

LEWISTON-ALTURA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Support Staff Wages and Benefits Handbook

School Office Staff

Paraprofessionals

Food Service



July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2027

Tentative Pending Board Approval June 9, 2025

I. Job Classifications:

- A. Extended School Year Employee: An Extended School Year Employee is employed 8 hours per day for more than 185 days and less than 260 days - at least 1,480 hours.
- B. School Year Employee: A School Year Employee is employed a minimum of 4 hours per day for a minimum of 169 days—and/or at least 676 hours.
- C. Supplemental Employee: A Supplemental Employee is an hourly employee who is strictly paid by a timesheet.

The work schedule hours and calendar are determined by the supervisor.

PROBATIONARY PERIOD

New employees will serve a ninety (90) calendar day probationary period.

II. Benefits:

A. Holidays:

1. Extended School Year Employee:

Extended School Year employees receive 6.5 paid holidays. The holidays are Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, ½ day Good Friday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, and 1 floating* holiday. A Floating Holiday must be taken on a weekday that school is not in session, with prior approval from the Supervisor.

3. School Year Employee:

School Year employees receive 3.5 paid holidays. The holidays are Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, ½ day Good Friday, Memorial Day.

4. Supplemental Employee:

Part-time Supplemental employees do not receive paid holidays.

B. Tax-Sheltered Annuity Matching Program (403b):

- 1. Full-time/Extended School Year and School Year employees are eligible for a \$100 annual match contribution from the District toward a Tax Sheltered 403b Annuity if this amount is matched or exceeded by a contribution from the individual employee. The District contribution will be paid to the employee's account on June 30th.

C. Health Insurance:

- 1. The district's only obligation is to provide a group insurance plan for employees. The employee, as a result of a denial of insurance benefits by an insurance carrier, shall make no claim against the school district.

2. These policies concerning insurance are subject to change annually at the discretion of the School Board.
3. Extended School Year and School Year employees who work a minimum of 4 hours per day and who qualify as “full-time” per the Affordable Care Act of 2010 that qualify to participate in the District's group health and hospitalization plan and that choose to participate in the District's group health and hospitalization plan will be eligible for a contribution of up to \$600 per month toward the premium of the insurance option they have selected through the District's plan. Any additional premium or cost shall be borne by the employee and paid by payroll deduction.

Support staff that do not meet the definition of Full Time employee per the Affordable Care Act of 2010 that qualify to participate in the District’s group health and hospitalization plan may choose to participate at their own expense.

4. If two members of a family are employed by the district, the district will only make one family contribution.
5. If the provisions in this Handbook cause for penalties, fees, or fines to be assessed against the School District per the Affordable Health Care Act of 2010 prior to the handbook's expiration date, the School District will reopen the handbook for review and make adjustments to the handbook that do not cause, or that result in reduced penalties, fees, or fines.

E. Dental and/or Vision Insurance:

All support staff employees may choose to participate in the district’s group dental plan at the employee’s expense.

F. Sick Leave

1. Sick leave may be used for reasons as allowed by MN Statute 181.9447.
 - a) School Year Employees:
Sick leave will be accrued at the rate of one day per month, up to 9 days per year.
 - b) Supplemental Employees:
Supplemental employees will earn two hours of sick leave for every eighty (80) hours of work.
2. Sick leave accrued each month will be credited to an individual employee's sick leave bank at the start of the following month.
3. A sick leave day is the same as the employee's normal working day, except for in the case of supplemental employees. Supplemental employees earn hours of sick leave based on the number of hours that they work.
4. Employees may accumulate an unlimited amount of sick leave.

5. Sick leave may be taken in increments of 15 minutes.
6. Sick leave days may be used for personal illness or family illnesses.
7. Two sick leave days may be used each year for personal business that cannot be taken care of outside the normal workday, with prior approval by the Supervisor.
8. The School District may require verification from a doctor for the use of sick leave.

G. Emergency Leave:

An emergency is a situation, often dangerous, which arises suddenly and calls for prompt action. An emergency need cannot be planned out days in advance. Employees may be granted a leave of no more than two (2) days per year for situations that require an employee's immediate personal attention, and which cannot be addressed outside of the employee's workday. The days will be deducted from the employee's sick leave. An emergency leave is granted by the immediate supervisor, subject to review by the Superintendent. The Superintendent reserves the right to make the final decision to grant or deny the request for emergency leave. If denied, pay for that time will be deducted at the next pay period.

H. Bereavement/Funeral Leave:

1. An employee may be granted up to three (3) days to attend a funeral or someone in the employee's or spouse's family. The superintendent may grant up to three additional days in the case of the death of someone in the employee's or employee's spouse's immediate family. These days shall be deducted from sick leave.
2. An employee may be granted up to one day, taken in $\frac{1}{4}$ day increments, to attend the funeral of someone outside of the employee's family. This time shall be deducted from sick leave.

I. Unpaid Leave:

Employees are hired to work specific schedules as designated by the superintendent. The superintendent reserves the right to grant or deny any request for unpaid leave. Unpaid leave deductions may include pro-rated deductions in the district's contribution to health care benefits.

J. Severance Compensation:

1. Extended School Year Employees, and School Year Employees may be eligible for severance compensation based upon the following criteria:
 - a) Any employee, upon reaching age 55 and after 15 years of continuous service to ISD 857, will be entitled to severance pay based on the number of accumulated sick leave days. The reimbursement rate will be \$30 per day of accumulated sick leave.
 - b) If the employee dies before severance is paid out, it shall be paid to the employee's beneficiary, if any, otherwise to the employee's estate.
 - c) Employees will not be eligible for severance compensation if they are terminated from employment due to poor performance, not meeting expectations, misconduct, or for any other reason per District Policy 403 Discipline, Suspension, and Dismissal of School District Employees.

K. Retirement:

1. Employees, upon reaching age 55 and after 15 years of continuous service to ISD 857, and who elect to begin to receive PERA retirement benefits, may be entitled to a health premium contribution based on the number of accumulated sick leave days. This benefit is contingent upon the approval and acceptance by the insurance carrier.

2. An employee who retires before the age of eligibility for Medicare shall be eligible to remain in the existing group health and hospitalization insurance program until reaching the age of eligibility for Medicare.

3. For employees employed prior to July 1, 1993:

a. The annual district contribution will be specified as the maximum amount found in the health and hospitalization section of this agreement.

b. The maximum contribution will be paid by accumulated sick leave at a rate of 200 hours of sick leave for each year (One year's base contribution for each 25 days of accumulated sick leave.) of extended health and hospitalization coverage.

4. For employees employed on or after July 1, 1993:

a. The annual district contribution will be specified as the maximum amount for single coverage as found in the health and hospitalization section of this agreement.

b. The maximum contribution, of \$300 per month, will be paid by accumulated sick leave at a rate of 200 hours of sick leave for each year (25 full time (8 hour) days) of extended health and hospitalization coverage.

5. Employees will be responsible for any additional premium expenses if an insufficient amount of sick leave has been accrued.

6. The eligible coverage (family or single) shall be the same as was in effect at the time of retirement.

7. Benefits under this provision shall cease upon the death of the employee except when both husband and wife have been employed by ISD 857 until retirement (and both have been eligible to receive insurance coverage) in which case the survivor will be eligible for continued coverage.

8. Food Service shall be provided a school shirt to be worn when on duty. This is a benefit of employment.

2. Pay Periods:

1. Employees (not including Supplemental Employees) will have their compensation divided into 24 pay periods, after the Probationary Period has been successfully met. Paydays will be the 15th and the last business day of the month unless payday falls on a weekend or holiday. Payday will then be the last business day prior to the scheduled payday. Staff who

receive annualized pay and work additional hours than what is annualized will only be paid on the 15th of the month for the prior month's hours.

2. Supplemental Employees will be paid twice per month (15th and last business day of the month, see L1). Timesheets (approved by direct supervisors) must be in the business/payroll office by the 6th and 20th of each month.
3. Exceptions to the prescribed paydays will be at the discretion of the Superintendent.

M. Additional Compensation:

1. Overtime:

As a general rule, overtime is not allowed. The supervisor, prior to the work, must grant approval for overtime. In the case of an emergency, and the supervisor cannot be contacted, the overtime necessary to clear the emergency will be allowed. Overtime will be paid at a rate which is 1.5 times the employee's regular hourly rate. In the event an emergency occurs on one of the following holidays: July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, after 12:00 PM on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, after 12:00 PM on New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, after 12:00 PM on Good Friday, Easter Sunday, or Memorial Day, Juneteenth, the employee will be paid two times the employee's regular hourly rate. Payment for overtime may be denied if not pre-approved and deemed non-emergency.

2. Compensatory Time:

Compensatory Time may be accrued for hours worked beyond the scheduled workday for extra-ordinary circumstances that require additional time. Accumulation and use of compensatory time must be approved in advance by the Direct Supervisor and usage shall not, in any case, exceed three consecutive working days.

3. Student Transportation:

When a paraprofessional is driving a school vehicle for the purposes of transporting a student(s) to a school related activity, the paraprofessional will be additionally compensated the equivalent of \$5.00 additional per hour for the time spent driving. The minutes spent driving shall be submitted for additional compensation to the principal for approval.

N. Other:

1. Injury Reports:

Any and all injuries, regardless of their severity, shall be reported to the employee's supervisor as soon after the injury occurs as possible. In order for a claim to Workmen's Compensation to be considered valid, a "First Report of Injury" must be filed within 24 hours of the incident.

2. Emergency Closing:

- a. Extended School Year Employees are expected to work when school is not in session due to an emergency closing. Employees should communicate with Supervisor if arrival will be delayed due to road conditions or other factors. Employees, unable to report to work, may request the use of vacation, compensatory time, or may use up to

two sick (personal) days to avoid a pay deduct (via a yellow Absence Request Form).

b. School Year and Supplemental Employees

Food Service: Food Service staff will be paid for their AM shift if school is delayed or canceled after their reporting time.

Paraprofessionals Are not paid for full days that school is closed due to an emergency. However, in the event that the school day starts late or begins on time, but is subsequently canceled, the paraprofessional will be paid for the full workday. These staff may elect to use up to four sick leave days to avoid a pay deduction if school is closed due to an emergency. This desire should be communicated by the employee with an Absence Request Form that is submitted to their supervisor within the current pay period. Cardinal Club staffing needs on nonstudent attendance days are determined by the Cardinal Club Director.

3. Extended school year employees have the option of working four day weeks/10-hours days in the summer. The summer work schedule must be set up before the end of May.
4. Breaks: Employees who work four consecutive hours will be provided with a paid break, not to exceed 15 minutes.
5. Expense Reimbursement:
All employees will be reimbursed for pre-approved expenses incurred when traveling outside the district on school business at the district-established rate per District Policy 412.
6. Administration may schedule required staff trainings on nonstudent days and staff are expected to attend. Staff will be notified of these required dates/times by July 1st for the upcoming school year.

Starting Hourly Rates

New hires' starting wages are determined by the Superintendent with input from Supervisor based on employee's prior experience.

Starting Hourly Wage Minimum:

Food Service: \$15.00

Lead Secretary: \$18.00

Transportation Assistant: \$17.00

Assistant Secretary: \$15.00

Paraprofessional/Cardinal Club/Early Childhood: \$15.00

High School Student Cardinal Club Aide: \$13.00

Returning Support Staff Hourly Rate Increases:

2025-2026: +2%

2026-2027: +2%

Additional Compensation

Food Service

A Head Cook with supervision of other food service staff and with responsibility to assist/back-up Food Service Director receives an additional \$3.00 per hour compensation added to their base compensation.

A Head Cook with supervision of other food service staff receive an additional \$1.00 per hour compensation added to their base compensation.

A Head Cook without supervision of other food service staff receive an additional \$0.50 per hour compensation added to their base compensation.

Assistant Head Cooks with extra responsibilities for the food service program receive an additional \$0.40 per hour added to their base compensation.

Paraprofessionals

Paraprofessionals who hold a valid MN teaching license earn an extra \$0.50 an hour.