, Assistant	\$2,000
Wrestling, Little NC	\$1,000
Wrestling, Assistant Little NC	\$700
Yearbook Sponsor	\$1,600

## OHIO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

<b>Extracurricular Positions</b>	<b>Compensation</b>
Academic Bowl Advisor	\$2,000
Baseball, Varsity	\$2,300
Baseball, Assistant	\$2,000
Basketball, Varsity	\$3,600
Basketball, Assistant	\$2,900
Basketball, Reserve	\$2,500
Basketball, Junior High	\$2,500
Cheerleading, Varsity	\$2,600
Cheerleading, Assistant	\$2,000
Cheerleading, Reserve	\$2,000
Cheerleading, Junior High	\$1,800
Cross Country, Varsity	\$2,300
Drama Director	\$2,000
Drama Assistant Director	\$1,700
Faculty, Manager	\$1,200
Football, Varsity	\$3,400
Football, Assistant	\$3,000
Soccer, Varsity	\$2,900
Soccer, Assistant	\$2,200
Softball, Varsity	\$2,300
Softball, Assistant	\$2,000
Student Body Government Sponsor	\$1,500
Track, Varsity	\$2,400
Track, Assistant	\$2,000
Volleyball, Varsity	\$2,900
Volleyball, Assistant	\$2,200
Wrestling, Varsity	\$2,600
Wrestling, Assistant	\$2,000
Key Club, Sponsor	\$1,000
Yearbook, Sponsor	\$1,600

The extra duties listed below will be paid at the employees' actual base rate of pay in accordance with the schedule set forth in Section 21.05. The administration of ODBES may, at its discretion, provide scheduled time during the workday to carry out extra duty responsibilities in lieu of extra duty pay. The determination will be made at the beginning of the school year.

### **Extra Duties of the Ohio State School for the Blind**

Athletic Director	140 Hours
Early Learning Center Chair	80 Hours
Early Department Chair	80 Hours
High School Department Chair	80 Hours
Multi-Disabilities Department Chair	80 Hours
Related Services Chair	80 Hours
Education Clinic Coordinator	80 Hours
Local Professional Development Committee Member	40 Hours
Psychologist	160 Hours
Behavioral Chair	40 Hours
Resident Educator Coordinator	100 hours
Resident Educator Mentor	80 Hours

### **Extra Duties of the Ohio School for the Deaf**

Athletic Director	140 Hours
Educational Clinic Coordinator(s)	120 Hours
Early Learning Center Chair	80 Hours
Elementary Department Chair	80 Hours
Middle School Department Chair	80 Hours
Multi-Disabilities Department Chair	80 Hours
Related Services Chair	80 Hours
High School Department Chair	80 Hours
Local Professional Development Committee Member	40 Hours
Resident Educator Mentor	80 Hours
Resident Educator Coordinator	100 Hours



### **22.03 - Supplemental Contracts**

Employees who volunteer and are responsible for specific extracurricular activity programs or for additional classes or programs outside of work schedule shall execute a supplemental contract with the appropriate representative of the Employing Agency.

### **22.04 - Selection of Employees Responsible for Extracurricular Activity Programs**

The Employing Agency reserves the right to select employees responsible for extracurricular activity programs, additional classes, or programs.

### **22.05 - Additional Extracurricular Program Activities at the Deaf and Blind Education Services**

If, during the term of this Agreement, additional extracurricular program activities are implemented at ODBES, representatives of the Employing Agency will meet with the Association to discuss compensation levels which should be assigned to the new activities.

## **ARTICLE 23 - HOURS OF WORK**

### **23.01 - Work Day/Work Week/Work Year**

The standard workday for full-time employees of the bargaining unit shall consist of eight (8) hours and the work week shall consist of forty (40) hours. The normal work week shall consist of five (5) consecutive days of work and two (2) consecutive days off. When an employee, at the request of the Employing Agency, works other than five (5) consecutive workdays, said employee may be scheduled to work less than an eight (8) hour day. An employee shall be given seven (7) days written notice of any change in his/her regularly scheduled workday, work hours or work week.

The work year for full-time employees shall be two thousand and eighty (2,080) hours per calendar year except for employees at ODBES, where the work year shall continue to be the academic year.

No article or provision of this Agreement shall prevent

the Employer from limiting the number of persons to be scheduled off work at any one time.

### **23.02 - Meal Period**

The Employing Agency shall reasonably schedule meal periods to meet operational needs. With the exception of employees at DRC and the employees at ODBES, each full-time employee, shall have at least a thirty (30) minute unpaid meal period during which the employee is not required to work. Where the employee and the Employer mutually agree, the employee may work a straight eight (8) hour shift. Employees at ODBES shall have a thirty (30) minute paid meal period during which the employee will not be required to work. An employee who observes a meal period in excess of thirty (30) minutes shall maintain an eight (8) hour workday. Employees required to remain in duty status during a regular meal period are not entitled to overtime or additional compensation for time worked, but may be permitted to flex in accordance with agency policy.

### **23.03 - Rest Periods**

Employees within the classifications of Librarian 1, Librarian 2 and Library Consultant shall ordinarily be granted two (2) fifteen (15) minute rest periods each workday. Such breaks shall be scheduled according to the operating needs of the Employing Agency and will be granted in a manner which will guarantee continuity of service by the Employing Agency.

### **23.04 - Plan Time**

The workday for each employee working in a full-time Teacher, Teaching Coordinator, or Teacher Deaf or Blind position shall include a minimum of forty-five (45) consecutive minutes of planning/conference time daily. Said employees who are required to utilize such plan time by the Employing Agency to perform duties other than planning or conferences shall receive additional compensation for the time they are required to perform non-planning duties during

the scheduled forty-five (45) minute period at base rate of pay. When an employee's daily plan time exceeds forty-five (45) consecutive minutes, said employee may be required to perform duties other than planning or conferences with no additional compensation. The Employing Agency shall not be required to change an employee's schedule, nor shall the Agency/Institution be required to provide additional planning time if the employee's planning time is reduced or eliminated as a result of the employee either requesting to flex or initiating a schedule change. If the flexing/schedule change results in the agency/institution having to assign the employee non-planning duties during the employee's planning time, no additional compensation shall be paid.

#### **23.05 - Call-In Pay**

If a full-time permanent employee is called in to work, after the employee's scheduled hours of work have ended and without prearrangement, the employee shall receive a minimum of four (4) hours of pay at his/her base rate of pay. Those hours worked which directly precede or directly follow the employee's normal workday shall not be considered for the call-in pay provision. In the event the call-in results in the employee being in active pay status for more than 80 hours in that pay period, Section 23.06 below will apply, and the employee is not eligible for overtime pay for these hours, nor shall any call-in hours worked cause or lead to the payment of overtime.

#### **23.06 - Compensatory Time**

It is understood and agreed that determining the need for overtime, scheduling overtime, and requiring overtime are exclusively Employer rights.

Employees shall be exempted from overtime eligibility consistent with the Fair Labor Standards Act and ORC Section 124.18. Employees shall not be eligible for overtime or compensatory time earned in lieu of overtime. They shall only be eligible to earn hour-for-hour overtime-exempt

compensatory time in accordance with agency policy.

Employees may earn hour-for-hour overtime-exempt compensatory time for any authorized hours in active pay status beyond eighty (80) hours in a pay period, except that Teachers of ODBES shall only be eligible for hour-for-hour overtime-exempt compensatory time for any authorized hours in active pay status beyond eighty-five (85) hours in a pay period. Sick leave and any leave used in lieu of sick leave shall not be considered as active pay status for the purposes of this Article.

Compensatory time credit shall be consistent with the statewide policy on compensatory time for overtime exempt employees.

In the event there is a need determined by management to provide library services at DRC and those services cannot be delivered by a librarian who normally performs those duties, coverage may be provided by a Bargaining Unit 10 employee according to the following:

1. Class time should not be cancelled to provide coverage.
2. Additional library work hours should be offered in a shift lasting no less than four (4) hours, but no more than eight (8) hours; if no one accepts the initial offer, then hours less than four (4) hours may be offered;
  - a. Rotation of library opportunities will be by seniority with the first opportunity offered to the most senior employee at the site.
  - b. The next available opportunity will be offered to the next most senior employee at the site who may accept or decline the opportunity. Subsequent opportunities will be offered in descending seniority order.

- c. When the least senior employee has had an opportunity to work additional hours, then the rotation starts over.
  - d. Additional hours worked, regardless of the amount of time worked, will be considered as an opportunity worked in the rotation.
- 3. If no other bargaining unit employees are available or willing to work the additional hours, then the employee may be authorized by management to exceed the eight (8) hour limit.
  - 4. If SCOPE bargaining unit employees have all refused the additional hours, management may offer the hours to other staff.

Requests for the use of compensatory time must be submitted in writing twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the anticipated time off unless the need for such time off is of an emergency nature. Compensatory time must be taken at a time mutually agreeable to the employee and the supervisor. Compensatory time is not available for use until it appears on the employee's earnings statement and on the date the funds are made available.

### **23.07 - Exclusion of Travel Time from Compensatory Time**

With reference to Sections 10.04, 23.06 and 23.07, one half (1/2) hour of travel time will be excluded for the purpose of calculating eligible hours for compensatory time purposes on a day when an employee is not required to report to his/her work site prior to engaging in the travel. Likewise, one-half (1/2) hour of travel time will be excluded for the purpose of calculating eligible hours for compensatory time purposes on a day when an employee is not required to return to his/her work site after engaging in the travel.

### **23.08 - Compensatory Time Accrual**

Any overtime-exempt compensatory time earned shall be consistent with the statewide policy on compensatory time

for overtime exempt employees, as well as the specific terms of Article 23. The maximum accrual of overtime-exempt compensatory time shall be two hundred and forty (240) hours. Compensatory time must be taken within one (1) year of the time being earned. Overtime-exempt compensatory time shall be earned on an hour-for-hour basis and shall have no cash value. Any employee who has accrued compensatory time off and requests use of this compensatory time shall be permitted to use such time off within a reasonable period after making the request. No compensatory time will be granted for work that could have been completed during the forty (40) hour week. It is understood and agreed that determining the need for additional hours that result in earning compensatory time are exclusively Employer rights.

### **23.09 - Extracurricular Program Activity Exclusion**

The provisions of Sections 23.06, 23.07 and 23.08 do not apply to the performance of extracurricular program activities. Extracurricular program activities are compensated pursuant to the terms of Article 22.

### **23.10 - School Calendar**

In those agencies and/or facilities using a school calendar, the Association shall be afforded an opportunity for input so that the concerns of employees may be considered. Once established, school calendars shall not be changed arbitrarily. The subject of school calendars is an appropriate topic for discussion at Agency Labor/Management Committee meetings.

### **23.11 - Flextime**

Where practical and feasible, hours and schedules for bargaining unit employees may include:

1. Variable starting and ending times;
2. Compressed work week, such as four (4) ten (10) hour days;
3. Other flexible hour concepts;
4. Core hours/established schedules.

Flextime arrangements may not be used in an unreasonable manner.

### **23.12 - Student Contact Time**

Student contact time for employees in the Teacher 1-4 and Teaching Coordinator classifications shall be no more than six (6) hours per day. Student contact time is defined as time spent in classroom instructional activity or group instructional activity. The Employer reserves the right during the remaining portions of the workday to assign employees to perform related duties, such as, but not limited to: conferences, curriculum development, testing and treatment team assignments.

### **23.13 - Emergency Leave**

#### **A. Weather Emergency**

Employees directed not to work (e.g., directed not to report to work or sent home from work and not directed to telework) due to a weather emergency as declared by the Director of the Department of Public Safety, shall be granted leave with pay at their regular rate for their scheduled work hours during the duration of the weather emergency. The Director of the Department of Public Safety is the Governor's designee to declare a weather emergency which affects the obligation of State employees to travel to and from work. Employees required to work at the location of the declared emergency (when others are not required to work) during such weather emergency shall receive their total rate of pay for hours worked during the weather emergency. In addition, employees who are required to work at the location of the declared emergency (when others are not required to work) during a weather emergency declared under this section shall receive a stipend of eight dollars (\$8.00) per hour worked. Employees (essential or non-essential) who are teleworking, directed to telework, or directed to work at

an alternative work location shall not be entitled to payment under this Section. An emergency shall be considered to exist when declared by the Director of the Department of Public Safety, for the county, area or facility where an employee lives or works.

For the purpose of this Section, an emergency shall not be considered to be an occurrence which is normal or reasonably foreseeable to the place of employment and/or position description of the employee.

Each year, by the first day of October, all agencies must create and maintain a list of essential employees. Essential employees are those employees whose presence at the work site is critical to maintaining operations during any weather emergency. Essential employees normally consist of a skeletal crew of employees necessary to maintain essential office functions, such as those State employees who are essential to maintaining security, health and safety, and critical office operations.

Employees who are designated as essential employees shall be advised of the designation and provided appropriate documentation. Essential employees shall be advised that they should expect to work during weather emergencies unless otherwise advised. However, they are not guaranteed work. Nothing in this section prevents an Appointing Authority from using his or her discretion in directing essential employees not to work or sending them home (on leave or to telework) once a weather emergency has been declared. Essential employees who do not report when required during an emergency must show cause that they were prevented from reporting because of the emergency. Employees not designated essential may be required to work during a weather emergency.

During the year, extreme weather conditions may



exist and roadway emergencies may be declared by local sheriffs in certain counties, yet no formal weather emergency is declared by the Director of the Department of Public Safety and state public offices remain open. Should this situation occur, Agency directors and department heads are encouraged to exercise their judgment and discretion to permit non-essential employees to use any accrued vacation, personal or compensatory leave, if such employees choose not to come to work due to extenuating circumstances caused by extreme weather conditions. Non-essential employees with no or inadequate accrued leave may be granted leave without pay. Nothing in this Section prevents an Appointing Authority from using his/her discretion to temporarily reassign non-essential employees to indoor job duties, consistent with their job classification, or to an alternative location so that such employees are not performing unnecessary road- or travel-related duties during days or shifts of especially inclement weather.

## **B. Other Than Weather Emergency**

Employees not designated essential may be required to work during an emergency. When an emergency, other than weather emergency, is declared by the Director of the Department of Public Safety and administrative leave with pay is granted for employees not required to work during the declared emergency, such declarations may be for circumstances where the health or safety of an employee or of any person or property entrusted to the employee's care could be adversely affected. Payment for hours worked for other than weather emergencies for employees required to work at the location of the declared emergency (when others are not required to work), shall be at their total rate of pay, as well as an additional stipend of eight

dollars (\$8.00) per hour worked. Employees (essential or non-essential) who are teleworking, directed to telework, or directed to work at an alternative work location shall not be entitled to payment under this Section.

## **ARTICLE 24 - TEMPORARY WORKING LEVEL**

### **24.01 - Temporary Working Level**

The Employing Agency may temporarily assign an employee within one of the classification titles listed in Sections 21.03 and 21.04 to duties of a position with a higher pay range. If the temporary assignment is for a continuous period in excess of four (4) days, the affected employee shall receive a pay adjustment which increases the employee's step rate of pay to the greater either of the classification salary base of the higher-level position or a rate of pay which is approximately four percent (4%) above his/her current rate of compensation. This pay adjustment shall in no way affect the longevity pay supplement where applicable, which shall be calculated using the employee's normal classification salary base. The employee shall receive the pay adjustment for the duration of the temporary assignment.

The Employing Agency shall not place an employee in a temporary assignment more than once in any one (1) year period.

The Employing Agency shall not extend a temporary assignment beyond one hundred and twenty (120) days unless the Employing Agency has given prior approval and the temporary assignment is being utilized to fill a position which is vacant as a result of an approved disability leave. The temporary assignment in such instance may be extended for the entire period of the vacancy which was the result of an approved disability leave.

An employee temporarily assigned to a position excluded from the bargaining unit shall maintain his/her seniority and grievance rights within the bargaining unit for

the period of his/her assignment and shall also be subject to Article 4 of this Agreement. An employee cannot act in the capacity of an Association official or Site Representative while serving in a position excluded from the bargaining unit.

## **ARTICLE 25 - SERVICE CREDIT**

### **25.01- Service Credit**

Employees hired prior to July 1, 1986 shall maintain service credit calculated as total service with the State or any of its political subdivisions.

Employees originally appointed on or after July 1, 1986 shall only receive service credit for employment with the State in any Agency, board, commission or department where such employment is paid directly by warrant of the Director of OBM.

Service credit shall be utilized to calculate vacation accrual.

For purposes of vacation accrual only, effective July 1, 2010, employees who provide valid documentation to their Agency's Human Resources department shall receive credit for prior service with the state, the Ohio National Guard, or any political subdivision of the state for purposes of computing vacation leave in accordance with ORC Section 9.44. This new rate shall take effect starting the pay period immediately following the pay period that includes the date that DAS processes and approves their request. Time spent concurrently with the Ohio National Guard and a State Agency or political subdivision shall not count double.

Additionally, for the purposes of vacation accrual only, employees in the Librarian 1, Librarian 2, Library Consultant and Teacher Librarian/Ed Media 1-4 (7122) classifications shall receive service credit for total service with public libraries in the State of Ohio defined as: Libraries supported by the Library and Local Government Support Fund (LLGSF) and libraries in publicly supported Ohio academic institutions.

## **ARTICLE 26 - SICK LEAVE**

### **26.01 - Definitions**

- A. “Pay Period”** means the fourteen (14) day period of time during which the payroll is accumulated, consisting of two (2) consecutive work weeks.
- B. “Active Pay Status”** means the conditions under which an employee is eligible to receive pay, and includes, but is not limited to, paid leave such as, vacation leave, sick leave and personal leave.
- C. “No Pay Status”** means the conditions under which an employee is ineligible to receive pay, and includes, but is not limited to unpaid leave, such as leave without pay, leave of absence, and disability leave.
- D. “Immediate Family”** means an employee’s spouse or significant other (significant other as used in the Agreement is defined to mean one who stands in place of a spouse and resides with the employee), parents, children, grandparents, siblings, grandchildren, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law, step-child, step-parent, step-sibling, legal guardian or other person who stands in place of a parent (in loco parentis).

### **26.02 - Sick Leave Accrual**

All employees shall accrue sick leave at the base rate of three and one-tenth (3.1) hours for each eighty (80) hours in active pay status, excluding overtime hours, for a maximum of eighty (80) hours per year.

Part-time employees shall receive three and one tenth (3.1) hours for each eighty (80) hours of completed service.

Employees that are on approved leave of absence or receiving Workers’ Compensation benefits shall be credited with those sick leave hours which they normally would have accrued upon their approved return to work.

### **26.03 - Charge of Sick Leave**

Sick leave used shall be charged in minimum units of one tenth (1/10) hour. Employees shall be charged sick leave only for the days and hours for which they would have otherwise been regularly scheduled to work. Sick leave shall not exceed the amount of time an employee would have been scheduled to work in any pay period.

### **26.04 - Compensation for Charged Sick Leave**

Compensation for charged sick leave accumulated and credited shall be at one hundred percent (100%) of the employee's regular rate of pay. A new usage period will begin with the paycheck that includes December 1st. A new usage period will begin each year of the Agreement.

Employees may elect to utilize sick leave to supplement an approved disability leave or Childbirth/Adoption Leave pursuant to Sections 28.01 and 28.07(C).

### **26.05 - Notification for Use of Sick Leave and Notification for Extended Sick Leave**

#### **A. Notification**

An employee who is unable to report for work, and who is not on a previously approved day of vacation, sick leave or personal leave of absence, shall be responsible for notifying the employee's immediate supervisor or other individuals designated by the Employer that he/she will be unable to report for work. The notification must be made no later than one-half (1/2) hour after the time the employee is scheduled to work, unless emergency conditions prevent such notification. If operational needs of a work facility require a different notification time, the Appointing Authority, may establish a reasonable notification time requirement not to exceed one (1) hour prior to the time the employee is scheduled to work. The Appointing Authority shall be responsible for informing all employees of the applicable notification policy. Failure to notify the Employer in accordance with the

provisions of this paragraph shall result in the employee forfeiting any rights to pay for the time period which elapsed prior to notification unless unusual extenuating circumstances existed to prevent such notification.

#### **B. Notification for Extended Sick Leave.**

In the case of a condition exceeding seven (7) consecutive calendar days, a physician's statement specifying the employee's inability to report to work and the probable date of recovery is routinely required.

1. When institutionalization or hospitalization is required, the employee shall be responsible for notifying the supervisor or other designated individual upon admission to and discharge from an institution or hospital, unless emergency conditions prevent such notification;
2. When convalescence at home is required, the employee shall be responsible for notifying his/her supervisor or other individual designated by the Appointing Authority at the start and termination of such period of convalescence.

### **26.06 - Sick Leave Uses, Evidence of Use and Abuse**

#### **A. Uses**

With the approval of an employee's Appointing Authority, sick leave may be used by employees for the following reasons:

1. Illness, injury, or pregnancy-related condition of the employee;
2. Exposure of an employee to a contagious disease which could be communicated to and jeopardize the health of other employees;
3. Examination of the employee including medical, psychological, dental or optical examination by an appropriate practitioner;

4. Death of a member of the employee's immediate family; such usage shall be limited to a reasonably necessary time, not to exceed five (5) days;
5. Illness, injury, or pregnancy-related condition of a member of the employee's immediate family where the employee's presence is reasonably necessary for the health and welfare of the employee or affected family member;
6. Examination, including medical, psychological, dental, or optical examination, of a member of the employee's immediate family where the employee's presence is reasonably necessary.

## **B. Sick Leave Policy**

It is the policy of the State of Ohio to not unreasonably deny sick leave to employees when requested. It is also the policy of the State to take corrective action for unauthorized use of sick leave and/or abuse of sick leave. It is further the policy of the State that when corrective and/or disciplinary action is taken, it will be applied progressively and consistently.

It is the desire of the State of Ohio that when discipline is applied it will serve the purpose of correcting the performance of the employee.

## **I. Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to establish a consistent method of authorizing employee sick leave, defining inappropriate use of sick leave and outlining the discipline and corrective action for inappropriate use. The policy provides for the equitable treatment of employees without being arbitrary and capricious, while allowing management the ability to exercise its administrative discretion fairly and consistently.

## **II. Definition**

### **A. Sick Leave:**

Absence granted per negotiated contract for medical reasons.

### **B. Unauthorized Use of Sick Leave:**

1. Failure to notify supervisor of medical absence;
2. Failure to complete standard sick leave form;
3. Failure to provide physician's verification when required;
4. Fraudulent physician verification.

### **C. Misuse of Sick Leave:**

Use of sick leave for that which it was not intended or provided.

### **D. Pattern Abuse:**

Consistent periods of sick leave usage, for example:

1. Before and/or after holidays.
2. Before and/or after weekends or regular days off;
3. After pay days;
4. Any one specific day;
5. Absence following overtime worked;
6. Half days;
7. Continued pattern of maintaining zero (0) or near zero (0) leave balances; or
8. Excessive absenteeism

## **III. Procedure**

### **A. Physician's Verification**

At the Agency Head or designee's discretion, in consultation with the Labor Relations Officer, the employee may be required to provide a statement, from a physician, who has examined the employee or the member of the employee's immediate family, for all future illness. The physician's statement shall be signed by the physician or his/her designee. This requirement shall be in effect until such time as the



employee has accrued a reasonable sick leave balance. However, if the Agency Head or designee finds mitigating or extenuating circumstances surrounding the employee's use of sick leave, then the physician's verification need not be required.

Should the Agency Head or designee find it necessary to require the employee to provide the physician's verification for future illnesses, the order will be made in writing using the "Physician's Verification" form with a copy to the employee's personnel file.

Those employees who have been required to provide a physician's verification will be considered for approval only if the physician's verification is provided within three (3) days after returning to work.

## **B. Unauthorized Use or Abuse of Sick Leave**

When unauthorized use or abuse of sick leave is substantiated, the Agency Head or designee will affect corrective and progressive discipline, keeping in mind any extenuating or mitigating circumstances.

When progressive discipline reaches the first suspension, under this policy, a corrective counseling session will be conducted with the employee. The Agency Head or designee and Labor Relations Officer will jointly explain the serious consequences of continued unauthorized use or abuse of sick leave. The Agency Head or designee shall be available and receptive to a request for Ohio EAP in accordance with Section 7.13 (Ohio EAP). If the above does not produce the desired positive change in performance, the Agency Head or designee will proceed with progressive discipline up to and including termination.

### **C. Pattern Abuse**

If an employee abuses sick leave in a pattern, per examples noted in the section under definitions (not limited to those listed), the Agency Head or designee may reasonably suspect pattern abuse. If it is suspected, the Agency Head or designee will notify the employee in writing that pattern abuse is suspected. The Agency Head or designee will use the "Pattern Abuse" form for notification. The notice will also invite the employee to explain, rebut, or refute the pattern abuse claim. Use of sick leave for valid reasons shall not be considered for pattern abuse.

#### **26.07 - Inadequate Sick Leave**

If any disabling illness or injury continues past the time for which an employee has accumulated sick leave, the Appointing Authority may authorize a leave of absence without pay or, if the employee is eligible, recommend disability leave benefits.

#### **26.08 - Carry Over and Conversion**

Employees will be offered the opportunity to convert to cash any part of their sick leave accrued and not used for the proceeding twelve (12) month period. Payment will be made in the first paycheck in December each year. The cash conversion of the sick leave accrued and not used for the usage period in the subsequent years of this Agreement shall be at the following rate:

<b>Number of Hours Subject to Cash Conversion</b>	<b>Percentage of Regular Rate</b>
80	80%
72 to 79.9	75%
64 to 71.9	70%
56 to 63.9	65%
48 to 55.9	60%
47.9 and less	55%

The payment shall be paid in the first pay received in December of each of the subsequent years of the Agreement.

**26.09 - Limitations of Conversion of Sick Leave at Year's End**

- A.** All sick leave balances that are carried forward are excluded from further cash benefits provided by this paragraph. The failure of an employee to utilize one of the sick leave conversion options listed in Section 26.08 shall result in the automatic carry-forward of any balance of accrued sick leave;
- B.** Any cash benefit conversions of sick leave made at year's end under the provisions of this Article shall not be subject to contributions to any of the retirement systems either by the employee or the Employer;
- C.** An employee eligible to receive a cash benefit conversion of accrued sick leave at year's end must indicate the desire to convert any sick leave no later than the end of the pay period that includes the first day of November. Each Appointing Authority shall be responsible for reporting the conversion requests to DAS.

**26.10 - Conversion of Sick Leave Upon Separation from Service**

- A.** An eligible employee who has a minimum of five (5) years of State service with the State of Ohio shall be entitled, upon separation for any reason, to a cash conversion benefit for unused accrued sick leave pursuant to the provisions of this Article. For purposes of this Article the term "separation" shall mean any voluntary or involuntary termination from service, including resignation, retirement, removal from service, and reduction in force, but does not include death of an employee.

**B. Conversion to cash benefit of accumulated sick leave credit.**

1. General: An employee who has accumulated sick leave under the provisions of this Article shall be entitled to cash benefit conversion of the accumulated unused sick leave balance upon separation of service.
2. Eligibility: An eligible employee about to separate or who has separated from State service shall designate in writing the percentage or portion of his/her sick leave credit accumulation that he/she desires to convert to cash. If an eligible employee designates a percentage or portion less than the total of his/her accumulated sick leave, the percentage or portion of the accumulated sick leave not converted may be reinstated to the employee's sick leave balance upon the employee's reinstatement or reemployment to State service. If an employee fails to designate the portion or percentage of the accumulated sick leave he/she desires to convert to the cash benefit, the entire amount of sick leave accumulation shall be converted to cash benefit.
3. Payment: Payment for that percentage or portion of accrued sick leave an employee desires to convert to a cash benefit shall be made at the employee's regular rate of pay earned at the time of separation, within three (3) years of separation, at the rate of fifty-five percent (55%) for retirement separation and fifty percent (50%) for all other separations.
4. Effective date: All employees hired on or after July 1, 1986 may convert to cash only those hours of sick leave earned in State agencies,

i.e., those agencies whose employees are paid directly by warrant of the Director of OBM.

**C. Full-Time Employee Returning to State Service**

A full-time employee returning to State service, within ten (10) years of separation, after receipt of a lump sum payment for the unused sick leave may buy back all or a portion of such leave from the Employer by returning the amount paid for the number of days to be restored.

**D. Conversion Upon the Death of an Employee**

In the case of death of an employee, the employee's unused sick leave shall be converted to cash. The cash conversion of unused sick leave shall be paid in accordance with Section 2113.04 of the ORC in effect at the time of this Agreement to his/her estate.

**26.11 - Transfer of Sick Leave Credit**

- A.** An employee who has transferred from one (1) Employing Agency to another shall be credited with his/her unused balance of the accumulated sick leave.
- B.** Each employee who was employed by any State Agency, board, commission or department and whose wage was paid directly by warrant of the Director of OBM shall have previously accumulated sick leave balance placed to his/her credit upon reemployment in the aforementioned provided that such reemployment takes place within ten (10) years of the date of which the employee was last terminated from public service. The employee shall be responsible for notifying the Appointing Authority of the amount of unconverted creditable sick leave and the employee shall provide reasonable documentation in support of any such claim. Upon request by an employee, previous Appointing Authorities shall provide the employee

with adequate documentation regarding the previously accumulated sick leave of which the Appointing Authority is aware;

- C. Employees hired after July 1, 1986 who have previous service with political subdivisions of the State may use sick leave accrued with such prior Employers, but shall not be permitted to convert such sick leave to cash either at year's end or upon separation from State service.

## **26.12 - Sick Leave Administration Policy**

The parties acknowledge that the Employer retains the right to establish a fair and reasonable absence control policy. Such policy shall not be arbitrary or capricious and shall not conflict with the provisions of this contract. A policy may include a provision for a physicians' verification requirement in cases of abuse or excessive use of sick leave.

## **26.13 - Leave Donation Program**

Employees may donate paid leave to a fellow employee who is otherwise eligible to accrue and use sick leave and is employed by the same Agency. The intent of the leave donation program is to allow employees to voluntarily provide assistance to their co-workers who are in critical need of leave due to the serious illness or injury of the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family. The definition of immediate family as provided in Section 123:1-47-01 of the OAC shall apply for the leave donation program.

- A. An employee may receive donated leave, up to the number of hours the employee is scheduled to work each pay period, if the employee who is to receive donated leave or a member of the employee's immediate family has a serious illness or injury:
  - 1. Has no accrued leave or has not been approved to receive other State-paid benefits; and
  - 2. Has applied for any paid leave, Workers' Compensation, or benefits program for which

the employee is eligible. Employees who have applied for these programs may use donated leave to satisfy the waiting period for such benefits where applicable, and donated leave may be used following a waiting period, if one exists, in an amount equal to the benefit provided by the program (i.e., fifty-three and six tenths hours (53.6) per pay period may be utilized by an employee who has satisfied the disability waiting period and is pending approval, this is equal to the sixty-seven percent (67%) benefit provided by disability).

- B.** Employees may donate leave if the donating employee:
  - 1. Voluntarily elects to donate leave and does so with the understanding that donated leave will not be returned;
  - 2. Donates a minimum of eight (8) hours; and
  - 3. Retains a combined leave balance of at least eighty (80) hours. Leave shall be donated in the same manner in which it would otherwise be used except that compensatory time is not eligible for donation.
- C.** The leave donation program shall be administered on a pay period by pay period basis. Employees using donated leave shall be considered in active pay status and shall accrue leave and be entitled to any benefits to which they would otherwise be entitled. Leave accrued by an employee while using donated leave shall be used, if necessary, in the following pay period before additional donated leave may be received. Donated leave shall not count toward the probationary period of an employee who receives donated leave during his or her probationary period. Donated leave shall be

considered sick leave, but shall never be converted into a cash benefit.

- D.** Employees who wish to donate leave shall certify:
  - 1. The name of the employee for whom the donated leave is intended;
  - 2. The type of leave and number of hours to be donated;
  - 3. That the employee will have a minimum combined leave balance of at least eighty (80) hours; and
  - 4. That the leave is donated voluntarily and the employee understands that the donated leave will not be returned.
- E.** Appointing authorities shall ensure that no employees are forced to donate leave. Appointing authorities shall respect an employee's right to privacy, however appointing authorities may, with the permission of the employee who is in need of leave or a member of the employee's immediate family, inform employees of their co-worker's critical need for leave. Appointing authorities shall not directly solicit leave donations from employees. The donation of leave shall occur on a strictly voluntary basis.
- F.** Employees at participating Agencies are eligible to donate to and receive leave from the statewide paid leave donation program.

## **26.14 - Leave Availability**

Newly accrued sick leave is not available for use until it appears on the employee's earnings statement and on the date the funds are made available.

## **ARTICLE 27 - PERSONAL LEAVE**

### **27.01 - Eligibility for Personal Leave**

Each full-time employee shall be eligible for personal leave with pay at his/her regular rate of pay.



## **27.02 - Personal Leave Accrual**

Employees shall be entitled to four (4) personal leave days each year. Eight (8) hours of personal leave shall be credited to each employee in the first earnings statement which the employee receives after the first day of January, April, July and October of each year. Full-time employees who are hired after the start of a calendar quarter shall be credited with personal leave on a prorated basis. Part-time employees shall accrue personal leave on a prorated basis. Proration shall be based upon a formula of point zero one five (.015) hours per hour of non-overtime work.

Employees that are on approved paid leave of absence, union leave or receiving Workers' Compensation benefits shall be credited with those personal leave hours which they normally would have accrued upon approved return to work.

## **27.03 - Compensation**

Compensation for personal leave shall be equal to an employee's regular rate of pay.

## **27.04 - Charge of Personal Leave**

Each instance of approved personal leave which is used by an employee shall be charged in an initial minimum unit of two (2) hours; personal leave used after the initial two (2) hour minimum unit shall be charged in units of one tenth (1/10) hour. Personal leave may only be used in an initial increment other than two (2) hours if the employee is using personal leave to supplement pay during disability leave, workers' compensation, or childbirth/adoption leave. Employees shall be charged personal leave only for the days and hours for which they would have otherwise been scheduled to work but shall not include scheduled overtime.

## **27.05 - Notification and Approval of Use of Personal Leave**

Employees may be granted personal leave for absences due to mandatory court appearances, legal or business matters, family emergencies, unusual family concerns,

medical appointments, weddings, religious holidays or any other matter of a personal nature upon giving forty-eight (48) hours' notice, to include one (1) full work day, in writing to the supervisor. In emergency situations, requests may be granted with a shorter notice. Requests for the use of personal leave shall not be unreasonably denied.

When any bargaining unit, not covered by this Agreement, has filed a Notice of intent to strike or engages in a wildcat strike, the Employer reserves the right to cancel or deny all personal leave requests.

Personal leave shall not be taken on a holiday.

#### **27.06 - Prohibitions**

Personal leave may not be used to extend an employee's date of resignation or date of retirement. Personal leave may not be used to extend an employee's active pay status for the purpose of accruing overtime or compensatory time.

#### **27.07 - Conversion or Carry Forward of Personal Leave at Year's End**

Personal leave not used prior to the pay period which includes December 1, may be carried forward or paid at the employee's option.

An employee shall have, pursuant to the following provisions, the option to:

- A.** Carry forward the balance of personal leave up to a maximum of forty (40) hours.
- B.** Convert the balance of personal leave to accumulated sick leave.
- C.** Receive a cash benefit conversion for the unused balance of personal leave. The cash conversion shall equal one (1) hour at the employee's base rate of pay for every one (1) hour of unused credit that is converted.

An employee eligible to receive a cash conversion of accrued personal leave at year's end must indicate his/her desire to convert any personal leave no later than the end of

the pay period that includes the first day of November. The Director of each department shall be responsible for reporting the conversion requests to DAS.

#### **27.08 - Conversion of Personal Leave Upon Separation from Service**

An employee shall be entitled, upon separation for any reason, to a cash conversion for unused personal leave pursuant to the provisions of this Article.

An employee who has accrued personal leave under the provisions of this Article shall be entitled to, upon separation of service, a cash conversion for all earned personal leave. Payment for unused earned personal leave shall be at a rate equal to an employee's base rate of pay.

The Director of each department shall be responsible for notifying employees of right to convert earned personal leave upon separation. This notification shall be written.

If an employee, who has separated from State service and has received cash benefits for personal leave pursuant to the provisions of this Article, is reinstated or reemployed in State service he/she shall be granted reinstatement of personal leave converted to a cash benefit if the employee so desires to purchase back the leave.

#### **27.09 - Transfer of Personal Leave**

An employee who transfers from one State Agency to another shall be credited with the unused balance of his/her personal leave.

#### **27.10 - Death of an Employee**

Payment of unused earned personal leave to the estate of a deceased employee shall be done in accordance with the procedure provided by ORC Section 2113.04 consistent with Section 27.08 above.

#### **27.11 - Leave Availability**

Newly accrued personal leave is not available for use until it appears on the employee's earnings statement and on the date the funds are made available.

## **ARTICLE 28 - PAID LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

### **28.01 - Disability Leave**

#### **Eligibility**

Eligibility and administration of disability benefits shall be pursuant to current Ohio law and the Administrative Rules of DAS except for the following modifications and clarifications:

- A.** Any full-time permanent employee with a disabling illness, injury, or condition that will last more than fourteen (14) consecutive days AND who has completed one (1) year of continuous State service immediately prior to the date of the disability may be eligible for disability leave benefits.
- B.** To be eligible for disability leave benefits, an employee must be: 1.) in active pay status or approved sick leave, 2.) on approved disability leave, 3.) on approved leave of absence without pay for personal medical reasons or 4.) disability separated. Employees alleging conditions precluded by OAC Section 123:1-33-01(I) are not eligible for disability benefits, unless the exceptions of the section are met. An application for disability benefits based on a diagnosis of a mental disorder, including but not limited to, psychosis, mood disorders, and anxiety, must be confirmed by a licensed mental health provider authorized by the Employer's mental health administrator. Where the initial application is accompanied by the opinion of such provider, it shall be processed accordingly. However, where the diagnosis is submitted by any other medical professional, the Employer shall make expeditious arrangements for the required examination by the licensed mental health provider. Approval of the application will be contingent upon receipt of substantiation from such provider. In the

event the examination is outside the parameters of the employee's mental healthcare plan, the cost of the examination shall be borne by the Employer.

- C. Part-time employees who have worked fifteen hundred (1,500) or more hours within the twelve (12) calendar months preceding disability shall be entitled to disability benefits based upon the average regular weekly earnings for weeks worked over that twelve (12) month period.
- D. Effective for all new claims filed on or after July 1, 2009, disability benefits will be paid at sixty-seven percent (67%) of the employee's base rate of pay up to a lifetime maximum of twelve (12) months. The lifetime maximum of twelve (12) months began with any new claim filed on or after March 1, 2006. All employees receiving payments under Section 28.01 prior to July 1, 2009, shall be paid according to the terms of Section 28.01 contained in the Collective Bargaining Agreement which expired on June 30, 2009.
- E. Employees will participate in Transitional Work Programs mutually agreed to by the parties and as provided for in the applicable administrative rules. The Employer agrees that Transitional Work Programs will not violate the provisions of the FMLA.
- F. Pursuant to OAC Section 123:1-33-01(I), employees who have been denied Workers' Compensation lost time benefits for an initial claim, may file an application for disability leave benefits within twenty (20) days from the notification by the Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) of the denial of an initial claim.
- G. Disability separations shall be made pursuant to OAC Section 123:1-33. The Employer's decision to

disability separate an employee or to deny reinstatement from an involuntary disability separation shall not be grievable but shall be exclusively subject to appeal through the SPBR.

- H.** In the event an employee submits an application for disability leave after either 1.) the employee has received notice that he/she is under investigation for possible disciplinary action or 2.) where an investigation regarding the employee is actively underway, disability payments may be held in abeyance subject to the following procedure: The Agency shall promptly notify the DAS that 1.) an investigation is underway, 2.) the date that the investigation was initiated, 3.) the basis of the investigation and 4.) why access to the employee is necessary for completion of the investigation. A copy of the disability leave application and all accompanying documentation shall be forwarded with the notification. In the event that DAS concurs that the disability payments should be held in abeyance, DAS shall notify the employee, by regular and certified mail, that the disability payments shall not be processed until the completion of the investigation. An investigatory interview pursuant to Section 13.02 of the collective bargaining agreement shall be scheduled no more than thirty (30) days after the Agency files the investigation for possible discipline with DAS. The matter shall then be subject to the constraints of Article 13 of the collective bargaining agreement. Upon completion of the investigatory interview, or the thirty (30) day period, payments may be made, providing the application qualifies for eligibility. However, if the investigation cannot be completed as a result of the employee's absence, the

investigatory interview shall be cancelled, and the application shall be denied. Said denial shall not prevent the submission of a new application, subject to the above same requirements. This Section shall not be applicable where the absence, and subsequent disability, is the result of hospitalization for more than five (5) days for a serious medical condition. If an application for disability benefits is pending and/or has been approved prior to the initiation of the investigation, this Section shall not be applicable.

### **Disability Review**

The Employer shares the concern of the Association and employees over the need to expeditiously and confidentially process disability leave claims.

The Employer and the Association shall continue to review such concerns as time frames, paper flow, and possible refinement of procedural mechanisms for disability claim approval.

### **Information Dissemination**

The Employer recognizes the need to standardize the communication of information regarding disability benefits and application procedures. To that end, the Employer and DAS shall produce explanatory materials which shall be made available to Association representatives, stewards or individual employees upon request.

### **Orientation**

The Association and the Employer developed a disability orientation program, focusing on eligibility requirements, for Association representatives so that they may train stewards as part of the information dissemination effort.

### **Insurance Providers and Third-Party Administrators**

In the event that the administration of the disability program is conducted by a private insurance carrier or a third-

party administrator the administration shall be conducted in accordance with insurance industry underwriting procedures and standards without reducing benefits or eligibility requirements as provided in this Agreement.

The Employer reserves the right to contract with a licensed mental health adjudicator to evaluate and approve or disapprove applications for disability leave based on any form of mental disorder as provided in Section 28.01.

## **28.02 - Occupational Injury Leave**

### **I. Definitions**

- A. Allowed Psychological Condition:** A psychological condition, diagnosed by a psychiatrist or psychologist chosen from the “Approved Physician” list that develops after and is related to the allowed physical condition.
- B. Allowed Physical Condition:** A physical condition diagnosed by an “Approved Physician” that arises from an injury inflicted by a ward as defined below. The physical condition includes the substantial aggravation of a pre-existing condition, if such aggravation arises from an injury inflicted by a ward.
- C. Approved Physician:** A physician who is designated on a list compiled through the agreement of both parties for the purpose of diagnosing, evaluating and treating the condition within seven (7) calendar days of the original “Date of Injury.” The employee shall continue to be treated by an “Approved Physician” until the employee is approved to return to work or the employee’s OIL benefits are exhausted. If the employee is unable to schedule an appointment for an initial diagnosis with an Approved Physician within forty-eight (48) hours of the injury, the employee must notify the Agency Workers’ Compensation representative



immediately. If the employee's injury is of a nature which requires an Emergency Room visit, the employee may be initially diagnosed and evaluated by the Emergency Room doctor. Thereafter, if additional treatment is required, the employee must consult an Approved Physician within a reasonable period of time.

**D. Conclusively Establish:** The facts show that it was more likely than not that the events giving rise to this claim occurred.

**E. Date of Injury:** The date the events triggering this claim occurred.

**F. Inflicted By:** Injured by a ward of the State:

1. In an attempt to subdue, control or restrain a ward's inappropriate behavior, or
2. As the result of being physically harmed in the course of the employee's duty, as long as the injury was not accidental in nature or as a result of the employee's own misconduct or negligence; or
3. During pursuit of the ward in such circumstances where a ward attempts to flee following the aforementioned inappropriate behavior.

**G. Totally Disabled:** The inability to perform sustained remunerative employment or other activity(ies) that are consistent with his/her medical/psychological restrictions while receiving OIL benefits due to the allowed conditions of the claim.

**H. Ward:** An inmate, patient, resident, client, youth or student.

## **II. Eligibility for Occupational Injury Leave (OIL)**

Each permanent employee of DRC, DYS, and ODBES is eligible to request OIL benefits in addition to his/her claim

for workers' compensation. These employees must have sustained an allowed physical condition inflicted by a ward in the above agencies, in the course of, and arising out of, the injured employee's employment. Where an aggravation of a pre-existing condition is alleged, the BWC/Industrial Commission (IC) will determine if the injury results in a new claim or a continuation of an existing claim. Employees receiving OIL are in active pay status.

In order for an employee to qualify for OIL benefits under this Section, the injured worker shall:

1. Follow the respective Agency's accident reporting guidelines;
2. Obtain an OIL application, if applicable, from the designated location at his/her institution or the employee's immediate supervisor. This location shall be posted prominently for all shifts;
3. Complete and submit the employee section of the OIL application, if applicable, within twenty (20) calendar days from the date of injury. If the employee is medically unable to complete the application, he/she may have someone acting on his/her behalf complete the employee section of the application for him/her;
4. Provide the approved physician with the appropriate DAS Physician's Statement form and follow-up with Approved Physician to ensure the form is submitted appropriately; and
5. File a workers' compensation claim at the same time the employee requests OIL benefits.

### **III. Processing of the OIL Application**

In order to receive OIL benefits in lieu of Workers' Compensation Temporary Total Disability Compensation (TTD), the employee must conclusively establish that an allowed physical condition was "inflicted by" a ward in the course of, and arising out of, the injured employee's

employment. The burden of proving the truth of the facts as alleged as well as proof of timely medical treatment shall be on the employee and shall further include any other elements of proof necessary for the allowance of this claim.

If the injury is found to be accidental in nature, or to have arisen from the misbehavior or negligence on the part of the employee, the OIL benefits shall not be awarded and any benefits received must be repaid in accordance with Section 28.02, Section IV.

Within five (5) business days of receipt of the request for OIL benefits, the Employer shall notify the DAS designee if the Employer 1.) agrees with the OIL benefits request; 2.) disagrees with the OIL benefits request; or 3.) has the OIL benefits request under investigation and forward the application. The DAS designee will immediately review the application for payment of OIL benefits.

The Employer shall make a good faith effort to complete any investigation of an OIL benefits request within twenty (20) calendar days and notify the DAS designee of their findings. Allowance or denial of OIL claims must be documented in writing and provided to the employee.

#### **IV. Administration of OIL Benefits**

An employee receiving OIL benefits shall be eligible for his/her total rate of pay during the period of time that there is medical evidence establishing that the employee is totally disabled as the result of the work injury. The employee shall submit medical documentation from an Approved Physician supporting the extent of disability. OIL will be payable for an allowed psychological condition that is found to be related to an allowed physical condition(s).

The OIL benefit will be paid pending the initial determination of the OIL claim. The total hours of OIL shall not exceed nine hundred and sixty (960) hours per OIL claim without exception. Part-time employees shall be limited to a pro-ration of the nine hundred and sixty (960) hours based on

their regularly scheduled work hours. OIL shall be paid in lieu of Workers' Compensation TTD benefits. If the employee accepts TTD compensation from BWC for the injury or the IC determines that the employee has reached maximum medical improvement, such employee will not be eligible to receive OIL benefits. Any requests for additional allowances to a claim shall be approved by the BWC/IC prior to processing an extension of OIL benefits. Clarification of the diagnosis from the Approved Physician or a request for extension of benefits from the Approved Physician shall not be considered an additional allowance. Initial denial of the OIL claim ends the payment of the OIL benefit.

If the employee's OIL claim is denied, but the employee's Workers' Compensation claim is still pending, the employee may be eligible for Salary Continuation, not to exceed four hundred and eighty (480) hours. Any hours previously paid to the employee under OIL will be counted toward the four hundred and eighty (480) hours. If the employee's OIL claim is denied or if the employee is disqualified from receiving OIL benefits, the employee must, after all administrative appeals have been exhausted, either substitute sick, vacation, or personal leave, or reimburse the Employer any OIL benefits received during the period of time from the date of injury until the final administrative determination. The Agency will work with the employee to determine if leave will be deducted or to set up a repayment procedure.

An employee receiving OIL benefits shall accrue sick leave and personal leave but shall not accrue vacation leave. Pay under OIL shall not be charged to the employee's accumulation of sick leave. The employee is not eligible to use leave balances while receiving OIL. The employee is not eligible for other paid leaves, including holiday pay and those under Article 28, while receiving OIL.

Once an employee's OIL application has been approved,

the employee shall not be subject to the Agency's daily call-off procedures or any other absentee requirements that are not included in this Section, unless the employee is participating in the Transitional Return to Work program. The employee is responsible for notifying the Agency of their expected return to work date.

## **V. Appeal of the Denial of an OIL Claim**

If an employee's request for OIL benefits is completely denied, the employee may appeal the denial through the process detailed below. The employee shall not have rights under the Article 5 grievance procedure. In the event an Article 5 grievance is filed concerning an OIL issue, a copy of the grievance shall be forwarded to DAS benefits to process as an appeal and the grievance will be closed in the grievance system. In the event a non-OIL issue(s) is also alleged in the grievance, said issue shall be separated from the appeal and processed pursuant to Article 5.

If the employee has been receiving OIL benefits pending determination of the claim, the benefits will end with the initial denial and the employee will not be eligible for any OIL benefits during the appeal process. The employee may be eligible for Salary Continuation during the appeal process, which may not exceed four hundred and eighty (480) hours.

Within twenty (20) calendar days from the date the initial denial letter is postmarked, the employee must submit a letter to DAS Benefits, attaching any additional information to support his/her appeal. DAS Benefits will conduct an initial review of the appeal. If the employee's OIL claim was denied on procedural issues or the employee has failed to provide any new information to support the appeal, DAS Benefits shall issue a letter to the employee denying the appeal and send a copy of the letter, the employee's OIL application, and any other documents submitted to OEA.

If OEA determines that further review is necessary, they will submit a request to OCB for a panel to be convened to

review the claim. The panel will consist of three (3) members: a representative of an Agency which is not the Employing Agency and who regularly works with OIL, a representative of the Association who is not employed by the Employing Agency, and a representative or designee of SERB. Representatives from OCB and OEA may attend but will not be voting members of the panel. The panel will be convened within fourteen (14) days of OCB's receipt of the request. The panel will complete a file review of the claim and any information provided by the employee and make a determination to uphold or overturn the denial. The panel will issue the decision immediately or within three (3) days if further investigation is necessary. The panel's decision will be in writing and will be final.

If the employee accepts Workers' Compensation TTD compensation during the appeal process, he/she may continue to submit extension paperwork. If the employee's appeal is upheld, OIL benefits will be awarded and the Agency will work with the employee to repay any Workers' Compensation TTD benefits that were awarded.

## **VI. Disqualification**

An employee shall be disqualified from receiving OIL benefits under any of the following circumstances:

- A.** The employee knowingly makes any false misleading statement(s) and/or alters, falsifies, destroys or conceals any document in order to be eligible to receive OIL;
- B.** The employee engages in sustained remunerative employment or other activity(ies) that are inconsistent with his/her medical/psychological restrictions while receiving OIL benefits;
- C.** The employee is no longer in the State service or has been voluntarily or involuntarily disability separated; or
- D.** The employee is incarcerated.

If any of the above circumstances occur, OIL benefits shall be immediately terminated and the employee shall reimburse the State in the amount of any benefits improperly received.

The employee may also be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination and criminal prosecution.

### **Use of Sick Leave**

In any case when an employee's injury, as covered by this Section, extends beyond one hundred and twenty (120) workdays, the employee is entitled to use sick leave subject to Article 26 of this Agreement.

### **28.03 - Court Leave**

An Appointing Authority shall grant court leave with base rate of pay to any employee who:

- Is summoned for jury duty by a court of competent jurisdiction; or
- Is subpoenaed to appear for the Employer for any reason, before any court, commission, board or other official proceedings.

Any compensation or reimbursement in excess of fifteen dollars (\$15) per day, for jury duty when such duty is performed during an employee's normal working hours, shall be remitted by an employee to the payroll officer for transmittal to the Treasurer of State.

Any employee who is appearing before a court or other legally constituted body in a matter in which he/she is a party, may be granted vacation time or leave of absence without pay. Such instances would include, but not be limited to, criminal or civil cases, traffic court, divorce proceedings, custody or appearing as directed as parent or guardian of juveniles.

### **28.04 - Military Leave**

All employees shall be granted military leave in accordance with appropriate Federal laws and the provisions of the ORC.

## **28.05 - Olympic Competition Leave**

The Employer shall grant employees paid leave to participate in Olympic competition sanctioned by the United States Olympic Committee. Any leave so granted shall not exceed the time required for actual participation in the competition, plus a reasonable time for travel to and return from the site of the competition, and a reasonable time for pre-competition training at the site.

The Employer shall compensate the employee at the employee's regular rate of pay during any leave granted for participation in Olympic competition. Pay for each week of leave shall not exceed the amount the employee would receive for a standard work week, and the employee shall not be paid for any day spent in Olympic competition for which the employee would not ordinarily receive pay as part of the employee's regular employment.

The foregoing shall be subject to the provisions of the OAC Section 123:1-34-08, in effect as of the effective date of the Agreement.

## **28.06 - Bereavement Leave**

Three (3) days of bereavement leave at base rate shall be granted to each employee for the death of a member of his/her immediate family. This shall include parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, spouse or significant other (significant other as used in this Agreement is defined to mean one who stands in place of a spouse and resides with the employee), siblings, grandchildren, children, mother-in-law, father-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law, step-child, step-parent, step-sibling, legal guardian or other person who stands in place of a parent (in loco parentis). Bereavement leave will be granted to the parent(s) in the case of a miscarriage conditioned upon the tendering of appropriate medical documentation or stillbirth conditioned upon the tendering of a death certificate. Bereavement leave must begin within five (5) calendar days of the date of death



of the immediate family member or the date of the funeral.

### **28.07 - Paid Adoption/Childbirth Leave Eligibility and Foster/Kinship Caregiver Leave**

Eligibility requirements and leave benefits for Adoption/Childbirth Leave shall be determined pursuant to State Policy. Employees may elect to take five thousand (\$5,000) dollars for adoption expenses in lieu of taking time off for Adoption/Childbirth Leave.

Employees shall be eligible for foster and kinship caregiver leave, as provided in ORC Section 124.1312 (or as amended) and OAC Section 123:1-34-12 (or as amended).

### **28.08 - Hostage Leave**

An employee taken hostage shall be eligible to receive sixty (60) days leave with pay at his or her regular rate of pay which will not be charged against the employee's leave accruals, provided this leave is deemed necessary by a licensed physician, psychologist or psychiatrist to recover from psychological trauma associated with the hostage-taking situation. Psychological trauma is a diagnosis which indicates an employee is unable to perform his/her duties due to the hostage taking situation. The employee must provide written documentation of such diagnosis and must receive ongoing treatment from a licensed psychologist or psychiatrist during the leave.

## **ARTICLE 29 - LEAVES OF ABSENCE WITHOUT PAY**

### **29.01 - Unpaid Leaves of Absence**

#### **A. Leaves and Duration**

The Employing Agency may grant a leave of absence without pay to full-time and part-time employees. An employee must request in writing a leave of absence without pay at least two (2) weeks prior to the requested date, unless such advance notification cannot be provided due to extraordinary circumstances. Leaves of absence may be granted

for a maximum period of six (6) months for any personal reason or to the beginning of the academic year (where the academic year is the work year), whichever is longer. A leave may also be granted for a maximum period of two (2) years for the purpose of education or training which would be of benefit to the service or for voluntary service in any governmentally sponsored program of public betterment. Renewal or extension beyond the two (2) year period shall not be allowed. A leave of absence shall neither start nor end on a holiday. The Employing Agency may grant such unpaid leave of absence, without exhaustion of paid leaves, where mitigating or extenuating circumstances exist.

**B. Abuse of Leave**

If it is found that a leave is not actually being used for the purpose for which it was granted, the Employing Agency may cancel the leave and direct the employee to report for work by giving written notice to the employee.

**C. Failure to Return**

An employee who fails to return to duty within three (3) days of the completion or a valid cancellation of a leave of absence without pay, and who provides no explanation, may be removed from employment in accordance with Article 13 of this Agreement. An employee who fails to return to service from a leave of absence without pay and is thereupon removed from employment is deemed to have a termination date corresponding to the starting date of the leave of absence without pay.

**D. Return to Service**

Upon completion of the leave of absence without pay, the employee shall be returned to the same or similar position within the employee's

former classification. If the employee's former classification no longer exists, the employee shall, with approval of the Employing Agency, be assigned to a position in a classification similar to that formerly occupied. The employee may be returned to active pay status prior to the originally scheduled expiration of the leave if such earlier return is agreed to by both the employee and the Employer.

**E. Civil Service Examinations**

A provisional employee who is on a leave of absence without pay is responsible for obtaining information about and participation in any civil service test given for the employee's classification during such leave. Said provisional employee may be replaced from an eligible list in accordance with the provisions of the ORC in effect during the term of this Agreement.

**F. Service Credit**

Authorized leaves of absence without pay will count as service credit for annual step increases, seniority and for computing the amount of vacation leave provided the employee is properly returned to service and is not serving an original probationary period. Employees who do not return to service from a personal leave of absence shall not receive service credit for the time spent on such leave.

**G. Probationary Employees.**

The period during which an employee is on a leave without pay shall not be counted towards an employee's original or promotional probationary period.

**29.02 - Unpaid Military Leave**

Provisions of Sections 123:1-34-05 and 123:1-34-06 of the OAC in effect during the term of this Agreement shall

apply to eligible employees.

### **29.03 - Sabbatical Leave**

The Employing Agency may grant a request for sabbatical leave, without pay, for up to one (1) year. Sabbatical leave may only be granted to employees who have completed at least three (3) years of State service. Sabbatical leave shall not exceed one (1) year and shall be considered as continuous service for seniority purposes.

#### **A. Procedure**

1. Ninety (90) days prior to the requested leave, the employee shall submit to the appropriate administrative official a written plan for professional growth, including course(s) and/or areas of study.
2. The appropriate administrative official shall provide the employee written notice of approval or denial within thirty (30) days of receipt of the request.
3. Upon completion of sabbatical leave, the employee shall return to his/her previous work site.
4. Within three (3) weeks of return, the employee shall submit to the appropriate administrative official a transcript of course(s) taken or a written description of travel and/or area(s) of study.

### **29.04 - Application of the Family Medical Leave Act**

The Employing Agency will comply with all provisions of the FMLA. For any leave which qualifies under the FMLA, the employee may be required to exhaust all applicable paid leave prior to the approval of unpaid leave.

## **ARTICLE 30 – VACATION**

### **30.01 - Vacation Scheduling**

- A. Employees eligible to receive vacation, which does not include classroom teachers in DRC, DYS,

teachers in ODBES, or those employees in DYS in class numbers 71221 through 71224, may submit vacation requests, in amounts of full days, between March 1 and March 31 for the twelve (12) month period beginning May 1 of that year through April 30 of the following year. In cases of conflict, such requests shall be approved on the basis of State seniority. The Employer shall respond to these requests by April 25. Vacation requests may also be submitted during other times of the year at least three (3) days in advance and shall be approved on a first-come, first-serve basis regardless of seniority. This time limit may be waived at the discretion of the Employer. At the State Library vacation leave shall be requested and approved according to Agency policy. Such policy shall be developed after discussion with the Association. Vacations shall be approved by the Employer for the time requested by the employee insofar as adequate scheduling of the work unit permits.

If an employee is reaching the maximum accrual of vacation time, and requests vacation leave with proper advance notification, the Employer will approve such requests, if possible, to prevent the loss of vacation leave by the employee. When an employee's vacation reaches the maximum level, and if the employee has been denied vacation during the past twelve (12) months, the employee will be paid for the time denied.

If an employee is called to work from a scheduled vacation leave period, the employee will have the right to take the vacation leave at a later time and will be paid at time and one-half (1 1/2) for the time the employee is in on-duty status. The employee shall also be reimbursed, upon

submission of appropriate evidence, for any costs incurred as a result of canceling an approved vacation leave or being called to work from his/her vacation.

- B.** Effective with the first grading period that begins after October 1, 2006, classroom teachers in DRC and DYS, including those teachers in DYS in class numbers 71221 through 71224, shall be scheduled off work, with pay, for the two (2) week inter-session breaks and shall not accrue any further vacation leave. Any of these employees who, as of October 1, 2006, have an accrued balance of vacation shall not be permitted to use any of the accrued balances, except in conjunction with the disability leave or Adoption/Childbirth leave waiting periods or to supplement such leave. Any balances carried by these employees shall be paid out at separation or retirement in accordance with the appropriate rules in effect at the time of the separation or retirement. If an employee voluntarily returns to work during inter-session break or is in pre-service or new employee orientation during inter-session break, the employee will receive no additional compensation.

### **30.02 - Rate of Accrual for Full-Time Employees**

Service credit as defined in Article 25 shall be used to calculate vacation accrual.

An employee who has retired in accordance with the provisions of any retirement plan offered by the State and who is employed by the State or any political subdivision of the State on or after June 24, 1987, shall not have his/her prior service with the State or any political subdivision of the State counted for the purpose of computing vacation leave. The accrual rate for any employee who is currently receiving a higher rate of vacation accrual will not be retroactively

adjusted. All previously accrued vacation will remain to the employee's credit. The prospective accrual rate will be adjusted effective with the pay period that begin September 1, 1994.

Full-time employees shall be granted vacation leave with pay as follows for hours in active pay status:

<b>Length of State Service</b>	<b>Accrual Rate</b>
	Hours Earned Per 80 Hours in Active Pay Status Per Pay Period
Less than 4 years	3.1 hours
4 years or more	4.6 hours
9 years or more	6.2 hours
14 years or more	6.9 hours
19 years or more	7.7 hours
24 years or more	9.2 hours

### **30.03 - Maximum Accrual for Full-Time Employees**

Vacation credit may be accumulated to a maximum that can be earned in three (3) years; further accumulation will not continue when the maximum is reached as follows:

<b>Annual Rate of Vacation</b>	<b>Accumulation Maximum</b>
80 Hours	240 Hours
120 Hours	360 Hours
160 Hours	480 Hours
180 Hours	540 Hours
200 Hours	600 Hours
240 Hours	720 Hours

### **30.04 - Charge of Vacation Leave**

Vacation leave which is used by an employee shall be charged in minimum units of one tenth (1/10) of an hour.

### **30.05 – Reserved for Future Use**

### **30.06 - Conversion of Vacation Leave Credit Upon Separation from Service**

A full-time employee with at least one (1) year of service shall be entitled upon separation for any reason to a cash conversion of all vacation leave up to three (3) years accrual. However, a part-time employee who has not worked a total of two thousand and eighty (2,080) hours shall not be entitled to a cash conversion of vacation leave upon separation of service.

### **30.07 - Transfer of Vacation Leave**

An employee who transfers from one State Agency to another shall be credited with the unused balance of his/her vacation leave.

### **30.08 - Death of an Employee**

In case of death of an employee, any unused vacation leave shall be paid in accordance with Section 2113.04 of the ORC in effect at the time of this Agreement.

### **30.09 - Leave Availability**

Newly accrued vacation leave is not available for use until it appears on the employee's earnings statement and on the date the funds are made available.

## **ARTICLE 31 - HOLIDAYS**

### **31.01 - List of Days**

Full-time employees of the bargaining unit shall have the following holidays:

1. New Year's Day - (first day in January)
2. Martin Luther King's Birthday - (third Monday in January)
3. President's Day - (third Monday in February)
4. Memorial Day - (last Monday in May)
5. Juneteenth Day – (nineteenth day of June)
6. Independence Day - (fourth of July)
7. Labor Day - (first Monday in September)
8. \*Columbus Day - (second Monday in October)



9. Veterans Day - (eleventh day of November)
10. Thanksgiving Day - (fourth Thursday in November)
11. \*Day after Thanksgiving Day - (fourth Friday in November)
12. Christmas Day - (twenty-fifth day of December)
13. Any day proclaimed as a holiday by the Governor of the State of Ohio or the President of the United States.

\*Columbus Day shall be observed by all bargaining unit employees except those in the institutions of DRC and DYS, who shall observe the day after Thanksgiving Day in lieu of Columbus Day.

A holiday falling on a Sunday will be observed on the following Monday, while a holiday falling on a Saturday will be observed on the preceding Friday. In work facilities which operate on Saturday and/or Sunday, the holiday will be observed on the day on which it falls. ODBES shall observe Veterans Day on either a Friday or a Monday when the actual day of the holiday falls on a Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. The day Veterans Day will be observed shall be set forth in the school calendar. ODBES shall observe Juneteenth on a Monday if the holiday falls on a Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday or on a Friday if the holiday falls on a Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday.

### **31.02 - Holiday Pay**

Full-time employees, except for ODBES employees, are automatically entitled to eight (8) hours of holiday pay (base rate of pay) regardless of whether they work on the holiday. Employees who are scheduled to work more than eight (8) hours in a day, will receive the holiday pay for the hours that they are normally scheduled to work. For example, employees who work a ten (10) hour day will receive ten (10) hours of holiday pay for the holiday. Employees on such alternative schedules whose day off falls on the recognized holiday shall have their next scheduled workday designated

as the holiday for purposes of this Article unless said day comes within three (3) days of the start or end of an inter-session break. Compensation for working on a holiday is in addition to the automatic holiday pay and shall be computed at the rates prescribed in Section 31.03.

1. An employee on vacation or scheduled sick leave during a holiday will not be charged vacation or sick leave for the holiday. Employees who are scheduled to work and call off sick the day of a holiday forfeit their right to holiday pay for that day, unless there are documented, extenuating circumstances which prohibit the employee from reporting for duty.
2. An employee on leave of absence without pay (no-pay status) shall not receive payment for a holiday. A leave of absence without pay shall neither start nor end on a holiday.
3. An employee in no-pay status shall not receive holiday compensation.
4. Full-time employees with work schedules other than Monday through Friday are entitled to pay for any holiday observed on day off.

### **31.03 - Computation of Holiday Pay or Compensatory Time**

An employee who is required to work a holiday or is called in shall be entitled to hour-for-hour overtime-exempt compensatory time for all hours worked on the holiday.

### **31.04 - Part-Time Employees**

Part-time employees, except for ODBES employees, will be paid holiday pay for any holiday on which they are ordinarily scheduled. They shall be paid for the number of hours for which they would have ordinarily been scheduled regardless of whether they work on the holiday. If part-time employees are required to work on the holiday, or are called in, they shall be paid in accordance with Section 31.03.

## **ARTICLE 32 - BENEFITS**

The Employer shall provide a comprehensive health care insurance program for all permanent full-time and part-time employees. Health Plan characteristics and benefits shall be as outlined on the DAS Employee Benefits website.

Regardless of the plan, employees will pay fifteen percent (15%) of the premium and the Employer will pay eighty-five percent (85%) of the premium; however, for any alternative plans outlined on the DAS Employee Benefits website the employees' premium share will be determined by the Director of DAS but will not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the premium. The Employer's premium share shall be paid on behalf of eligible employees as outlined on the DAS Employee Benefits website.

Eligibility provisions for employees enrolling in State provided health care plans shall remain the same as those in effect as outlined on the DAS Employee Benefits website. Deductibles, copayments, and other plan designs provisions for all benefit programs shall be the same as those outlined on the DAS Employee Benefits website.

The Employer reserves the right to perform dependent eligibility audits after providing advanced notice and consulting with the Joint Health Care Committee (JHCC). Health care costs paid on behalf of ineligible dependents may be subject to recovery.

Every year the Employer shall conduct an open enrollment period, at which time employees shall be able to enroll in a health plan, continue enrollment in their current plan, switch to another plan, subject to plan availability in their area, or waive coverage. The timing of the open enrollment period shall be established by the Director of DAS, in consultation with the JHCC. Changes outside of open enrollment may occur only as prescribed in the Employer's Agreement with the Ohio Civil Service Employees Association (OCSEA). Open Enrollment fairs

will occur as prescribed in the Employer's Agreement with OCSEA.

There shall be established a Joint Health Care Committee (JHCC) composed of representatives of management, and of the various labor unions representing State employees. The Committee shall meet regularly to monitor the operation of the State's health care plans, and to make recommendations for the improvement of the plans and cost containment procedures.

The Employer shall provide all dental and vision benefits to the extent and in the manner outlined in the Employer's Agreement with OCSEA and the UBT.

In the event benefit plans are extended to non-State employee groups, the UBT will establish appropriate separate accounting practices to clearly identify fund impacts.

## **ARTICLE 33 - REHABILITATION OF INJURED EMPLOYEES**

### **33.01 - Transitional Work Programs**

Agencies and the Association may mutually develop Transitional Work Programs designed to encourage a return to work by an employee receiving Salary Continuation, Workers' Compensation, or OIL benefits. During the time an employee is in a Transitional Work Program, the employee will be assigned duties which the employee is capable of performing based upon the recommendation of the employee's attending physician. Upon request of the Employer employees must participate in the Transitional Work Program unless precluded from participation by their attending physician. If a permanent employee is given a transitional work assignment with less than his/her regularly scheduled hours, the employee may use any remaining OIL or Salary Continuation hours to supplement up to the amount of his/her regularly scheduled hours.

A full-time permanent employee on a transitional work

assignment equivalent to his/her regularly scheduled hours who has continuing treatment related to his/her OIL, Salary Continuation, or Workers' Compensation claim must first attempt to schedule the appointment during non-working hours. Second, if the employee is unable to schedule the appointment during non-working hours, the employee must work with the Employer to flex his/her schedule to accommodate the appointment. Third, after the first two (2) options have been exhausted, the employee may use any remaining OIL or Salary Continuation hours to attend the appointment, not to exceed one (1) hour per appointment, with a maximum of three (3) appointments per week.

If the employee refuses to participate in the Transitional Work Program while receiving Salary Continuation or OIL, the Salary Continuation or OIL benefit will end, and the Employer can seek repayment or substitution of paid leave from the employee for any OIL or Salary Continuation received during the time the employee was capable of participating in the program. The Agency will work with the employee to determine if leave will be deducted or to set up a repayment procedure.

### **33.02 - Salary Continuation for Workers' Compensation Claims**

Salary Continuation is the uninterrupted payment of a permanent employee's total rate of pay not to exceed four hundred and eighty (480) hours per Workers' Compensation claim. An employee who incurs physical injuries or other disabilities in the performance of and arising out of State employment, and is not eligible for OIL, may be eligible for Salary Continuation. To be eligible, the employee must 1.) follow his/her Agency's accident reporting guidelines, 2.) be evaluated by an Approved Physician, as defined in Section 28.02, to determine if the injuries have so disabled the employee that the essential functions of his/her position cannot be performed, 3.) show that the Employer is currently

unable to provide an appropriate transitional work assignment, and 4.) apply for Workers' Compensation benefits within twenty (20) days of the incident.

Effective for dates of injury occurring on or after November 1, 2009, an employee will be eligible for Salary Continuation. The Salary Continuation will end when 1.) the four hundred and eighty (480) hours is exhausted; 2.) the treating physician opines that it is no longer medically necessary for the employee to be off work; 3.) the employee's Workers' Compensation claim is denied by BWC; 4.) IC determines that the employee has reached Maximum Medical Improvement; 5.) or the employee is disqualified from receiving Workers' Compensation benefits, whichever occurs first. Salary Continuation will end if the employee is no longer in the State service or has been voluntarily or involuntarily disability separated. Salary Continuation will end if the employee accepts Workers' Compensation TTD benefits. Employees who receive OIL benefits are not eligible for Salary Continuation arising out of the same incident or injury. Any requests for additional allowances to a claim shall be approved by BWC prior to requesting payment of additional Salary Continuation subject to the four hundred and eighty (480) total hours limit.

No charge will be made to the employee's accumulation of sick leave during the period the employee receives Salary Continuation. An employee on Salary Continuation shall accrue sick leave and personal leave but shall not accrue vacation leave. The employee is not eligible to use leave balances while receiving Salary Continuation. Additionally, the employee shall not be eligible for any other paid leaves, including holiday pay and those leaves under Article 28, while receiving Salary Continuation. Employees receiving Salary Continuation are in active pay status.

If the employee's Workers' Compensation claim is denied by BWC or if the employee is disqualified from

receiving Workers' Compensation benefits, the employee must, after all administrative appeals have been exhausted, either substitute the use of paid sick, vacation, or personal leave, or repay the Employer any Salary Continuation received during the period of time from the date of injury until the final administrative determination on the claim has been made. The Agency will work with the employee to determine if leave will be deducted and/or to set up a repayment procedure.

An employee may elect to take leave without pay in lieu of Salary Continuation without exhausting accrued leave balances, pending determination of a Workers' Compensation claim.

If an employee elects to utilize his/her sick leave, personal leave, vacation leave or compensatory time balances in lieu of Salary Continuation pending determination of a Workers' Compensation claim arising from employment with the State of Ohio, the Employer shall allow the employee, upon execution of a Wage Agreement, to buy back those leave balances within two (2) pay periods after lost time Workers' Compensation benefits are received by the employee, or shall allow the employee to choose an automatic restoration of those leave balances upon execution of a Wage Agreement.

If an employee's request for Salary Continuation is denied in its entirety, the employee may appeal the denial through the process detailed in Section 28.02 V.

### **33.03 - Other Leave Usage to Supplement Workers' Compensation**

Employees may utilize sick leave, personal leave or vacation to supplement Workers' Compensation benefits in order to receive up to one hundred percent (100%) of the employee's regular rate of pay.

### **33.04 - Health Insurance**

Employees receiving OIL, Salary Continuation, or

hostage leave benefits shall continue to be responsible for the employee's regular share of the health insurance premium while receiving said benefits. In the event OIL, hostage leave, or Salary Continuation terminates within a pay period and the employee is eligible for TTD benefits for the remaining period, the employee's share of the health insurance premium shall be borne by the Employer.

Employees receiving lost time Workers' Compensation benefits or awaiting the approval of a Workers' Compensation claim and not receiving any of the above benefits, for a claim arising from employment with the State of Ohio who have health insurance shall continue to be eligible for health insurance at no cost to the employee not to exceed twelve (12) months, and shall continue to be eligible for health insurance at the usual cost share paid by the employee for an additional period not to exceed twelve (12) consecutive months. The employee and the Employer may arrange for a payment plan for the second twelve (12) month period. The Employer has the right to recover such payments if the Workers' Compensation claim is determined to be non-compensable.

### **33.05 - Leave to Attend Industrial Commission Hearing**

An employee shall be granted time off with pay from regularly scheduled work hours, including travel time, sufficient to attend one (1) hearing conducted by the Ohio IC in the determination of the employee's Workers' Compensation claim. In addition, an employee will be granted time off with pay from regularly scheduled work hours, including travel time, sufficient to attend any hearing where the Employer contests the employee's Workers' Compensation claim.

### **33.06 - Implementation**

A committee will be formed for the purpose of formulating and maintaining the Approved Physician list pursuant to Article 28.02. The Association will have one (1)



representative on the Committee. The Committee will have equal numbers of management and Association representatives. Committee members who are State employees will receive time off with pay at total rate for Committee business.

In the event no Approved Physician list is available for the employee's area, that requirement shall be waived. Issues related to the utilization of the Approved Physician list will be within the province of the Committee.

### **33.07 – Probationary Employees**

Employees participating in a Transitional Work Program shall have their probationary period extended for the duration of the Transitional Work Program.

## **ARTICLE 34 - LIFE INSURANCE**

### **34.01 - Life Insurance Amount**

Beginning with the first-year anniversary of employment, the Employer will provide a group life insurance policy equal to the employee's annual salary rounded upward to the next highest thousand (\$1,000) at no cost.

### **34.02 - Conversion**

In the event the employee terminates from State service or is on an unpaid leave of absence or reaches age seventy (70), the employee may convert his/her life insurance to a private policy by paying the premium rate within the thirty-one (31) day conversion privilege date.

### **34.03 - Disability Coverage**

In the event an employee uses all accumulated sick leave and then goes on an extended medical disability, the Employer shall continue at no cost to the employee the coverage of the group life insurance for such employee for the period of such extended leave, but not beyond two (2) years.

### **34.04 - Optional Life Insurance**

The State shall make available Optional Term Life

Insurance to employees. The cost will be paid by the employee on a payroll deduction basis. The available coverage will be at least two (2) times the employee's salary.

#### **34.05 - Benefits Trust**

The benefits of this Article shall be administered by the UBT. Except for established payroll deductions for programs and organizations in effect on the effective date of this Agreement, along with any deductions, no additional payroll deductions for dues, fees or contributions shall be provided to any individual or organization without prior written consent of the Association and the Employer.

#### **34.06 - Voluntary Supplemental Benefit Plans**

The only voluntary supplemental benefit plans offered to State employees whether provided through insurance or otherwise will be those selected via a State-administered request for proposal process or pursuant to the UBT. Only those employees enrolled in a voluntary supplemental benefit plan on the effective date of this Agreement that was not selected pursuant to this paragraph may continue to participate in such program.

### **ARTICLE 35 - EMPLOYEE AWARDS**

#### **35.01 - Employee Awards System**

The DAS Director may institute an employee awards system which gives the employee an opportunity to submit suggestions that will reduce the cost or improve the quality of state services. The system shall provide reasonable standards for determining the amount, not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000), for any award that may be given for a suggestion. DAS shall review each suggestion and make a recommendation of the amount of award, if any, to be given. The Employing Agency shall determine the amount of any award to be given and its determination is final and not subject to the grievance procedure.

## **ARTICLE 36 - SUBCONTRACTING**

### **36.01 - Contracting Out**

The Employer intends to use employees to perform work which they normally perform. However, the Employer reserves the right to contract out any work it deems necessary or desirable because of greater efficiency, economy, programmatic benefits or other related factors.

Changes in State policy or methodology for delivering services may result in the discontinuation of services or programs directly operated by the state.

Every reasonable effort will be made to avoid the layoff displacement of an employee as a consequence of the exercise by the State of its right to contract out.

### **36.02 - Facility Closings/Service Elimination**

Should it become necessary to close a facility or eliminate a service, the following guidelines will be utilized.

- A.** Where individual facilities are closed or services eliminated, the provisions of Article 18 Reduction in the Work Force would apply;
- B.** An Employing Agency will seek to absorb all affected employees or help laid off workers obtain employment in other areas of the public sector;
- C.** A concerted effort will be made to relocate laid off employees within the framework of any new delivery system. Management will seek to involve the Association and any newly-created structure in a positive program for the hiring and possible retraining of any displaced employee;
- D.** In cooperation with the Association, the Employing Agencies will aggressively search for any available program assistance for the purpose of job training and/or placement. These joint efforts will closely examine all possible avenues for human resource assistance both in the public and private sectors.

### **36.03 - Contracting-In**

The Association will be granted a reasonable opportunity to demonstrate that employees can competitively perform work which has been previously contracted out, including access to available information regarding costs and performance audits. In considering granting, renewal or continuation of competitively bid contracts for work normally performed by bargaining unit employees, to the extent feasible the Employer will examine information provided by the Association regarding whether or not such work can be performed with greater efficiency, economy, programmatic benefit or other related factors through the use of employees rather than through renewal or continuation of the contract or initial contracting out of work.

### **ARTICLE 37 - EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE**

Whenever an Early Retirement Incentive Plan (ERIP) is voluntarily initiated, and/or developed as a result of statutory compliance by an Employing Agency within a specific work unit, and Bargaining Unit 10 employees are affected by a layoff or closing, the Employer will offer ERIP to eligible Bargaining Unit 10 employees at such work unit.

### **ARTICLE 38 - NO STRIKE/NO LOCKOUT**

#### **38.01 - Association Prohibition**

During the term of this Agreement the Association will not either directly or indirectly, call, sanction, encourage, finance or assist in any way, nor shall any employee instigate, or participate, either directly or indirectly, in any strike, slowdown, walkout, work stoppage or the withholding of services from the Employer as defined in ORC Section 4117.01(H). Nothing herein is intended to restrict in any way the Association's right and ability to represent any member or members alleged to have violated the prohibitions set forth in this section.

#### **38.02 - Affirmative Duty**

The Association shall cooperate at all times with the

Employer in the continuation of its operations and services and shall actively discourage any violation of this Article. If any violation of this Article occurs, the Association shall immediately notify all employees that the strike, slowdown, work stoppage, or other concerted interference with or the withholding of services from the Employer is prohibited, and not sanctioned by the Association. The Association will inform all employees of their obligation to return to work immediately.

### **38.03 - Disciplinary Actions**

It is further agreed that any violation of the above shall be sufficient grounds for immediate disciplinary action. Any such disciplinary action may be appealed pursuant to Article 5 of this Agreement.

### **38.04 - Employer Prohibition**

The Employer agrees that it shall not lock-out any employees.

## **ARTICLE 39 - TRAVEL**

### **39.01 - Overnight Stays**

Current practices regarding authorization for overnight stays shall continue. Overnight stay shall not be considered as travel time or hours worked. However, an employee required to spend two (2) or more consecutive days at a place other than his/her normal report-in location shall be granted travel time for one (1) round trip.

### **39.02 - Personal Vehicle**

If the Agency requires an employee to use his/her personal vehicle, the Agency shall reimburse the employee with a mileage allowance set by the Director of OBM. The mileage allowance shall not be set less than forty-five cents (\$.45) nor greater than the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) rate but if the IRS's rate is reduced to an amount lower than forty-five cents (\$.45), the rate will be set at the IRS's rate. If an employee uses a motorcycle, he/she will be reimbursed no less than thirteen cents (\$.13) per mile. OBM will

examine the mileage allowance quarterly. When the mileage allowance is changed, the Director of OBM shall provide the Association with notice and a rationale for the change. The mileage allowance for employees shall not be set at a rate lower than the mileage allowance for exempt employees.

### **39.03 - Travel Reimbursement**

If an employee is required to travel in-state over forty-five (45) miles from both his/her headquarters and residence or travel out-of-state, he/she shall receive the appropriate in-state or appropriate out-of-state reimbursement.

If the Agency Head or designee requires an employee to stay overnight, the employee shall be reimbursed up to the rate set by the U.S. General Services Administration, plus tax per day for actual lodging expenses incurred. The employee shall receive a per diem rate for meal expenses and other incidentals incurred at the rate set by the U.S. General Services Administration, prorated in accordance with the regulations of OBM. The Agency may require receipts or other proof of expenditures before providing reimbursement, except for meals and incidentals.

### **39.04 - Travel Outside the United States**

If the Agency requires an employee to stay overnight outside the United States, the employee shall be reimbursed the actual lodging cost and actual meal expenses incurred within reason with receipts provided to OBM. The maximum meal rate is authorized only during the portion of the trip that is outside the United States.

### **39.05 - Payment**

Employees who travel are required to submit their requests for reimbursement within sixty (60) days of the last date of travel. This time frame may be extended if mitigating circumstances exist, but in no case may exceed ninety (90) days.

All employees shall receive travel reimbursements via direct deposit. Employees shall authorize the direct deposit

of the travel reimbursement into the same financial institution in which the employee's paycheck is deposited or execute the required documentation to authorize the direct deposit into a financial institution designated by the Board of Deposits for the benefit of the employee.

The State shall be committed to making reimbursement to employees within thirty (30) days of submission of completed and proper expense reports. The thirty (30) days shall begin when a proper expense report is presented to the employee's supervisor for approval.

If an Agency fails to reimburse an employee within thirty (30) days, the Agency shall pay the employee interest on the amount due in accordance with OBM guidelines on prompt payment, or one dollar (\$1.00), whichever is greater.

The State is discontinuing the State credit card program. No new State credit cards will be issued. Employees currently holding State credit cards are permitted to maintain them.

### **39.06 - Duty to Report**

It is the employee's responsibility to report to his/her immediate supervisor any accident or traffic violation/citation which he/she may have been involved with or received while on State business. Employees shall obey all applicable state laws and rules. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action.

### **39.07 - Other Travel Matters**

In all other travel matters not addressed by the agreement, the provisions of OBM's travel regulations or administrative rules will apply.

## **ARTICLE 40 - DURATION**

### **40.01 - Duration**

This Agreement shall become effective January 19, 2025, at 12:01 a.m., and remain in full force and effect through midnight May 31, 2027.

#### **40.02 - Total Agreement**

This Agreement represents the entire agreement between the Employer and the Association and unless specifically and expressly set forth in the express written provisions of this Agreement, all rules, regulations, practices and benefits previously and presently in effect, may be modified or discontinued at the sole discretion of the Employer. This section alone shall not operate to void any existing or future ORC statutes or rules of the OAC and applicable Federal law. This Agreement may be amended only by written Agreement between the Employer and the Association.

#### **40.03 - Economic Benefits**

Economic benefits granted by the ORC which are not specifically provided for or abridged by this Agreement shall be determined by those statutes. The Employer will not unilaterally change a matter which is a mandatory subject of bargaining during the term of the Agreement.

#### **40.04 - Bargaining**

Bargaining for successor negotiations shall be accomplished in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 4117 of the ORC. The Employer and the Association may meet prior to the initial bargaining session to set ground rules for the ensuing negotiations.

#### **40.05 - Copies of Agreement**

Each party shall print and pay for the number of copies of the Agreement required for its own use.



The State of Ohio



Mike DeWine  
Governor



Kathleen C. Madden, Director  
Department of Administrative Services



Kimberly A. Murnieks, Director  
Office of Budget and Management



Kristen N. Rankin, Chief Spokesperson  
Office of Collective Bargaining



Shane Black  
Department of Administrative Services



Thomas Dunn  
Office of Collective Bargaining



Christina E. Haselberger  
Office of Collective Bargaining



Stephanie Herriott  
State Library of Ohio



Beth A. Hagon  
Department of Rehabilitation and Correction



Dr. Michael Jackson  
Department of Youth Services



Dr. Lou Maynus  
Ohio Deaf and Blind Education Services



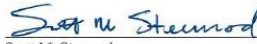
Katharine M. Nicholson  
Office of Collective Bargaining



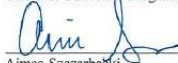
Brad Nielsen  
Department of Youth Services



Jennifer Sanders  
Department of Rehabilitation and Correction



Scott M. Steenrod  
Office of Collective Bargaining



Aimee Szczerbacki  
Office of Collective Bargaining



Cedar Well  
Ohio Deaf and Blind Education Services


On Behalf of

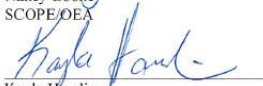
**The State Council of Professional Educators OEA/NEA**


  
Nicole Marsano, President  
SCOPE/OEA

  
Kerri Hoover, Chief Spokesperson  
SCOPE/OEA

  
Nancy Boone  
SCOPE/OEA

  
Tamara Lane  
SCOPE/OEA

  
Kayla Hamlin  
SCOPE/OEA

  
Tammy Shelton  
SCOPE/OEA

  
Josh Jones  
SCOPE/OEA

  
Ian Westcott  
SCOPE/OEA

## **APPENDIX A - FURLOUGH**

Employees may be furloughed on a non-permanent basis, based on a lack of funding from the Federal government, at the Employer's discretion. The Employer shall provide a statement of explanation to the Association regarding a potential furlough and which employees are expected to be subject to a furlough. The Employer may update such statement and list of employees as needed.

### **A. Procedures**

1. The Employer will make a general announcement using its usual and customary means of Agency-wide communications approximately fourteen (14) days before such federal funds may be interrupted. At least two (2) days' notice shall be provided to any identified employee prior to a furlough, and when practicable, a longer notice will be provided. The notice shall indicate the date a furlough is to begin.
2. During a furlough, employees shall not report to work. Employees will be notified by the Employer of the date that they are expected to return to work. The Employer may extend a furlough based on the duration of the lack of funding from the Federal government and shall promptly notify employees of any changes to the return-to-work date. However, a furlough shall not exceed four (4) weeks for any individual employee, except as described in subsection (A)(4) below. Any employee who does not return to work when notified, and is not on an approved, scheduled leave, may be subject to disciplinary action.
3. An employee on an unpaid leave of absence at the time of a furlough shall remain on an unpaid

leave of absence until the expiration of the unpaid leave of absence. At the expiration of the unpaid leave of absence, the employee may be immediately subject to furlough. If the unpaid leave of absence is open-ended, the employee shall remain on the unpaid leave of absence at least until the end of a furlough.

4. If during or at the end of a furlough period, a layoff or abolishment of positions is necessary, the Employer shall follow the provisions of Article 18. During the notice period for a layoff required by the collective bargaining agreement or the ORC, the employee(s) shall remain on furlough.
5. The Employer will make a good faith effort to first separate those non-permanent employees who are in the same funding stream and who perform similar work as permanent employees potentially subject to furlough prior to furloughing any permanent employee. The Employer will make a good faith effort to consider seniority in the decision to furlough permanent employees who are in the same funding stream and who perform similar work.

## **B. Terms of Furlough**

1. During a furlough, employees shall not receive compensation from the Employer, except as provided by this Appendix.
2. During a furlough, the Employer will pay both the Employer's share and the employee's share of health insurance premiums if the employee is enrolled at the time of a furlough and continues contributions to UBT. Upon return to work, the employee must repay the employee's share of the health insurance

premiums. The employee shall be placed on a repayment plan allowing for repayment in an amount not to exceed fifty dollars (\$50) a pay period unless the employee agrees to a greater amount. If an employee does not return to work from a furlough, the employee must repay the employee's share of the health insurance premiums upon separation and such amount may be deducted from the employee's final paycheck.

3. Employees shall continue to accrue leave based upon the employee's established work hours while on furlough. Employees shall not be eligible to use any accrued leave during a furlough.
4. Employees shall continue to earn seniority and service credit during a furlough, for purposes of vacation accruals and longevity, as long as the employee returns to work.
5. Other than the compensation described in this Appendix, employees on furlough shall not be eligible for any other compensation under the collective bargaining agreement.
6. The Employer agrees not to contest a furloughed employee's application for unemployment benefits. Because the furlough cannot exceed forty-five (45) calendar days as set forth herein, the Employer agrees to take all necessary actions so employees do not have to meet job search requirements in order to qualify for unemployment benefits, including the requirement of notification to the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services within ten (10) days after the furlough if work is expected to be available within forty-five (45)

calendar days as set forth in ORC Section 4141.29. The Employer's compliance with this provision does not guarantee an award of unemployment benefits.

7. The State will reimburse covered employees for loss of federally funded wages while on furlough. In order for such reimbursement to occur, the wages must be provided by the Federal government and specifically designated by Congress for wage reimbursement. Any reimbursement to employees shall be offset by any unemployment benefits received or any interim wages the employee received while on furlough.

### **C. Alternative Procedures**

At the request of either party, the parties will meet to discuss in good faith the use of the above furlough procedures for reasons other than those contained in this article. The implementation of alternative procedures under this section shall only be made between the parties by mutual agreement in the Letter of Agreement (LOA) format.

**APPENDIX B - RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE**

**APPENDIX C - RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE**

**APPENDIX D - RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE**

**APPENDIX E - RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE**

**APPENDIX F - DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE POLICY**

### **Section 1. Statement of Policy**

- A. Both the State and the Association desire a workplace that is free from the adverse effects of alcohol and other drugs. Both parties acknowledge that substance abuse is a serious and complex, yet treatable, condition/disease that adversely affects the productive, personal and family lives of employees. The parties further acknowledge that

substance abuse may lead to safety and health risks in the workplace for the abusers, their co-workers, and the public-at-large. Accordingly, the State and the Association pledge to work collaboratively in programs designed to reduce and eradicate the abuse of alcohol and drugs.

- B.** The Association recognizes the need to address problems associated with having on duty employees under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The Association also recognizes the state's obligations under the Federal Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and other Federal laws and regulations concerning the controlling of substance abuse in the workplace. The State recognizes employees' rights to privacy and other constitutionally guaranteed rights as well as the due process and just cause obligations of this Agreement. Both parties agree that the emphasis of any drug-free workplace programs shall be to prevent and rehabilitate employees and to abate risks created by employees who are on duty in an impaired condition.
- C.** The State will periodically provide information and training programs concerning the impact of alcohol and other drug use on job performance, as well as information concerning the State's Ohio EAP and any other resources that an employee or his/her family may contact for assistance in overcoming an alcohol and/or other drug problem. All bargaining unit employees shall be furnished with a copy of the Employer's drug-free workplace policies within thirty (30) days of initial employment with a State Agency. Additionally, each employee will similarly be provided with a written description of the Employer's drug testing policy including the procedures under which a test may be ordered,

procedures for obtaining samples for testing, how testing will be conducted and reported to the Employer and employees, and how medical marijuana will be addressed; and the potential consequences of refusing to submit to testing or of positive test results. Managers and supervisors shall be provided training about the Drug-Free Workplace Policy and alcohol and the drug-testing program in order to ensure that the policy and program are administered consistently, fairly, and within appropriate constitutional parameters. Training will be provided to all covered employees prior to the implementation based upon the agreement of the parties. Joint training by the parties can be provided on an Agency basis. New employees who are covered will be provided notice and training prior to testing. Testing for Teachers in the Deaf and Blind Education Services shall not commence until such time as these employees are provided notice and training.

- D.** Any employees suffering from a substance abuse problem shall receive the same careful consideration and offer of treatment that is presently extended under the State's existing benefit plans to those employees having other mental health and substance abuse conditions, as well as under the Ohio EAP established under Section 7.13 of this Agreement. The same benefits and insurance coverages that are provided for all other illnesses, diseases, and/or physical or psychological conditions under the State's established health insurance benefit plan shall be available for individuals who accept medically approved treatment of alcoholism or drug dependency.
- E.** An employee's refusal to accept referral for



diagnosis or to follow the prescribed treatment will be handled in accordance with other policies related to job performance, subject to the contractual grievance/arbitration procedures and other provisions of this Agreement. No person with a substance abuse problem shall have his/her job security or promotional opportunities jeopardized by a request for diagnosis and/or treatment. Continued unacceptable job performance, attendance, and/or behavioral problems will result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

- F.** The confidential nature of the medical records of employees with substance abuse problems shall be maintained pursuant to both Ohio and Federal laws. All records related to drug tests and their results shall be maintained in the accordance with Ohio and Federal laws.
- G.** All Department heads, managers, and supervisors are responsible for adherence to, implementation of, enforcement of, and monitoring of this policy.

## **Section 2. Drug-Testing Conditions**

### **A. State Testing**

#### **1. Reasonable Suspicion**

Where there is reasonable suspicion to believe that the employee, when appearing for duty or on the job, is under the influence of alcohol or other drugs or his/her job performance is impaired by alcohol or other drugs. Such reasonable suspicion must be based upon objective facts or specific circumstances found to exist that present a reasonable basis to believe that an employee is under the influence of or is using or abusing alcohol or drugs. Examples of reasonable suspicion shall include,

but are not limited to, slurred speech, disorientation, abnormal conduct or behavior, or involvement in an on-the-job accident resulting in disabling personal injury requiring immediate hospitalization of any person or property damage in excess of two thousand dollars (\$2,000), where the circumstances raise a reasonable suspicion concerning the existence of alcohol or other drug use or abuse by the employee. In addition, such reasonable suspicion must be documented in writing and supported by two (2) witnesses, including the person having such suspicion. The immediate supervisor shall be contacted to confirm that a test is warranted based upon the circumstances. Written documentation must be presented as soon as possible to the employee and the department head, who shall maintain this report in the strictest confidence, except that a copy shall be released to any person designated by the affected employee.

## **2. Rebuttable Presumption**

The results of, or the employee's refusal to submit to, any test for the presence of drugs or alcohol may affect the employee's eligibility for Workers' Compensation and benefits pursuant to Chapter 4123 and 4121 of the ORC. For the determination of eligibility for Workers' Compensation and benefits a positive test creates a "rebuttable presumption." Testing and determinations will be made pursuant to Section 4123.54 or any other applicable provisions of the ORC.

## **3. Random Testing**

Employees in DRC and DYS and Teachers

in ODBES shall be subject to random drug testing.

## **B. Federal Testing**

Employees who are required to be tested pursuant to Federal laws and/or Federal regulations shall be tested in accordance with those laws and regulations.

## **Section 3. Testing Procedures and Guarantees**

### **A. State Testing**

1. Employees covered by this Agreement may be required to submit to testing for the presence of drugs or a breath sample for the testing of the presence of alcohol. Procedures and protocols for the collection, transmission and testing of the employees' samples shall conform to the methods and procedures provided by Federal regulations pursuant to the Federal Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991.
2. Employees shall have the right to consult with an Association representative, if one is available one (1) hour prior to testing, and an Association representative may accompany the employee to the specimen collection site as long as reasonable suspicion is called for by the Employer.
3. The random testing pools for DYS, DRC employees and Teachers in ODBES shall be maintained on a State-wide basis that includes all employees in the Agency who are subject to random testing. The random testing pool shall be maintained and administered by the Drug-Free Workplace Services Program of DAS. The percentage of employees to be tested annually will vary during the first two (2) years of the Agreement, up to thirty percent (30%) of the

random testing pool. During the last year of the agreement, the percentage of the employees to be tested annually can vary from ten percent (10%) to thirty percent (30%) of the average total of the random testing pool.

4. Any DRC, DYS, or ODBES employee whose name is selected to be randomly tested shall be tested within seven (7) days after the facility/institution received the random list. An employee who is not tested within seven (7) days after the facility/institution received the list shall not be tested as a result of that list.
5. A test result which indicates a point zero four percent (.04%) blood alcohol level will be considered a positive test. Any employee who tests at or above a point zero two percent (.02%) and below a point zero four percent (.04%) shall be immediately removed from duty until the start of the employee's next scheduled shift or for twenty-four (24) hours, whichever is greater. While the employee is removed from duty, the employee may use any accrued leave or compensatory time at the employee's option, or be placed in a leave without pay status if accrued leave or compensatory time is not available.
6. The employee shall be responsible for the cost of all follow-up alcohol and drug tests that are ordered by the Employer.

## **B. Federal Testing**

1. The Employer will comply with all provisions of the Federal Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991 and the Federal Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 and any other federal laws and regulations covering the

control of substance abuse in the workplace. Any proposed policies or guidelines proposed by the Employer to comply with these regulations will be provided to the Association. The Employer will comply with any bargaining obligations as required by law.

2. The random testing pool shall be maintained and administered by the Drug Free Workplace Services Program of DAS.

#### **Section 4. General Provisions Applicable to All Testing**

- A. Subject to the reasonable requirements of the laboratory, the Association shall have the right, upon reasonable request made to the laboratory, to inspect and observe any aspect of the drug testing program with the exception of individual test results. The Association may inspect individual test results if the release of such information is authorized in writing by the affected employee.
- B. Covered employees will be selected from the random selection pool by a computer driven random number process based upon the position numbers of all positions for which testing is required. Procedures will be developed by each Agency and work site with the approval of the Drug Free Workplace Services pursuant to statewide policy.
- C. Periodically, at the Association's discretion, the Association shall have the opportunity to audit the State's sampling and testing procedures.
- D. An employee may be assigned to non-safety sensitive duties after testing positive.
- E. If the employee is sent home after notice is received by the Employer that he/she tested positive the Employer shall place the employee on administrative leave with pay pending notice of the pre-disciplinary meeting. If the employee does not

waive the seventy-two (72) hour pre-disciplinary meeting requirement, the employee shall be placed on approved administrative leave without pay and may use any accruals to cover the time off.

**F.** All sample collection shall be conducted off-site by professional non-State personnel subject to the requirements of the testing lab unless the parties on a facility-by-facility basis mutually agree to an alternative sample collection process.

**G.** Travel time and testing are to be considered “time worked” for compensation purposes.

### **Section 5. Notice of Drug-Related Convictions**

As required by the Federal Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988, each employee covered by this Agreement is required to notify his/her Agency head or designee within five (5) days after he/she is convicted of a violation of any Federal or State criminal drug statute, provided such conviction occurred at the workplace or any location where the employee is working at the time of the incident which led to the conviction. Each Agency is required to notify any Federal agency with which it has a contract or grant, within ten (10) days after receiving notice from the employee, of the fact of such conviction. An employee’s failure to report a conviction will subject that employee to disciplinary action, up to and including termination, consistent with the just cause standards set forth in Article 13 of this Agreement. The Agency head or designee may refer such employees to the Ohio EAP for referral and treatment.

### **Section 6. Disciplinary Action**

On the first occasion in which an employee, is determined to be under the influence of or using alcohol or other drugs while on duty and confirmed by testing pursuant to this policy, the employee shall be given the opportunity to enter into and successfully complete a substance abuse program certified by Mental Health and Addiction Services

(MHAS). No disciplinary action shall be taken against the employee, provided he/she successfully completes the program. Last chance agreements shall not be effective for longer than five (5) years, except if any of the following situations led to the drug or alcohol testing, in which case the last chance agreement shall be of an unlimited duration:

1. Any accident involving a fatality;
2. Any accident in which the driver is cited and there is disabling damage to the vehicle(s) requiring tow-away; or,
3. Any accident in which the driver is cited and off-site medical treatment was required.

Any last chance agreements entered into during the term of the last contract shall be subject to the above provision. Employees on their initial probationary period who test positive for drugs or alcohol from either a random or reasonable suspicion test shall not be eligible for a last chance or Ohio EAP Agreement. The probationary employee shall be terminated on the first occasion in which they test positive for alcohol or other drugs.

## **APPENDIX G - CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATIONS**

<b>Class No.</b>	<b>Class Title</b>
64311	Librarian 1 (Non-Degreed)
64312	Librarian 1 (Degreed)
64313	Librarian 2 (Non-Degreed)
64314	Librarian 2 (Degreed)
64315	Librarian 2 (Reference Services)
64316	Librarian 2 (Technical Services)
64317	Library Consultant
69621	Education Liaison
69651	Education Specialist 1
69652	Education Specialist 2
69653	Education Specialist 3
69654	Education Specialist 4

<b>Class No.</b>	<b>Class Title</b>
69760	Vocational Appraisal Specialist
69761	Guidance Counselor 1
69762	Guidance Counselor 2
71111	Teacher 1
71112	Teacher 2
71113	Teacher 3
71114	Teacher 4
71121	Teacher Art 1
71122	Teacher Art 2
71123	Teacher Art 3
71124	Teacher Art 4
71171	Teacher English 1
71172	Teacher English 2
71173	Teacher English 3
71174	Teacher English 4
71181	Teacher Career-Tech-Family and Consumer Science 1
71182	Teacher Career-Tech-Family and Consumer Science 2
71183	Teacher Career-Tech-Family and Consumer Science 3
71184	Teacher Career-Tech-Family and Consumer Science 4
71191	Teacher Industrial Arts 1
71192	Teacher Industrial Arts 2
71193	Teacher Industrial Arts 3
71194	Teacher Industrial Arts 4
71211	Teacher Special Education-Intervention Specialist 1
71212	Teacher Special Education-Intervention Specialist 2
71213	Teacher Special Education-Intervention Specialist 3



<b>Class No.</b>	<b>Class Title</b>
71214	Teacher Special Education-Intervention Specialist 4
71221	Teacher Librarian/Ed Media 1
71222	Teacher Librarian/Ed Media 2
71223	Teacher Librarian/Ed Media 3
71224	Teacher Librarian/Ed Media 4
71231	Teacher Mathematics 1
71232	Teacher Mathematics 2
71233	Teacher Mathematics 3
71234	Teacher Mathematics 4
71261	Teacher Physical Education & Health 1
71262	Teacher Physical Education & Health 2
71263	Teacher Physical Education & Health 3
71264	Teacher Physical Education & Health 4
71281	Teacher Science 1
71282	Teacher Science 2
71283	Teacher Science 3
71284	Teacher Science 4
71311	Teacher Social Studies 1
71312	Teacher Social Studies 2
71313	Teacher Social Studies 3
71314	Teacher Social Studies 4
71331	Teacher Career-Tech-Auto Body 1
71332	Teacher Career-Tech-Auto Body 2
71333	Teacher Career-Tech-Auto Body 3
71334	Teacher Career-Tech-Auto Body 4
71341	Teacher Career-Tech-Auto Mechanics 1
71342	Teacher Career-Tech-Auto Mechanics 2
71343	Teacher Career-Tech-Auto Mechanics 3
71344	Teacher Career-Tech-Auto Mechanics 4
71351	Teacher Career-Tech-Barbering 1
71352	Teacher Career-Tech-Barbering 2
71353	Teacher Career-Tech-Barbering 3

<b>Class No.</b>	<b>Class Title</b>
71354	Teacher Career-Tech-Barbering 4
71361	Teacher Career-Tech Building Maintenance 1
71362	Teacher Career-Tech Building Maintenance 2
71363	Teacher Career-Tech Building Maintenance 3
71364	Teacher Career-Tech Building Maintenance 4
71371	Teacher Career-Tech Administrative Office Tech 1
71372	Teacher Career-Tech Administrative Office Tech 2
71373	Teacher Career-Tech Administrative Office Tech 3
71374	Teacher Career-Tech Administrative Office Tech 4
71381	Teacher Career-Tech-Carpentry 1
71382	Teacher Career-Tech-Carpentry 2
71383	Teacher Career-Tech-Carpentry 3
71384	Teacher Career-Tech-Carpentry 4
71391	Teacher Career-Tech-Cosmetology 1
71392	Teacher Career-Tech-Cosmetology 2
71393	Teacher Career-Tech-Cosmetology 3
71394	Teacher Career-Tech-Cosmetology 4
71411	Teacher Career-Tech-Drafting 1
71412	Teacher Career-Tech-Drafting 2
71413	Teacher Career-Tech-Drafting 3
71414	Teacher Career-Tech-Drafting 4
71441	Teacher Career-Tech-Electrical Wiring 1
71442	Teacher Career-Tech-Electrical Wiring 2
71443	Teacher Career-Tech-Electrical Wiring 3
71444	Teacher Career-Tech-Electrical Wiring 4
71451	Teacher Career-Tech-Electronics 1
71452	Teacher Career-Tech-Electronics 2
71453	Teacher Career-Tech-Electronics 3
71454	Teacher Career-Tech-Electronics 4

<b>Class No.</b>	<b>Class Title</b>
71461	Teacher Career-Tech-Food Service 1
71462	Teacher Career-Tech-Food Service 2
71463	Teacher Career-Tech-Food Service 3
71464	Teacher Career-Tech-Food Service 4
71471	Teacher Career-Tech-Graphic Arts 1
71472	Teacher Career-Tech-Graphic Arts 2
71473	Teacher Career-Tech-Graphic Arts 3
71474	Teacher Career-Tech-Graphic Arts 4
71481	Teacher Career-Tech-Horticulture 1
71482	Teacher Career-Tech-Horticulture 2
71483	Teacher Career-Tech-Horticulture 3
71484	Teacher Career-Tech-Horticulture 4
71511	Teacher Career-Tech-Machine Shop 1
71512	Teacher Career-Tech-Machine Shop 2
71513	Teacher Career-Tech-Machine Shop 3
71514	Teacher Career-Tech-Machine Shop 4
71521	Teacher Career-Tech-Masonry 1
71522	Teacher Career-Tech-Masonry 2
71523	Teacher Career-Tech-Masonry 3
71524	Teacher Career-Tech-Masonry 4
71561	Teacher Career-Tech-Small Eng Mech 1
71562	Teacher Career-Tech-Small Eng Mech 2
71563	Teacher Career-Tech-Small Eng Mech 3
71564	Teacher Career-Tech-Small Eng Mech 4
71571	Teacher Career-Tech-Welding 1
71572	Teacher Career-Tech-Welding 2
71573	Teacher Career-Tech-Welding 3
71574	Teacher Career-Tech-Welding 4
71591	Teacher Career-Tech-Culinary Arts 1
71592	Teacher Career-Tech-Culinary Arts 2
71593	Teacher Career-Tech-Culinary Arts 3
71594	Teacher Career-Tech-Culinary Arts 4
71621	Teacher Career-Tech-Heat/Air Con 1

<b>Class No.</b>	<b>Class Title</b>
71622	Teacher Career-Tech-Heat/Air Con 2
71623	Teacher Career-Tech-Heat/Air Con 3
71624	Teacher Career-Tech-Heat/Air Con 4
71631	Teacher Career-Tech-Meat Cutting 1
71632	Teacher Career-Tech-Meat Cutting 2
71633	Teacher Career-Tech-Meat Cutting 3
71634	Teacher Career-Tech-Meat Cutting 4
71711	Teacher Adult Basic Ed 1
71712	Teacher Adult Basic Ed 2
71713	Teacher Adult Basic Ed 3
71714	Teacher Adult Basic Ed 4
71721	Teacher Adult Basic Ed (GED) 1
71722	Teacher Adult Basic Ed (GED) 2
71723	Teacher Adult Basic Ed (GED) 3
71724	Teacher Adult Basic Ed (GED) 4
71731	Teacher Voc-Bus Off Sys Spc 1
71732	Teacher Voc-Bus Off Sys Spc 2
71733	Teacher Voc-Bus Off Sys Spc 3
71734	Teacher Voc-Bus Off Sys Spc 4
71781	Teacher Language Arts 1
71782	Teacher Language Arts 2
71783	Teacher Language Arts 3
71784	Teacher Language Arts 4
71791	Teacher Career-Tech-Career Based Intervention 1
71792	Teacher Career-Tech-Career Based Intervention 2
71793	Teacher Career-Tech-Career Based Intervention 3
71794	Teacher Career-Tech-Career Based Intervention 4
71811	Teacher Voc-Pre Vocational 1
71812	Teacher Voc-Pre Vocational 2

<b>Class No.</b>	<b>Class Title</b>
71813	Teacher Voc-Pre Vocational 3
71814	Teacher Voc-Pre Vocational 4
71911	Substitute Teacher 1
71912	Substitute Teacher 2
71913	Substitute Teacher 3
71914	Substitute Teacher 4
99200	Teacher Deaf or Blind School

**APPENDIX H - RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE**

**APPENDIX I - RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE**

**APPENDIX J - RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE**

**APPENDIX K - VOLUNTARY COST SAVINGS  
PROGRAM**

Voluntary Cost Savings Program Plans shall offer employees four (4) options.

- A.** Option #1 shall allow full-time employees the opportunity to reduce their bi-weekly schedule by no less than eight (8) hours and no more than forty (40) hours. Leave used under this plan will be considered leave without pay and as inactive pay status. Employees participating in this plan shall maintain their full-time status for the purposes of leave accruals and health care premiums in accordance with Article 32. Further, employees shall not incur a break in State service and seniority. Seniority and State service credit will be based on eighty (80) hours per pay period. The maximum number of hours available to be reduced by any employee is five hundred and twenty (520) in a fiscal year or a total of six (6) months, whichever comes first.
- B.** Option #2 shall allow full-time and part-time employees the opportunity to take unpaid leaves of absence in blocks of time no less than two (2) weeks

and up to a maximum of thirteen (13) weeks within a fiscal year. The Employer will continue to pay its share of health insurance premiums during utilization of this plan. Employees participating in this plan are responsible for their share of health insurance premiums for all insurance programs in which they are enrolled at the time of the leave. Leave used under this plan will be considered leave without pay and as inactive pay status. Employees will not incur a break in State service or seniority as long as the employee returns to employment on or before the indicated date.

- C. Option #3 - shall allow a full time or part-time employee the opportunity to be credited with either forty (40) or eighty (80) voluntary cost savings hours during the course of the fiscal year. Employees participating in this plan will have each bi-weekly paycheck reduced over the course of the fiscal year in an amount that equates to either forty (40) or eighty (80) hours in total. An employee is entitled to use all available voluntary cost savings hours during the fiscal year, at times mutually agreed to between the employee and the Employer. If an employee has been prevented from using all of their voluntary cost savings hours, a reconciliation will be conducted by the Agency and the employee's pay will be credited for the hours not taken at the end of the fiscal year. If an employee separates from State service during the fiscal year, the employee shall receive payment for the amount of money that has been deducted less the cost of the time used. If the employee used more time than deducted, the employee's final paycheck will be adjusted to balance out the excess hours taken. Employees participating in this plan shall maintain

their appointment type, as full-time or part-time, for the purposes of leave accruals and health care premiums. Further, employees shall not incur a break in State service and seniority. Seniority and State service credit will be based on eighty (80) hours per pay period.

- D.** Option #4 - Other cost saving measures may be explored by Agency Labor/Management Committees.
- E.** All employees who have completed their initial probationary period shall be eligible to participate in this program.
- F.** Participation in this program is strictly voluntary.
- G.** Employees participating in this program shall not be eligible for unemployment benefits.
- H.** Once a Voluntary Cost Savings Program schedule is approved by the Employer, the employee must complete and sign a Voluntary Cost Savings Agreement. A Voluntary Cost Savings Agreement can be terminated by the Employer upon providing ten (10) working days' notice in writing to the employee. Such termination shall not be grievable. The employee may terminate his/her Voluntary Cost Savings Agreement upon ten (10) working days' notice in writing unless mutually agreed to otherwise.
- I.** The Employer has sole discretion to approve or deny an employee's Voluntary Cost Savings leave request. Denial of Voluntary Cost Savings leave request shall be non-grievable.
- J.** Before the implementation of the Voluntary Cost Savings Program the Agency Labor/Management Committee shall meet to discuss questions and issues relating to the program. After implementation of the Agreement, the parties through a

Labor/Management Committee will continue to monitor its application including disputes and/or related problems on an ongoing basis. The Employer may discontinue this program upon providing the Association with thirty (30) days' notice.

- K.** If an employee utilizes the Voluntary Cost Savings Program contiguous to a holiday, the employee shall not forfeit their holiday pay



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