



UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT AGENDA ACTION ITEM

TOPIC: First Reading of Local Policies in Update 92

SUBMITTED BY: Gloria S. Rendon **OF** Asst. to the Superintendent

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SCHOOL BOARD: _____

DATE ASSIGNED FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION: February 15, 2012

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the United ISD Board of Trustees approve First Reading of LOCAL Policies in Update 92

DFF(Local): TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT - REDUCTION IN FORCE - **DELETE**

DFFA(Local): REDUCTION IN FORCE - FINANCIAL EXIGENCY

DFFB(Local): REDUCTION IN FORCE - PROGRAM CHANGE

RATIONALE:

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE AND COMPLIANCE:

Instruction Sheet
TASB Localized Policy Manual Update 92

District United ISD

Code	Action To Be Taken	Note
DFF (LOCAL)	DELETE policy	See explanatory note
DFFA (LOCAL)	ADD policy	See explanatory note
DFFB (LOCAL)	ADD policy	See explanatory note

Delete

TERMINATION OF CONTRACT:
REDUCTION IN FORCE

DFF
(LOCAL)

APPLICABILITY

This policy shall apply only to reductions in force of contractual employees when the reduction in force requires the termination of:

1. A contract governed by Chapter 21 of the Education Code in the following circumstances:
 - a. A probationary contract during the contract period;
 - b. A term contract during the contract period; or
 - c. A term contract at the end of the contract period.
2. A contract not governed by Chapter 21 of the Education Code during the contract period.

Note: This policy shall not apply to termination at any time of at-will employment [see DCD]; termination of a continuing contract [see DFCA]; termination of a probationary contract at the end of the contract period [see DFAA]; or termination at the end of the contract period of a contract not governed by Chapter 21 of the Education Code [see DCE].

DEFINITIONS

Definitions used in this policy are as follows:

1. "Financial exigency" shall mean any event or occurrence that creates a need for the District to reduce financial expenditures for personnel including, but not limited to, a decline in the District's financial resources, a decline in enrollment, a cut in funding, a decline in tax revenues, or an unanticipated expense or capital need.
2. "Program change" shall mean any elimination, curtailment, or reorganization of a curriculum offering, program, or school operation. The term shall include, but not be limited to, a change in curriculum objectives, a modification or reorganization of staffing patterns on a particular campus or Districtwide, a redirection of financial resources to meet the educational needs of the students, a lack of student response to particular course offerings, legislative revisions to programs, or a reorganization or consolidation of two or more individual schools or school districts.
3. "Discharge" shall mean termination of a contract during the contract period.
4. "Nonrenewal" shall mean the termination of a term contract at the end of the contract period.

GENERAL GROUNDS

A reduction in force may take place when the Board determines that financial exigency or a program change requires the discharge

TERMINATION OF CONTRACT:
REDUCTION IN FORCE

DFF
(LOCAL)

	<p>or nonrenewal of one or more employees in accordance with this policy. Such a determination constitutes sufficient cause for discharge or nonrenewal.</p>
SCOPE OF REDUCTION	<p>When a reduction in force is to be implemented, the Superintendent shall make recommendations to the Board and the Board shall determine the employment areas to be affected. In determining affected employment areas, the Board may combine or coordinate employment areas, as defined below (e.g., the Board may combine "elementary programs" and "compensatory education programs" to identify an employment area of "elementary compensatory education program").</p>
EMPLOYMENT AREAS	<p>Employment areas include, but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Elementary grades, levels, subjects, departments, or programs.2. Secondary grades, levels, subjects, departments, or programs.3. Special programs, such as gifted and talented, bilingual/ESL programs, special education, compensatory education, and migrant education. Each special program is a separate employment area.4. Counseling programs.5. Library programs.6. Nursing and other health services programs.7. An educational support program that does not provide direct instruction to students.8. Other Districtwide programs.9. An individual campus.10. Any administrative position(s), unit, or department.11. Other contractual position(s).
CRITERIA FOR DECISION	<p>The Superintendent shall recommend to the Board the discharge or nonrenewal of employees within the affected employment area(s) because of a reduction in force, based on the following criteria. These criteria are listed in order of importance; the Superintendent shall apply them sequentially to the extent necessary to identify the employees who least satisfy the criteria and therefore are subject to the reduction in force, i.e., if all necessary reductions can be accomplished by applying the certification criterion, it is not necessary to apply the performance criterion, etc.</p>

TERMINATION OF CONTRACT:
REDUCTION IN FORCE

DFF
(LOCAL)

1. Certification: Appropriate certification, endorsement, and/or highly qualified status for current or projected assignment.
2. Performance: Effectiveness as reflected by appraisal records and other written evaluative information.

If the Superintendent at his or her discretion decides that the documented performance differences between two or more reduction-in-force prospects are too insubstantial to rely upon, he or she may proceed to apply criterion 3 and, thereafter and to the extent needed, criterion 4.

3. Seniority: Length of service in the District, as measured from the employee's most recent date of hire.
4. Professional Background: Professional education and work experience related to the current or projected assignment.

CONSIDERATION FOR
AVAILABLE
POSITIONS

Once the Superintendent has identified the appropriate employees in the affected area(s), those employees may apply for other available positions for which they are qualified. An employee is responsible for reviewing posted vacancies, submitting an application, and otherwise complying with District procedure to be considered for a particular vacancy.

Up until the date of a hearing requested in accordance with this policy, an employee who applies for an open position shall be considered for the position if the employee meets the District's objective criteria for that position.

NOTICE AND
HEARING

After considering the Superintendent's recommendation, the Board shall determine the employees to be proposed for discharge or nonrenewal, as appropriate. The Superintendent shall provide each employee written notice of the proposed action, including a statement of the reason(s) requiring such action and notice that the employee is entitled to a hearing.

NONRENEWAL

An employee receiving a notice of proposed nonrenewal may request a hearing in accordance with DFBB.

DISCHARGE

An employee receiving notice of proposed discharge during the period of a contract governed by Chapter 21 of the Education Code may request a hearing before an independent hearing examiner in accordance with DFD.

An employee receiving notice of proposed discharge during the period of an employment contract not governed by Chapter 21 of the Education Code may request a hearing before the Board or its designee in accordance with DCE.

REDUCTION IN FORCE
FINANCIAL EXIGENCY

DFFA
(LOCAL)

PLAN TO REDUCE
PERSONNEL COSTS

If the Superintendent determines that there is a need to reduce personnel costs, the Superintendent shall develop, in consultation with the Board as necessary, a plan for reducing costs that may include one or more of the following:

- Salary reductions [see DEAB]
- Furloughs, if the District has received certification from the Commissioner of a reduction in funding under Education Code 42.009 [see CBA and DEAB]
- Reductions in force of contract personnel due to financial exigency, if the District meets the standard for declaring a financial exigency as defined by the Commissioner [see CEA and provisions at REDUCTION IN FORCE DUE TO FINANCIAL EXIGENCY, below]
- Reductions in force of contract personnel due to program change [see DFFB]
- Other means of reducing personnel costs

A plan to reduce personnel costs may include the reduction of personnel employed pursuant to employment arrangements not covered at APPLICABILITY, below.

- See DCD for the termination at any time of at-will employment.
- See DFAB for the termination of a probationary contract at the end of the contract period.
- See DFCA for the termination of a continuing contract.
- See DCE for the termination at the end of the contract period of a contract not governed by Chapter 21 of the Education Code.

REDUCTION IN FORCE
DUE TO FINANCIAL
EXIGENCY

APPLICABILITY

The following provisions shall apply when a reduction in force due to financial exigency requires:

1. The nonrenewal or termination of a term contract;
2. The termination of a probationary contract during the contract period; or
3. The termination of a contract not governed by Chapter 21 of the Education Code during the contract period.

DEFINITIONS

Definitions used in this policy are as follows:

1. "Nonrenewal" shall mean the termination of a term contract at the end of the contract period.

REDUCTION IN FORCE
FINANCIAL EXIGENCY

DFFA
(LOCAL)

2. "Discharge" shall mean termination of a contract during the contract period.

GENERAL GROUNDS

A reduction in force may take place when the Superintendent recommends and the Board adopts a resolution declaring a financial exigency. [See CEA] A determination of financial exigency constitutes sufficient reason for nonrenewal or sufficient cause for discharge.

EMPLOYMENT AREAS

When a reduction in force is to be implemented, the Superintendent shall recommend the employment areas to be affected.

Employment areas may include, for example:

1. Elementary grades, levels, subjects, departments, or programs.
2. Secondary grades, levels, subjects, departments, or programs, including career and technical education subjects.
3. Special programs, such as gifted and talented, bilingual/ESL programs, special education and related services, compensatory education, or migrant education.
4. Disciplinary alternative education programs (DAEPs) and other discipline management programs.
5. Counseling programs.
6. Library programs.
7. Nursing and other health services programs.
8. An educational support program that does not provide direct instruction to students.
9. Other Districtwide programs.
10. An individual campus.
11. Any administrative position, unit, or department.
12. Programs funded by state or federal grants or other dedicated funding.
13. Other contractual positions.

The Superintendent's recommendation may address whether any employment areas should be:

1. Combined or adjusted (e.g., "elementary programs" and "compensatory education programs" can be combined to identify an employment area of "elementary compensatory education programs"); and/or

REDUCTION IN FORCE
FINANCIAL EXIGENCY

DFFA
(LOCAL)

2. Applied on a Districtwide or campus-wide basis (e.g, "the counseling program at [named elementary campus]").

The Board shall determine the employment areas to be affected.

CRITERIA FOR
DECISION

The Superintendent or designee shall apply the following criteria to the employees within an affected employment area when a reduction in force will not result in the nonrenewal or discharge of all staff in the employment area. The criteria are listed in the order of importance and shall be applied sequentially to the extent necessary to identify the employees who least satisfy the criteria and therefore are subject to the reduction in force. For example, if all necessary reductions can be accomplished by applying the first criterion, it is not necessary to apply the second criterion, and so forth.

1. Qualifications for Current or Projected Assignment: Certification, multiple or composite certifications, bilingual certification, licensure, endorsement, highly qualified status, and/or specialized or advanced content-specific training or skills for the current or projected assignment.
2. Performance: Effectiveness, as reflected by:
 - a. The most recent formal appraisal, whether completed by the District or by a previous district; and
 - b. Any other written evaluative information, including disciplinary information, from the last 36 months.

If the Superintendent or designee at his or her discretion decides that the documented performance differences between two or more employees are too insubstantial to rely upon, he or she may proceed to apply the remaining criteria in the order listed below.

3. Extra Duties: Currently performing an extra-duty assignment, such as department or grade-level chair, band director, athletic coach, or activity sponsor.
4. Professional Background: Professional education and work experience related to the current or projected assignment.
5. Seniority: Length of service in the District, as measured from the employee's most recent date of hire.

SUPERINTENDENT
RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent shall recommend to the Board the nonrenewal or discharge of the identified employees within the affected employment areas.

BOARD VOTE	After considering the Superintendent's recommendations, the Board shall determine the employees to be proposed for nonrenewal or discharge, as appropriate.
	If the Board votes to propose nonrenewal of one or more employees, the Board shall specify the manner of hearing in accordance with DFBB(LOCAL).
	If the Board votes to propose discharge of one or more employees, the Board shall determine whether the hearing will be conducted by a TEA-appointed hearing examiner [see DFD] or will be a local hearing under Education Code 21.207 [see DFBB].
NOTICE	The Superintendent or designee shall provide each employee written notice of the proposed nonrenewal or discharge, as applicable. The notice shall include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="560 831 1062 863">1. The proposed action, as applicable;<li data-bbox="560 884 1292 915">2. A statement of the reason for the proposed action; and<li data-bbox="560 936 1349 999">3. Notice that the employee is entitled to a hearing of the type determined by the Board.
CONSIDERATION FOR AVAILABLE POSITIONS	An employee who has received notice of proposed nonrenewal or discharge may apply for available positions for which he or she wishes to be considered. The employee is responsible for reviewing posted vacancies, submitting an application, and otherwise complying with District procedures. If the employee meets the District's objective criteria for the position and is the most qualified internal applicant, the District shall offer the employee the position until: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="560 1325 1341 1388">1. Final action by the Board to end the employee's contract, if the employee does not request a hearing.<li data-bbox="560 1409 1382 1514">2. The evidentiary hearing by the independent hearing examiner, the Board, or other person designated in DFBB(LOCAL), if the employee requests a hearing.
HEARING REQUEST NONRENEWAL: TERM CONTRACT	An employee receiving notice of proposed nonrenewal of a term contract may request a hearing in accordance with DFBB.
DISCHARGE: CHAPTER 21 CONTRACT	An employee receiving notice of proposed discharge from a contract governed by Chapter 21 of the Education Code may request a hearing. The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with DFD or the nonrenewal hearing process in DFBB, as determined by the Board and specified in the notice of proposed discharge.

REDUCTION IN FORCE
FINANCIAL EXIGENCY

DFFA
(LOCAL)

DISCHARGE: NON- CHAPTER 21 CONTRACT	An employee receiving notice of proposed discharge during the period of an employment contract not governed by Chapter 21 of the Education Code may request a hearing before the Board or its designee in accordance with DCE.
FINAL ACTION HEARING REQUESTED	If the employee requests a hearing, the Board shall take final action after the hearing in accordance with DCE, DFBB, or DFD, as applicable, and shall notify the employee in writing.
NO HEARING REQUESTED	If the employee does not request a hearing, the Board shall take final action in accordance with DCE, DFBB, or DFD, as applicable, and shall notify the employee in writing.

REDUCTION IN FORCE
PROGRAM CHANGE

DFFB
(LOCAL)

APPLICABILITY	This policy shall apply when a reduction in force due to a program change requires the nonrenewal of a term contract. A program change may be due to, for example, a redirection of resources; efforts to improve efficiency; a change in enrollment; a lack of student response to particular course offerings; legislative revisions to programs; or a reorganization or consolidation of two or more individual schools, departments, or school districts.
DEFINITIONS	Definitions used in this policy are as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. "Program change" shall mean any elimination, curtailment, or reorganization of a program, department, school operation, or curriculum offering, including, for example, a change in curriculum objectives; a modification of the master schedule; the restructuring of an instructional delivery method; or a modification or reorganization of staffing patterns in a department, on a particular campus, or Districtwide.2. "Nonrenewal" shall mean the termination of a term contract at the end of the contract period.
GENERAL GROUNDS	A reduction in force may take place when the Superintendent recommends and the Board approves a program change. A determination of a program change constitutes sufficient reason for nonrenewal.
EMPLOYMENT AREAS	When a reduction in force is to be implemented, the Superintendent shall recommend the employment areas to be affected. Employment areas may include, for example: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Elementary grades, levels, subjects, departments, or programs.2. Secondary grades, levels, subjects, departments, or programs, including career and technical education subjects.3. Special programs, such as gifted and talented, bilingual/ESL programs, special education and related services, compensatory education, or migrant education.4. Disciplinary alternative education programs (DAEPs) and other discipline management programs.5. Counseling programs.6. Library programs.7. Nursing and other health services programs.8. An educational support program that does not provide direct instruction to students.

REDUCTION IN FORCE
PROGRAM CHANGE

DFFB
(LOCAL)

9. Other Districtwide programs.
10. An individual campus.
11. Any administrative position, unit, or department.
12. Programs funded by state or federal grants or other dedicated funding.
13. Other contractual positions.

The Superintendent's recommendation may address whether any employment areas should be:

1. Combined or adjusted (e.g., "elementary programs" and "compensatory education programs" can be combined to identify an employment area of "elementary compensatory education programs"); and/or
2. Applied on a Districtwide or campus-wide basis (e.g., "the counseling program at [named elementary campus]").

The Board shall determine the employment areas to be affected.

CRITERIA FOR
DECISION

The Superintendent or designee shall apply the following criteria to the employees within an affected employment area when a program change will not result in the nonrenewal of all staff in the employment area. The criteria are listed in the order of importance and shall be applied sequentially to the extent necessary to identify the employees who least satisfy the criteria and therefore are subject to the reduction in force. For example, if all necessary reductions can be accomplished by applying the first criterion, it is not necessary to apply the second criterion, and so forth.

1. Qualifications for Current or Projected Assignment: Certification, multiple or composite certifications, bilingual certification, licensure, endorsement, highly qualified status, and/or specialized or advanced content-specific training or skills for the current or projected assignment.
2. Performance: Effectiveness, as reflected by:
 - a. The most recent formal appraisal, whether completed by the District or by a previous district; and
 - b. Any other written evaluative information, including disciplinary information, from the last 36 months.

If the Superintendent or designee at his or her discretion decides that the documented performance differences between two or more employees are too insubstantial to rely upon, he

REDUCTION IN FORCE
PROGRAM CHANGE

DFFB
(LOCAL)

or she may proceed to apply the remaining criteria in the order listed below.

3. Extra Duties: Currently performing an extra-duty assignment, such as department or grade-level chair, band director, athletic coach, or activity sponsor.
4. Professional Background: Professional education and work experience related to the current or projected assignment.
5. Seniority: Length of service in the District, as measured from the employee's most recent date of hire.

SUPERINTENDENT
RECOMMENDATION

The Superintendent shall recommend to the Board the nonrenewal of the identified employees within the affected employment areas.

BOARD VOTE

After considering the Superintendent's recommendations, the Board shall determine the employees to be proposed for nonrenewal, as appropriate. If the Board votes to propose nonrenewal of one or more employees, the Board shall specify the manner of hearing in accordance with DFBB(LOCAL).

NOTICE

The Superintendent or designee shall provide each employee written notice of the proposed nonrenewal. The notice shall include a statement of the reason for the proposed action and notice that the employee is entitled to a hearing of the type determined by the Board.

CONSIDERATION FOR
AVAILABLE POSITIONS

An employee who has received notice of proposed nonrenewal may apply for available positions for which he or she wishes to be considered. The employee is responsible for reviewing posted vacancies, submitting an application, and otherwise complying with District procedures.

If the employee meets the District's objective criteria for the position and is the most qualified internal applicant, the District shall offer the employee the position until:

1. Final action by the Board to end the employee's contract, if the employee does not request a hearing.
2. The evidentiary hearing by the independent hearing examiner, the Board, or other person designated in DFBB(LOCAL), if the employee requests a hearing.

HEARING REQUEST

An employee receiving notice of proposed nonrenewal of a term contract may request a hearing in accordance with DFBB.

FINAL ACTION

HEARING
REQUESTED

If the employee requests a hearing, the Board shall take final action after the hearing in accordance with DFBB and shall notify the employee in writing.

United ISD
240903

REDUCTION IN FORCE
PROGRAM CHANGE

DFFB
(LOCAL)

NO HEARING
REQUESTED

If the employee does not request a hearing, the Board shall take final action in accordance with DFBB and shall notify the employee in writing.