

## **DISTRICT PROPOSAL #6**

### **Article XIV Duty Day**

**April 22, 2026**

#### **ARTICLE XIV**

#### **DUTY DAY**

- A. Except as otherwise provided in this Contract, the employee duty day shall be seven hours and 30 minutes including a duty-free lunch, or 37 ½ hours per week total.
- B. As part of an ongoing program of school improvement, and in recognition of individual schools' needs to be given increased responsibility for site-based decision making, the parties agree to the following relating to the employee duty day:
1. The duly elected Faculty Advisory Committee and the administrator, with input from the school staff may mutually agree on scheduling arrangements for teachers to include, teaching load(s), student contact time, planning time, duty time, extended-duty assignments, compensatory time, coverage of classes in lieu of using substitutes, scheduling of elementary teachers, the use of flexible time blocks, common planning time, end of course testing schedules, scheduling of special area teachers and the implementation of any mandated school wide programs which affect any of the provisions found in this article. At the end of each school year, each teacher may submit scheduling preferences for elementary special area teachers to this process for consideration.
  2. Such agreements shall be conditioned upon a majority vote of support by secret ballot of those voting from the faculty, reduced to writing and distributed to each teacher at the school. The agreement(s) shall remain in effect until the end of the school year. The FAC shall conduct the election. The faculty shall receive notice of the election in writing at least two duty days prior to the voting. The voting period shall extend for up to two duty days. The most senior Association Representative shall be present at ballot counting. If there is no Association Representative, the administrator shall contact the Association President/designee prior to the ballot counting so that s/he may be present to observe.
  3. In the absence of mutual agreement, the following provisions shall apply to those areas where such agreement cannot be reached:
    - a. When an emergency situation arises, an extended duty assignment beyond the regular duty day may be made. When such becomes necessary, volunteers shall be sought first. If no one volunteers, consideration shall be given to the

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employees' personal commitments which cannot be rescheduled. Employees so assigned shall be allowed to take an equal amount of time off during non-student contact time, within ten duty days or at a time mutually agreeable between the teacher and the principal. Employees may receive time off for voluntarily participating in school activities occurring outside of their regular workday.

- b. When a medical or legal appointment involving the employee or a member of his/her immediate family, or a school-related conference involving the employee's dependent, is required that cannot be scheduled outside the employee duty day, or when an employee attending in-service or college classes needs reasonable commuting time, an employee may be allowed to leave at the end of the regular student day, provided acceptable arrangements to accommodate duty or other school activities have been made and are communicated.
- c. When a personal emergency results in an employee either having to arrive late or leave early, the employee shall be charged with appropriate leave, only when the absence exceeds one-quarter day and/or requires the use of a substitute.
- d. No teacher shall be assigned responsibility for students for more than three continuous hours.
- e. Except as may be provided elsewhere in this Contract, assigned instructional responsibility shall be based upon approximately 25.5 hours per week, except in post-secondary schools and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten classes where it shall be based upon no more than 30 hours per week. In the secondary schools, assignments to a supervised study hall or non-compensated extra-curricular activity during school hours shall be considered assigned instructional responsibility, however passing time shall not.
- f. In the event supervision of students, both within and/or outside of the regular student day, is required, assignments shall be rotated on an equitable basis to the extent possible.
- g. Administrators will cooperate with employees in making arrangements for a break in either the morning or afternoon. Employees needing to use the

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restroom may call the office at any time of the day to receive relief without a delay.

- h. Elementary teachers shall have an average daily planning time of 60 minutes, at least 45 of which shall be contiguous. Middle and high school teachers shall have a contiguous daily planning time equal to a student academic period or 50 minutes, whichever is less. The parties recognize that in some cases, contiguous planning time may need to be temporarily adjusted due to unanticipated circumstances. Post-secondary teachers shall have an average daily planning time of at least 50 minutes, at least 35 of which shall be contiguous.

Planning time shall be used for purposes of preparation, which may also include conferences with parents, administrators, or other teachers, and/or giving special assistance to students. A teacher shall not be restricted to remain in a particular area of the school during his/her planning time; however, this provision does not apply to common planning time. A reasonable effort shall be made by the administrator to provide a special area for planning. Schools shall provide a common planning time once a week for instruction.

Teachers who assume additional teaching or duty assignments or have rotational assigned supervision during the student day may not necessarily be guaranteed the planning time outlined above.

- C. The Board agrees to provide substitute teachers for art, music, and physical education teachers and media specialists. No teacher shall be used as a substitute for another teacher except in cases of emergency or unforeseen circumstances. The District shall maintain a substitute pool for the filling of vacancies due to absenteeism.

The District will provide a long-term certified substitute for non-classroom certified personnel who are on a long-term leave, where possible. Upon written request from the Union, the District will notify the Union of the reason for not providing a long-term certified substitute within twenty (20) duty days of the written request.

- 1. In cases of non-emergency, teachers cannot be required to substitute for another teacher. In cases of emergency, teachers may be required to substitute for another teacher, however, classified staff and non-classroom teachers should be used to cover classes prior to resorting to splitting classes.

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2. The definition of emergency is a sudden unexpected happening; an unforeseen occurrence or condition; perplexing contingency or complication of circumstances; a sudden or unexpected occasion for action; exigency; pressing necessity. Emergency is an unforeseen combination of circumstances that calls for immediate action without time for full deliberation. Examples include, but are not limited to, a sudden unexpected and severe medical event at school, or when a teacher has a family crisis during the school day requiring his/her immediate attention.
  3. It is not an emergency when:
    - a. a teacher arrives late due to reasons such as illness, car problems, or traffic and misses less than a quarter day of work;
    - b. a teacher needs one or two periods of class coverage to attend meetings on campus and other events, such as picture days, awards ceremonies and giving guest lectures in colleagues' classes;
    - c. a teacher leaves early due to a doctor's appointment;
    - d. a Kelly Services substitute arrives after the start of a work day; or
    - e. teachers are released to attend professional development either off-site or on-site.
  4. School administrators are precluded from cancelling substitutes and will be notified of such limitation on their authority.
  5. Any bargaining unit member required to split classes or substitute for another teacher will receive a proportionate share of compensation that a substitute teacher is paid to cover absences in that particular school.
- D. Media centers in all schools shall observe a flexible schedule.
- E. The Board shall encourage class sizes consistent with District goals, the nature of different subject matter, instructional objectives, the requirements of different instructional processes, the capacities of the physical facilities, state laws and regulations, and the special needs of students.
1. If an individual teacher feels a class has an excessive number of students, s/he may request a meeting with the administrator who will discuss the issue with the teacher and attempt to resolve it.

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2. If the matter cannot be resolved within two weeks at the school level, it shall be referred by the administrator to the appropriate chief, area superintendent, or associate superintendent who will within two weeks assess the situation and make a final decision as to whether an adjustment in class size should be made. Said decision will be communicated to the teacher and will state the reasons.
  3. If district-wide ratios for students to social workers not assigned to schools exceed the prior year's ratio, the designated lead social workers may request a meeting with the Superintendent or designee to discuss the issues and attempt to resolve them.
  4. If the district-wide ratios for students to school psychologists not assigned to schools exceed the prior year's ratio, the designated lead school psychologist may request a meeting with the Superintendent or designee to discuss the issues and attempt to resolve them.
- F. Employees shall check (✓) in and out upon arrival and departure from their work site.
- G. On the day before a scheduled holiday, the employee duty day shall end at the close of the student day. Non-school based personnel may leave 30 minutes before the end of their regular day. If the day before the Winter and/or Spring Holiday period for school based teachers is a non-student contact day, it shall be 6.5 hours in length.
- H. The parties recognize the importance of employees' participation in school-related activities, such as open house, PTA, and other school functions, which occur outside of normal working hours and flex time may be used for affected teachers. The administrator may require attendance at the school's annual open house.
- I. On election days, employees whose duty day usually begins 45 minutes or more before the student day who wish to vote before the duty day begins, may opt for reporting to work 15 minutes before the student day. In the alternative, employees may leave at the end of the student day for purposes of voting.
- J. An employee, other than an itinerant employee, who is required to leave his/her work site in the performance of assigned duties, shall leave with his/her administrator a daily itinerary, so that the employee can be reached throughout the duty day. An itinerant employee shall provide a weekly schedule to the administrator of each school s/he serves during the week. The schedule shall include a duty-free lunch, planning time (if applicable)

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- and travel time. Each itinerant teacher shall be assigned a private space to provide instruction.
- K. Employees may, with the approval of the administrator, take part in activities outside the school building which are of interest to their present and prospective students. These activities shall include, but are not limited to, liaison activities with community and social agencies, vocational/educational guidance workshops, parental contact, exceptional education home visits, and job and educational placement activities.
  - L. Middle and senior high school teachers shall not be required to teach more than two subject areas.
  - M. Employees shall be scheduled for a minimum of 30 minutes for lunch (except for elementary teachers on Wednesdays when they will receive minimum 25 minutes) which shall be within the scheduled lunch periods for students except on field trips or in unplanned emergencies. On student contact days, in work locations where there is no lunchroom or in job assignments which permit flexible lunch schedules, an employee may be given approximately one hour for lunch by mutual agreement with his/her administrator. In such cases, the workday for the employee may be proportionately extended to provide for equity with other employees, without violating this Contract. On any non-student contact day, employees shall have a lunch period of one hour which may be off site.
  - N. An employee may leave the work site, upon receiving permission, during his /her planning time and duty-free lunch. No reasonable request shall be denied.
  - O. When post –secondary courses are taught in three-hour blocks and students are given a break, teachers shall be entitled to the same break.
  - P. Irregular Scheduling
    - 1. The parties recognize that certain post-secondary, district-level and/or special programs may require variations in scheduling. Such irregular scheduling shall be voluntary and may be used when insufficient student enrollment exists, based on current program standards, to justify a regular assignment of an employee.
      - a. Student Minimums in Career Technical and Adult General Education Programs shall be determined by school based administration. Exceptions to the-standards shall be considered on an individual program basis.

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- b. When a need for an irregular schedule exists, the administrator shall meet with the affected employee at least ten duty days prior to said assignment. Volunteers shall be sought first. When certification and job experience are equal, preference shall be given to the most senior employee who volunteers. If no volunteers are available, then the administrator shall select the least senior qualified employee eligible for a teaching assignment in the affected area. The affected employee may request a review of other options which might modify the need for split shifts.
  - c. An employee who is assigned an irregular schedule shall be informed of the reason for and the specific duration of the assignment. Within 45 student contact days, the program will be re-evaluated. The duration may be extended because of specific program needs for the remainder of the school year. There shall be no expectation of such extended hours from year to year. If sufficient enrollment then exists, the employee shall be returned to a regular schedule.
2. Employees other than those on split shifts, who work flexible hours within the regular work day shall be given compensatory time so that they do not work in excess of 37½ hours per week. If the work week is extended beyond 37½ hours in order not to disrupt the quality of a program, the excess hours shall be accrued under the provisions of Section B.1.a.
- Q. Required meetings or other required activities relating to the Teacher Induction Program normally shall not be scheduled so as to infringe upon teacher planning time or lunch of either the peer teacher or the beginning teacher. Arrangements shall be made to relieve these teachers of student contact time or other required duties for a period equal to that utilized in required meetings or activities relating to the Teacher Induction Program.
  - R. If district-wide committees/task forces or School Advisory Councils on which teachers serve, schedule their meetings during a part of or all of the duty day, teachers shall be given release time to attend.
  - S. Workdays shall be used primarily for grading and planning, and other requirements shall not exceed approximately one hour. Grades shall not be required more than one hour prior to the close of the day.
  - T. Teachers shall attend faculty meetings as called by the administrator. Any meetings called to solicit funds from teachers shall be pre-announced as to the meeting's purpose and

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teacher attendance shall be voluntary. Faculty meetings shall be called for specific reasons, and except during preplanning and post-planning, shall not exceed approximately one hour per week except for emergencies. Scheduled activities during preplanning will be limited to the equivalent of no more than two and one-half (2 ½) duty days so as not to significantly impede the teachers' time for preparation for the coming school year. This does not apply to new hires to the District and/or work location, schools assigned to the School Transformation Office, or schools identified as Corrective Program Schools.

- U. Physical education teachers who are routinely responsible for multiple classes and are regularly provided assistance shall be assured of similar support in the event of absenteeism.
- V. During the contract year, whenever a fifth Wednesday of the month falls on a duty day, teachers will receive an uninterrupted planning period after student contact time. No meetings, workshops or professional development will be scheduled during this time.
- W. A classroom teacher may work remotely on non-student contact days upon mutual agreement with his/her administrator. A non-classroom teacher may work remotely on days when they do not have students assigned. Requests shall not be unreasonably denied. The administrator must provide the reason for any denial in writing. **During extended employment, school counselors at the middle and high school levels may only work remotely up to two (2) days per work week, provided there is at least one school counselor on campus available to parents and students, upon mutual agreement with his/her administrator.**