

Series 4000: District Employment

4400 Professional Staff

4409 Non-Renewal

For purposes of this Policy, “non-renewal” of a probationary teacher refers to the discontinuation of the employment relationship between the Board and a probationary teacher at the expiration of the probationary year following the process set forth in the Teachers’ Tenure Act.

Teachers must serve a probationary period as required by the Teachers’ Tenure Act. A probationary teacher’s contract may be non-renewed for performance-based reasons or any other lawful reason.

This Policy must be implemented consistent with Policy 1101.

A. Probationary Period

1. A probationary teacher rated developing or needing support may be subject to non-renewal consistent with the Teachers’ Tenure Act. To attain tenure, a probationary teacher must receive a “highly effective” or “effective” rating on 3 year-end performance evaluations, including their most recent evaluation and have completed at least 4 full school years of employment. A teacher’s probationary period may extend, or the probationary teacher may be nonrenewed, if the teacher does not receive 3 consecutive effective ratings during the probationary period.

For a teacher who previously held tenure in another Michigan public school district, the teacher is subject to a 2-year probationary period, unless the Board acts to reduce the teacher’s probationary period. The Board may make such a reduction if it determines that it is in the District’s best interest considering factors such as the teacher’s employment history; certifications, approvals, or authorizations; experience in subject matter or grade level; professional development, training, and academic preparation; and any other relevant factors as determined by the Board.

2. Unless otherwise provided by a collective bargaining agreement or individual employment contract:
 - a. Non-Teaching Professionals who are not subject to the Teachers’ Tenure Act are subject to 4 years of probationary service and may be non-renewed or terminated at-will by the Board; and
 - b. After 4 years, the non-probationary Non-Teaching Professional may be non-renewed or terminated for any reason that is not arbitrary or capricious, subject to due process.

B. Non-renewal

1. Probationary teacher non-renewal is subject to the non-renewal procedures specified in the Teachers' Tenure Act. This Policy will be implemented consistent with that statute.
 2. Before non-renewing a probationary teacher, the probationary teacher must receive written notice of the Superintendent's or designee's recommendation for non-renewal and the time, date, and place of the Board meeting at which the Board will consider the recommendation. The recommendation for non-renewal will state the reason(s) for the recommendation and may include supporting documentation.
 3. The probationary teacher must receive written notice of Board action to non-renew the teacher's contract at least 15 calendar days before the end of the school year (June 30) except as provided in subsection 4 below. If the teacher is hired after the beginning of the school year, notice of non-renewal must be received at least 15 calendar days before the teacher's anniversary date of hire.
 4. For a teacher who previously held tenure in another Michigan public school district, the teacher must receive written notice of non-renewal at least 60 calendar days before the completion of the probationary period.
- C. The probationary teacher will be provided an opportunity to address the Board in open or closed session and respond to the Superintendent's or designee's recommendation to non-renew.
- D. The Board must take action in open session on the recommendation to non-renew the probationary teacher.
- E. The probationary teacher must be served with written notice of the Board's action non-renewing the teacher's employment and a copy of the Board action within the timeframe required by the Teachers' Tenure Act. The non-renewal notice will specify that a probationary teacher has the right to appeal the timeliness or legal effect of a notice of non-renewal. The appeal must be filed with the State Tenure Commission within 20 calendar days after the probationary teacher's receipt of the notice of non-renewal. A copy of the Teachers' Tenure Act should also be included with the notice.
- F. Teachers who are not subject to the Teachers' Tenure Act may be non-renewed at the discretion of the Board for any lawful reason subject to an applicable collective bargaining agreement or individual employment contract.

Legal authority: MCL 38.81 et seq., 38.91 et seq.

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