



# Employee Handbook

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*Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies should be directed to the Superintendent.*

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## Article 1 - Introduction

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The Regional Transportation Collaborative (“RTC”) was created in 2010 as a collaborative effort to meet legislative expectations to provide transportation services at a competitive market rate but to do so without privatizing the operations. Significant changes to employment agreements at each participating district were undertaken and in one district a private vendor agreement was terminated. Nearly all of the employees in each participating district were hired into the collaborative and at the time no union existed. During 2010 the Teamsters negotiated the first union agreement on behalf of the employees which established the wages, benefits, and working conditions for all employees in the collaborative without differentiating by location. The union agreement was continually updated through negotiations until its expiration in June of 2016. Beginning in July of 2016 the handbook has been developed with input from each department and from each district administrative team served by the RTC. The handbook was specifically modified for 2019 to comply with the Paid Medical Leave Act enacted by the Michigan Legislature.

This current handbook has been approved by the Livingston Educational Service Agency (“Agency”) and supported by each participating district to establish the wages, benefits, and working conditions as well as operating procedures for Bus Drivers, Bus Assistants, Substitute Bus Drivers, and the Substitute Bus Assistants in the Agency’s RTC. This handbook does not cover every aspect of an employee’s responsibilities and may not address all laws, regulations and rules applicable to the operation of the Agency.

Attorneys refer to employees covered by this handbook as at-will employees, and the collaborative respects the importance of that classification. However, the collaborative supports the participation and input of the employees in establishing and maintaining the content of the handbook. Accordingly, this is not an individual employment agreement and in addition to this handbook each employee is also expected to follow the policies, procedures, and guidelines in place at the districts that participate in the collaborative.

Any questions about employment expectations or responsibilities should be discussed with an employee’s Supervisor or:

Alice Johnson, Executive Director for Transportation Services - 517-540-6894

Laurie Spadoni, Supervisor of Human Resources - 517-540-6859

Any matter or concern that involves harassment, bullying, discrimination, or the like should be immediately reported to Teresa Zigman at 517-540-6810 or Doug Haseley at 517-540-6803.

## Article 2 – Governance

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As the employer of record the Agency’s Board of Education establishes policy and delegates to the Superintendent the authority to administer the collaborative. Concerns with matters related to employment should be handled by approaching the Supervisor on site, then the Executive Director for Transportation Services. As necessary, the Executive Director of Transportation Services will consult with the Agency’s Superintendent. The administration at the local district should not be

consulted regarding a concern until the Agency (up through the Superintendent) has had the full opportunity to hear and address the concern.

An annual meeting of the designated administrators from each participating district and the Agency shall be held in March of each year. The purpose will be to review the cost effectiveness of the collaborative compared to neighboring school transportation operations, the satisfaction of service to each participating district, and to consider changes in the economic provisions of the collaborative suggested in writing by employees in the collaborative by March 1st.

Two meetings shall be held at each district location during the year; one in the fall and one in the spring, at a time mutually agreeable with all parties. Additional meetings may be called by any of the parties. Each meeting will consist of two representatives from each of: (1) division employees, (2) Agency (Employer), and (3) Local District (Customer). The purpose of these meetings is to review safety, procedural efficiency, employee concerns, and employee suggestions.

## Article 3 – Definitions

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The following terms are defined:

- A. **Agency.** The Livingston Educational Service Agency.
- B. **Day.** A scheduled day, unless otherwise stated.
- C. **Employee.** Any person employed in any position by the Agency.
- D. **Employer.** The Board, the Superintendent, and their designees.
- E. **Local District.** The Agency's constituent school district that participates in the Regional Transportation Collaborative.
- F. **Parent(s).** Individual(s) responsible for the student. Includes Foster Parent(s) and Guardian(s).
- G. **Supervisor.** Represents Supervisor or designee.

## Article 4 – Employment Procedures

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### Section 4.01 Employment Qualifications

The Agency seeks to recruit and retain employees of good will that strive to provide premier transportation services at all times. Employees are expected to be both qualified and competent both in the operation of the vehicles (as required by their job assignment) and in dealing with and handling students with whom they will interact.

All employees shall meet and comply with all federal, state, and Agency standards, policies, regulations, codes and laws, including but not limited to transportation issues, privacy issues, student record issues and any other issues arising out of their employment with the Agency.



The Agency shall utilize a pre-employment interview and/or screening program for all candidates for employment. The screening program shall be designed to identify those candidates who may be suitable for assignment to services for all students.

Every bus driver must have and maintain a valid Commercial Driver's License, appropriate to the vehicle that is being driven, with a passenger endorsement as issued by the State of Michigan, together with any applicable Federal licensing requirements.

## **Section 4.02 Health & Physical Requirements**

Every employee shall be in good health and physical condition to provide services. New employees shall be given pre-employment physicals unless they have successfully passed a physical in the past 12 months for a school transportation job in a Michigan Public School.

Health & Physical examinations shall be required for all bus drivers as established by the Michigan Department of Education and shall be scheduled and paid for by the Agency. Examinations shall occur at least once every two years but may be scheduled more frequently at the discretion of the Agency.

Each driver shall submit to the Agency, and also carry when providing service, a physician's certificate of examination, all in accordance with applicable legal requirements, in particular the Michigan Pupil Transportation Act.

The Agency may request a clinical examination, either physical or mental or both, at its expense when, in its estimation, the health of the employee is such as to render him/her unfit for service. Employees will not lose wages for examinations required by the employer under this section.

## **Section 4.03 Background Checks**

The Agency shall require all of its employees that may be in contact with students to be fingerprinted for the purpose of conducting both federal and state criminal background checks as well as a check of motor vehicle operations violations. Each driver shall have a certified safe driving record and no felony conviction for drugs or child abuse or any other felony related to the safe transportation of children, whether or not associated with the operation of a motor vehicle, or conviction at any time of driving under the influence of alcoholic beverages.

Drivers shall have less than six (6) points on his/her driving record pursuant to the State of Michigan points system maintained by the Michigan Secretary of State.

The Agency may utilize the background checks performed by another school district in accordance with the Revised School Code and applicable laws.

## **Section 4.04 New Positions**

Information about available new positions is posted on the Agency website and is also available in the Human Resources Department. Current Agency employees seeking a particular open position must apply online if they wish to be considered.

## Section 4.05 Vacancies

### A. Vacant Positions

Positions shall be declared vacant when the assigned employee is no longer qualified for the assignment, has been terminated, or transferred to another position.

Vacant positions shall be posted by the Agency for five calendar days. Qualified employees may apply on-line for the vacant position as outlined in the posting. In filling the vacancy, consideration shall be given to seniority, qualifications, and work record.

Any employee selected to fill the vacancy shall have their assignment posted as a vacant position under the same process noted above. Any further vacancies created by this shall be filled at the Agency's discretion and shall not be posted.

The Agency may expedite the posting process when multiple vacancies are likely to result from one initial vacancy. The expedited process shall include a group meeting involving interested and eligible employees that would improve their schedule by at least fifteen (15) minutes per day.

### B. Temporary Vacancies

A temporary vacancy shall be declared when an employee provides notice to the Agency that they shall be, or have been, absent for twenty (20) or more consecutive workdays while on an approved medical leave of absence.

A temporary vacancy shall be filled using the same procedure as vacant positions. Only employees in good standing will be deemed eligible to apply. Senior drivers able to perform segments of the temporary vacancy may also be considered when there is an operational efficiency. Once the absent employee returns to their position, all employees given new assignments due to the temporary vacancy shall be returned to their former regular assignment.

## Section 4.06 Route Assignment Process

Annual route selection dates shall be established by the agency and posted on the agency's web site. The route selection date shall be no later than two weeks prior to the first student day of the school year. Drivers and assistants shall be allowed to review routes during times posted by the Supervisor on the two regular business days preceding the route selection date and shall be posted on the Agency's website.

Any driver who does not possess a current and valid certification, commercial driver's license or physical exam documents on the route selection day or who cannot complete their route by October 1<sup>st</sup> will not be allowed to participate in the selection process or reserve a route.

- Route selection will be conducted based on seniority as defined in Article 9.
- Time spent by employees bidding on routes is not considered paid time.
- Routes may be bid by proxy with a signed letter authorizing the selection and approved by the Supervisor.

Route postings shall include the route description and the following as known at the time of bidding:

- Start and end times

- Stop times
- Total daily and weekly hours
- Number of students
- Accommodations/behavior plans for students.

**Route re-bid:** Drivers, that as of the 1st student count day of the school year, are driving a route that has changed since the initial route selection bid of the school year by more than 30 minutes per day may request a re-bid. Such request must be in writing and given to the Supervisor no later than noon on the Friday following the 1st count day. Only routes with hours equal to, or less than, the route originally bid by the driver requesting the re-bid shall be open for bidding, and only drivers that hold such routes are eligible to participate in the re-bid. The re-bid shall take place as designated by the Supervisor but no later than October 31st. New assignments, resulting from the re-bid, will begin as of the third Monday in November.

**Information to Post:** At the beginning of each new school year, all routes will be posted in advance of the route selection day. Route postings will list the pick-up points, drop-off points, starting time, estimated total daily hours and student information. Employees will be notified via Agency email when and where these routes may be viewed.

**Dry Runs:** Dry runs are required to be completed after bid and shall be paid as approved by the Supervisor.

**Assignment of Primary Bus to Route:** Buses shall be assigned to routes every year before the beginning of each school year. This assignment is subject to change during the school year as deemed necessary. Buses are assigned to route and not drivers.

**Temporary Non-Voluntary Transfer:** If an employee needs to be pulled from his/her assignment due to a staffing shortage, the displaced employee will be paid their actual hours from the new assignment or the package hours from their normal assignment, whichever is greater.

## Section 4.07 Extra Work

- A. Extra work shall be assigned using the following categories:
  1. **Weekly**
    - a. All work known by 9:15 am on the last scheduled workday of the week preceding the assignment week.
  2. **Daily**
    - a. **Route vacancies** - all route vacancies scheduled for the next day. Morning and afternoon segments may be divided to improve service and efficiency.
    - b. **Other daily work** - all work scheduled for the next day that is not a route vacancy and was not assigned as part of the weekly assignment.
- B. **Emergencies:** Extra work requests received on the day of the event shall be considered an emergency and shall be assigned at the discretion of the district Supervisor using an emergency assignment list.
- C. **Postings:** All extra work shall be assigned at the time posted by the district Supervisor.

D. **Assignments:** Extra work shall be assigned using the following lists of eligible employees starting with the most senior employee eligible to accept the work and with ineligible employees being removed and new employees being added to the bottom of the seniority order:

1. **Weekly**

a. The rotation shall start at the top of the seniority list and the rotation shall continue throughout the year.

2. **Daily**

a. The rotation shall start at the top of the seniority list at the beginning of each day

3. **Emergency**

a. The same as the weekly except that a separate list will be maintained.

E. **Qualifiers:**

1. If an employee cannot be reached to accept an assignment, they automatically forfeit their turn for that rotation. If a trip is cancelled after it is assigned the employee shall be eligible to choose (on a preferred basis) a trip in the following week that best matches their cancelled trip hours unless the trip was accepted from the daily extra work list. In that case the trip is forfeited. However, if the employee has already reported to work for the extra trip and it is then cancelled without prior notice the employee shall be paid a one-hour show-up stipend and shall be eligible to choose (on a preferred basis) a trip in the following week unless the trip was accepted from the daily extra work list. In that case the trip is forfeited. The driver receiving the one-hour show-up stipend may be required by their Supervisor to work the hour doing assignments consistent with their job description.
2. Employees that have accumulated one or more unexcused unpaid absence occurrences per semester are not eligible to select an extra assignment until the next semester.
3. Extra trips that conflict with a regular route assignment will be assigned to a sub during the first two weeks of school to help students become familiar with their regular driver. After the first two weeks of school the driver can forego the segment of their regular route assignment (morning, noon, or afternoon) to take the extra trip and a substitute will be used to cover their regular route assignment.
4. More experienced drivers may be assigned (not in rotation) for challenging trips, example: distance, length of trip, road conditions.
5. Shuttles: (in-district, school-to-school) assigned as part of the extra work assignment process shall be paid at the driver's regular rate of pay.

## Section 4.08 Summer Assignments

Such assignments shall be offered by district on a rotating basis (to employees assigned to that district), starting with the most senior employee. Employees will only be offered one assignment per rotation. If they are not available to accept the assignment they must wait for the next rotation.

The Supervisor shall post a sign-up sheet that the employee will sign by May 15<sup>th</sup> if the employee wants to be considered for summer extra assignments. Employees that decline summer work opportunities (excluding bereavement) three times shall be removed from the list. Some summer work such as bus washing and bus cleaning may be packaged and posted for the entire fleet at each district. The specific cleaning tasks will be delineated when posted.

Employees that have ten (10) or fewer occurrences of leave time during the regular school year will be eligible to work extra assignments during the summer. Employees that have incurred over 10 instances of leave time usage (excluding workers' compensation) during the regular school year will only be offered assignments, according to their seniority, after all of those who meet the attendance requirement are deemed unavailable.

## **Section 4.09 Bus Transfers To/From Repair Facilities**

Transportation employees shall be assigned (in seniority order) to transfer buses to/from repair facilities. The rate of pay for transferring buses is the driver's regular rate of pay.

# **Article 5 – Standards of Conduct**

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## **Section 5.01 Performance Standards**

Every driver shall have successfully completed the basic bus driver education program and continuing education programs as required by the Michigan Department of Education and shall meet and/or comply with all applicable federal and state legal requirements.

Employees are expected to follow all Agency and Local District policies, procedures, rules, and instructions at all times.

The principles listed below require the active daily attention of all employees, including consistent attendance, high standards of driving, thoughtful attention to human relations and cooperation of bus drivers and bus assistants with other persons engaged in the educational tasks of the schools in Livingston County. All regulations and procedures of the Agency are related to these central principles:

- A safe trip.
- Every trip runs on schedule.
- Daily acceptable performance.
- Positive environment for every person on the bus.

## **Section 5.02 Professional Development**

Drivers shall successfully complete all assigned pre-service training and in-service training covering safety practices, procedures, law, and student care and discipline, in particular the following:

1. Training required by the Michigan Department of Education to maintain the validity of the School Bus Drivers Certificate.

2. Topics related to driving skills, behavioral problems, and public relations with students, parents and school personnel, first aid, basic medical information, emergency procedures, student evacuation drills, including evasive maneuvers, pre-trip procedures, accident procedures, etc.
3. Training to meet requirements in first aid, adult/child/infant Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation, administration of medications such as Epi-Pens, handling infectious diseases, blood borne pathogens, and behavior management.

## Section 5.03 Cell Phone Use

Recognizing that personal cell phone use (including smart phones) by school bus drivers or bus assistants during vehicle operation poses a potential safety risk, drivers and assistants shall not use personal cell phones while the school bus is in operation (not even to listen to music).

A bus is considered “in operation” whenever the bus is on the road or students are onboard. Drivers and assistants must devote full attention to their task. To avoid distraction, personal cell phones must be silenced or turned off when the bus is in operation. To avoid any possible perception of illicit cell phone use, drivers and assistants may not wear Bluetooth earpieces or similar devices.

Cell phones may be used in an emergency situation if two-way radio communication is not effective. In these cases, the bus must be secured in a safe location and driver must be out of the bus seat prior to cell phone use.

## Section 5.04 Radios

Radios are provided in every school bus. If during bus inspections it is determined that the radio is malfunctioning, employees must immediately notify the dispatcher to resolve the matter. Radios are provided for safety and dispatching reasons. The following are prohibited with regards to the usage of radios:

- Radio usage for personal reasons. All transmissions must pertain to official school transportation business.
- Transmitting while someone else is using the radio. Wait until they clear before transmitting.
- Transmitting confidential information.

## Section 5.05 Family Members

Family members may not ride the bus with an employee or be in the employee work areas (including the lounge) without the express written permission of the Supervisor.

## Section 5.06 Conduct on Extra Trips

Lateness and/or other unprofessional behavior on extra trips will not be tolerated. Drivers must stay with the bus at the location of the trip unless otherwise instructed. Drivers must have permission from

the teacher or coach and receive prior authorization from the transportation Supervisor to leave the site of the trip for any reason.

## Section 5.07 Drug Use Prohibition & Prevention

Drivers or assistants shall not use tobacco products, including tobacco alternatives (i.e. e-cigarettes), or possess, consume or be under influence of alcoholic beverages or controlled substances during paid hours, or prior to undertaking such duty within the time frames specified in applicable legal requirements, in particular the Pupil Transportation Act, or otherwise in the exercise of reasonable judgment.

The Agency shall conduct or cause to be conducted tests under applicable legal requirements to determine the presence of illegal drugs, controlled substances, or alcohol. Such tests shall be administered to:

- A. Any driver involved in an accident while working but not absolved of fault at the scene of the accident by a Law Enforcement Officer.
- B. Any driver or aide whom the Agency has reasonable cause to believe has reported to work or is otherwise on school property while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- C. Any driver selected for random drug and alcohol tests.

Any employee who receives a screening and confirmation drug test by the medical review office (MRO) or a confirmed test of alcohol concentration .02 or greater will be immediately discharged.

## Section 5.08 Appropriate Dress & Grooming

Employees may dress casually, but be aware that you are representing the Agency and the district you are serving. Your clothing should be appropriate. For the purposes of safety whenever you are representing the Agency and being paid, all footwear must have an enclosed heel, covered toes, and a sole that provides ample traction. If you have a question about what is permissible, please contact your Supervisor. Employees wearing inappropriate clothing may be sent home without pay.

## Section 5.09 Reporting Traffic Violations

Traffic violations incurred outside of work shall be reported by the employee to their Supervisor within 24 hours of receiving the ticket.

## Section 5.10 School Bus Idling

### A. Pre-Trip Inspection

- 1. Your bus may idle during the pre-trip inspection as many of your required checks depend on the bus running.
- 2. If the temperature is above 40 degrees, you must shut your bus off after completing your pre-trip.

3. If the temperature is below 40 degrees, you may allow your bus to continue to idle. The maximum idle time in this situation is fifteen minutes.

**B. Special Situations**

During periods of extreme cold, the mechanics will start the fleet at a temperature chosen in conjunction with the office staff. This temperature will vary due to multiple factors.

**C. AM Unload at School**

You must shut your bus off if you are sitting for more than 5 minutes. The bus will retain enough heat to keep the students safe and comfortable. Be sure to turn your key to accessory to allow the 2-way radio to function, as well as shutting down any blowers or fans to save the batteries.

**D. Before Noon Route**

Unless otherwise noted on the message board, no idling is allowed prior to the noon routes.

**E. Before PM Route**

Unless otherwise noted on the message board, no idling is allowed prior to the PM routes.

During periods of extreme cold, some or all of the idling restrictions above may be lifted. Be sure to check the message board for information. If you feel there is a special situation involving your bus or route that requires you to act outside of the policies listed above, please see the mechanic Supervisor on duty.

## Section 5.11 Route Adherence & Accuracy

The established route directions are to be followed as written, unless doing so presents a clear and immediate danger to students and staff, would violate traffic laws, or there is a legitimate cause to deviate as described below.

A Supervisor must preapprove permanent deviations from the scheduled route. Deviations include travel path, including turn around location, pick up/drop off locations, and pick up/drop off times.

Temporary deviations due to missing students are allowed, as long as the scheduled times for the students on board are not adjusted.

If you are aware of a significant deviation due to temporary changes such as absent students, report this to the dispatch staff. They will advise if they intend to contact parents to ask permission for the earlier pick up and drop offs, or if you should secure your bus and wait for the scheduled times. Do not modify parent pick-up times without approval from your Supervisor.

Permanent changes or schedule inaccuracies must be reported to the router. For the purposes of this section, a student who has not ridden for over a week without any contact from the parent(s) is considered a permanent change and must be reported to the router.

## Section 5.12 Official Correspondence

Most official communication to employees is via Agency email. Make sure you have access to your account, and check it several times a week. Copies of communications may be placed on the various information boards, but this is not required.



## Section 5.13 Fueling Buses

Employees are not permitted to fuel a bus unless they have completed all required training on the “underground storage tank A/B system” and have a “Class C Operator” permit.

Buses are to be fueled whenever the level indicated is below ½ at the conclusion of a route. Substitute drivers, are required to fuel regardless of the fuel level. Buses used for other than regular routes must be filled at the conclusion of each use.

Fueling is to be completed during any paid downtime, such as a scheduled layover or package hour time generated by missing students.

Assistant are to be dropped off at the garage prior to fueling your vehicle.

## Section 5.14 Cleaning Buses

The bus driver is responsible for the cleanliness of the exterior of the bus, the driver’s compartment and the passenger compartment. The driver’s compartment should be kept free of litter and personal items, and generally professional in appearance. Bus exteriors and passenger compartments should be cleaned as needed to maintain a safe and appropriate environment for transporting students. Bus drivers are to use the time given for both the initial and final pre-trip inspections to complete these tasks. Additional time required for these tasks require advance approval by the Supervisor.

Bus washes are typically not required more than one time every other day.

## Section 5.15 Interactions with Parents

Drivers and assistants may share information with a parent about how that parent’s child is doing on the bus. Staff should try to establish a good relationship with them. When parents see that the bus staff cares about the welfare of their students, they will provide support when approached for help with problems.

Avoid the following pitfalls when dealing with parents:

- Never argue with parents
- Do not discuss other students on the bus outside of their own children.
- Do not discuss your coworkers with parents.
- Never make deals or changes to the route with parents.
- Never lose your temper when discussing matters with parents.
- Never attempt to discuss or handle problems with a parent through the open door of a bus.
- Never tell a parent how to manage students who ride your bus.
- Never allow unauthorized persons on your bus.

If a parent approaches you during a route, politely explain that you must meet your schedule. Show interest and invite them to contact you at the office. At the end of your route, or if they need immediate assistance, contact the dispatcher.

## Section 5.16 Speeding/Unsafe Driving

A Driver is expected to drive in a safe and lawful manner at all times. If a complaint of speeding or unsafe driving is received, the Supervisor will conduct an investigation and enforce disciplinary action as needed.

## Section 5.17 Handling Student Behavior

Employees are expected to follow proper methods for handling student behavior including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Be patient.
2. Always submit an Incident Report whenever a student's behavior or medical circumstances are outside the student's normal day.
3. Address undesirable behavior as soon as you see it.
4. When correcting students, be sure to do so in a manner that respects their disability or conditions.
5. Do not engage in adult conversations that are inappropriate for children.
6. Don't "save up" student incidents. Report each one as it occurs.
7. Do not judge a student's ability or comprehension by outward appearance.
8. Treat students as individuals. Learn their names. Compliment good behavior.

# Article 6 – Emergency Situations

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## Section 6.01 Bus Breakdowns

Any mechanical failure or other problem that impairs an employee's ability to continue the route must be immediately reported to the dispatcher. The dispatcher will provide instructions applicable to the situation. Employees shall not abandon a bus in distress.

## Section 6.02 Accident Procedures

- In the event of an accident that in the judgment of the driver is not life threatening, contact dispatch. A driver's first priority are the students on the bus.
- If it appears there have been significant injuries, contact 911 first. If the driver does not have a cell phone available, dispatch should be contacted using the two-way radio or a cell phone available at the scene should be used.
- Students should remain on the bus if at all possible. Evacuate only if absolutely necessary.
- The bus driver must collect the seat location of students on board during the accident. Do not discuss the accident with any parties other than the police and office staff.

- If medical personnel decide to remove students from the bus, ask where the student is being taken.
- Contact your Supervisor for additional procedures/guidelines.

## Section 6.03 Medical Emergency

General Procedure:

- Secure the vehicle.
- Contact base with your location, and nature of the emergency.
- If the emergency involves a student, review and follow any applicable IEP/Care Plans. If the student does not have a IEP/Care Plan, or the emergency is not related to the issues covered in the plan, follow your general First Aid and CPR training.

## Article 7 – Safety Program

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The Agency acknowledges that safety is a paramount concern, and accordingly, employees of the Agency shall comply with all aspects of the safety program. The safety program shall include, but not be limited to, scheduled safety meetings for drivers and assistants and at a minimum shall meet and/or comply with all applicable federal and state legal requirements.

Suggestions for training and/or safety meetings subjects should be directed to a Supervisor. All constructive suggestions are appreciated.

### Section 7.01 “Empty Bus” Program

Children, especially very young children, may not always get off the bus at their appointed stop. A child’s health could be seriously threatened if left on a bus unattended for an extended period of time, depending on the weather conditions, temperature, location and other factors. The leaving of a child on a bus by a bus driver and assistant shall result in immediate termination for both.

To prevent the leaving of students on the school bus after the completion of a route, the bus driver and assistant may complete a quick check for remaining students. Once back at the transportation facility a formal inspection after each route shall be completed by walking to the back of the bus and inspecting around and under all seats. The driver shall then hang a sign, provided by the Agency, in the back-door window of the bus (Note: Some busses are equipped with a Child Reminder System (CRS). The CRS does not replace the employee’s responsibility for placing the empty sign in the rear window of the bus).

If a bus is found without a sign while parked at the transportation facility, the staff member will immediately check the bus for students and then report this action to the Supervisor.

Buses are not to be driven outside of the transportation facility with the sign displayed in the back-door window.

## Section 7.02 Bus Inspections

### A. Pre-Trip Inspections

The school bus driver is expected to make a safety inspection of their vehicle before receiving any passengers. The safety inspection is to be documented using the form provided by the local district to which the employee is assigned. The safety inspection form is to be turned in on a daily basis; any mechanical issues are to be documented. If the driver is concerned about the immediate safety of their bus, the driver is to contact the Supervisor, or if the Supervisor is not available the driver is to contact the dispatcher on duty. During the pre-trip inspection, the driver must remove the "Empty Bus" Program sign until the end of his or her route.

### B. Post Trip Inspections

The school bus driver is expected to complete a post trip inspection during which they close all windows, hatches, and doors. They then inspect the interior of the bus for vandalism, lost articles, remaining students, etc. and hang the designated sign in the rear emergency door. The exterior of the bus is then inspected for anything out of the norm and document findings on the designated form.

## Section 7.03 Bus Maintenance Requests

Drivers shall submit a completed Daily Vehicle Inspection Report to communicate maintenance needs to the garage staff. More time-critical issues may also be communicated verbally in addition to but not in place of written documentation. If you are ever instructed by the garage staff to discontinue an issue you feel needs repair, report your concerns to the Supervisor.

## Section 7.04 Practice Evacuations

Employees are required to perform three practice evacuations per student group during the school year.

The due date and type of evacuation is listed on the Practice Bus Evacuation Form, which will be distributed to drivers by the Supervisor.

With the exception of non-ambulatory students, and those with behavior issues, the staff are to physically evacuate the students during an evacuation drill. This should be completed in the parking lot of the destination school, and must be witnessed by staff from another bus, the supervisor or the school.

The overall plan needs to be documented and, along with the evacuation form, be submitted to the Supervisor before the due dates listed.

## Section 7.05 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Personal Protective Equipment is equipment that is worn to minimize exposure hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illnesses. In order for drivers and assistants to perform their jobs in a careful and protected manner, the Agency will provide PPE as recommended by OSHA and the CDC.

# Article 8 – Staff Performance

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## Section 8.01 Evaluations

The Supervisor shall complete an evaluation for each employee at least once per school year. Evaluations shall be based on each employee's performance in the following categories:

- A. **Safety:** Performing all duties without accidents, tickets or formal complaints and in accordance with applicable laws, as well as agency policies, guidelines, and instructions.
- B. **Attendance:** Coming to work consistently and working the scheduled work shift; arranging appointments and personal business so as not to interfere with scheduled duties.
- C. **Cooperation:** Cooperates with parents, school districts, and the agency staff to make operations run smoothly.
- D. **Attitude:** Exhibits a positive, proactive attitude and seeks solutions to problems rather than placing blame or merely complaining.
- E. **Communication:** Informs Supervisors about conditions requiring attention and listening to parents, students, and staff regarding concerns.
- F. **Contributions:** Using innovation and shared thinking to resolve problems, making suggestions and working toward common goals of the department.

Employees have a right to attach to their evaluation a written statement as permitted by law.

## Section 8.02 Accident Review Committee

Accidents resulting in an injury or over \$2,500 estimated damage will be addressed by the Accident Review Committee.

The purpose of the Accident Review Committee is to provide a fair and uniform process to evaluate and determine post-accident activities with the overall objective of reducing or eliminating repeated accidents. The committee shall review all accidents to determine the preventability of the accident and the level of compliance with Agency policies and procedures.

The concept of preventability is based on the premise that drivers are expected to meet a higher standard of performance than the average motorist. It is self-evident that the professional driver should be able to observe and assess the behavior of pedestrians and other drivers and recognize those actions that may create hazardous conditions and take every reasonable measure to avoid involvement in an accident.

The committee shall review the accident for defensive driving and preventability, not for legal fault. The fact that a driver, who becomes involved in a vehicle collision, is not legally at-fault does not mean the driver could not have prevented the accident.

The committee shall consist of three members, the Executive Director of Transportation Services, the Supervisor, and a certified trainer.

The Executive Director of Transportation Services will apply the following guide to determine the applicable progressive post- accident action:

| Preventability Determination  | Action  |
|---|---|
| First preventable accident within current fiscal year with or without property damage and/or injuries.  | Re-training, written reprimand, and up to three (3) days suspension without pay.                        |
| Second preventable accident within current fiscal year with or without property damage and/or injuries.   | Termination of employment as a bus driver. Employee may appeal to be retained as a bus assistant.       |
| Two (2) preventable accidents within three years of the current accident under review.  | Re-training, written reprimand, and up to 5 days suspension without pay.                                |
| Three (3) preventable accidents within three years of the current accident under review.  | Termination of employment as a bus driver. Employee may appeal to be retained as a bus assistant.       |
| Preventable accidents where bus rear-ended other vehicle, failed to stop at a stop sign or traffic light, failed to yield, struck a pedestrian or other similar serious singular event. | Progressive discipline steps may be accelerated to a more severe response level, including termination. |

The Agency may require additional follow-up depending on the nature of the accident.

### Section 8.03 Retraining

The Agency may require retraining after a preventable accident or incident or after a driver's evaluation. A driver assigned such retraining may not continue to provide services until such retraining has been successfully completed.

### Section 8.04 Performance Improvement

Performance improvement may be suggested whenever the Agency believes that an employee's performance is less than satisfactory and can be resolved through adequate counseling. Corrective counseling is completely at the discretion of the Agency. The Agency expressly reserves the right to discharge "at will." Even if corrective counseling is implemented, it may be terminated at any step at the discretion of management. The Agency, in its sole discretion, may either warn, reassign, suspend, or discharge any employee at will, whichever it chooses and at any time.

The Executive Director of Transportation Services will determine the course of action best suited to the circumstances. The steps in performance improvement are as:

#### **A. Verbal Counseling**

At the first step in correcting unacceptable performance or behavior, the Supervisor will review pertinent job requirements with the employee to ensure his or her understanding of them. The Supervisor will consider the severity of the problem, the employee's previous performance appraisals and all of the circumstances surrounding the particular case. A written warning, probation, or possible termination could result if the problem is not resolved at this level. The Supervisor will document the verbal counseling for future reference but it will not become part of the employee's personnel file.

#### **B. Written Reprimand**

If the unacceptable performance or behavior continues, the next step is a written reprimand. Certain circumstances, such as violation of a widely known policy or safety requirement, may justify a written reprimand without first using verbal counseling. The written reprimand defines the problem and how it may be corrected. The seriousness of the problem will be emphasized, and the written reprimand shall indicate that probation or termination or both, may result if improvement is not observed. Written reprimands become part of the employee's personnel file.

#### **C. Probation**

If the problem has not been resolved or the circumstances warrant it, or both, the employee may be placed on probation. Probation is a serious action in which the employee will be advised that termination will occur if improvement in performance or conduct is not achieved within the probationary period. The Executive Director of Transportation Services and the designated Supervisor, after review of the employee's performance improvement documentation, will determine the length of probation. Typically, the probation period should be at least two weeks and no longer than 60 days, depending on the circumstances. A written probationary notice to the employee will be prepared by the Executive Director of Transportation Services who shall meet with the employee to discuss the probationary letter and answer any questions. The employee should acknowledge receipt by signing the letter. If the employee should refuse to sign, the Director of Transportation may sign attesting that it was delivered to the employee and identifying the date of delivery. The probationary letter becomes part of the employee's personnel file.

On the defined probation counseling date or dates, the employee and the Executive Director of Transportation Services will meet to review the employee's progress in correcting the problem that led to the probation. Brief written summaries of these meetings shall be prepared with a copy provided to the employee and a copy placed in the employee's personnel file.

At the completion of the probationary period, the Executive Director of Transportation Services and the designated Supervisor will meet to determine whether the employee has achieved the required level of performance and to consider removing the employee from probation, extending the period of probation, or taking further action. The employee will be advised in writing of the decision. Should probation be completed successfully, the employee will be commended, though cautioned that any future recurrence may result in further disciplinary action.

#### **D. Suspension**

A two (2) or three (3) day suspension with or without pay may be justified when circumstances reasonably require an investigation of a serious incident in which the employee was allegedly

involved. A suspension may also be warranted when employee safety, welfare, or morale may be adversely affected if a suspension is not imposed.

In addition, and with prior approval of the Executive Director of Transportation Services, suspension without pay for up to three consecutive working days may be imposed for such proven misconduct as intentional violation of safety rules on the job. These examples do not limit the Agency's use of suspension with or without pay in other appropriate circumstances, such as the need to investigate a serious incident. In implementing a suspension, a written counseling report shall be issued to set forth the circumstances justifying the suspension. Such a report shall become part of the employee's personnel file.

#### E. Termination

The employee is notified of the termination by the Executive Director of Transportation Services and will be directed to report to the personnel department for debriefing and completion of termination documentation. Involuntary termination is reserved for those cases that cannot be resolved by corrective counseling or in those cases where a major violation has occurred which cannot be tolerated. Terminations are to be treated in a confidential, professional manner by all concerned.

## Section 8.05 Attendance Expectations

Employees are expected to come to work on all days they are scheduled. Should an employee incur five unpaid days per school year they will be required to meet with the Executive Director of Transportation Services for a hearing during which the circumstances of the unpaid days will be reviewed. Following the hearing the Director may make a recommendation for disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Attendance issues include tardiness, excessive absenteeism, failure to report (no call /no show), pattern of absences (missing certain days of the week, etc.), or any 5 unapproved absences without pay (AWOP) not related to an approved medical illness. Attendance issues are progressive and will be subject to a separate improvement plan.

| Instance Number | Attendance Issues  | Failure to Report   | Tardy   | Absence Without Pay   |
|-----------------|--|---|---|---|
|                 | All other attendance related issues not itemized in the following table. | Employee does not report at designated time, does not report absence before assigned route departs from garage or origin point. | Employee reports to work after the scheduled report time but still completes the route. | Employee does not complete scheduled assignments, and does not have approval or available time off for absence.               |
| 1               | Verbal Warning.  | Written Reprimand, Removal from extra work sheet.   | Verbal Warning.   | Written Reprimand, Removal from extra work sheet for the semester.  |
| 2               | Written Reprimand.   | Unpaid Suspension, Length TBD.  | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Verbal Warning.   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Written Reprimand, removal from extra work sheet for the year, not eligible for summer assignment and moved 1 |



|   |                                   |                      |                                    |   |
|---|-----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|---|
|   |                                   |                      |                                    | Position Lower on Seniority List.   |
| 3 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Written Reprimand | Termination Hearing. | Written Reprimand.                 | 1 Day Unpaid Suspension, Moved 1 Position Lower on Seniority List.                          |
| 4 | Suspension, Length TBD.           |                      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Written Reprimand. | Unpaid Suspension, Length TBD, Moved 5 Positions Lower on Seniority List.                   |
| 5 | Termination Hearing.              |                      | Suspension or Termination Hearing. | Meeting with the Executive Director of Transportation Services. Disciplinary Action Issued. |

## Section 8.06 Dispute Resolution

An Employee that has a concern or issue related to their work or workplace should first communicate these issues to their Supervisor. If after meeting with the Supervisor the Employee still feels their issue is unresolved, they may contact the Executive Director for Transportation Services and request a meeting. If still unsatisfied after this meeting, a meeting with the Superintendent or his designee may be requested.

## Article 9 – Seniority & Loss of Seniority

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### Section 9.01 Seniority

- A. Seniority shall be based on the District in which the employee typically works.
- B. Seniority shall be defined as length of continuous employment since last date of hire in the district to which the employee is assigned for employees who worked in that district prior to July 1, 2010. Employees hired on or after July 1, 2010 seniority is defined as length of continuous service since the last date of hire. For the purpose of determining seniority only, continuity of employment shall not be considered broken by approved leaves of absences or when operations affecting the employee are temporarily suspended by the employer. Seniority shall not accrue during unpaid leaves of absence of more than thirty (30) cumulative days per year or while an employee is on layoff status.
- C. Ranking of new employees with the same seniority shall be by alphabetical order using the last name by which each employee was first hired.

### Section 9.02 Loss of Seniority

- A. An Employee will lose his/her seniority and his/her name will be removed from the seniority list and the Employee will be terminated from employment when one or more of the following events occurs:

1. The Employee quits, retires or is discharged.
2. The Employee has been laid off for more than one (1) year.
3. The Employee has been on an unpaid leave of absence for a period of time exceeding their accumulated seniority days or two (2) years, whichever is less.

## Article 10 – Compensation

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### Section 10.01 Payroll Procedures

Employees will document their hours on a weekly timesheet. This sheet will have spaces to record any extra work, and spaces to record actual time worked if the assigned route exceeds the scheduled hours. Below are some important rules and procedures to follow when documenting your times:

- A. If you exceed your scheduled hours, record the actual time worked. Then, have a dispatcher review and sign your extra time as soon as practicable. The dispatcher may refer you to a Supervisor depending on the nature of the extra time.
- B. Be sure to review your timesheet at the end of the week and sign the signature line before submitting it to the dispatcher.
- C. Timesheets are due on Friday after completion of the final run. Timesheets will be accepted no later than noon on Monday. If you are consistently late, you may miss a check date and be subject to a performance improvement plan.

### Section 10.02 Package Hours

Route times shall include 15 minutes for morning segments, 5 minutes for noon segments, and 15 minutes for afternoon segments per day for the purpose of completing necessary pre- and post- trips as well as fueling, paperwork, and bus washing.

Package Hours are compiled as accurately as possible, but adjustments will be made for any clerical errors. Additionally, any permanent changes to the package will cause the hours to be adjusted either up or down to suit the revised route. A permanent change includes students who move out of district, students that are reassigned to other routes/schools, students who have not ridden for over a week without contact from the parent, or any other change that it is not reasonable to assume is transient in nature.

If an outbound route concludes early, the Employee is required to remain on premises until the conclusion of paid time. Likewise, if a route is missing students on the inbound side the Employee is required to report at the scheduled time. While on paid time, other duties may be assigned that fit within the originally scheduled route time.

## Section 10.03 Wages

### Permanent Driver/Assistants

Employees shall move steps on the wage scale based on a combination of time worked for the Agency in their assigned job and with an annual evaluation that provides evidence the employee has met the performance expectations as established within this Handbook. All increments occur on July 1<sup>st</sup>. New staff members hired may be given credit for prior experience.

| Scale  | 2019-2020                        |           | 2020-2021*                       |           |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-----------|
|  | Driver                           | Assistant | Driver                           | Assistant |
| 1  | \$17.43                          | \$13.07   | \$17.87                          | \$13.40   |
| 2  | \$17.94                          | \$13.58   | \$18.39                          | \$13.92   |
| 3  | \$18.45                          | \$14.09   | \$18.91                          | \$14.44   |
| 4  | \$18.71                          | \$14.35   | \$19.18                          | \$14.71   |
| 5  | \$18.96                          | \$14.61   | \$19.43                          | \$14.98   |
| 6  | \$19.22                          | \$14.86   | \$19.70                          | \$15.23   |
| 7  | \$19.48                          | \$15.12   | \$19.97                          | \$15.50   |
| 8  | \$19.73                          | \$15.38   | \$20.22                          | \$15.76   |
| <b>Extra Trips &amp; Summer/ Special Cleaning</b>  | \$17.43                          | N/A       | \$17.87                          | N/A       |
| <b>Meeting &amp; Prof. Learning/Training Rates</b> | \$13.33                          | \$10.25   | \$13.66                          | \$10.51   |
| <b>Trainers</b>                                    | Driver<br>Rate/hr +<br>\$1.00/hr | N/A       | Driver<br>Rate/hr +<br>\$1.00/hr | N/A       |

\*Paused until further notice. Wages for the 2020-21 year will be based upon the 2019-20 schedule.

A driver, who accepts an extra trip assignment that runs concurrently with their regular route package, will be paid at their regular driver rate during any portion of their regular route package; extra assignment hours falling outside of their regular route package will be paid at the current Field Trip rate.

Employees with a hire date no later than October 1 of their year of hire will be eligible to earn a Qualifying Bonus Year of Service (based on total service time at the local and LESA only) and related Bonus Payment as follows:

| <b>Qualifying Bonus Years of Service Earned as of June 30<sup>th</sup> of Each Year:</b> | <b>Bonus Payment</b>                       |
|--|--|
| <b>1</b>   | No bonus                                   |
| <b>2 – 5 Years</b>   | 1.0% of gross wages earned during the year |
| <b>6 – 10 Years</b>  | 1.5% of gross wages earned during the year |
| <b>11 – 15 Years</b>   | 2.0% of gross wages earned during the year |
| <b>16 – 20 Years</b>   | 2.5% of gross wages earned during the year |
| <b>21+ years</b>   | 3.0% of gross wages earned during the year |

The actual payment will be paid by August 15th of each year. Employees severing employment with the RTC prior to the completion of the current school year would not be eligible for any bonus payment.

Drivers shall receive the same rate of pay for working on a temporary basis in a neighboring district as they would receive if they were working in the district they are assigned a regular package. Supervisors are not obligated to use drivers for temporary assignments that are not assigned a regular package in their district.

**Substitute Driver/Assistants**

The starting rate of pay for substitute bus drivers and bus assistants shall be incremented on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July immediately following their start date provided that they were hired by October 1<sup>st</sup> of the school year.

| <b>Substitute Bus Driver</b>    | <b>July 1, 2019</b> | <b>July 1, 2020*</b> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Beginning</b>                | \$17.43             | \$17.87              |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Increment</b> | \$17.68             | \$18.12              |

| <b>Substitute Bus Assistant</b> | <b>July 1, 2019</b> | <b>July 1, 2020*</b> |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Beginning</b>                | \$13.07             | \$13.40              |
| <b>1<sup>st</sup> Increment</b> | \$13.33             | \$13.66              |

The rate of pay for meetings, training and professional learning opportunities are as follows:

|                               | <b>July 1, 2019</b> | <b>July 1, 2020*</b> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Substitute Bus Drivers</b> | \$13.33             | \$13.66              |

|                                  |         |         |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|
| <b>Substitute Bus Assistants</b> | \$10.25 | \$10.51 |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------|

\*Paused until further notice. Wages for the 2020-21 year will be based upon the 2019-20 schedule.

Substitute drivers will be eligible to earn a Bonus Payment equal to \$1.40 per day worked during the school year. Days worked are defined as any day a substitute driver reports to work for any route assignment, including standby.

Substitute drivers that are hired as an RTC regular driver will be eligible for the bonus earned for days worked as a substitute.

The actual payment will be paid by August 15th. Substitute drivers severing employment with the RTC prior to the completion of the current school year would not be eligible for any bonus payment.

## Section 10.04 Overtime

Each employee is responsible for keeping his or her weekly hours under 40 for the week. Any time in excess of 40 hours shall be pre-approved by the Supervisor and shall be paid at 1.5 times the hourly rate for all hours actually worked in excess of 40. For purposes of overtime, the workweek is Sunday through Saturday.

## Section 10.05 Attendance Merit Incentives

All regular employees (excluding substitute employees) shall be eligible annually for the Attendance Merit incentives. For purposes of this section, an occurrence of sick leave is defined as any legitimate use of sick time. In order to qualify for any of these attendance merit incentives, the employee must be employed and in good standing for the entire incentive period and have no unpaid time and limited sick time use.

- A. The following Attendance Merit Incentives are available:
  1. An employee who does not use sick leave or have any unpaid time from the period commencing July 1 and ending January 31 shall be eligible for a three hundred (\$300) attendance merit incentive payment and may elect to be paid for up to one unused personal business day. An employee who experiences only one (1) occurrence of sick leave during this period of time shall be eligible for a one hundred (\$100) attendance merit incentive payment. Payment for such incentive payments shall be made by March 15<sup>th</sup>.
  2. The process noted in 10.05(A) shall be repeated during the period commencing February 1<sup>st</sup> and ending June 30<sup>th</sup> with payment occurring by August 15<sup>th</sup>.
  3. An employee who has more than twenty (20) days as of June 30<sup>th</sup> and no unpaid time shall be eligible to convert up to three (3) days at \$100 per day.
- B. Employees off on an uncontested work-related absence will not be penalized for purposes of qualifying for the attendance merit incentive. Payment will be made upon employee's return to work.

# Article 11 – Fringe Benefits

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## Section 11.01 Voluntary Health & Supplemental Benefits

Health Benefits available as required by the Affordable Care Act. Supplemental benefits are available as published.

## Section 11.02 Term Life Insurance

Effective with the annual bid day, the Board will pay the annual premium for each employee for a \$10,000 term life insurance policy. Each qualifying employee with five (5) or more years of seniority shall be eligible for a board-paid term life insurance policy of \$15,000.

## Section 11.03 Authorized Time Off

### A. Sick Time

Effective July 1, 2019 the Agency adopted Public Act 338 of 2018, commonly known as the Paid Medical Leave Act (“PMLA”). To ensure compliance with the PMLA, sick time shall be processed on the basis of hours rather than days. Accordingly, sick time shall be earned at a rate of one (1) hour for every thirty-five (35) hours worked, up to a maximum of one (1) hour per calendar week. As of the implementation of this Act, employee sick banks shall be converted from days to hours by multiplying the number of days by the highest package hours the employee was assigned over the three most recent years.

As of August 15, 2019, each employee shall be credited with a one-time transition sick bank equal to three times the package hours established on the most recent bid date. Each new employee hired after August 15, 2019 shall be given an initial sick bank credit, in hours, equal to three times their initial package hours.

PML time may be used in increments equal to the AM and/or PM portion of the employee’s daily package hours. The first 40 hours of “sick time” used in any given year shall be deemed by the Agency as “paid medical leave time” and processed under the provisions of the Paid Medical Leave Act. All “sick time” used beyond the 40 hours of PML time in any given year shall be processed and reported outside of the Paid Medical Leave Act and in accordance with the rules and procedures otherwise set forth herein.

Any sick leave days not used by the end of the school year shall carryover to the following year.

Beginning with the 41<sup>st</sup> hour of sick time used in any year, the employee may be required to provide a doctor’s verification of the need for the absence. Failure to comply with such a request will result in the withholding of pay for such leave days.

Criteria for utilization of the first forty hours of sick leave time shall comply with the PMLA. To ensure full compliance with PMLA, concerns with the denial of PMLA time shall be directed to

the Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services. PMLA time includes, but is not necessarily limited to:

- Physical or mental illness, injury, or health condition of the employee or his or her family member.
- Medical diagnosis, care, or treatment of the employee or employee's family member.
- Preventative care of the employee or his or her family member.
- Closure of the employee's primary workplace by order of a public official due to a public health emergency.
- The care of his or her child whose school or place of care has been closed by order of a public official due to a public health emergency.
- The employee's or his or her family member's exposure to a communicable disease that would jeopardize the health of others as determined by health authorities or a health care provider.
- Additionally, for domestic violence and sexual assault situations, employees may use PML time for the following:
  - Medical care or psychological or other counseling.
  - Receiving services from a victim services organization.
  - Relocation and obtaining legal services.
  - Participation in civil or criminal proceedings related to or resulting from the domestic violence or sexual assault.

All sick leave time beginning with the 41<sup>st</sup> hour shall be used only for:

- Personal illness, injury or quarantine.
- Serious illness in the immediate family, e.g., husband, wife, child, father or mother.

The Agency will provide additional paid sick leave as required by the Department of Labor and/or federal statute related to COVID-19. Employees requesting paid leave time under these provisions will be required to formally request the time in writing through their Supervisor.

The Employee shall notify the administration of his/her impending absence stating the nature of absence. Each Employee shall give such notification at least 90 minutes prior to his/her scheduled on-the-job starting time.

Upon retirement or the voluntary resignation from an employee, sick leave in excess of twenty times the current package hours is eligible for cash-out at \$20 per day (with a day equal to the current package hours). Such cash-out request shall be made by the employee no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> and payment shall occur no later than August 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **B. Personal Business**

Employees not on leave shall be credited in hours with the equivalent of two (2) personal business days (with one day equal to the current package hours).

Employees hired after the beginning of the regular school year, on an un-paid leave during the year or severing employment prior to year-end shall have their days pro-rated based on the number of days scheduled to work during the year.

Personal business time may be used in increments equal to the AM and/or PM portion of the employee's daily package hours.

Use of personal business time must have prior-Supervisor (or designee) approval 48 hours in advance. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis. Up to two employees per job classification may be approved to use personal business time per day. These absences shall be considered in the order received. Requests for time off will not be accepted more than 60 days in advance.

This leave shall be used only for the purpose of conducting personal business which cannot normally be transacted after work, on weekends, between runs or during vacation periods.

Unused Personal Business time will be rolled into the employee's sick bank as of June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Employees who have over 15 sick days in their sick bank may, with the written pre-approval of the Supervisor, convert up to 5 of those days (with one day equal to the current package hours) into personal days for covering an unusual absence such as an out of state event, anniversary trip, or another similar event. Days converted must be used consecutively and employees shall be required to use their allocated personal business days for such events prior to asking for the conversion of sick days. The maximum number of days that can be requested under this provision (using a combination of personal days and converted days) is five (5). Employees electing this provision waive all attendance merit incentive payments as noted in Article 10.05. Employees are not able to access this provision two consecutive years in a row.

#### **C. Holidays**

Employees will be paid at regular straight-time rates for the number of hours they are scheduled on the work day preceding a holiday for the following holidays:

Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day; day after Thanksgiving; Christmas Day; day after Christmas Day; day before or after New Year's Day; New Year's Day; Good Friday; Memorial Day.

To be eligible for pay for any given holiday the Employee must work the full day before and the next full scheduled working day after the holiday. Exceptions may be made by the Executive Director of Services for extenuating circumstances. If a holiday falls within the first seven (7) days of an absence due to a work-related injury, the employee shall qualify for holiday pay.

#### **D. Jury Duty**

An employee who is summoned and who reports for jury duty shall be paid an amount equal to the difference between the amount of salary he/she would otherwise have earned by working on that day and the daily jury fee paid by the court, not including travel allowances or reimbursement of expenses for each day on which he/she reports for or performs such jury duty on which he/she would otherwise have been scheduled to work.



An employee who is subpoenaed or must accompany a dependent minor child that has been subpoenaed, shall be released from regular duties without loss of salary to appear in court as a witness in any case connected with the employee's employment or in cases where the Agency is involved. Notwithstanding the above, paid release time shall not be granted for court appearances which are not connected with the employee's employment, or in which the Agency is not involved, or in a case in which the employee initiates against the Agency, or where the employee is one of the defendants except in an agency connected case in which the employee is acquitted.

**E. Bereavement Leave**

When death occurs in an Employee's immediate family, e.g., spouse, parent, parent of current spouse, grandparent, grandchild, child/step-child, brother or sister, or son/daughter-in-law, the Employee upon request, will be excused from work for up to five (5) calendar days immediately following the date of death. The employee may elect to the use of up to two (2) days to attend the funeral or memorial service if such services are scheduled later than the five (5) calendar days noted above.

An Employee will be excused, upon request, for one (1) day, provided he/she attends the funeral upon the death of an aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, step sister or sister-in-law, or step brother or brother-in-law.

An Employee excused from work under this Section shall receive the amount of wages he/she would have earned by working during the straight-time hours on such scheduled days of work for which he/she is excused with pay. Payment shall be made at the Employee's rate of pay, not including premiums, as of his/her last day worked. Paid bereavement time will not be counted as hours worked for purposes of overtime.

**F. Medical Leave**

To qualify for a medical leave the employee must first exhaust their PMLA time for the year. After the employee's PMLA time is exhausted the following provisions apply:

An employee who receives a written medical authorization to refrain from work for at least two (2) weeks or on an intermittent basis due to a disability may apply for a medical leave of absence without pay. The period of the medical leave shall not exceed six (6) months.

1. No other benefits, excluding seniority, shall accrue. Employees shall have the right to return to their original position with a written statement from the doctor allowing full resumption of job duties.
2. Available paid sick leave shall be used concurrently with the medical leave and such use shall not count against a person for purposes of determining eligibility for the attendance merit incentive except that the maximum incentive leave payment shall be \$100.
3. Elective medical procedures shall not qualify for medical leave.
4. The Agency reserves the right to request a second physical or medical opinion (at the Agency's expense) in accordance with Section 4.02, Health and Physical Requirements.

## Section 11.04 Unscheduled Closings

### A. Suspension of Operations

On any given day every reasonable effort will be made to determine by 5:45 a.m. whether or not Transportation operations will be suspended. If such a decision is made, it will be announced over WHMI (93.5 FM). All Employees are expected to listen for such an announcement.

### B. Unscheduled School Closings

Employee shall be credited annually with six (6) days (with one day equal to the current package hours) that may be used if their scheduled assignment is cancelled due to conditions not within the control of school authorities, as defined in Section 101(4) of the State School Aid Act or via a State Executive Order. Such time shall not carry-over to the next year if unused.

Pay for time in excess of the six (6) annually credited days will be determined based on provisions/guidance from the State of Michigan.

To the extent that additional school days are not in session, staff may use their personal business time. Pay for such days will be based on the scheduled hours for the cancelled assignment.

Should a driver work trip hours that occur on a cancelled school day, he/she will receive their regular pay for the day in addition to the trip hours worked.

### C. Show-Up Time

1. If operations are suspended after an Employee's starting time, but before the start of scheduled classes, Employees who show up for the beginning of their assignment will be paid one (1) hour of straight time rate. The Employer may assign employees to any work available during such 1-hour period.
2. If no school closing announcement is made, all Employees are expected to report for work as scheduled.
3. An Employee who is unable or unwilling to appear for work as defined above will be charged for the time lost over the interval beginning at the time he/she would have been scheduled to begin work and ending at one of the following three times, whichever occurs first:
  - a. The time he/she would have finished his/her scheduled work;
  - b. The time the Agency closes on that day; or
  - c. The time at which the Michigan State Police or the Livingston County Sheriff's Department advises the Employer to close or advises the public in the Employee's home area to drive only in an emergency.

This provision does not apply to the Employee who is reasonably delayed in getting to work because of inclement weather.

## **Article 12 - Expense Reimbursement**

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### **Section 12.01 CDL/License Renewal**

The Agency shall reimburse bus drivers for the cost of any required endorsements or license fees in excess of their personal license that are required to perform the work of a school bus driver.

### **Section 12.02 Physicals**

The Agency shall pay for the actual cost of physicals, excluding mileage and time incurred with regard to the physical. Drivers are eligible for 30 minutes of pay when they complete a required physical.

### **Section 12.03 Damaged Clothing or Eye Glasses**

The Agency shall not reimburse employees for clothing or eyeglasses damaged while performing work. However, extenuating circumstances shall be considered by the Executive Director for Transportation Services upon the receipt of a written explanation and request for reimbursement.

### **Section 12.04 Pay for Random Drug Screenings**

Employees are eligible for 15 minutes of pay when they complete a random drug screening.

# Brighton Division

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## A-01 – Hours of Operation

**Office:** 5:15am – 5:15pm

**Bus Wash:** 6:00am – 4:30pm (weather permitting)

## A-02 – Reporting Absences

If you are ill and unable to report to work please call the office by 5:30am. Please make certain to speak to one of the office staff. Voice mail should not be used.

## A-03 –Bus Stop Procedures

Drivers must comply with the following procedures when crossing students in front of the bus:

1. Establish eye contact with the student.
2. Raise your index finger to signal “stop and wait” to the student.
3. Raise a second finger to signal “OK to cross and walk” to the student.

Kindergarten (KG), 1<sup>st</sup> Grade (1) and School of Choice (SOC) students must have a parent or appointed person at the bus stop in order to release the student. If no one is at the stop for them, keep the student on and radio the office. Parents of KG, 1 and SOC students may elect in writing to allow their student to be released without anyone to meet them at the stop. A student that does not feel comfortable exiting the bus for any reason must remain on the bus. In the event this happens, radio dispatch with the student’s name and you will be instructed on how to proceed.

## A-04 - Student Management

Employees are responsible for the behavior of the all students under their care at all times. Employees will enforce all bus rules as stated in the Student Code of Conduct and polices/procedures established by the Transportation Department.

# Hartland Division

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## B-01 – Hours of Operation

The office is open from 5:15 a.m. until 5:15 p.m. on full days of school unless notified of a change by the Supervisor. On half days, office hours are 5:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Employees will not loan or duplicate school keys/fobs to other persons.

## B-02 – Reporting Absences

If you are unable to perform your work in the a.m. as scheduled due to illness or other reason, you must call the office by 5:15 a.m., and leave your name, bus number, reason for absence, time you leave for each part of your route, and a phone number where you can be reached. It is mandatory that you call back again and speak to someone directly. Transportation hours are 5:15 a.m. until 5:15 p.m.

## B-03 –Bus Stop Procedures

All employees are required to use the “Safety Signal” for loading and unloading K-12 students. All students must wait on the side of road that they reside on. These procedures are to be followed by “all” students loading, unloading, crossing, or staying on the door side of the bus. It is the driver’s responsibility to always report late running students to the office in writing each and every time this occurs.

If it seems out-of-the-ordinary that students are not at a stop in the morning, call dispatch to verify the time and your transmission will be documented by office staff. Do not run early to any bus stop (drop-off/pick-up); you are required to pull over at a safe location to help improve your time. You are required to stop at all bus stops on your route directions even if the student not visible. All unauthorized turn-arounds not indicated on your route sheet must be pre-approved with dispatch.

Students cannot ride any bus other than the one(s) they are assigned.

Kindergarten (KG) and School of Choice (SOC) students must have a parent or appointed person at the bus stop in order to release the student. If no one is at the stop for them, keep the student on and radio the office. Parents of KG and SOC students may elect in writing to allow their student to be released without anyone to meet them at the stop. A student that does not feel comfortable exiting the bus for any reason must remain on the bus. In the event this happens, radio dispatch with the student’s name and you will be instructed on how to proceed.

## B-04 – Student Management

Employees are responsible for the behavior of the all students under their care at all times. Employees will enforce all bus rules as stated in the Student Code of Conduct and polices/procedures established by the Transportation Department.

## **B-05 – Random Drug/Alcohol Testing**

Employees will be notified over the radio or in person to report for a random drug/alcohol screen using the code "Code 10-75". Once you have been notified, you must report directly to the office, and not leave the premises until your screen is completed or it will be considered positive, and will result in termination of employment.

## **B-06 – Practice Evacuations**

Drivers are responsible for making students aware of what is expected of them during a bus evacuation and what procedures are to be followed. Office staff will be on site for assistance and evaluation of the all scheduled practice drill.

# Howell Division

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## C-01 – Hours of Operation

**Office:** 5:30am – 5:15pm (closed for lunch from 11:30am – 12:30pm).

**Bus Wash:** 5:30am – 5:30pm.

## C-02 – Reporting Absences

If you are ill and unable to report to work please call the office by 5:30am for morning runs and by 1:00pm for afternoon runs. You may leave a voice mail, however it is mandatory that you call back and speak to someone directly.

## C-03 –Bus Stop Procedures

Drivers must comply with the following procedures when crossing students in front of the bus:

1. After making a complete and legal stop count the children that have to cross the road.
2. Make eye contact with the students.
3. Raise the paddle with the “red” side facing the students (this signals to the students to wait until it is safe to cross).
4. When you determine it is safe for the students to cross turn the paddle so the “smiley face” faces the children.
5. Count the children after they have crossed.

Students in grade Kindergarten through 3rd Grade will not be dropped off at a bus stop without a parent/guardian or an older sibling AT their stop to receive the student. A student may be released to a relative or neighbor with prior permission from a parent(s). If there is not a responsible person at the bus stop to receive the student, first radio dispatch. The child will be returned by the bus driver to his/her home school office or Latch Key Program. The bus driver shall escort the child into the building.

## C-04 - Student Management

Employees are responsible for the behavior of the all students under their care at all times. Employees will enforce all bus rules as stated in the Student Code of Conduct and polices/procedures established by the Transportation Department.

# Pinckney Division

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## D-01 – Hours of Operation

**Office:** 5:15am – 5:30pm M- Th., 5:15am – 4:00pm F

**Building Access:** 5:30am – 5:30pm M- Th., 5:30am – 4:00pm

**Bus Wash:** 6:00am – 5:00pm M-TH (weather permitting), 6:00am - 4:00pm F (weather permitting)

## D-02 – Reporting Absences

If you are unable to perform your work schedule due to illness or other reasons, call 810-225-3960 and leave a message on the voice mail, **no later than 90 minutes prior to your pull-out time.**

Employees shall call in sick personally. Personal time off (PTO) days need prior approval and cannot be arranged on the voice mail.

When calling in, give the following information:

1. Name, route, reason for absence and the time of your first run.
2. How long you will be absent (all day, part of the day).
3. Any extra work such as midday runs, trips, etc., that you are scheduled for during your absence.

Upon return to work, it is the responsibility of the employee to immediately fill out an absentee form.

## D-03 –Bus Stop Procedures

Drivers shall instruct students about the following safety procedures:

1. Students shall move well away from the side of the bus after leaving the bus.
2. Students are not to rush the bus.
3. Students are not to get the mail from the roadside mailbox until the bus has departed.
4. If students must cross the road, they shall be instructed to:
  - a. Move at least 10 giant steps in front of the bus before starting across the roadway.
  - b. Make eye contact with the driver.
  - c. Wait for the proper signal from the driver (PA 187 Section 55 2. (d)).
    - i. The raised paddle with the “red” side facing the students (this signals to the students to wait until it is safe to cross).
    - ii. When it is safe for the students to cross, the “green” side of the paddle will be turned to face the students.
  - d. Stop at the traffic side of the bus, look left, right and left, and cross – only when



approaching traffic is stopped.

e. Walk.

Drivers shall count the number of students that leave the bus to cross the roadway and count again before leaving the bus stop to account for all crossing students.

If a vehicle pulls alongside or near the bus to deliver or pick up a student, upon returning to the Transportation Building immediately notify the Transportation Supervisor in writing with the student's and/or parent's name. **Note:** The Transportation Supervisor will contact the parent about the unsafe practice.

All employees are required to use the "Safety Signal" for loading and unloading K-12 students. All students must wait on the side of road that they reside on. These procedures are to be followed by "all" students loading, unloading, crossing, or staying on the door side of the bus. It is the driver's responsibility to always report late running students to the office in writing each and every time this occurs.

If it seems out-of-the-ordinary that students are not at a stop in the morning, call dispatch to verify the time and your transmission will be documented by office staff. Do not run early to any bus stop (drop-off/pick-up); you are required to pull over at a safe location to help improve your time. You are required to stop at all bus stops on your route directions even if the student is not visible. All unauthorized turn-arounds not indicated on your route sheet must be pre-approved with dispatch.

Students cannot ride any bus other than the one(s) they are approved to ride on. Unapproved students on the bus are to be reported to dispatch for further instructions.

Kindergarten (KG) and School of Choice (SOC) students must have a parent or appointed person at the bus stop in order to release the student. If no one is at the stop for them, keep the student on and radio the office. Parents of KG and SOC students may elect in writing to allow their student to be released without anyone to meet them at the stop. A student that does not feel comfortable exiting the bus for any reason must remain on the bus. In the event this happens, radio dispatch with the student's name and you will be instructed on how to proceed.

## D-04 – Student Management

Employees are responsible for the behavior of all students under their care at all times. Employees will enforce all bus rules as stated in the Student Code of Conduct and policies/procedures established by the Transportation Department.