

Hiring Process and Criteria

The Board of Trustees has the legal responsibility of hiring all employees. The Board assigns to the Superintendent the process of recruiting staff personnel. The Superintendent may involve various administrative and teaching staff as may be needed in recruiting potential personnel. All personnel selected for employment must be recommended by the Superintendent or designee and approved by the Board. All personnel selected for employment must also go through the applicable screening process outlined in Idaho Code 33-1210.

To aid in obtaining quality staff members, the following non-exclusive list of factors will be considered, along with any other factors relevant to the position: qualifications, training, experience, personality, character, and ability to relate well with students. Every effort will be exerted to maintain wide diversity in staff experience and educational preparation. However, the welfare of the children of the District will be a paramount consideration in the selection of teachers and administrators.

This policy shall be made available to any District employee or person seeking employment with the District.

Guidelines

1. There will be no discrimination in the hiring process. See Policy 5120.
2. Applicants for teaching positions shall provide evidence of meeting State requirements for certification and sign a statement authorizing current and past school district employers, including those outside the state of Idaho, to release to the District all information relating to job performance or job related conduct, and making available to the District copies of all documents in the applicant's previous personnel files, investigative, or other files. Such statement will also release the applicant's current and past employers from any liability for providing such information and documentation. Applicants who do not sign the statement/release shall not be considered for employment. The District will consider information received from current and past school district employers only for the purpose of evaluating applicants' qualifications for employment in the position for which they have applied and no one shall disclose such information to anyone, other than the applicant, who is not directly involved in the process of evaluating the applicants' qualifications for employment. Applicants may be employed on a non contracted provisional basis as allowed by law. Applicants shall not be prevented from gaining employment if current or past out-of-state employers are prevented from or refuse to cooperate with the District's request. See Forms 5100F1 and 5100F2.
3. Applicants for high school and middle school positions should have a major or its equivalent in the specific teaching field(s). Elementary applicants should have a major or its equivalent in elementary education or in the special area of assignment(s). Applicants for specific teaching positions shall also meet the applicable State standards.

4. Applicants for all teaching positions should have a minimum over-all grade point average of 2.5 (A-4, B-3, C-2, D-1). All candidates should have a grade point average of 2.75 in their respective major teaching field(s).
5. When considering coaching assignments in secondary schools, preference for hiring will be given to a qualified certificated professional employee in the school where the coaching vacancy exists. The building principal will be responsible for assuring that all qualified and interested applicants within the building have been given consideration. Giving such individuals consideration does not mean that such an individual will necessarily be retained for a coaching position or that another individual—who is not an employee of the building in question may not receive the position.
6. As required in Idaho Code 65-505, the District will observe preference for veterans and disabled veterans when considering hiring employees to fill vacancies, selecting new employees, or implementing a reduction in force.
7. As required in Idaho Code 33-130 and 33-512(15), the District will conduct a criminal history check for applicable positions.
8. Each newly hired employee must complete an Immigration and Naturalization Service form, as required by federal law.

The employment of any certified staff member is not official until the contract is approved by the Board and signed by both the Board Chair and the applicant.

To assist administrators in compliance with the above policy for the hiring of professional staff, the following guidelines shall be utilized:

Notice of Vacancies

Vacancies will be posted after the Board or the Superintendent has approved written resignation from a contracted professional employee of the District, a termination or non-renewal has occurred, a release from contract has been granted, a new position is created within the District, or a vacancy has otherwise occurred. When that official resignation has been received or a position is otherwise available, the Superintendent's Office will post notices on the District website.

The Superintendent's Office will post notice of any vacancy within the District for four school days for current teachers or administrators to apply for the position and will post the notice of vacancy externally until the position is filled.

1. Upon the conclusion of the four school day period, the appropriate administrator will meet with the appropriate building or program administrator, and review all requests to apply for the open position. The building/program administrator will have the responsibility to interview all final applicants who meet the qualifications needed for the position, and may or may not make recommendation for such applicants after review.

2. If an applicant is recommended by the building principal, it will be submitted in writing to the Superintendent immediately following such determination. If such transfer would create a vacancy in another location, notice of that vacancy will be posted as specified above, with the exception that if the same grade level vacancy for the school has already been posted, the above building notice requirement may be waived and the existing applicant pool utilized.
3. An application or letter of interest will be maintained within the District file for a period of one year from the date of inquiry. It is the responsibility of any applicant who desires to be considered for positions within the District to reactivate his or her file annually.
4. The Superintendent may deviate from the processes in the outline above if he or she determines that such deviation is in the best interest of the District. If the applicant would be employed as a teacher, administrator, school resource officer, or bus driver under a Return to Work program, the District will ensure full compliance with PERSI rules prior to offering the position as described in Policy 5750.

Screening

1. The building or program administrator may establish a committee to assist in the final screening process.
2. The committee, upon receiving the written applications from the appropriate administrator, will review those applications for the purpose of:
 - A. Determining those most suited to the position;
 - B. Making personal telephone contact with one or more references submitted by the applicant;
 - C. Contacting individuals who might know the candidate, but were not listed as references, if needed; and
 - D. Inviting the top candidates to be interviewed for the position.
3. The committee will establish the procedures at the building or program level for interviewing the successful applicants.
4. At a minimum the screening committee or administrator should verify all prior work experience and educational achievement listed by the applicant as the committee or administrator deems appropriate, preferably by contacting the prior employers and/or educational institutions listed by the applicant, and should communicate with every person listed as a reference by the applicant.
5. Upon determining the qualified applicant, the building administrator will submit to the Superintendent the written recommendation for the applicant to be offered a contract.

Acceptance Procedure

Once the Committee or administrator has selected the final candidate, the name will be provided to the Superintendent who will review the applicant's credentials with the building/program administrator. If the Superintendent concurs with the recommendation, the Superintendent will:

1. Authorize a statement of intention to employ, pending Board approval, to be made to the candidate.
 - A. If, at the time the statement of intention to employ is made, the District has not yet received documentation requested pursuant to I.C. 33-1210(3), the District may provisionally employ such applicant on a non-contracted basis for up to 30 days after receipt of the documentation. Within that thirty day time period, the Board may issue a written statement to the applicant identifying why a standard contract will not be issued and specifying which information justifies such decision. The Board may not identify any reason for non-issuance of a standard contract not based on the documentation received. If, within 30 days from the receipt of the information requested pursuant to I.C. 33-1210(3) no contract is issued or the written statement of non-employment is not provided to the applicant, the employee will be deemed to be employed pursuant to a Category 1 contract. During this provisional employment, the applicant shall be provided the same compensation and benefits as if the employee had been employed on a standard certificated contract.

If no documentation is received from out of state employers, the District may employ the applicant on a standard Category 1 contract without utilizing the provisional, non-contracted employment.

- B. Upon receiving a verbal or written statement of intention to accept employment, pending Board approval, by the candidate, the building or program administrator will prepare the necessary papers for recommendation to the Board of Trustees at the next regular or special Board meeting.
 - C. Submit to the Board of Trustees such recommendation.

Board Action

The Board of Trustees Homedale Jt. School District #370 will:

1. Have placed before it all candidate names for the position; and
2. Discuss hiring and, in situations wherein the individual qualifications of the applicant are discussed, go into executive session pursuant to law; and
3. Vote relating to approval or disapproval of the candidates. If members of the Board personally have knowledge not available to the building administrator and the screening committee the Board will not take action until all concerns have been reviewed by the building/program administrator.

Approval

Upon approval by the Board of Trustees, a contract, in a form approved by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, will be sent or given to the applicant pursuant to the requirements set out in I.C. 33-513. The applicant must sign the contract and return it within ten days from the date the contract is delivered to them. Should the person willfully refuse to acknowledge receipt of the contract or the contract is not signed and returned to the Board in the designated period of time, the Board or designee may declare the position vacant. Should the candidate not be approved, or the person willfully refuse to acknowledge receipt of the contract or the contract is not signed and returned to the Board, the Superintendent will remand the situation to the building administrator and screening committee to provide the next applicant's name for consideration.

Any person on provisional employment pursuant to I.C. 33-1210(7) shall be subject to the same time limits and provisions for return of a signed contract when and if such contract shall be provided to them for signature.

Certification

To qualify for employment, each teacher or administrator must have, and maintain during the entire school year, a valid Idaho teaching/administrative certificate on file in the District Office at the beginning of the school year. If at any time the teacher/administrator's certification lapses, is revoked, or suspended, the certificated employee may be subjected to action declaring a contract violation and possible action to terminate the employment of the individual with the District.

Cross References: 5120 Equal Employment Opportunity and Non-Discrimination
5740P Reduction in Force Procedures and Forms

Legal References: I.C. § 33-130 Criminal History Checks for School District
Employees or Applicants for Certificates
I.C. § 33-512 Governance of Schools
I.C. § 33-513 Professional Personnel
I.C. § 33-1210 Information on Past Job Performance
I.C. § 65-501, *et seq.* Rights and Privileges of Veterans
I.C. § 74-206 Executive Sessions—When Authorized
IDAPA 21.01.06 Rules for the Enforcement of the Veteran's
Preference in Public Employment

Policy History:

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Revised on: