

4031

Evaluation of Probationary Certified Employees

A certificated administrator will observe and evaluate each probationary certified employee for a full instructional period once each semester. The administrator will provide each employee with a written list of deficiencies, concrete suggestions for improvement, and sufficient time to improve.

State law and Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) rules require certificated staff evaluations to cover personal and professional conduct, instructional performance, and classroom organization and management. Pursuant to NDE Rule 10, instructional performance and classroom organization and management are applicable to teachers only. The school district evaluates staff in other areas beyond those minimally required by law, as set by the board and administration through their evaluation instruments, which are approved by NDE.

The board is mindful of the fact that not all certificated employees share the same assigned duties, including many staff whose primary duty assignments are not the regular and continuous classroom instruction of pupils. Staff whose primary duties involve the actual instruction of pupils and management of classrooms will be evaluated in those areas noted above, as required by law and NDE rules. Other staff, such as special education and service providers, counselors, and librarians/media specialists, may not have as their primary duty the instruction of pupils, even if they do perform some instructional functions. Pursuant to its obligations to define and inform its employees regarding its evaluation process under state law and NDE Rule 10, and to account for the need to provide quality feedback to all employees which reflects their primary and expected duties actually performed, the board defines the terms "actual classroom observation" and "entire instructional period" as follows:

Entire Instructional Period. For certificated employees whose classes are held during defined periods of time (e.g., senior high classes), an entire instructional period consists of one such time period. For those whose time periods are not so defined (e.g., elementary classroom teachers), an entire instructional period consists of 40 minutes. The instructional period for those employees whose primary duties do not involve regular and continuous instruction of pupils for 40-minute periods (e.g., librarians, media specialists, counselors, or specialists), an entire

instructional period consists of observing and evaluating those staff members performing their assigned duties no less than 40 minutes during the semester covered by the evaluation. Likewise, the entire instructional period for administrators cannot be defined in terms of an instructional period and shall be satisfied by the actual observation of an administrator's work performing their assigned duties for no less than 40 minutes.

Actual Classroom Observation. Actual classroom observation consists of observing the certificated employee in any activities in a classroom setting, when the employee provides regular and continuous instruction to pupils as their primary duty. When a certificated employee does not have traditional classroom instructional obligations as a primary function of their position (e.g., administrators, counselors, media specialists, librarians, etc.), the requirement of "actual classroom observation" will be satisfied by observing the certificated employee performing activities that reflect the actual, primary duties of his or her position, in the location(s) where they perform those duties. For example, an administrator, media specialist, or counselor may provide some instruction (such as a principal subbing for a teacher; a counselor instructing seniors on completing a FAFSA; or a media specialist demonstrating library skills), but their primary duties are not classroom instruction. Feedback may be provided on those limited instructional activities, but more important to the board is ensuring those employees' evaluations will help them improve their primary duties and not fractional time only when they may be instructing students.

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