

OSBA Model Sample Policy

Code: GCPA-AR
Revised/Reviewed:

Reduction or Recall of Licensed Staff

The Board will make the final decision on programs to be kept, cut or eliminated following a review of the reduction plan developed by the superintendent. The Board will determine when staff layoffs become necessary, and will approve positions to be cut or limited as after receiving a recommendation from the superintendent.¹ Individuals that may be impacted by the layoff shall not be discussed by the Board. The affected employees shall be notified within a reasonable time.

[Definitions

1. “Competence” means the ability of a teacher to teach a subject or grade level based on consideration of any of the following:
 - a. Teaching experience within the past five years related to the subject or grade level;
 - b. Educational attainments, which may not be based solely on being licensed to teach; or
 - c. The teacher’s willingness to undergo additional training or pursue additional education.
2. “Cultural or linguistic expertise” means the expertise of one teacher, as measured against the expertise of another teacher, based on consideration of any of the following factors:
 - a. A teacher’s linguistic ability in relation to an in-district language, as determined by the district using a method of verification or attestation of fluency for all in-district languages;
 - b. A teacher’s completion of a teacher pathway program that is implemented by a teacher pathway partnership at the national, state, regional or local level and that has the primary focus of increasing the number of culturally or linguistically diverse teachers; or
 - c. A teacher’s current work assignment that requires the teacher to work at least 50 percent of the teacher’s work assignment time:
 - (1) At a school where at least 25 percent of the student population consists of students from a historically underserved background, if the teacher is assigned to one school; or
 - (2) At programs, schools or school districts where at least 25 percent of the student population consists of students from a historically underserved background, if the teacher is assigned to multiple programs, schools or school districts.
3. “In-district language” means a heritage language or a language other than English that is spoken:
 - a. By five percent or more of the students enrolled at the school where a teacher is assigned or, if the teacher is not assigned to a school, of the students enrolled in the schools of the district; or
 - b. At five percent or more of the homes of the students enrolled at the school where a teacher is assigned or, if the teacher is not assigned to a school, of the homes of the students enrolled in

¹ Districts are encouraged to consult with legal counsel and any applicable collective bargaining agreements prior to taking any action on reductions of staff.

the schools of the district. “Merit” means the measurement of one teacher’s ability and effectiveness against the ability and effectiveness of another teacher.

4. “Qualified” means the measurement of the teacher’s ability to teach the particular grade level or subject matter in which the teacher is placed after the reduction in force.
5. “Qualified teacher with cultural or linguistic expertise” means a teacher who:
 - a. Has more cultural or linguistic expertise than a teacher with more or equal seniority; and
 - b. Holds proper licenses or other credentials to fill a remaining position.
6. “Student from a historically underserved background” includes a student who:
 - a. Is an English language learner;
 - b. Is from a racial or ethnic group that has historically experienced academic disparities, including racial or ethnic groups for which a statewide education plan has been developed under ORS 329.841, 329.843 or 329.845 for students who are black, African-American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Latino or Hispanic;
 - c. Is economically disadvantaged; or
 - d. Has a disability.
7. “Teacher” has the meaning given that term in ORS 342.120.]

Procedures

When determining which teachers will be retained when the district reduces staff, the district shall prioritize seniority, except as follows:

1. A district shall retain a qualified teacher with cultural or linguistic expertise who has less seniority if the release of the less senior teacher would result in a lesser proportion of teachers with cultural or linguistic expertise compared to teachers without cultural or linguistic expertise.
2. If a qualified teacher with cultural or linguistic expertise is retained as described above and the district is determining which teachers to retain who do not have cultural or linguistic expertise, the district shall prioritize:
 - a. Seniority²; or
 - b. Competence or merit in accordance with law.
3. The district may retain a teacher with less seniority than a teacher being released if the district determines that the teacher being retained has more competence or merit than the teacher with more seniority who is being released.

The district shall not agree in any collective bargaining agreement to waive the right to consider competence in making decisions about reduction in staff or recall of staff. Retained teachers will be properly licensed and qualified, as defined in Oregon statutes, for the positions they fill.

² Seniority shall be calculated from the first day of actual service as teachers with the district, inclusive of approved leaves of absence. In the event there is a tie in calculating seniority, it shall be broken by drawing lots.

The district will develop criteria and procedures for identifying in-district languages, verifying teacher language abilities, reviewing teacher pathway programs and determining which teachers teach in schools with 25 percent or more students from a historically underserved population. Procedures and timelines will be communicated to teachers.

Recall

A teacher who was released due to a reduction in staff will be eligible for recall for 27 months after the last date of release, unless waived by a rejection of a specific position. No new teacher shall be hired to any position until all staff who remain on a recall list who are licensed and qualified for the position have been given an opportunity to accept the position.

The district shall notify teachers on the recall list of a position opening by registered letter, return receipt requested, at their last known address. Teachers shall have [7] calendar days from receipt of such notification in which to indicate their acceptance or rejection of the position and an additional [14] days from date of acceptance in which to begin active employment unless otherwise mutually agreed upon.

If the teacher rejects any position offered for which the teacher is licensed and qualified, or the teacher fails to respond within the specified timeline, the teacher shall forfeit all recall rights.

Staff returning to work shall have all previously accrued sick leave and seniority reinstated, but shall not receive benefits for the period of the release.

Teachers will have recall rights for a maximum 27-month period. If they choose, released teachers may maintain their district insurance and health plans by paying their own premiums as prescribed by law, subject to the rules of the insurance carrier.

[Teachers affected by a reduction in staff may be placed on the substitute list for any position requested when released. They will be notified for those positions requested before other substitutes are notified.]

