

Effective evaluation systems recognize, promote and help develop effective and successful educators. Therefore, Soda Springs Jt. School District No. 150 adopts this policy for certificated staff performance evaluations to ensure that all certificated personnel are evaluated on a fair and consistent basis. Multiple measures are utilized in which the evaluation criteria and procedures for the evaluation of certificated personnel are research based and aligned to Charlotte Danielson Framework for Teaching Second Edition domains and components of instruction.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply:

“Certificated instructional employees,” also referred to as teachers, are those employees who are currently teaching in an Idaho K-12 classroom/school and hold a valid Idaho certificate.

“Certificated non-instructional employees” are those individuals who are required to hold a certificate, but do not meet the definition of instructional employees. Certificated non-instructional employees include those individuals who hold pupil personnel certificates.

“Pupil personnel certificate holders” are those individuals who serve as school counselors, school psychologists, speech-language pathologists, school social workers, school nurses and school audiologists.

“Nonrenewable contract personnel,” also referred to as annual contract employees, are those individuals who have been hired on a Category 1, Category 2 or Category 3 contract.

“Renewable contract personnel” are those certificated individuals who have been employed by this district for four (4) or more continuous years.

PURPOSE OF EVALUATIONS

The purpose for conducting employee evaluations is to improve student achievement by supporting teacher development. Evaluations assist in identifying employee strengths and weaknesses while providing direction and support for continued learning and professional development. Evaluations may also be used to document areas of improvement and to make decisions regarding personnel actions.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The professional practice standards used in the evaluation model are based on Charlotte Danielson Framework for Teaching Second Edition and include:

1. Domain 1: Planning and Preparation
 - a. Demonstrating knowledge of content and pedagogy.

- b. Demonstrating knowledge of students.
 - c. Setting instructional outcomes.
 - d. Demonstrating knowledge of resources.
 - e. Designing coherent instruction.
 - f. Designing student assessments.
2. Domain 2: The Classroom Environment
- a. Creating an environment of respect and rapport.
 - b. Establishing a culture for learning.
 - c. Managing classroom procedures.
 - d. Managing student behavior.
 - e. Organizing physical space.
3. Domain 3: Instruction and Use of Assessment
- a. Communicating with students.
 - b. Using questions and discussion techniques.
 - c. Engaging students in learning.
 - d. Using assessment in instruction.
 - e. Demonstrating flexibility and responsiveness.
4. Domain 4: Professional Responsibilities
- a. Reflecting on teaching.
 - b. Maintaining accurate records.
 - c. Communicating with families.
 - d. Participating in a professional community.
 - e. Growing and developing professionally.
 - f. Showing professionalism.

EVALUATOR

The building principal or designee will be responsible for evaluating certificated instructional staff and pupil personnel performance. All individuals responsible for evaluating certificated instructional staff and pupil personnel performance will receive training in conducting observations and evaluating effective teacher performance. Such individuals will be required to

demonstrate proficiency in conducting evaluations by passing an assessment approved by the Idaho State Department of Education (SDE) prior to September 1, 2018.

SOURCES OF DATA

Professional Practice – 67% of the Evaluation Results

At least sixty-seven percent (67%) of the evaluation results in the evaluation for all certificated instructional employees will consist of evaluation results based on Professional Practice standards and will be aligned to the Charlotte Danielson Framework for Teaching Second Edition. The measures included within the Professional Practice portion of the evaluation will include a minimum of two (2) documented observations annually, with at least one (1) observation being completed by January 1 of each year. At least one of the following will also be included as a measure to inform the Professional Practice portion of all certificated instructional employee evaluations:

1. Parent/guardian input;
2. Student input; and/or
3. Portfolios.

Student Achievement – 33% of the Evaluation Results

At least thirty-three percent (33%) of the evaluation results in the evaluation for all certificated instructional employees will consist of evaluation results based on multiple objective measures of growth in student achievement, using current and/or past years' data, and based upon research. Growth in student achievement as measured by Idaho's statewide student achievement test will be included. If applicable student data relating to Idaho's standards achievement test has not been received by the district within thirty (30) days of the deadline to complete the formal written performance evaluation for certificated employees, the district shall utilize one (1) of the other objective measures of growth in student achievement (STAR K-12 or End of Course Assessments 9-12) as determined by the board of trustees or governing board, not including Idaho's standards achievement test, in order to complete the required student achievement component of performance evaluations.

EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Prior to the start of the school year, the certificated instructional employee will fill out a self-assessment and create a professional growth plan. The self-assessment and professional growth plan will be submitted to the evaluator prior to beginning of the year conference. At the beginning of the year conference, the evaluator will review and discuss the employee's self-assessment and professional growth plan, previous student growth measures and expected student growth measures for the upcoming year, previous student achievement data, and parent/guardian input. The evaluator will notify the employee of factors that will be utilized in measuring effectiveness.

Prior to January 1, the evaluator will conduct a documented observation and provide feedback on the employee's performance for the year thus far.

At the end of the year, the evaluator and employee will review and discuss the employee's professional growth plan and the achievement of set goals, student achievement data, and parent/guardian input. The evaluator will provide feedback on the employee's performance for the year and assign a final effectiveness rating.

No contract shall be issued for the next ensuing year until such time as the employee's formal written performance evaluation has been completed.

Non-Renewable Contract Employees

There will be a minimum of one (1) documented evaluation during each of the annual contract years of employment, which will be completed by the evaluator on or before May 1 of each year. At a minimum, the evaluation will include two (2) documented observations, one (1) of which will be completed by January 1 of each year.

Renewable Contract Employees

There will be a minimum of one (1) documented evaluation conducted annually for each certificated instructional employee on a renewable contract, which will be completed by the evaluator on or before June 1 of each year. At a minimum, the evaluation will include two (2) documented observations, one (1) of which will be completed prior to January 1 of each year.

Certificated Non-Instructional Employees

Evaluations will be differentiated for certificated non-instructional employees and pupil personnel certificate holders in a way that aligns with the Charlotte Danielson Framework for Teaching Second Edition to the extent possible.

COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS

A copy of each written evaluation will be submitted to the certified employee within twelve (12) school days following the formal evaluation. The certified employee will have the opportunity to attach a response to his or her evaluation within twelve (12) calendar days.

Certificated personnel evaluations will be considered permanent records and will be maintained in each employee's personnel file. All evaluation records will be kept confidential as required by state and federal law. The rankings of individual certificated personnel evaluations will be reported annually to SDE as required for state and federal reporting purposes.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

The following actions may result from the evaluation process if determined to be appropriate:

1. A letter of reprimand;

2. Renewal of employment contract;
3. A period of probation;
4. Reassignment;
5. Immediate discharge;
6. Renewal of the employment contract under a continued probationary status; and/or
7. Non-renewal of employment contract.

A letter of reprimand may be issued at any time, with or without a formal evaluation. Any recommendation to place an employee on a period of probation, discharge the employee immediately, discharge the employee upon termination of the current contract, or reemploy the employee at the end of the contract term under a continued probationary status contract must be approved by the board of trustees.

Nothing in this policy shall be read to impact the district's right to immediately, without an evaluation or period of probation, discipline an employee up to and including immediate discharge for reasons other than unsatisfactory performance.

PROBATION

The district is not required to establish a period of probation for Category 1 or Category 2 employees whose performance is unsatisfactory.

When any Category 3 employee's work is found to be unsatisfactory, a defined period of probation of not less than eight (8) weeks will be established by the board.

For renewable contract employees, the board will establish a reasonable period of probation before determining that it will not renew a contract due to a report of unsatisfactory performance. The period of probation will not affect the employee's renewable contract status.

Notwithstanding the open meeting law, the board will make decisions regarding placing a certificated employee on probation in executive session. The individual on probation will not be named in the minutes of the meeting, but a record of the board's decision will be placed in the employee's personnel file.

Prior to the commencement of the probationary period, the board will provide written notice to the employee, stating the reasons for the probation, including areas of deficiency, and the conditions of probation, including provisions for adequate supervision and evaluation of the employee's performance during the probationary period.

After the probationary period, action will be taken by the board as to whether the employee is to be retained, immediately discharged, discharged upon termination of the current contract or reemployed at the end of the contract term under a continued probationary status.

REMEDIATION

Employees placed on probation will receive remediation designed to provide direction and support for improved employee performance. Additionally, employees who are placed on probation may request and/or be assigned a peer mentor.

The evaluator will work with the employee to identify and address the areas of concern, the remediation objectives, the criterion that will be used to measure the progress sought, support resources, provisions for adequate supervision and evaluation of performance during the probationary period, and timelines. Removal from probation will depend on the successful achievement of the articulated goals.

During the probationary period, the evaluator will conduct additional observations as needed to ensure the effectiveness of the remediation measures on the employee's performance.

APPEAL

When disagreement exists regarding the results of the evaluation, the affected employee is entitled to attach a rebuttal to his or her evaluation. The employee may also request an informal review of the evaluation and rebuttal statement by the superintendent.

An employee who is placed on probation, immediately discharged, or not reemployed is entitled to full due process rights as provided by Idaho Code Sections 33-513 through 33-515.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The superintendent or designee is responsible for ensuring that the evaluation process is in compliance with state requirements and implemented consistently. The superintendent or designee will continually review and develop the district's personnel evaluation system taking into account input from trustees, administrators, teachers, and parents where appropriate. Any changes to the district's evaluation model will be approved by the board of trustees and submitted to the SDE for approval.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

The district will provide ongoing training for evaluators/administrators and teachers regarding the evaluation standards, tools, and processes. All individuals responsible for evaluating certificated instructional staff and pupil personnel performance will receive training in conducting observations and evaluating effective teacher performance.

Additional staff training and professional development opportunities will be provided throughout the year on an as needed basis to provide certificated instructional staff with the tools necessary to be effective educators.

FUNDING

Funding will be allotted for the ongoing training and professional development.

COLLECTING AND USING DATA

Aggregate data will be considered part of this district’s and its individual schools’ needs assessment in determining professional development offerings. The district will report the rankings of individual certificated personnel evaluations to the SDE annually for state and federal reporting purposes.

INDIVIDUALIZED TEACHER EVALUATION RATING SYSTEM

Evaluations will be used to identify employee proficiency and record professional growth over time. The individualized teacher rating system will have a minimum of three (3) rankings used to differentiate performance of teachers and pupil personnel certificate holders including:

- a. Unsatisfactory = 1
- b. Basic = 2
- c. Proficient = 3
- d. Distinguished = 4



LEGAL REFERENCE:

Idaho Code Sections

- 9-340, *et seq.* – Records Exempt from Disclosure
- 33-514 – Issuance of Annual Contracts
- 33-515 – Issuance of Renewable Contracts
- 33-518 – Employee Personnel Files

IDAPA – Rules Governing Uniformity

- 08.02.02.007 – Definitions
- 08.02.02.026 – Administrator Certificate
- 08.02.02.027 – Pupil Personnel Services Certificate
- 08.02.02.120 – Local District Evaluation Policy – Teacher and Pupil Personnel

Idaho Department of Education Guidelines found at: <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacherEval/>

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