

**SPERRY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY**

*Employees - Support*

Adopted: June 10, 2013  
Revised: September 10, 2018;  
September 9, 2019; August 9, 2021;  
August 8, 2022; August 14, 2023

**SUPPORT PERSONNEL LEAVE**

Sick Leave

The board of education grants sick leave with full pay to all support employees. This is to give an employee financial protection in case of personal illness and to protect the welfare of the children. Any absence for illness shall be certified by the superintendent, who shall be responsible for its validity.

Sick leave is interpreted as the time when personal illness, accidental injury or pregnancy or personal illness in the immediate family keeps an employee from being present to conduct his/her regular daily work. Immediate family is defined as father, mother, brother, sister, husband, wife, child, grandparent, or grandchild. This also includes dental, physical and eye examinations for employee and dependents in the immediate family. Any misuse or use of sick leave for other purposes may result in disciplinary action or termination.

Full time (6 or more hours per day) support employees will accrue one (1) day of sick leave per month of employment, depending on the length of their contract, cumulative to 120 days. For example, a support employee on a ten-month contract will accrue one (1) day of sick leave per month, for a total of ten (10) days sick leave accrued over the fiscal year. Pay for sick leave for support personnel is limited to the number of hours per day for which the employee is regularly employed. For example, an employee who works seven (7) hours per day will be paid for a maximum of seven (7) hours of sick leave per day and that seven (7) hours will constitute one day of sick leave for that employee.

Bus drivers receive five (5) days of sick leave per year. Bus driver sick days are non-cumulative.

Employees who are absent without accumulated leave will have their pay docked based on their regular hourly rate of pay.

Employees must notify their building principal or supervisor as soon is possible if the employee is unable to report to work.

Employees who have been employed by the District for a minimum of ten (10) years will receive \$50.00 for each unused sick leave day that was accumulated while employed by the Sperry School District at the end of the year they retire or leave the District. These days will be allowed to accumulate to a maximum of 120 days and will not be confused with the 120 days that are allowed to be accumulated toward retirement.

Employees who have been employed by the District for twenty (20) or more years will receive \$60.00 for each unused sick leave day that was accumulated while employed by the Sperry School District at the end of the year they retire or leave the District.

### Civic Duty Leave

The district shall grant a full time support employee leave for jury duty and shall pay him or her during such service the full current salary. The district shall also grant a full time support employee leave with full pay to serve as a witness in a legal proceeding in which he or she is not a party if the witness has been lawfully subpoenaed. The district may deduct any compensation or witness fee received for services from the employee's salary during such service.

### Employee Association Leave

A support employee may request a leave of absence to hold office as an officer, director, trustee, or agent of a national, statewide, or school district employee association. The support employee requesting employee association leave must provide the district superintendent, or their designee, with proof of election and proof of the term of office for the national, statewide, or school district employee association. Proof of election must include certification by the employee association of the date of the election and the results of the election.

The board of education may, in its sole discretion, grant a request for leave of absence under this section, but such leave will be without pay and without benefits granted by the district, regardless of whether the benefit is paid by the employee on leave or the association for which the employee is serving as an officer, director, trustee, or agent. If the request for employee association leave is granted, the board of education will provide definitive beginning and end dates for the approved leave of absence.

During the employee association leave period, the employee's position with the district will be maintained without advancement on the minimum salary schedule and without accrual of sick leave, personal business leave, or personal leave. Furthermore, the employee on leave will not accumulate service credit within the Teacher's Retirement System of Oklahoma. Following the conclusion of a leave of absence approved by the board of education under this section, the employee may return to their former position or a comparable position.

During the leave of absence, the employee granted leave will be prohibited from accessing district office space.

### Personal Business Leave

All full time employees (6 hours per day) shall be allowed three (3) days each school year for personal business leave. The first two (2) days are at full pay, but day three (3) is at the sub deduct rate. Personal business leave is not cumulative.

An employee must notify his/her supervisor 48 hours in advance of using personal business leave, unless an emergency prevents such notice. In that instance, the superintendent must approve the leave. If the superintendent is not available, the building principal may give approval.

Personal business leave may not be used on the first or last day of the contract or on a day before or after a holiday.

### Bereavement Leave

All full time employees shall be granted bereavement leave with pay to attend funerals for immediate family members (employee's parent, sibling, grandparent or corresponding in-laws). Three (3) days leave will be granted to attend a funeral which is held within Oklahoma, and five (5) days leave will be granted to attend a funeral which is held outside the state.

All full time employees shall be granted five (5) days leave with pay to attend the funeral of the employee's spouse or child.

Employees may also request that their building principal authorize the use of personal business leave days to extend bereavement leave.

### Holidays

Except in instances of urgent business need, 12 month employees will observe the following holidays with pay:

- Independence Day (1 day)
- Labor Day (1 day)
- Fall Break (1 day)
- Thanksgiving (3 days)
- Winter Break (7 days)
- Spring Break (3 days)
- Memorial Day (1 day)

Any employee working during an observed holiday will receive flex time as compensation for the amount of work performed.

### Military Leave

It is the policy of the district to provide leave for support employees who are a component of the armed forces in the United States including members of the National Guard, when that support employee is ordered by proper authorities to active duty or service. Military leave shall be without loss of status, efficiency rating pay or benefits during the first thirty (30) calendar days or the first thirty (30) regularly scheduled work days for support employees, or not to exceed two hundred forty (240) hours, of such leave of absence in any federal fiscal year. The district will also comply with all other rights guaranteed under state and federal law.

### Maternity Leave

Full-time employees of the district who have been employed by the district for at least one year and have worked at least 1,250 hours during the preceding 12-month period shall be entitled to six (6) weeks of paid maternity leave following the birth of the employee's child. The six (6) weeks of paid maternity leave shall be used immediately following the birth of the employee's child. The six (6) weeks of maternity leave shall be in addition to and not in place of sick leave due to pregnancy pursuant to 70 O.S. § 6-104. A school district employee taking maternity leave pursuant to the new law shall not be deprived of any compensation or other benefits to which the employee is otherwise entitled.

The district shall file claims with the State Board of Education for reimbursement of expenses related to providing eligible employees with paid maternity leave.

With regard to any shared sick leave program which is currently offered or which may be offered in the future by the district, maternity leave provided must be used prior to any shared sick leave available under the district's program.

### Vacations

Twelve month employees under contract with the board of education will be granted an annual vacation with pay under these terms:

Years of Service	Days	Prorated Amount for Mid-Year Termination
1	10	.83
2	12	1.0
3-4	15	1.25
5-6	17	1.41
7 & above	20	1.66

Vacation days must be approved by the superintendent or assistant superintendent and must be taken between July 1<sup>st</sup> and June 30<sup>th</sup> each year. Vacation days are non-cumulative.

During the year of retirement, unused vacation days may be paid based on salary earned per day, excluding fringe benefits. Any employee wishing to utilize this option must make the appropriate arrangements to do so with the payroll department.

### Epidemic Leave

Support employees who are full-time employees of the District, as determined by the standard period of labor which is customarily understood to constitute full-time employment for the type of services performed by the employee, and who are also employed a minimum of one hundred seventy-two (172) days, shall be entitled to pay for any time lost when school is closed on account of epidemics or otherwise when an order for such closing has been issued by a health officer authorized by law to issue the order.

Reference: OKLA. STAT. tit. 44, § 209; OKLA. STAT. tit. 72, § 48; OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, §6-104; OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 6-101.40; OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 509.12; Atty. Gen. Op. No. 73-297; Atty. Gen. Op. No. 76-161; OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 6-104.1, et seq.

**SUSPENSION, DEMOTION,  
TERMINATION OR NONREEMPLOYMENT OF SUPPORT EMPLOYEES**

1. Definitions

- A. "Support Employee" shall mean an employee of the district who provides those services, not performed by professional educators or licensed teachers, which are necessary for the efficient and satisfactory functioning of the district.
- B. "Full-time Support Employee" shall mean a support employee who regularly works the standard period of labor which is generally understood to constitute full-time employment for the type of services performed by the employee and who is employed by the district for a minimum of 172 days per year.
- C. "Suspension without pay" shall mean the temporary denial of a support employee's right to work and receive any pay and other benefits during the term of the suspension. "Suspension without pay" may be as a disciplinary measure as provided in paragraph 4.B(1), below or as a suspension pending investigation as provided in paragraph 4.B(2), below. If a final decision is made under the procedures stated below that a suspension without pay was improper, the support employee shall receive full pay and other benefits for the period of suspension.
- D. "Suspension with pay" may occur in those situations in which the superintendent or his or her designee, or a supervisor of the support employee perceives a significant hazard in keeping the support employee on the job, in which event the support employee may be asked to immediately leave the district's premises and the support employee is temporarily relieved of his or her duties pending a hearing under paragraph 4, below.
- E. "Demotion" shall mean a reduction in pay during the term of the support employee's contract. "Demotion" shall not mean a change in job description or work assignment or duties.
- F. "Termination" shall mean the discharge of the support employee from his/her employment with the district during the term of his/her contract and does not include the cessation of employment upon expiration of the support employee's contract.
- G. "Non-reemployment" shall mean the failure to offer a support employee a new contract for the next successive school year after the contract under which the support employee is presently employed has expired.

2. Policy On Suspension, Demotion, Termination Or Non-Reemployment Of Full-Time Support Employees

A full time support employee who has been employed by the district for more than one year shall be suspended, demoted, terminated or non-reemployed during the term of his/her contract only for cause as provided in this policy. In addition to the definition of cause stated in section 3 of this policy, "cause" shall also specifically include lack of funds or lack of work. Any support employee who has been employed by the district for less than one year (12 months) is not entitled to invoke the procedures of this policy and such employee's contract can be terminated at any time without cause.

3. Cause For Suspension, Demotion, Termination Or Nonreemployment

- A. A support employee may be suspended, demoted, terminated or non-reemployed during the term of his/her contract for any of the following:
  - i. Violation of any rule, regulation or requirement issued by the office of the superintendent or board of education of the district; or
  - ii. Conduct not otherwise specified in the above rules, regulations or requirements which constitutes insubordination, neglect of duty, incompetency in job performance, dishonesty, or causing or allowing damage, destruction or theft of school property.
- B. The rules, regulations and requirements referred to above and the Rules for Conduct shall be furnished to each support employee at the time of his/her initial employment. In the event these rules are updated, a copy shall be timely distributed to support employees.

4. Procedures For Suspensions Without Pay, Terminations And Demotions

- A. Any full-time support employee is subject to disciplinary action in the form of a suspension without pay, demotion or termination. Prior to instituting any such disciplinary action the full-time support employee shall receive the following hearing rights:
  - i. The superintendent of schools or his or her designee shall orally advise the support employee of the cause or basis for the proposed disciplinary action;
  - ii. The superintendent of the district or his or her designee shall explain to the support employee the evidence against the support employee;
  - iii. The superintendent of the district or his or her designee shall allow the support employee an opportunity to present his or her side of the matter.
- B. After the support employee is afforded the above hearing rights the superintendent of the district or his or her designee may take any of the following actions:

- i. Suspension without pay for ten (10) working days or less as a disciplinary measure;
  - ii. Suspension without pay pending investigation as to whether cause exists for the termination of the support employee;
  - iii. Demotion of the support employee;
  - iv. Termination of the support employee;
  - v. Conclude that no disciplinary action is appropriate.
- C. The support employee shall have the right to appeal to the board of education a suspension without pay as a disciplinary measure, a demotion or a termination as set forth in the Procedures for Appeal to the board of education in section 6 below.

5. Procedures For Non-Reemployment

Prior to being non-reemployed, a full-time support employee who has been employed by the district for more than one (1) year shall be entitled to the following hearing rights:

- A. The board of education or the superintendent of the district or his or her designee shall advise the support employee, in writing, of the board's intention to consider and act on the non-reemployment of the support employee for the subsequent fiscal year;
- B. The written notification shall set out the cause(s) for such action;
- C. The support employee shall have the right to contest his or her non-reemployment before the board of education as set forth in the Procedures for Appeal to the board of education in section 6 below.

6. Procedures For Appeal To The Board Of Education

- A. After any suspension without pay as a disciplinary measure, or prior to the effective date of any demotion, termination during the term of his/her contract or non-reemployment, the support employee shall receive notice of his/her right to a hearing before the board of education as herein provided.
- B. All notices shall be sent to the support employee by certified mail at the address of the support employee shown on the school records. If the support employee refuses to accept the notice or fails or refuses to pick up the notice after being notified by the post office to do so, then the support employee shall be deemed to have received the notice on the date that the notice was postmarked. The postmark shall be used to determine the timeliness of the notice.
- C. A support employee who has been notified in writing of his/her suspension without pay as a disciplinary measure, demotion or termination during the

term of his/her contract or non-reemployment may notify the clerk of the board of education of the district within ten (10) working days of the postmark on the notice if the support employee desires a hearing before the board of education. If the support employee fails to notify the clerk of the board of education of the district in writing within ten (10) working days of the postmark on the notice that the support employee requests a hearing, the support employee shall be deemed to have waived the right to a hearing and the suspension without pay as a disciplinary measure, demotion or termination action shall be final and, in the case of a non-reemployment, the board may take final action to non-reemploy the employee without further notice or hearing rights.

D. Hearing before board of education:

- i. Upon timely notice as set forth above, the support employee shall be entitled to a hearing before the board of education. The hearing shall be conducted at the next, or next succeeding, regularly scheduled meeting of the board of education if the request for the hearing was received at least ten (10) days prior to the next, or next succeeding, regularly scheduled board of education meeting. At the request of the support employee or at the discretion of the board of education, the board of education shall call a special meeting to conduct the requested hearing, which special meeting shall be held no earlier than ten (10) days nor later than thirty (30) days after receipt of the support employee's request.
- ii. At the hearing before the board of education, the support employee shall be entitled to be represented by counsel, to cross-examine witnesses presented by the district, to present witnesses on his/her behalf and to present any relevant evidence or statement which the support employee desires to offer. The hearing shall be conducted in "open" session. The hearing shall commence with a statement to the support employee of his or her rights at the hearing. Following this statement, the district administration shall present facts showing the cause for the support employee's suspension without pay as a disciplinary measure, demotion, termination or non-reemployment. The burden of proof shall be upon the district administration. The support employee shall then have the right to present his/her side of the matter. After both the district administration and the support employee have fully presented their respective positions, the board of education shall deliberate on the evidence in executive session. The board of education shall announce its findings and decision immediately in open session by individual voice vote. The decision shall be made by a majority of the board of education members present at the meeting.
- iii. As to suspension as a disciplinary measure, demotion or termination, the board of education may affirm, modify or reverse the action taken against the support employee, including increasing or decreasing the severity of the original action. As to non-reemployment, the board may reemploy or non-reemploy the employee for the subsequent fiscal year.



- iv. The decision of the board of education at the hearing shall be final and non-appealable.

7. Miscellaneous

This policy shall be effective immediately upon adoption by the board of education and shall supersede all previous policies regarding the subject matter contained herein. The board of education reserves the right to modify or amend this policy from time to time in any manner consistent with applicable law.

Nothing contained in this policy shall prevent the board of education from acting on its own volition in matters pertaining to suspension, demotion, dismissal or non-renewal of support employees.

**SUPPORT EMPLOYEE  
RULES FOR CONDUCT**

A support employee may be suspended, demoted, terminated or nonreemployed for violation of any of the following Rules for Conduct, as well as other standards of conduct included in school district policies:

1. Falsification of personnel or other records.
2. Unexcused failure to be at work station at starting time.
3. Leaving work station without authorization prior to lunch periods, or end of work day.
4. Abandonment of job (3 or more consecutive or non-consecutive absences in a rolling 6 month period without following the proper reporting procedures).
5. Unapproved or excessive absenteeism.
6. Chronic absenteeism for any reason.
7. Unapproved or excessive tardiness.
8. Chronic tardiness.
9. Wasting time or loitering during working hours.
10. Leaving work area during work hours, without permission, for any reason.
11. Possession of weapons on school premises,<sup>1</sup> in school district vehicles or while on duty.
12. Removing school district property or records from school district premises without proper authority.
13. Willful abuse, misuse, defacing, or destruction of school district property, including tools, equipment, or property of other employees.
14. Theft or misappropriation of property of employees or students of the school district.

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<sup>1</sup> Support personnel who are either (a) over the age of twenty-one (21) or (b) who are a military member or veteran and over age eighteen may possess a firearm in the school parking lot but that weapon must be stored in the employee's vehicle pursuant to Oklahoma law.

15. Sabotage.
16. Distracting the attention of others.
17. Refusal to follow instructions of supervisor.
18. Refusal or failure to do work assignment.
19. Unauthorized operation of machines, tools, or equipment.
20. Threatening, intimidating, coercing or interfering with employees or supervisors.
21. Threatening, intimidating, coercing or exploiting students.
22. The making or publishing of false, vicious, or malicious statements concerning any employee or supervisor.
23. Creating a disturbance on school premises including but not limited to engaging in quarrelsome behavior and fighting.
24. Creating or contributing to unsanitary conditions.
25. Actions or omissions that jeopardize the health, safety, life, or property of self or others.
26. Practical jokes injurious to other employees, students or school district property.
27. Possession, consumption, or reporting to work under the influence of beer, alcoholic beverages (including wine), non-prescribed drugs, or controlled dangerous substances.
28. Disregard of known safety rules or common safety practices.
29. Unsafe operation of motor driven vehicles or equipment.
30. Operating machines or equipment without using the safety devices provided.
31. Gambling, lottery, or any other game of chance on school district property.
32. Unauthorized distribution of literature, written or printed matter of any description on school district property.
33. Posting or removing notices, signs, or writing in any form on bulletin boards of school district property at any time without specific authority of the administration.
34. Poor workmanship.
35. Immoral conduct or indecency including abusive and/or foul language.

36. Excessive personal calls during working hours, except for emergencies. This includes in-coming and out-going calls.
37. Walking off job.
38. Clocking in or out on another employee's time card or time sheet.
39. Smoking or using tobacco products in an unauthorized area, including the use of e-cigarettes, personal vaporizers and other similar devices, regardless of whether those devices are used with cartridges containing nicotine.
40. Refusal of job transfer, if the transfer does not result in a demotion.
41. Abuse of "breaks" (rest periods) or meal period policies.
42. Insubordination of any kind.
43. Dishonesty of any kind, including withholding pertinent information from a supervisor.
44. Wrongdoing of any kind.
45. Violation of a law or regulation.
46. Sexual harassment of an employee, a student or a third party such as a patron or vendor.
47. Engaging in discriminatory conduct (including discrimination based on race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, pregnancy, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or age) against an employee, student, or third party.
48. Violation of a policy or rule enacted to ensure orderly and proper job performance or for the safety of self or others.
49. Misuse or abuse of any school district leave policy or guidelines.
50. Any intentional act or omission which constitutes a material or substantial breach of job duties, responsibilities or obligations.
51. Any conduct which the employee knew or should have reasonably known was a violation of school rules or policies.
52. When it is in the best interest of the school district, any support personnel may be suspended, demoted, terminated or nonreemployed.
53. Because of the difficulty of retaining competent support employees on a temporary basis over an extended period of time, a support employee shall be subject to termination or nonreemployment for inability to perform the essential job requirements if the employee is unable due to illness or accidental injury to return to work for his or her regularly scheduled hours

and to perform all of the essential duties of the position (with or without reasonable accommodation) within 12 work weeks or the number of work days equal to the employee's total accumulated sick leave days, whichever is longer, measured from the date of the first absence due to the condition resulting in the extended absence.

54. Unauthorized access of a computer, mobile phone or website.

**RESIGNATION OF SUPPORT EMPLOYEES**

Support employees may submit a written resignation from employment with the district at any time. The resignation must be written, dated, signed and specify the date upon which it is effective. The resignation must be mailed to the superintendent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered to the superintendent's office. An acknowledgment of receipt of hand delivered copies shall be placed on the face of the resignation.

The superintendent is authorized to accept the written resignation of any support employee and shall advise the support employee in writing that the resignation has been accepted. The superintendent shall advise the board of education of the support employee's resignation and whether he/she has accepted the resignation.

Payment of final compensation shall be processed and disbursed at the scheduled times.

**EVALUATION OF SUPPORT PERSONNEL**

An approved evaluation instrument will be used to evaluate the district support personnel on the basis of job performance as listed on their job description. A copy of the evaluation will be given to the employee and a copy will be placed in the employee's personnel file. Evaluations of support employees will be completed no later than April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

## **ALCOHOL AND DRUG TESTING FOR BUS DRIVERS**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to prevent accidents and injuries resulting from alcohol or controlled substance use by drivers of commercial motor vehicles. This policy is intended to comply with the school district's mandatory obligations under regulations issued by the United States Department of Transportation ("DOT").

### **Definition of Terms**

Certain terms used in this policy have the following meaning unless the context plainly shows otherwise:

1. "Alcohol" means the intoxicating agent in beverage alcohol, ethyl alcohol or other low molecular weight alcohols including methyl or isopropyl alcohol.
2. "Alcohol concentration" means the number of grams of alcohol (for example: 0.04) in 210 liters of expired deep lung air.
3. "Alcohol confirmation test" means a subsequent test using an EBT (a breath testing device), following a screening test with a result of 0.02 or greater, that provides quantitative data about the alcohol concentration.
4. "Alcohol screening device" ("ASD") means a breath or saliva device, other than an EBT, that is approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration ("NHTSA") and appears on the Office of Drug & Alcohol Policy & Compliance's Web page for "Approved Screening Devices to Measure Alcohol in Bodily Fluids" because it conforms to the model specifications from NHTSA .
5. "Alcohol use" means drinking or swallowing any beverage, mixture or preparation, including any medication, containing alcohol.
6. "BAT" means a qualified breath alcohol technician.
7. "Cancelled test" means a drug or alcohol test that has a problem identified and cannot be or has not been corrected. A cancelled test is neither a positive or a negative test.
8. "CDL" means commercial driver's license.



9. "Clearinghouse" means the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) Commercial Driver's License Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse.
10. "Collection site" means a place selected by the employer where employees present themselves for the purpose of providing a urine specimen for a drug test.
11. "Confirmatory drug test" means a second analytical procedure performed on a different aliquot of the original specimen to identify and quantify the presence of a specific drug or drug metabolite.
12. "Confirmed drug test" means a confirmatory drug test result received by a MRO from a laboratory.
13. "Controlled substance" means amphetamines, cannabinoids, cocaine, phencyclidine (PCP), opioids, or a metabolite of any of these substances.
14. "Designated employer representative" ("DER") means an employee authorized by the employer to take immediate action(s) to remove employees from safety-sensitive duties, or cause employees to be removed from these covered duties, and to make required decisions in the testing and evaluation processes. The DER also receives test results and other communications for the employer.
15. "Dilute specimen" means a urine specimen with creatinine and specific gravity values that are lower than expected for human urine.
16. "Driver" means: (i) a school district employee who is required to have a CDL to perform the employee's duties; (ii) employees of independent contractors who are required to have CDLs; (iii) owner-operators; (iv) leased drivers; and (v) occasional drivers.
17. "EBT" means a device that is approved by NHTSA for the evidential testing of breath at the .02 and .04 alcohol concentrations, and appears on the Office of Drug & Alcohol Policy & Compliance's Web page for "Approved Screening Devices to Measure Alcohol in Bodily Fluids" because it conforms to the model specifications available from NHTSA.
18. "Federal Act" means the Omnibus Transportation Testing Act of 1991 and the regulations issued by the United States Department of Transportation pursuant to that Act.
19. "Oklahoma Act" means the Oklahoma Standards for Workplace Drug and Alcohol Testing Act.
20. "Initial drug test" means the test used to differentiate a negative specimen from one that requires further testing for drugs or drug metabolites.
21. "Initial validity test" means the first test used to determine if a specimen is adulterated, diluted, or substituted.
22. "Invalid drug test" means the result reported by an HHS-certified laboratory in accordance with the criteria established by HHS Mandatory Guidelines when a positive, negative, adulterated, or substituted result cannot be established for a specific drug or specimen validity test.

23. "Medical review officer" ("MRO") means a person who is a licensed physician and who is responsible for receiving and reviewing laboratory results generated by an employer's drug testing program and evaluating medical explanations for certain drug test results.
24. "Safety-sensitive function" means all time from the time a driver begins to work or is required to be in readiness to work until the time he/she is relieved from work and all responsibility for performing work.
25. "Screening Test Technician" ("STT") means a person who instructs and assists employees in the alcohol testing process and operates an ASD.
26. "Service agent" means any person or entity, other than an employee of the employer, who provides services to employers and/or employees in connection with DOT drug and alcohol testing requirements.
27. "Split specimen" means a part of the urine specimen that is sent to a first laboratory and retained unopened, and which is transported to a second laboratory in the event that the employee requests that it be tested following a verified positive test of the primary specimen or a verified adulterated or substituted test result.
28. "Stand-down" means the practice of temporarily removing an employee from the performance of safety-sensitive functions based only on a report from a laboratory to the MRO of a confirmed positive test for a drug or drug metabolite, an adulterated test, or a substituted test, before the MRO has completed a verified test.
29. "Substance Abuse Professional" ("SAP") means a person who evaluates employees who have violated a DOT drug and alcohol regulation and makes recommendations concerning education, treatment, follow-up testing, and aftercare.
30. "Substituted specimen" means a specimen with creatinine and specific gravity values that are so diminished that they are not consistent with human urine.
31. "Verified test" means a drug test result or validity testing result from a United States Department of Health and Human Services certified laboratory that has undergone review and final determination by the MRO.

### **Required Testing & Consent**

The following testing is required of all drivers:

#### *Pre-Employment Testing and Consent*

A driver must pass an alcohol and controlled substance test prior to performing a safety-sensitive function. The test will be conducted during the hiring process or immediately before the driver first performs a safety-sensitive function.

##### **1. Alcohol Testing**

A driver may not commence the performance of duties unless the test shows a concentration of less than 0.04. If the test shows a concentration of between 0.02 and 0.04, no safety-sensitive duties may be performed for at least 24 hours.

A pre-employment alcohol test will not be required if:

- i. The driver has undergone an alcohol test required by the Federal Act within the previous six weeks and tested under 0.04; and
- ii. The driver provides evidence that no prior employer of the driver has any record of alcohol misuse by the driver within the previous six months.

## 2. Controlled Substances

The driver must receive a confirmed negative controlled substance test result from a medical officer, except that no testing is required if:

- i. The driver has participated within the previous 30 days in a drug testing program meeting the requirements of the Federal Act; and
- ii. While participating in the program, the driver either (a) was tested for controlled substances within six months prior to the date of employment application or (b) participated in a random controlled substance testing program for the 12 months prior to the date of the employment application; and
- iii. The employer ensures that no prior employer of the driver of whom the employer has knowledge has records of a violation of this part of the controlled substance use rule of another DOT agency within the previous six months.

## 3. Preemployment Consent

The school district shall comply with the query requirements of the FMCSA, including participation in the Clearinghouse. This participation is described in detail in the District's policy on *Compliance with Regulations regarding the FMCSA Clearinghouse*. As part of this compliance, until January 6, 2023 the school district shall request the driver's written consent to obtain the following information from DOT-regulated employers who have employed the driver during the three (3) years before the date of the driver's application to a position requiring safety-sensitive duties:

- i. Alcohol tests with a result of 0.04 or higher alcohol concentration;
- ii. Verified positive drug tests;
- iii. Refusals to be tested (including verified adulterated or substituted drug test results);
- iv. Other violations of DOT agency drug and alcohol testing regulations; and
- v. Documentation of the driver's successful completion of return-to-duty requirements (for those drivers who have violated a drug or alcohol

regulation). If the previous employer does not have this documentation, the school district shall request that the driver produce it.

A driver may not perform safety-sensitive functions if s/he refuses to consent in writing to the release of the above information.

This records check shall be in addition to any queries conducted on the Clearinghouse website. After January 6, 2023, the school district shall continue to seek records from employers to the extent required by FMCSA and DOT regulations and shall seek consents when such records checks are required.

Drivers are responsible for furnishing the district with accurate information regarding their employment history, including accurate identification of all former DOT-regulated employers.

The school district shall maintain a written, confidential record of the information obtained or of the good faith efforts made to obtain the information. This record shall be maintained for three years from the date of the driver's first performance of safety-sensitive functions.

Prior to the driver's first performance of safety-sensitive functions, the school district shall ask the driver whether s/he has tested positive, or refused to test, on any pre-employment drug or alcohol test (1) administered by a DOT-regulated employer, (2) in connection with a position for which the driver applied, (3) involving the driver's failure to obtain safety-sensitive transportation work, and (4) over the period of three years preceding the date of the employee's application for employment with the school district. If the driver admits to a positive test or a refusal to test within the past two years, the school district shall not allow the driver to perform safety-sensitive functions until and unless the driver documents successful completion of the return-to-duty process.

#### 4. Consequences Associated with Preemployment Testing

The school district may decline to employ an applicant who fails drug testing, provides false information, or who fails to cooperate with the district in procuring testing and test results. To the extent the applicant has been offered employment or placed in an alternate position pending the receipt of test results, the offer may be withdrawn and alternate employment terminated in accordance with the district's policies and procedures applicable to employee termination.

#### *Post-Accident Testing*

##### 1. Alcohol

As soon as practical following an accident, an alcohol test will be administered to the following drivers:

- i. Each surviving driver who was performing safety-sensitive functions with respect to the vehicle, if the accident involves loss of life.
- ii. Each surviving driver who received a moving traffic violation arising from the accident, within eight (8) hours of the occurrence, if the accident involved:
  - a. bodily injury to any person that necessitated immediate medical treatment away from the scene of the accident; or
  - b. at least one vehicle incurred disabling damage as a result of the accident that required the vehicle to be transported away from the scene by a tow truck or other vehicle.

If the test is not administered within two (2) hours of the accident, the employer must prepare and maintain a record of why the test was not administered. If the test is not administered within eight (8) hours of the accident, the driver's supervisor shall cease attempts to administer an alcohol test and shall prepare a written report explaining why a test was not given.

Drivers shall remain readily available for testing. A driver leaving the scene of an accident without a valid reason prior to submission to the test may be deemed to have refused to submit to testing.

A breath or blood alcohol test conducted by a law enforcement agency will be considered to meet these requirements if the test meets the requirements of the Federal Act and the test results are obtained by the school district.

## 2. Controlled Substances

As soon as practical following an accident, a test for controlled substances will be administered to the following drivers:

- i. Each surviving driver who was performing safety-sensitive functions with respect to the vehicle, if the accident involved the loss of human life.
- ii. Each surviving driver who received a moving traffic violation arising from the accident, if the accident involved:
  - a. bodily injury to any person that necessitated immediate medical treatment away from the scene of the accident; or
  - b. at least one vehicle incurred disabling damage as a result of the accident that required the vehicle to be transported away from the scene by a tow truck or other vehicle.

The test is to be administered within thirty-two (32) hours of the accident. If no test is made within that time period, then no test will be made and the driver's supervisor will prepare a written report stating the reasons for not administering a prompt test.

Drivers shall remain readily available for testing. A driver leaving the scene of an accident without a valid reason prior to submission to the test may be deemed to have refused to submit to testing.

A urine test for controlled substances administered by a law enforcement agency will be considered to meet these requirements if the test meets the requirements of the Federal Act and the results are obtained by the school district.

### *Random Testing*

Random alcohol and controlled substances testing of drivers will be conducted throughout the year. Selection of the drivers to be tested will be made by a scientifically valid method, such as random-number table or a computer based random-generator matched with drivers' social security numbers, payroll identification numbers or other comparable identifying numbers. Dates for administering unannounced testing shall be unpredictable and spread reasonably throughout the calendar year.

Drivers are to be tested while performing safety-sensitive functions, just before performing those functions, or just after ceasing those functions. A driver who is notified of selection for random alcohol or controlled substances testing must proceed to the test site immediately, unless the driver is performing a safety-sensitive function other than driving, in which case the driver must cease performing the safety-sensitive function and proceed to the test site as soon as possible.

The minimum annual percentage rate for random alcohol testing will be ten percent (10%) of the average number of driver positions, subject to adjustment of the percentage by the Federal Highway Administration. The minimum annual percentage rate for random testing for controlled substances will be fifty percent (50%) of the average number of driver positions.

### *Reasonable Suspicion Testing*

Alcohol and controlled substance testing will be conducted when there is reasonable suspicion to believe that a driver has violated a provision in this policy. Reasonable suspicion shall be based on specific, contemporaneous, articulable observations concerning the appearance, behavior, speech or body odors of the driver. Reasonable suspicion for controlled substance use may also be based on indications of the chronic and withdrawal effects of controlled substances.

Alcohol testing is authorized only if the observations are made during, just preceding, or just after the period of the work day that the driver is performing a safety-sensitive function. A written record must be made as to why an alcohol test was not made within two hours following a determination of reasonable suspicion of misuse. No test is to be made if eight hours passed after the determination.

Persons designated to determine whether reasonable suspicion exists shall receive at least sixty (60) minutes of training on performance indicators of probable alcohol misuse. The required observations shall be made by a supervisor who has received training in detecting the symptoms of alcohol/controlled substance misuse. The

supervisor who makes the determination that reasonable suspicion exists shall not conduct the alcohol test.

A written record will be made of the observations leading to a controlled substance reasonable suspicion test. The record will be signed by the supervisor who made the observations. The record will be made within twenty four (24) hours of the observed behavior or before the test results are received, whichever is earlier.

#### *Return to Duty Testing*

1. Returning after Reasonable Suspicion of Alcohol Abuse Determination

A driver suspected of being under the influence of or impaired by alcohol will not be permitted to perform a safety-sensitive function until: (i) an alcohol test shows a concentration of less than 0.02; or (ii) 24 hours have elapsed following a determination that there was reasonable suspicion to believe the driver has violated the rules in this policy against alcohol misuse.

2. Returning after Violation of Prohibitions in this policy

A driver who has engaged in conduct prohibited by this policy shall not be permitted to perform safety-sensitive functions until s/he first passes a controlled substance test and/or an alcohol test with an alcohol concentration of less than 0.02.

A driver who has violated a provision in this policy cannot again perform any safety-sensitive duties for any employer until and unless the driver completes the SAP evaluation, referral, and education/treatment process.

#### *Follow-up Testing*

A driver who has been identified by a SAP as needing assistance in resolving problems with alcohol misuse or controlled substance use and who has returned to duty involving the performance of a safety-sensitive function will be subject to a minimum of six (6) unannounced follow-up alcohol and/or controlled substance tests over the following twelve (12) months. The SAP is the sole determiner of the number and frequency of follow-up tests, as well as whether the tests will be for drugs, alcohol or both. The SAP can direct additional testing during this period or for an additional period up to a maximum of sixty (60) months. The school district must carry out the SAP's follow-up testing requirements.

#### **Test Procedures**

Testing methodology will comply with the requirements of the Oklahoma Act, except that the requirements of the Federal Act stated in this policy supersede the provisions of the Oklahoma Act. Alcohol testing must be conducted in a location that provides visual and aural privacy to the driver, sufficient to prevent unauthorized persons from seeing or hearing the test.

#### *Alcohol Testing Procedures*

1. Initial Alcohol Screening Tests

- i. Procedures for an Alcohol Screening Test Using an EBT or Non-Evidential Breath ASD
  - a. When the driver enters the testing location, the BAT or STT will require the driver to provide positive identification. If the driver requests, the BAT or STT will provide positive identification. The BAT or STT will explain the testing procedure. An individually-sealed mouthpiece is opened in the view of the driver and attached to the EBT. The driver will then blow into the mouthpiece for at least six (6) seconds or until the device indicates that an adequate amount of breath has been obtained. The BAT or STT will show the driver the displayed test result. If the EBT does not provide a printed result, the BAT or STT will record the test number, date, technician's name, location and test result in a log book. The driver will initial the log book. If the EBT provides a printed result, the result is either: (i) printed on the testing form; or (ii) affixed to the form with tamper-evident tape.
  - b. If the screening test result is less than 0.02, the BAT or STT will transmit the result in a confidential manner to the school district's DER, who is designated by the board of education or the school superintendent to receive and handle alcohol test results in a confidential manner.
  - c. If the breath test is 0.02 or higher, a confirmation test is required.

ii. Procedure for an Alcohol Screening Test Using Saliva ASD

- a. When the driver enters the testing location, the STT will require the driver to provide positive identification. If the driver requests, the STT will provide positive identification. The STT will explain the testing procedure. The STT will check the expiration date on the device and show it to the driver. An individually wrapped package containing the device will be opened in the presence of the driver, and the driver will be instructed to insert the device into his or her mouth and use it in the manner described by the manufacturer. If the driver chooses not to use the device, the STT must insert the device into the driver's mouth and gather saliva.
- b. If the screening test result is less than 0.02, the STT will transmit the result in a confidential manner to the school district's DER, who is designated by the board of education or the school superintendent to receive and handle alcohol test results in a confidential manner.
- c. If the test result is an alcohol concentration of 0.02 or higher, a confirmation test is required.



## 2. Alcohol Confirmation Tests

- i. All confirmation tests must be conducted using an EBT. The confirmation test must occur no less than fifteen (15) minutes after the completion of the screening test and should occur no more than thirty (30) minutes after the completion of the screening test.
- ii. Before a confirmation test is given, the BAT must conduct a "blank" test on the EBT to obtain a reading of 0.00. The remainder of the confirmation test is identical to the screening test for EBTs described in section 1.i.a above.
- ii. If the confirmation test result is lower than 0.02, nothing further is required of the driver.
- iv. If the confirmation test result is 0.02 or higher, the driver must sign and date the ATF. The BAT will immediately transmit the result to the DER in a confidential manner.
- v. Refusal to take a required test has the same consequences as if the driver had tested 0.04 or more. The following constitutes a refusal to take a test: (1) failure to appear for any test within a time required to appear; (2) failure to provide an adequate amount of saliva or breath for testing without a valid medical explanation; (3) failure to cooperate with any part of the testing process; (4) failure to sign the alcohol testing form or ATF certification; (5) failure to remain at the testing site until the testing process is complete, unless the test is a pre-employment test; (6) failure to undergo a medical examination or evaluation due to insufficient breath sampling; (7) leaving the scene of an accident before being tested, except when reasonably necessary to receive medical treatment.

### *Controlled Substances Testing Procedures*

In accordance with the Federal Act, testing for controlled substances may be conducted either through urine or oral fluid specimen testing. All collections must be collected as split specimens.

1. Procedures for Collection of Urine Specimens Under Direct Observation
  - i. The school district must direct an immediate collection under direct observation with no advance notice to the driver, if:
    - a. the laboratory reported to the Medical Review Officer ("MRO") that a specimen is invalid and the MRO has reported that there is not an adequate medical explanation for the result; or
    - b. the MRO reported that the original positive, adulterated, or substituted test result had to be cancelled because the test of the split specimen could not be performed.

- c. The laboratory reported to the MRO that the specimen was negative-dilute with a creatinine concentration greater than or equal to 2 mg/dL but less than or equal to 5 mg/dL and the MRO reported the specimen as negative-dilute and that a second collection must take place under direct observation.
  - ii. The school district must direct a collection under direct observation of a driver if the drug test is a return-to-duty test or a follow-up test.
  - iii. A driver must receive an explanation of the reasons for a directly observed collection.
  - iv. If a driver declines to allow a directly observed collection, that driver will be considered to have refused to test.
2. Procedures for Testing for Controlled Substances
- i. Testing for controlled substances shall be performed by a laboratory certified for testing by a specimen of that kind by the federal Department of Health and Human Services ("DHHS") under the National Laboratory Certification Program.
  - ii. Controlled substance testing may only be performed for the following five drugs or classes of drugs: (a) marijuana metabolites, (b) cocaine metabolites, (c) amphetamines, (d) opioids, and (e) phencyclidine (PCP).
  - iii. If the driver requests a test of a split specimen, the first laboratory will ship the unopened split specimen to a second DHHS-approved laboratory for testing. If the test of the split specimen fails to confirm the presence of a controlled substance, the entire test is cancelled.
  - iv. The driver must request a split specimen test verbally or in writing within 72 hours of being notified of a verified positive drug test or refusal to test because of adulteration or substitution.
  - v. If a driver does not make a request within 72 hours, the driver may present information to the MRO documenting that serious injury, illness, lack of actual notice of the verified test result, inability to contact the MRO, or other circumstances unavoidably prevented the driver from making a timely request.
  - vi. If a driver makes a timely request for a split specimen test, the school district must ensure that the MRO, first laboratory and second laboratory perform the split-specimen testing functions in a timely manner. If necessary, the school district must pay for the split specimen testing and seek reimbursement from the driver.
  - vii. The MRO will report split specimen test results to the DER and driver.
  - viii. The laboratory will report results directly to the MRO. The laboratory will not report the results to anyone else.

- ix. In the case of a urine test, if the MRO finds a negative test was dilute, the district will require the employee to submit to a retest. Such a retest will only be under direct observation if directed by the MRO.
- x. When the MRO receives a confirmed positive, adulterated, substituted, or invalid test result from the laboratory, the MRO will attempt to contact the driver to determine whether the driver wants to discuss the test result. If the MRO cannot reach the driver after reasonable efforts to do so, the MRO must contact the DER but cannot tell the DER that the driver has a confirmed positive, adulterated, substituted, or invalid test result. The DER must then attempt to contact the driver. If the DER makes contact with the driver, the DER should simply direct the driver to contact the MRO immediately and inform the driver of the consequences of failing to contact the MRO within the next 72 hours. If the DER is unable to reach the driver after making three (3) attempts, spaced reasonably, over a 24-hour period, then the DER may place the driver on temporary medically unqualified status or medical leave. Documentation must be kept by the DER of any actual and/or attempted contacts with the driver, including the dates and times of the contacts. If the DER is unable to contact the driver within the 24-hour period, the DER must leave a message for the driver by voice mail, e-mail or letter to contact the MRO and inform the MRO of the date and time of this message.
- xi. Confirmation testing for controlled substances will be performed in accordance with the Oklahoma Act, except when the Oklahoma Act conflicts with Federal law.
- xii. The MRO may conduct additional testing of a specimen as authorized by the DOT if doing so is necessary to verify a test result
- xiii. The MRO must verify a confirmed positive test result for marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, semi-synthetic opioids (*i.e.* hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxycodone, and oxymorphone) and/or PCP unless the driver presents a legitimate medical explanation for the presence of the drug(s)/metabolite(s) in her or his system. In determining whether an employee's legally valid prescription consistent with the Controlled Substance Act for a substance in the categories constitutes a legitimate medical explanation, the MRO must not question whether the prescribing physician should have prescribed the substance.
- xiv. The MRO must verify a confirmed positive test result for opiates in the following circumstances:
  - a. The MRO must verify the test result positive if the laboratory confirms the presence of 6-acetylmorphine (6-AM in the specimen)
  - b. In the absence of 6-AM, if the laboratory confirms the presence of either morphine or codeine at 15,000 ng/mL or above, the MRO must verify the test result positive unless the employee

presents a legitimate medical explanation for the presence of the drug(s)/metabolite(s) in her or his system.

- c. For all other opiate positive results, the MRO must verify a confirmed positive test result for opiates only if they determine that there is clinical evidence, in addition to the urine test, of unauthorized use of any opium, opiate or opium derivate.
- xv. As part of the verification decision, the MRO must conduct a medical interview that includes reviewing the driver's medical history and any other relevant biomedical factors presented by the driver, as well as directing the driver to undergo further medical evaluation.
- xvi. DOT tests must be completely separate from non-DOT tests in all respects, and DOT tests must take priority over non-DOT tests. DOT tests must be completed before a non-DOT test is begun. The results of a DOT test shall not be disregarded or changed based on the results of a non-DOT test.

### **Prohibitions**

A driver will not be permitted to report to duty or to remain on duty requiring the performance of a safety-sensitive function if:

#### *Alcohol*

- i. The driver has an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or higher as measured on a breath test.
- ii. The driver displays behavior or appearance characteristics of alcohol misuse.
- iii. The driver is under the influence of or is impaired by alcohol, as shown by behavioral, speech, and performance indicators of alcohol misuse.
- iv. The driver possesses alcohol while on duty.
- v. The driver uses alcohol during duty performance.
- vi. The driver has used alcohol within the four hours prior to performing duties.
- vii. The driver has had an accident within the last eight hours and has not taken a breath test showing clearance from prohibited alcohol levels.
- viii. The driver has refused to take a breath test for alcohol use.
- ix. The driver is taking any prescription or non-prescription medication containing alcohol, even if the driver has notified the driver's supervisor of the medication use.

#### *Controlled Substances*

- i. The driver uses any controlled substance, unless the use is pursuant to a physician's written certification stating that the use does not adversely affect the driver's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.
- ii. A supervisor or administrative employee has actual knowledge that a driver has used a controlled substance.
- iii. The driver has a verified positive test for a controlled substance.
- iv. The driver displays behavior or appearance characteristics of controlled substance use.
- v. The driver has refused to take a controlled substance test.

#### *Refusal to Test*

A driver has refused to take an alcohol or controlled substance test if s/he:

- i. Fails to appear for any test as directed by the school district.
- ii. Fails to remain at the testing site until the testing is complete.
- iii. Fails to provide a urine specimen.
- iv. Fails to provide a sufficient amount of urine when there is no adequate medical explanation for the failure.
- v. Fails to permit a directly observed or monitored collection.
- vi. Fails or declines to take a second test the school district or collector has directed.
- vii. Fails to undergo a medical examination or evaluation as directed by the MRO as part of the verification process or as directed by the DER when the urine sample was insufficient.
- viii. Fails to cooperate with any part of the testing process (e.g. refuses to empty pockets when directed to do so, behaves in a confrontational way that disrupts the collection process).
- ix. Has a verified adulterated or substituted test result.

#### **Standing Down Employees**

Stand-down is “the practice of temporarily removing an employee from the performance of safety-sensitive functions based only on a report from a laboratory to the MRO of a confirmed positive test for a drug or drug metabolite, an adulterated test, or a substituted test, before the MRO has completed verification of the test result.”

- i. DOT regulations prohibit employers from standing employees down, before the MRO has completed verification of the test result.

- ii. A verified test is a drug test result or validity testing result from an HHS-certified laboratory that has undergone review and final determination by the MRO.
- iii. The district may assign a driver non-driving duties pending the receipt of a verified test result when the district has reasonable suspicion to believe the employee is impaired.
- iv. When the district does remove an employee from service, following verification of the drug test result, it will do so consistent with the confidentiality requirements, within its control, imposed by law.

### **Referral and Treatment**

A driver who violates any of the prohibitions in this policy shall be advised of the resources available to the driver for evaluating and resolving problems associated with the misuse of alcohol or use of controlled substances, including the names, addresses and telephone numbers of substance abuse professionals and counseling and treatment programs.

A driver who violates any of the prohibitions in this policy must be evaluated by a SAP who shall determine what assistance, if any, the driver needs in resolving problems associated with alcohol misuse or controlled substance use. The driver will not be permitted to perform safety-sensitive duties for any employer until and unless he or she completes the SAP evaluation, referral, and education/treatment process.

If the driver is identified as needing assistance in resolving problems associated with alcohol misuse or controlled substance use, the driver must be evaluated by a SAP to determine if the driver has properly followed the prescribed rehabilitation program. The driver must be subject to unannounced follow-up alcohol and/or controlled substance tests upon return-to-duty.

The SAP will provide a written report directly to the DER highlighting the SAP's specific recommendations for a course of education and treatment with which the driver must comply prior to returning to the performance of safety-sensitive functions. Neither the driver nor the school district shall seek a second SAP's evaluation in order to obtain another recommendation. Only the SAP who made the initial evaluation may modify his or her initial recommendations.

If the SAP recommends that the driver continue treatment, aftercare or support group services after returning to safety-sensitive duties, the school district may require the driver to participate in the recommended treatment or services as part of the return-to-duty agreement.

These requirements do not apply to drivers refusing to be tested or drivers having a preemployment test of 0.04 or more.

The school district is not required to return a driver to safety-sensitive duties just because the driver complies with the SAP's recommendations.

### **Educational Materials**

Each driver shall receive educational materials that explain: (1) the alcohol misuse prevention requirements; (2) the school district's policies and procedures; (3) the identity of

a contact person knowledgeable about the materials; (4) factual information on the effects of controlled substance use and alcohol misuse on personal life, health and safety; (5) where help can be obtained, including information regarding the school district's Employee Assistance Program; (6) categories of employees subject to testing; (7) a description of prohibited conduct and the circumstances that trigger testing; (8) testing procedures and safeguards; (9) what constitutes a refusal to submit to testing and the consequences; (10) signs and symptoms of an alcohol or controlled substance problem; (11) consequences for drivers with an alcohol test level of 0.02 or more but less than 0.04; and (12) the consequences of violating the rules in this policy. The district's staff will prepare and distribute appropriate educational materials as provided for in this section.

### **Maintenance of Records**

Upon written request, a driver is entitled to obtain copies of any school district records concerning the driver's use of alcohol or controlled substances, including test results.

The school district shall not release individual test results or medical information about a driver to third parties without the employee's specific written consent to the release of a particular piece of information to a particular person or organization. Notwithstanding this prohibition, the school district may release information pertaining to a driver's drug or alcohol test without the employee's consent in certain legal proceedings.

### **Disciplinary Action**

Employees who violate any prohibition in this policy will be subject to disciplinary measures, including employment termination. Likewise, employees whose test results are positive for alcohol or controlled substances are subject to disciplinary actions, including employment termination. The same disciplinary consequences face individuals who provide false information in connection with the testing process or who fail to cooperate with the district's efforts to fulfill its testing obligations.

### **Clearinghouse Participation**

The school district shall report to the Clearinghouse in any situation required by 49 C.F.R. §382.705(b) and shall supply all required information. MROs and SAPs shall also be required to report to the Clearinghouse any situation to which they are required to provide information under 49 C.F.R. §382.705. The situations where reporting is required are described in detail in the school district's policy on *Compliance with Regulations regarding the FMCSA Clearinghouse*.

### **Other Policies**

This policy does not supersede any other school district policy pertaining to alcohol misuse or controlled substance use by school district employees, except to the extent that this policy is specific to drivers performing safety-sensitive functions. To the extent permitted by federal law, this policy is to be interpreted consistent with Oklahoma's Act regarding drug and alcohol testing of personnel.

## **COMPLIANCE WITH REGULATIONS REGARDING THE FMCSA CLEARINGHOUSE**

The District is committed to complying with all federal regulations and assuring the safety of its students. Therefore, it is the policy of the District to comply with all Federal Department of Transportation (DOT) agency regulations regarding mandatory use of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse (Clearinghouse) to screen its current and prospective CDL employees before and throughout their employment with the District. This policy supplements the District's existing drug and alcohol testing policies regarding bus drivers.

The District may contract with a Consortium/Third-Party Administrator (Consortium) to manage its compliance with this policy and law regarding the Clearinghouse, except its obligations to register and set up an account with the Clearinghouse and pay for queries.

### **Definitions**

"CDL Employee" means an employee of the District who performs a safety-sensitive function and must hold a CDL as a condition of their employment. This definition expressly includes any individual subject to drug testing under the District's *Drug Testing for Bus Drivers* policy.

"Current CDL Employee" means an CDL employee who was hired prior to January 6, 2020.

"Prospective CDL Employee" means either:

- a current employee of the District who seeks to perform safety-sensitive functions for the first time after January 6, 2020, and must hold a CDL as a condition to perform those safety-sensitive functions, or
- an applicant for a position within the District who was or will be hired after January 6, 2020, for which holding a CDL is a condition of employment.

### **Non-Delegable Duties Regarding the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse**

The District shall itself register and set up an account with the Clearinghouse and purchase queries from the Clearinghouse. It shall not contract with a Consortium to perform those duties.

### **CDL Employees Hired After January 6, 2020: Pre-Employment Screening**

- The District shall require all prospective CDL employees to register themselves with the Clearinghouse and provide the District with digital consent to obtain all information available from a full query.
- Until January 6, 2023, the District shall also secure the prospective CDL employee's written consent to obtain from previous and current DOT-regulated employers the following information covering the past three (3) years:
  - Any verified positive, adulterated, or substituted controlled substances test result; any alcohol confirmation test with a concentration of 0.04 or higher; any refusal to submit to a test in violation of 49 C.F.R. § 382.211; or any employer has reported actual knowledge, as defined at § 382.107, that



the driver used alcohol on duty in violation of § 382.205, used alcohol before duty in violation of § 382.207, used alcohol following an accident in violation of § 382.209, or used a controlled substance, in violation of § 382.213.

- The District shall obtain the necessary consent and conduct a full query through the Clearinghouse for all prospective CDL employees and obtain results that confirm the prospective CDL employee's Clearinghouse record contains none of the violations listed in this section before permitting any prospective CDL employee to perform a safety-sensitive function for the District, including operating a CMV.
- Once a prospective CDL employee has been hired, the District will conduct query requirements on the employee to the same extent those required on Current CDL Employees.

#### **Current CDL Employees: Conducting Queries from the Clearinghouse**

- At least annually (defined as once per 365-day period), the District shall conduct queries (full or limited) from the Clearinghouse on each CDL employee to determine whether information exists in the Clearinghouse. Any query run on an employee (including any full query run on a prospective CDL employee) shall count towards this requirement.
- When the District runs full queries on its CDL employees, it shall require those employees to register with the Clearinghouse and provide digital consent for the District to obtain all information available from a full query.
- The District may, in lieu of full queries, annually obtain its CDL employees' written consent and perform limited queries of the Clearinghouse.
  - Should a limited query show that information exists within the Clearinghouse about a particular CDL employee, the District shall, within 24 hours of conducting the limited query, require the employee to register with the Clearinghouse (if not already registered) and provide digital consent for the District to obtain all information available from a full query; the District shall then conduct a full query to confirm the CDL employee's Clearinghouse record contains none of the prohibitions listed below.
  - If the District fails to conduct a full query with the prescribed 24 hours, it shall not permit the CDL employee to continue to perform safety-sensitive functions until the District obtains a full query showing none of the prohibitions listed below.

#### **Prohibitions**

- The District shall not permit a CDL employee to perform any safety-sensitive function if they refuse to provide the necessary consents or the results of a Clearinghouse query demonstrate any of the following:
  - a verified positive, adulterated, or substituted controlled substances test result; an alcohol confirmation test with a concentration of 0.04 or higher; a refusal to submit to a test in violation of 49 C.F.R. § 382.211; an employer has reported actual knowledge, as defined at § 382.107, that the driver used alcohol on duty in violation of § 382.205, used alcohol before duty in violation of § 382.207, used alcohol following an accident in violation of § 382.209, or used a controlled substance in violation of § 382.213, except where a query of the Clearinghouse demonstrates that:
    - (1) That the driver has successfully completed the Substance Abuse Professional (SAP) evaluation, referral, and education/treatment process

set forth in part 40, subpart O, of title 49; achieves a negative return-to-duty test result; and completes the follow-up testing plan prescribed by the SAP.

- (2) That, if the driver has not completed all follow-up tests as prescribed by the SAP in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 40.307 and specified in the SAP report required by § 40.311, the driver has completed the SAP evaluation, referral, and education/treatment process set forth in part 40, subpart O, of title 49 and achieves a negative return-to-duty test result, and the employer assumes the responsibility for managing the follow-up testing process associated with the testing violation.

### **Recordkeeping Requirements**

- The District shall retain for three (3) years a record of each Clearinghouse query it runs and all information received in response to each query made. The District shall additionally retain any written employee consent to limited queries for a period of not less than three (3) years from the last date a query was run on the employee.

### **Updating the Clearinghouse**

- The District or a Service Agent on behalf of the District, shall, by the close of the third business day following the date on which it obtained information related to a CDL employee, update the Clearinghouse with all information required under 49 C.F.R. §382.705(b), in any of the following circumstances:
  - An alcohol confirmation test with a concentration of 0.04 or higher or a refusal to test for alcohol.
  - Refusal to test for drugs when the a determination by an MRO is not required.
  - Actual knowledge (defined by 49 C.F.R 382.107) that a driver has used alcohol on duty, used alcohol within four (4) house of coming on duty, used alcohol prior to a post-accident test, or has used a controlled substance.
  - Negative return-to-duty test results (drug and alcohol testing); and
  - Completion of a follow-up test.
- A SAP or MRO as defined in the *Drug Testing for Bus Drivers* policy shall report any information required by 49 C.F.R. 382.705 in the circumstances required pursuant to that regulation. The circumstances that must be reported include:
  - Verified positive, adulterated, or substituted controlled substance tests results (MRO);
  - Refusal-to-test determination by the MRO (MRO);
  - A negative return-to-duty test (SAP); and
  - An employer's report of completion of follow-up testing (SAP);

### **Use of the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse to Comply with 40 C.F.R. § 40.25**

- As of January 6, 2023, the District shall use the Clearinghouse in accordance with 49 C.F.R. § 382.701(a) to comply with its obligations under 49 C.F.R. § 40.25 regarding its drug and alcohol testing requirements for CDL employees; except, where an employee subject to follow-up testing has not successfully completed all follow-up tests, the District shall then request the employee's follow-up testing plan directly from the previous employer in accordance with § 40.25(b).

Additionally, the District shall request information required under § 40.25 directly from those employers regulated by a DOT agency other than FMCSA if a prospective CDL employee was subject to an alcohol and controlled testing program under the requirements of a DOT Agency other than FMCSA.

**REDUCTION IN FORCE OF  
SUPPORT PERSONNEL**

The district believes that every reasonable effort should be made to avoid a reduction in force at any level. However, if it should become necessary to reduce the number of full-time support employees due to lack of funds or lack of work in a particular area, the position or program will be the determining factor and not the individuals who occupy the position or serve the program.

An employee is considered to be a full-time employee if the number of hours worked are the number of hours customarily worked in that position and if that position is designated as a full-time position by the board.

A reduction in force may occur for lack of funds, lack of work because of a decline in enrollment, consolidation of programs or positions, elimination of positions, or other circumstances as determined by the board.

If termination of employment should become necessary, notices of such terminations will be made as set forth in the policy governing suspension, demotion, or termination of support employees found elsewhere in this manual.

Any necessary terminations shall begin by dismissing temporary, seasonal, or part-time employees within the job category affected. These employees shall be terminated at the discretion of the board or the board's designee.

If normal attrition and the release of temporary and part-time employees does not sufficiently reduce the support staff, the following items will be considered in the reduction process in the order listed:

1. Performance history;
2. Job qualification by training and experience;
3. Attendance and punctuality; and
4. In the event that two or more employees in the affected category are equal in the above factors, termination shall be made on the basis of seniority within each general job category.

Supervisors and directors shall serve at the pleasure of the board and shall not be subject to the prescribed seniority order for reductions in force. Personnel whose positions are eliminated in one category may be considered for a position in another category.

Seniority shall be defined as the total length of continuous service as a support employee within this district. Employees who are terminated and subsequently reinstated shall retain cumulative seniority for all periods worked except for the period of termination.

Demotions in position, due to a reduction in force, shall follow the same procedure as terminations.

For twelve (12) calendar months after the effective date of any termination or nonreemployment, pursuant to this policy's provisions, the board shall not replace any support personnel who have been terminated or nonreemployed in accordance with this policy without first offering the position to the former support personnel who have been terminated or nonreemployed. The board shall offer employment in the reverse order to the employees who were last terminated or nonreemployed provided the former employee is qualified for the job.