

Evaluation of Teachers

These evaluation procedures are applicable to certificated staff (teachers). Administrators are not covered by this evaluation policy.

1. Communication of Evaluation Process.

Annual written communication of the evaluation process to those being evaluated shall be made by distributing a copy of the evaluation instrument shall be distributed to the certificated staff at the beginning of each school year.

2. Duration and frequency of observations and written evaluations

The duration and frequency of observations and written evaluations for probationary and permanent (tenured) teachers are to be as follows:

a. Probationary Teachers.

- i. Formal observations of probationary teachers shall be based upon actual classroom observations for an entire instructional period.
- ii. Probationary teachers shall be formally observed and evaluated at least once each semester.
- iii. The responsible evaluator is expected to complete the second semester evaluations of probationary teachers prior to April 15 of each year.

b. Permanent Teachers.

- i. Formal observations and evaluations of permanent teachers are to be based upon actual classroom observations for an entire instructional period.
- ii. Permanent teachers are to be formally observed and evaluated at least once each school year.

c. Teachers' Responsibility. Teachers are expected to inform the responsible evaluator of instructional periods that would be conducive to an evaluation and to make themselves readily available for evaluations. In the event the responsible evaluator has not initiated the evaluation process nearing the time within which an evaluation is required to be completed, the teacher has the responsibility to notify the responsible evaluator such that the evaluation can be completed when due.

d. Failure to Complete Evaluations. For permanent teachers, a failure to complete evaluations with the designated duration and frequency shall not give the permanent teacher rights, but is to be considered in evaluating the responsible evaluator's performance.

e. Informal Observations and Evaluations. Informal observations and evaluations may be conducted as the administration determines to be appropriate.

f. Additional Observations and Evaluations. The duration and frequency of observations and written evaluations is specified as a minimum. Observations and evaluations of greater frequency or number than required may be conducted and made at the request of the teacher or in the discretion of the evaluator.

3. Evaluation Criteria

Teachers shall be evaluated based upon the following district-defined evaluation criteria:

- Instruction, which includes:
 - Instructional Process
 - Instructional Climate, which includes Classroom Organization and Management
- Professionalism, which includes:
 - Professional Conduct
 - Personal Conduct
- Improvement, which includes:
 - Teaching Improvement
 - School Improvement

The descriptors set forth in the evaluation instrument approved by the board of education set forth the specific district-defined criterion within each of the foregoing criteria areas.

In preparing summative evaluations, evaluators are to consider not only the formal observations conducted, but also informal observations and other relevant information concerning the performance of the teacher in each of the evaluation criteria.

4. Communication of Deficiencies

The evaluation process shall include written communication and documentation to the evaluated teacher specifying all noted deficiencies, specific means for the correction of the noted deficiency, and an adequate timeline for implementing the concrete suggestions for improvement.

As professionals, teachers may be assigned responsibility to provide suggestions for improvement plans or job growth strategies and shall have the duty of complying with such requests. Further, in the event improvement plans or other similar performance measures are implemented, teachers shall have the duty to comply with such plans. Teachers are expected to be cooperative, professional, and to exhibit a willingness to improve performance and to accept the constructive criticisms and suggestions of the evaluator.

5. Teacher Responses to Evaluations

Teachers shall be provided seven calendar days from receipt of an evaluation in which to give a written response to the evaluation.

6. Plan for Training Evaluators

All evaluators shall possess a valid Nebraska Administrator's Certificate and trained to use the evaluation system used in the District. Training sessions in the use of the District's teacher evaluation system will be provided by the Superintendent or designee to all evaluators prior to their participation in teacher evaluations. Refresher training is to be conducted as the Superintendent determines to be needed.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-828 (Evaluation of Probationary Teachers)
NDE Rule 10

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