

EDUCATION CODE



Foreword

This 2025 edition of the Pacific Union Conference *Education Code (Ed Code)* replaces the bound 2001 volume and subsequent supplements through 2007. It reflects all currently voted policies as processed through the Educational Leadership Council, Education Council, and the Pacific Union Conference Board of Education Committee. Policies will be effective July 1, 2025.

The official *Education Code* will be produced and maintained online at the Pacific Union Conference website, <https://www.adventistfaith.com/education>, under the “TK-12 Resources” tab. Periodic updates, as needed and voted by appropriate administrative bodies will be made on the website.

Hard copies may be produced for individual use, but, for current *Ed Code* reference, the online edition should be used.

A comprehensive index and glossary are included for use in referencing the *Ed Code*. Electronic search capabilities are included for ease of use.

Believing in the education of all students in Seventh-day Adventist schools, we exist to inspire the continual improvement of students and educators to become “something better”. (Education, p. 296)

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THE *EDUCATION CODE* | A10

A10-104 *The Education Code*

The Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists coordinates a system of church schools for the education of its youth, birth through graduate school. The purpose and aim of this educational program is to promote the harmonious development of the whole person-spiritual, intellectual, physical, and social.

The *Education Code* is a compilation of policies and provisions relating to the establishment, organization, administration, operation, and maintenance of the TK-12 church school system. It clarifies and details the role and responsibilities of persons, committees, and boards of each entity-school, conference, union conference.

The policies contained in the *Education Code* are developed and adopted through the cooperative efforts of the school, local conference and union conference administrators and boards of education. Because of this broad-based involvement, the *Education Code* is accepted as the basis for the organization, administration, and operation of the Pacific Union Conference TK-12 school system.

When there is no provision, stipulation or prohibition for an area under consideration, a conference or institution may: a) develop a policy, procedure or practice to meet a local need; or b) recommend that a policy be adopted for inclusion in the *Education Code*. If a policy exists, the higher standards of either the state or *Education Code* will apply.

The additions, revisions or deletions in the *Education Code* become effective only when voted by the Pacific Union Conference Board of Education. The *Education Code* is consistent with the policies and provisions adopted by the Pacific Union Conference, North American Division Office of Education and the General Conference Department of Education.

PHILOSOPHY OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST® EDUCATION | A11

A11-104 Mission of Seventh-day Adventist Education

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America operates a ministry of elementary and secondary education that began in 1872. The unique philosophy of Christian education of the Church is based on the Scriptures and the writings of Ellen G. White.

The primary aim of Seventh-day Adventist education is to provide opportunity for students to accept Christ as their Savior, to allow the Holy Spirit to transform their lives, and to fulfill the commission of preaching the gospel to all the world.

The education program of church-affiliated schools is predicated on the belief that each student is unique and of inestimable value, and on the importance of the development of the whole person. Students are educated to accept service as a way of life, to be sensitive to the needs of the people in the home and society, and to become active members in the Church.

[NAD Working Policy FEA 05 05]

A11-108 General Statement of Seventh-day Adventist Educational Philosophy [Revised 4/2016; 4/2024]

The Seventh-day Adventist Church recognizes God as the ultimate source of existence, truth, and power. In the beginning, God created in His image a perfect humanity, a perfection later marred by sin. Jesus came to earth to redeem fallen humanity and begin the work of restoring humans to God's image. Adventist education seeks, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to restore human beings into the image of God as revealed by the life of Jesus Christ.

The distinctive characteristics of the Adventist worldview, built around creation, the fall, redemption, and re-creation, are derived from the Bible and the inspired writings of Ellen G. White, and point to the redemptive aim of true education: to restore human beings into the image of their Maker. Adventist education seeks to develop a life of faith in God and respect for the dignity of all human beings; to build character akin to that of the Creator; to nurture thinkers rather than mere reflectors of others' thoughts; to promote loving service rather than selfish ambition; to ensure maximum development of each individual's potential; and to embrace all that is true, good, and beautiful.

An education of this kind imparts far more than academic knowledge. It fosters a balanced development of the whole person—spiritual, physical, intellectual, and social-emotional—a process that spans a lifetime. Working together, homes, schools, and churches cooperate with divine agencies in preparing learners for responsible citizenship in this world and in the world to come.

A11-112 Goals for Curriculum in Seventh-day Adventist Schools [Revised 4/2024]

The goals for curriculum in Seventh-day Adventist schools are included in the *Journey to Excellence* framework developed by the NAD.

1. Followers of Jesus and sharers of His love, grace, and the hope of His second coming.
2. Reflective thinkers and creative problem-solvers.
3. Effective communicators.
4. Caring and compassionate people.
5. Responsible and contributing citizens.
6. Healthy and resilient individuals.
7. Self-directed and lifelong learners.

A11-116 Objectives of Seventh-day Adventist Education

The Seventh-day Adventist Church desires to provide for all its youth an education within the framework of the science of salvation. The fundamentals and common branches of knowledge are to be studied so that proficiency is achieved and a high quality of teaching is maintained.

The Seventh-day Adventist elementary school will assist each child to develop:

- A. A love and appreciation for the privileges, rights, and responsibilities guaranteed each individual and social group, and,
- B. A wholesome respect and attitude for each unit of society—home, church, school, and government.

The elementary school will offer an organized program to ensure adequate development leading toward total spiritual, physical, mental, and emotional health and a core of basic skills and knowledge for everyday living.

The Seventh-day Adventist secondary school, predicated on the results obtained through the elementary school with character building as an undergirding structure, will endeavor to operate realistically for each student in the upgrading and maintenance of health, in the command of fundamental learning processes, in the teaching of worthy home membership, vocational skills, civic education, worthy use of leisure, and ethical maturity. The secondary school, implementing the church philosophy, will seek for objectives of spiritual dedication, self-realization, social adjustment, civic responsibility, and economic efficiency. [*NAD Working Policy FEA 05 15.*]

A11-120 The Seventh-day Adventist School as an Integral Part of the Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

Seventh-day Adventist schools are an integral part of the mission of the Church in the following ways:

- A. “To restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized—this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, the great object of life.” [*Education*, pp. 15, 16]

- A11-120 The Seventh-day Adventist School as an Integral Part of the Mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (Cont'd)
- B. The commission given in Matthew 28:18-20 states that the basic task of the Church is an educational task.
 - C. Seventh-day Adventist education has as its basic evangelistic task the education and redemption of the children and youth of the Church. Its object is to promote the development of character and to direct the youth to a “knowledge of God, the Creator, and of Christ, the Redeemer, as they are revealed in the sacred word.” [*Education*, p. 17] In pursuing this task Adventist schools have a greater continuing influence than any other aspect of the Church program.
 - D. The school is concerned about the whole person—body, mind and soul—and seeks to ensure that youth receive a balanced physical, mental, moral, social, and practical education.
 - E. The school emphasizes the principle of service to God and man. It prepares youth for a life of service whether as employees of the Church, active church members, or contributing members of society. Enrollment in Adventist schools is open to all applicants willing to accept and follow the established policies and practices of the school.
 - F. The members of the school boards and local conference boards of education are members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
 - 1. The school board is composed of members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who represent a cross section of the school constituency and who are supportive of Seventh-day Adventist Education.
 - 2. The local conference and union conference boards of education are composed of representatives of various church institutions and/or conferences, lay members of the Church, and church officials.
 - G. Education employees must be active members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing and committed to the program of the Church. Employment qualifications, licenses and credentials, salary and wages, benefits, and retirement are all established and regulated by the policies which cover all other denominational workers.
 - H. The uniquely designed curriculum in Seventh-day Adventist schools is developed by church educators who ensure that the educational objectives of the Church are achieved.
 - 1. It is based on a distinctive Seventh-day Adventist philosophy with a strong commitment to academic excellence.
 - 2. It utilizes the best in current curricular research.
 - 3. It reflects an awareness of the principles of human growth and development and the worth and dignity of each student.
 - 4. It emphasizes a process which encourages, guides, and sustains the learner in seeking to relate to the Creator and to fellow human beings.
 - I. The title to school buildings and property is held by the local conference entity that holds title to all church and school properties, not by individual trustees or congregations.

[*NAD Working Policy* FEA 05 20]

A11-124 Ethnic and Multi-cultural Sensitivity [Revised 10/2018]

The education ministry in the union is committed to foster, facilitate, and promote ethnic and multi-cultural sensitivity following the guidelines of the 14th Fundamental Belief of the Seventh-day Adventist Church:

“The church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures we share the same faith and hope, and reach out in one witness to all. This unity has its source in the oneness of the triune God, who has adopted us as His children.”

Educators will:

- exert positive efforts to create a climate where every child feels welcomed and valued.
- actively promote the unity and equality of all.
- assist students to understand and accept the positive values that diversity provides.
- teach students by precept and example to treat others with respect.
- confront offensive statements, racial and/or ethnic slurs, ethnic jokes and any practice that erodes unity and equality.
- review the curriculum and supporting materials to provide content that honors and respects ethnic and multi-cultural diversity.
- develop and implement school policies and practices consistent with the goal of promoting cultural understanding and Christian unity.
- provide professional growth and in-service training to develop cultural awareness and understanding.
- enrich the curriculum by transmitting understandings to students about the value and benefits of ethnic and multi-cultural diversity and sensitivity.

A11-128 Statement of Philosophy for Competition in Life

Competition is a common experience in life and is present in play, work, education, economic systems and the political arena. It exists between individuals, groups and nations. There is even competition for the souls of humankind. When competition is present in appropriate settings, teachers can guide students toward the values of staying focused on a goal, perseverance, handling victory and defeat graciously, and emphasizing teamwork over individual accomplishments. If competition is friendly and organized so that every student has the opportunity at some time to win, then motivation, achievement, and interpersonal relations may be enhanced.

Competition that is allowed in the wrong setting or that is not properly managed can have negative effects. Only a few students will be able to experience success, and the tendency to make safe rather than growth choices will be increased. Students may think of academics or athletics as a means to an end (being better than others); and may become more interested in the relative positions in a class or on a team than in the performance of the team or group. In poorly managed competition, it is likely that hostility between members of the group will often develop into outward aggression.

It is, therefore, essential that in all curricular and co-curricular endeavors, actions and attitudes should be guided by higher principles. School personnel should make every effort to develop a Christ-centered, cooperative environment in which teachers and students together identify group goals, plan activities, develop communication skills, apportion responsibilities, participate in spiritual growth endeavors, and learn strategies for helping one another.

A11-128 Statement of Philosophy for Competition in Life (Cont'd)

In response to appropriately-employed competitive activities, students, guided by their teachers, should seek to:

- Develop physical, mental and spiritual gifts to the fullest extent.
- Cultivate such Christian virtues as commitment, courtesy, fair play, honesty, loyalty, obedience, respect, self-confidence, and self-control.
- Manage successes and contend with failures.
- Function effectively as team members.
- Strive for excellence.

A11-132 Political Involvement [New Policy 11/2015]

The Adventist Church has a long-standing position of not supporting or opposing any candidate for elected office. This position is based on the Church's historical position of separation of Church and State, as well as applicable federal law relating to church tax exemption. Schools must remain neutral on all candidates for office and school employees must exercise care to avoid using their position as a teacher or a denominational employee to advocate for or against any particular candidate for elective public office.

Students may be required or allowed to participate in campaigns for candidates for elected office as part of an educational activity of the school. Students must not be assigned to particular candidates or political parties, and the assignment may not otherwise favor any particular candidate or political party.

THE PACIFIC UNION CONFERENCE | A12

A12-104 Union Office of Education

The union office of education is an administrative office operating within a structure authorized by the union executive committee.

The personnel of this office may include but are not limited to:

- A. Vice President for Education.
- B. Associate Directors of Education.
- C. Certification Registrar.
- D. Office support staff.

A12-108 Functions of the Union Office of Education [Revised 4/2018; 11/2022; 11/2023; 4/2025]

The administrative, supervisory and leadership functions of this office are to:

- A. Coordinate a cohesive school system within the union.
- B. Foster a climate of inquiry and research in which surveys, reports, plans, etc., are seen as critical ingredients of the educational administrative process.
- C. Establish and convene education councils.
- D. Develop job descriptions for the union office of education.
- E. Act as the NAD certification agency for education personnel within the union.
- F. Advise the union board of education on educational policies, standards, and practices.
- G. Facilitate school accreditations.
- H. Prepare and submit statistical and financial reports as required by the NAD office of education.
- I. Use the NAD standards as guidelines to operate the TK-12 system.
- J. Cooperate with Pacific Union College and La Sierra University in the pre-service preparation of elementary and secondary school personnel.
- K. Maintain effective working relationships with Pacific Union College and La Sierra University.
- L. Provide leadership and acquaint the constituency of the union with the imperatives of Adventist education.
- M. Develop and maintain effective working relationships with local and state offices of education and regional accrediting associations.
- N. Serve as member(s) and/or consultant(s) to union subcommittees in matters pertaining to education.
- O. Serve as ex officio members of the local conference boards of education within the union.
- P. Serve as ex officio members of all secondary school boards within the union.
- Q. Provide leadership in the development and maintenance of an *Education Code*.
- R. Develop and administer the union-approved budget for TK-12 education.
- S. Participate with the local conference offices of education and schools in providing in-service education programs.
- T. Process applications for the establishment of new junior academies and secondary schools.

A12-108 Functions of the Union Conference Office of Education (Cont'd)

- U. Support the development and publication of a NAD list of approved textbooks and other curriculum materials.
- V. Submit copies of minutes of the union conference board of education and other major councils and committees to the NAD office of education.

A12-112 Union Board of Education [Revised 11/2013]

The Union Board of Education is the policy formulating body of the TK-12 school system. It derives its authority from the Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee. It is to meet at the call of the chair.

A12-116 Functions of the Union Board of Education [Revised 11/2013; 4/2015; 11/2023; 4/2025]

The administrative and supervisory functions of this board are to:

- A. Consider for adoption recommendations for changes, deletions, or additions to the *Education Code* as submitted by: the union Education Council, the union Educational Leadership Council, and other organizations that may be authorized by the union office of education.
- B. Consider for approval applications to establish junior academies according to procedures detailed in Section A14-122.
- C. Consider for approval applications to establish secondary schools according to procedures detailed in Section A14-140.
- D. Consider for approval applications for innovative, alternative or pilot programs according to procedures detailed in Section C11-152.
- E. Act on recommendations for the revocation of teaching and/or Administrator certificates.
- F. Give guidance to the overall development of the educational system within the union.
- G. Oversee TK-12 school accreditation.
- H. Oversee the employment policies of educational personnel.
- I. The board also serves as the Pacific Union Conference Early Childhood Education board. Functions specific to ECE are outlined in the *ECE Code*.

A12-118 Membership of the Union Conference Board of Education [New Policy 11/2013; 4/2025]

The members of the Union Conference Board of Education are elected for a five-year term by the Pacific Union Conference Executive Committee.

The membership of the Union Conference Board of Education shall include the following:

- A. Ex officio
 - 1. Union Vice President for Education, Chair.
 - 2. Union Associate Director of Education-Secondary.
 - 3. Union Associate Director of Education-Elementary.
 - 4. Union Associate Director of Education-ECE.
 - 5. One Union Officer or Designee.
- B. Appointed
 - 1. California Conferences – Two (2) superintendents of schools.
 - 2. Arizona, Hawaii and Nevada-Utah Conferences – One (1) superintendent of schools.
 - 3. One (1) conference elementary associate superintendent of schools.

A12-118 Membership of the Union Conference Board of Education (Cont'd)

4. One (1) conference secondary associate superintendent of schools.
5. One (1) elementary school principal.
6. One (1) secondary school principal.
7. One (1) Early Childhood Education center director.

A12-120 Union Education Council [Revised 11/2023]

A. Membership of the Union Education Council

The membership of the Education Council is composed of the following:

Ex officio Members

1. Union Vice President for Education, Chair.
2. Union Associate Directors of Education.
3. Local Conference Superintendents of Schools.
4. Local Conference Associate Superintendents of Schools.
5. Full-time elementary, junior academy, and secondary school principals.
6. La Sierra University President.
7. La Sierra University Provost.
8. La Sierra University School of Education personnel.
9. Pacific Union College President.
10. Pacific Union College Vice President for Academic Administration.
11. Pacific Union College Department of Education personnel.
12. NAD Office of Education personnel.
13. Other school-site administrators as designated by the local conference superintendent of schools.

Invitees

Persons invited by the Union Vice President for Education.

B. Meetings of the Education Council

The union Education Council will meet semi-annually in the Fall and Spring at the time and place determined by the union office of education in counsel with the Educational Leadership Council.

C. Functions of the Education Council

The Education Council has the following functions:

1. Receive reports and recommendations, and study educational issues, trends, pilot programs, innovative practices, and position papers which affect the educational program in the union.
2. Process policies, proposals and submit recommendations to the union office of education and the union board of education.

A12-124 Educational Leadership Council [Revised 11/2023]

A. Membership

The membership of the Educational Leadership Council shall consist of the following:

A12-124 Educational Leadership Council (Cont'd)

1. Ex officio Members

Union Vice President for Education, Chair
Union Associate Directors of Education

Local Conference Superintendents of Schools
Local Conference Associate Superintendents of Schools

2. Invitees

La Sierra University President
La Sierra University Provost/Vice President for Academic Administration
La Sierra University Dean of the School of Education

Pacific Union College President
Pacific Union College Vice President for Academic Administration
Pacific Union College Chair of the Department of Education

Others as invited by the Chair

B. Meetings of the Educational Leadership Council

The Educational Leadership Council will meet a minimum three times annually; two meetings in connection with the Education Councils and one meeting in winter at a location to be determined by the union office of education in counsel with the Educational Leadership Council.

C. Functions of the Educational Leadership Council

The Educational Leadership Council has the following functions:

1. Provide a forum to develop short and long-range plans for the TK-12 system of schools in the union.
2. Serve as an advisory body to the union office of education.
3. Initiate and/or process proposed revisions, additions, deletions to the *Education Code* in collaboration with the Superintendents' Council and the union office of education and process the recommended revisions, additions, or deletions through the Education Council prior to presentation to the union board of education.

A12-128 Superintendents' Council [Revised 11/2023]

A. Membership of the Superintendents' Council

The membership of the Superintendents' Council shall consist of the following:

Union Vice President for Education, Chair
Union Associate Directors of Education
Local Conference Superintendents of Schools

B. Meetings of the Superintendents' Council

The Superintendents' Council will meet a minimum of two times annually: one meeting in winter and one meeting in a retreat format.

A12-128

Superintendents' Council (Cont'd)

C. Functions of the Superintendents' Council

The Superintendents' Council has the following functions:

1. Serve as an administrative committee under the leadership of the union Vice President for Education.
2. Initiate additions, revisions, and/or deletions to the *Education Code* and recommend the additions, revisions, and/or deletions to the union board of education in collaboration with the Educational Leadership Council and the Education Council.
3. Initiate and/or approve union-wide plans and activities affecting the schools in the union in collaboration with the Educational Leadership Council and the Education Council.
4. Process and approve recommendations for union-wide plans and activities in collaboration with the Educational Leadership Council, the Education Councils and the Curriculum Advisory, and submit recommendations to the union board of education for action, as appropriate.
5. Establish guidelines for local conference school calendars.

A12-132

Curriculum Advisory [Revised 10/2018; 11/2022]

A. Membership

The membership of the Curriculum Advisory shall include the following:

1. Union Associate Directors of Education – Secondary, Elementary, ECE – Co-chairs.
2. Superintendent and/or associate superintendents from each local conference.
3. One representative from La Sierra University School of Education Department of Curriculum and Instruction.
4. One representative from Pacific Union College Department of Education.
5. Invitees – As determined by the union office of education.

B. Meetings

The Curriculum Advisory shall meet a minimum of twice annually.

C. Functions

The Curriculum Advisory functions are to:

1. Assist in the development and promotion of continuous school improvement that positively impacts student learning.
2. Develop plans and procedures for orientation and implementation of curriculum materials.
3. Develop curriculum in-services and/or special curriculum studies as needed.
4. Recommend revisions to policy and practice regarding curriculum issues.
5. Receive reports and review curriculum proposals and recommendations from local conference offices of education.
6. Support local conferences and the NAD in implementing and maintaining a distinctive SDA curriculum.

THE LOCAL CONFERENCE | A13

A13-104 Local Conference Office of Education

The local conference office of education is the administrative office operating within a structure authorized by the local conference executive committee.

The personnel of this office may include but are not limited to:

- A. Superintendent of Schools.
- B. Associates and/or Assistants.
- C. Office support staff.
- D. Other personnel as authorized.

A13-108 Functions of the Local Conference Office of Education [Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 11/2014; 4/2015; 4/2018; 10/2018; 4/2020; 11/2023; 4/2025]

The administrative and supervisory functions of the local conference office of education are the responsibility of the superintendent of schools.

- A. The Administrative Functions are to:
 - 1. Serve as executive secretary and agent of the local conference board of education in administering, coordinating, and supervising TK-12 education within the local conference in accordance with the *Education Code*.
 - 2. Serve as the agent of the local conference board of education in the employment of all education personnel, assuming responsibility for the coordination and implementation of recruitment, placement, transfer, and/or termination of education personnel in consultation with school administration, committees, and/or boards.
 - 3. Prepare job descriptions and establish areas of responsibility for each member of the local conference office of education staff.
 - 4. Counsel school boards in the selection of non-certificated personnel such as teacher assistants (aides) administrative assistants, and to recommend for employment to the local conference board of education.
 - 5. Ensure that all education personnel are properly certificated.
 - 6. Encourage professional growth for all education personnel and provide leadership in planning and implementing annual in-service education programs.
 - 7. Provide for an annual orientation for new personnel.
 - 8. Provide leadership in the development of short and long-range plans for education in areas such as budgeting, school accreditation, curriculum, facilities, personnel, establishment of new schools, or consolidation or closure of existing schools.
 - 9. Maintain an effective working relationship with the local conference administration and the constituency.
 - 10. Acquaint the constituency with the imperative of Seventh-day Adventist Christian education.

A13-108

Functions of the Local Conference Office of Education (Cont'd)

11. Develop long-range educational plans for the local conference TK-12 school system.
12. Maintain an effective working relationship with the union office of education participating in union-wide councils and program development.
13. Develop and maintain effective working relationships with the local offices of education.
14. Foster positive relationships between home, school, and constituent churches.
15. Prepare a master calendar providing for the required number of school days, legal holiday observance, teacher in-service meetings, pre- and post-school teacher work days, school accreditations, and other special conference-wide school activities.
16. Ensure implementation of procedures for the maintenance and safekeeping of student attendance and academic records as required by law.
17. Assume responsibility for the preservation of all records of discontinued schools.
18. Assume responsibility for the development and maintenance of school health and safety programs aligned with governmental requirements.
19. Provide teachers with the approved list of textbooks and other curriculum materials.
20. Gather data and process reports required by the union and NAD office of education and government agencies.
21. Compile and present requests to the union conference for permission to teach secondary subjects in junior academies.
22. Consider applications for the establishment of new elementary schools in consultation with the local conference board of education.
23. Process requests for the establishment of junior and secondary schools and make recommendations to the union conference board of education.
24. Plan and lead accreditation visits for non-regionally accredited schools and collaborate with the union office of education for visits to regionally accredited schools.
25. Arrange periodic in-service meetings for local school board personnel.
26. Provide general oversight of early childhood education utilizing the union Associate Director for Early Childhood Education.
27. Ensure appropriate background screening for all employees and volunteers involved in the schools.
28. Ensure that each school has an annually board voted student handbook.

B. The Financial Functions are to:

1. Counsel with the local school boards in the preparation of annual school budgets to ensure adequate funding for school operations.
2. Develop an annual TK-12 conference education budget in cooperation with the local conference treasurer/chief financial officer which includes, but is not limited to such items as salaries and wage-related expenses at the currently approved wage rate factors, school subsidies, funding for curriculum development and professional in-service programs, and contingencies.
3. Submit the annual TK-12 conference education budget for approval and funding to the local conference board of education and conference executive committee.
4. Work in cooperation with the local conference treasurer ensuring that schools are audited annually in accordance with General Conference and NAD policies and that copies of the audited statements are filed in the local conference office of education.

A13-108 Functions of the Local Conference Office of Education (Cont'd)

C. The Curricular Functions are to:

1. Provide leadership in developing and implementing an Adventist curriculum involving the board of education, administrators, teachers, and constituency members.
2. Consider recommendations of the union conference curriculum advisory and implement curriculum policies and practices adopted by the union conference office of education.
3. Approve requests for innovative programs to meet specific needs and evaluate implementation. [See Sections C11-144 and C11-152.]
4. Conduct or participate in pilot studies/programs in cooperation with the union and/or NAD offices of education.
5. Initiate and conduct research projects and surveys as needed.
6. Coordinate participation of local conference personnel in curriculum study committees at the local conference, union conference, and NAD levels.
7. Provide leadership in the supervision and evaluation of educational personnel in harmony with employment policies.
8. Inform schools of current state, or federal legislation pertaining to educational requirements.

A13-110 Closing Schools [New Policy 4/2025]

When a school ceases operation the conference office of education shall ensure that appropriate and legal steps are taken to support students and to secure and preserve administrative records. Any actions for closing the school that may not be guided by the school's constitution or bylaws should be facilitated by the superintendent to ensure appropriate disposition of student records, financial responsibilities are met, and the best use of any remaining assets and resources for ministry.

A13-112 Local Conference Board of Education

A. Responsibilities

The local conference board of education is the body authorized by the local conference executive committee to provide supervision and administration of the local conference school system in accordance with the *Education Code*.

B. Membership

Members of the local conference board of education shall be elected by the local conference executive committee from nominations presented by the local conference office of education. The local conference constitution and/or the local conference executive committee may determine the length of term for members.

The membership of the local conference board of education shall include the following:

- a. Local Conference President, or designee, Chair.
- b. Local Conference Superintendent of Schools, Executive Secretary.
- c. Other Conference officers.
- d. Local Conference office of education associates, assistants and supervisors.
- e. Union Vice President for Education or designee.
- f. A minimum of eight additional members selected from the following categories: pastors, lay members, school board chairs, principals, and teachers as specified by the local conference constitution.

A13-112 Local Conference Board of Education (Cont'd)

C. Executive Committee of the Board of Education

The local conference board of education may appoint an executive committee of the board. It shall meet as necessary and function between the regularly scheduled meetings of the board. The committee shall consist of, but may not necessarily be limited to, the following: the chair of the board and other officers of the local conference and the local superintendent of schools (executive secretary).

A13-116 Functions of the Local Conference Board of Education

[Revised 11/2012; 4/2016; 4/2018; 10/2018; 4/2020; 11/2023; 4/2025]

The administrative and supervisory functions of the local conference board of education are to:

- A. Administer and supervise the school system in accordance with the *Education Code*.
- B. Adopt policies, procedures, or practices to meet the needs of the local conference school system when there is no stipulation, provision, or prohibition in the *Education Code*.
 - 1. Develop long-range educational plans for the local conference TK-12 school system. [See Section A13-108.A.11.]
 - 2. Develop an annual TK-12 conference education budget. [See Section A13-108.B.2.]
 - 3. Develop a Transitional K policy in alignment with applicable state law. [See Section A14-118.]
 - 4. Develop the procedure for initiating and processing a request to establish an elementary school. [See Section A14-120.D.]
 - 5. Develop a policy regarding the status of the class record/grade books. [See Section A26-104.B.2.c.]
 - 6. Develop a policy regarding the status of the conference level standardized achievement test results. [See Section A26-104.B.2.f.]
 - 7. Develop student health and safety policies in compliance with state law as they apply to private schools. [See Section A27-108.]
 - 8. Develop a policy for the selection, screen, and training of volunteers. [See Section A27-136.]
 - 9. Develop a professional growth or counseling plan for rehabilitation of the employee. [See Section E11-152.D.]
 - 10. Develop a plan for the distribution of TK-12 subsidy funds provided by the local conference, union, and NAD. [See Section F20-104.]
 - 11. Develop a process for the termination of non-exempt classified employees. [See Section E21-140.]
- C. Serve as agent of the local conference executive committee in employment, assignment, transfer, and retirement of certificated school personnel. [See Section E10-108 for the relationship of school boards to the local conference board of education.]
- D. Cooperate with local school boards for long-range planning of the local conference school system.
- E. Periodically review the operating budget and financial statements of the local conference office of education.
- F. Ensure the review of salaries and wages of education personnel to determine compliance with the approved salary schedules and wage rates.
- G. Participate in the school accreditation process by:
 - 1. Reviewing non-regional accreditation reports as the basis for granting an accreditation status.
 - 2. Reviewing accreditation reports as a basis for long-range planning.
- H. Adopt an annual local conference school calendar based on the adopted union calendar.

A13-116 Functions of the Local Conference Board of Education (Cont'd)

- I. Approve or deny applications to establish new elementary schools and/or, consolidate existing schools.
- J. Review applications to establish or expand existing schools to include secondary subjects and submit the approved application with recommendations to the union office of education.
- K. Appoint subcommittees as needed to expedite the work of the local conference board of education.

THE SCHOOL | A14

A14-104 Definition of a School

A school is a group of learners led by trained education personnel and supported by a local conference and constituency of churches to maximize the learning opportunities for students and teachers within the curricular framework of the Seventh-day Adventist school system.

A14-108 The School TK-12: Organization and Structure [Revised 10/2018]

The organization of a given school should be designed to meet the needs of its church constituency.

The philosophy, goals and objectives of a school are to be defined in terms of the Seventh-day Adventist philosophy of education and the needs and interests of its constituency and are to be in harmony with policies of the *Education Code*. Basic to all other requirements for the establishment of a school, the constituency shall:

- A. Give evidence of commitment to Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and educational philosophy.
- B. Indicate a willingness to assume responsibility for the educational process.
- C. Indicate a willingness to cooperate with other denominational agencies in the achievement of the broad objectives of the school and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
- D. Assume financial responsibility for the employment of personnel with personal and professional qualifications appropriate to their positions.

A14-116 Pre-Kindergarten [Revised 4/2020]

Early childhood education/pre-kindergarten are not covered by this *Education Code*.

Pre-kindergarten programs are governed by state licensing codes and the union Early Childhood Education.

A14-118 Transitional K/Kindergarten Definition [New Policy 4/2015; Revised 10/2018; 11/2023]

Transitional kindergarten (TK) is defined as the first of a two-year kindergarten program. References to kindergarten in the *Education Code* include transitional kindergarten programs. TK is considered a grade separate from kindergarten. As such, it must have a curriculum separate from kindergarten. The curriculum is to be the adopted North American Division Early Childhood Education Curriculum, which is aligned with the North American Division Early Childhood Developmental Standards.

The entrance age requirement for transitional kindergarten is defined as 4 years 9 months as of September 1. Students completing TK should advance to K unless accelerated through the prescribed process.

A14-118 Transitional K/Kindergarten Definition (Cont'd)

Schools wishing to add a TK program must have the program approved by the local conference office of education. Such programs must follow state law, *Education Code*, and local conference policy.

In states where the law allows for students younger than 4 years 9 months to be enrolled in TK, the local conference may approve acceptance of these students after verifying that the following requirements are in place:

- A. Entrance age must be in accordance with state law.
- B. A classroom with TK students younger than 4.9 must maintain an adult to student ratio of 1:10.
- C. A classroom with TK students younger than 4.9 may not exceed 20 students.
- D. A classroom with TK students younger than 4.9 may be combined only with a K classroom.
- E. In addition to the expectation that all teachers hold appropriate SDA Teacher certification, it is required that teachers of TK students younger than 4.9 hold one of the following:
 1. 24 semester units/36 quarter units in academic disciplines of early childhood education, or childhood development, or both.
 2. Professional experience in a classroom setting with preschool age children meeting the criteria established by the local conference board of education as comparable to the 24 semester/36 quarter units of education and verified by the employing conference.
 3. A North American Division Early Childhood Education Professional Development Level 3 certificate.

A14-120 Elementary School [Revised 4/2018; 4/2020; 11/2023]

A. Definition

The elementary school is a unit of the local conference educational system authorized by the local conference board of education and administered by the local conference office of education. It offers an organized education program which may be structured in a variety of ways in terms of community needs, such as TK-6, 1-6, TK-8, and 1-8.

B. Standards for Elementary Schools

For a detailed statement regarding standards for elementary schools consult publications of the NAD.

C. Criteria for Establishing and Operating an Elementary School

A request for authorization to establish and operate an elementary school is to meet the following criteria:

1. A demonstrated educational need not currently met by presently established schools.
2. An adequate physical plant and appropriate equipment for the education program.
3. Proof of ability to provide adequate financial support.
4. Curricular offerings consistent with the *Education Code* and approved by the local conference board of education.
5. A denominationally certificated faculty of sufficient size to provide an effective education program. [See Section C11-104.]
6. Adequate curricular materials for the proposed curriculum.

A14-120 Elementary School (Cont'd)

7. A prospective continuing enrollment adequate for the financial and curricular needs of an effective education program.
8. A principal (in a multi-teacher school) whose assignment includes time for administrative and leadership responsibilities in proportion to the size of the school.
9. Specific policies regarding organization, administration, finance, curriculum, and personnel consistent with the *Education Code*.
10. For instructional resources, library, and technology criteria see Section C12.
11. A school accreditation visit must be completed within the first two years of operation.
12. The union adopted standardized achievement testing program is to be used for all students in grades 1-8. Testing of students in kindergarten is optional.

D. Authorization Procedure

The local conference office of education is to develop the procedure for initiating and processing a request to establish an elementary school. [See Sections A13-108 and A13-116.]

A14-122 Junior Academy [Revised 11/2011; 11/2014; 11/2015; 4/2018; 5/2019; 12/2019; 4/2020; 11/2023; 4/2025]

A. Definition

A junior academy is a unit authorized by the union board of education and administered by the local conference office of education. The junior academy offers a partial secondary program including at least grade 9.

B. The organizational plan for a junior academy is to be based on one of the following options:

1. The standard program grade 9.

The standard program grade 9 is one in which grade 9 is organized as a separate unit of the educational program. [See Section A14-128.]

2. The standard program grades 9 and 10.

The standard program grades 9 and 10 is one in which grades 9 and 10 are organized as separate units with specific courses offered at each grade level. [See Section A14-132.]

3. The subject alternation program grades 9 and 10.

The subject alternation program grades 9-10 is one in which grades 9 and 10 are organized as a single unit with designated subjects offered in alternating years. [See Section A14-136.]

In selecting one of the options, consideration is to be given to the number of students, the needs of the students, and the ability of the community and the local conference to support the program.

A14-122 Junior Academy (Cont'd)

C. Criteria for Establishing and Operating a Junior Academy

A school requesting authorization for junior academy status must meet the following criteria and standards:

1. In consultation with the school, local conference office of education, and union office of education, a demonstrated educational need which is not currently met by Seventh-day Adventist schools in the area will be assessed.
2. Adequate financial support for secondary education is to be provided without weakening the elementary school program.
3. The prospective continuing enrollment is to be adequate for the financial and curricular needs of the educational program.
4. An adequate physical plant is available with appropriate instructional equipment and materials for the grades and courses to be offered.
5. Adequate media resources are available for the size and type of school.
6. Acceptable financial practices are implemented, including adequate budget controls.
7. An adequate number of certificated teachers are employed for the size and type of school with proper subject-area endorsements valid for the junior academy.
8. The educational program is organized to effectively utilize the teacher's preparation and special skills. The program may be departmentalized in grades 7-10. Teacher assignments to meet special subject-area needs in the other grades is permitted.
9. Course offerings for grades 9 and 10 are to be based on the union adopted curriculum and approved annually.
10. Textbooks are to be selected from titles in the latest annual *NAD Secondary Textbook List*.
11. Teacher load is to be based on the provisions of the *Education Code*. Elementary and secondary subjects shall be weighted on an equivalency basis in determining teacher load.
12. Student permanent records are to be kept in accordance with the procedures outlined in the *Education Code*. [See Sections A26-104 to A26-116.]
13. The union adopted standardized testing program is to be followed.
14. The Carnegie Unit is to be used for reporting course credit in grades 9 and 10.
15. Courses are to meet the weekly time requirements as stated in Section C21-106.
16. The NAD subject-area standards are to be the basis for the instructional program for each course.
17. The school accreditation of the junior academy must be planned in cooperation with the union office of education to ensure union conference representation.
18. The school is to provide assurance to the local conference board of education that the above criteria, the specific criteria for the type of school, and the additional specific standards listed in the *Education Code* will be met.
19. For instructional resources, library, and technology criteria see Section C12.

D. Authorization Procedure for Junior Academy Status

The following procedure is to be followed when initiating and processing a request for junior academy status.

A14-122

Junior Academy (Cont'd)

1. Consultation with the local conference of education and the union office of education should take place prior to any formal discussions at the local school.
2. A formal action supporting the request for extension of the educational program to include grade 9 or grades 9 and 10, is to be voted by both the school constituency and school board.
3. The application is to be prepared using the application/request form obtained from the union conference office of education.
4. The application is to be submitted to the local conference for review.
5. The application is to be reviewed by the local conference board of education. If it is denied, the school board is to be so notified, including the reason(s) for the denial. If the application is approved, it is to be submitted to the union office of education by December 1 prior to the academic school year in which the junior academy plans to operate.
6. The union office of education will appoint a visiting committee to conduct an onsite evaluation and submit its report regarding the request to the union board of education.
7. The visiting committee will submit its report and recommendation regarding the request, including the stipulations that are to be met if approval is granted by the union board of education.
8. The union board of education will review the visiting committee report and the recommendations of the local conference board of education when considering approval or denial of the request.
9. The local conference office of education will receive written notification of the action of the union board of education.
10. The local conference office of education will notify the school of the action by the union board of education and provide the school with a copy of the visiting committee report.

E. Probationary Period of Approval for Junior Academy Status

Initial authorization/approval to operate a junior academy is for a three-year probationary period. During the probationary period the school shall seek accreditation from the Accrediting Commission for Schools of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The school must work with the union office of education to begin the process for the WASC initial visit.

The school is also to submit the following reports annually to the local conference office of education:

1. Annual Curriculum and Accreditation Review.
2. Progress report on implementation of the stipulations as voted by the union board of education.

An on-site visit shall be conducted by the union office of education each year of the probationary period prior to the initial WASC accreditation visit following receipt of the annual progress report. The committee shall be composed of the local superintendent and/or associate(s) and a representative from the union. The purpose of the annual on-site visit is to verify the information contained in the progress report and to serve as the basis for a recommendation to the local conference board of education regarding the continuation of grade 9, or grade 9 and 10, beyond the probationary period.

F. Annual Authorization for Course Offerings in the Junior Academy

A school that is authorized to continue beyond the probationary period is to submit the Annual Curriculum and Accreditation Review document to the local conference curriculum review committee and receive approval annually for the course offerings.

A14-122 Junior Academy (Cont'd)

G. Re-Authorization of Junior Academy

A school that had been previously approved to offer grades 9 and 10 but had ceased to operate as a junior academy must seek re-authorization to offer grades 9 and 10 and meet the criteria and follow the process outlined in A14-122.C. and D. above.

A14-128 Standard Program Grade 9 [Revised 11/2013; 11/2023]

A. Definition

The standard program grade 9 is one in which grade 9 is organized as a separate unit of the educational program.

B. Criteria for the Standard Program Grade 9

In addition to the General Criteria [See Section A14-122], the following specific criteria are to be met for a standard program grade 9.

1. A minimum of one full-time teacher or equivalent is required for the ninth grade. The instructional program may be departmentalized in grades 7-9 in terms of teacher preparation and special skills.
2. Each person assigned teaching responsibilities in grade 9 shall hold a valid denominational teaching certificate with a subject endorsement for each course taught. A person holding a certificate with elementary endorsement or secondary subject endorsement(s) may obtain additional subject endorsement(s) valid for the junior academy.
3. For instructional resources, library, and technology criteria see Section C12.

A14-132 Standard Program Grades 9 and 10 [Revised 11/2013]

A. Definition

The standard program grades 9 and 10 is one in which grades 9 and 10 are organized as separate units with specific courses offered at each grade level.

B. Criteria for the Standard Program Grades 9 and 10

In addition to the General Criteria [See Section A14-122], the following specific criteria are to be met.

1. A minimum of one full-time teacher or equivalent is required for each grade level offered. (Grades 9 and 10) The instructional program may be departmentalized in grades 7-10 in terms of teacher preparation and special skills.
2. Each person assigned teaching responsibility in grades 9 and 10 shall hold a valid denominational teaching certificate with subject endorsement for each course taught. A person holding a certificate with elementary endorsement or secondary subject endorsement(s) may obtain additional subject endorsement(s) valid for the junior academy by completing 18 quarter hours in a subject area.
3. For instructional resources, library, and technology criteria see Section C12.
4. Sufficient laboratory equipment and materials shall be provided for laboratory courses.

A14-136 Subject Alternation Program Grades 9-10 [Revised 11/2013; 11/2023]

A. Definition

The subject alternation program grades 9-10 is one in which grades 9 and 10 are organized as a single unit with designated subjects offered in alternating years.

B. Criteria

In addition to the General Criteria [See Section A14-122], the following specific criteria for the subject alternation program grades 9 and 10 are to be met:

1. A minimum of one full-time teacher, or equivalent, is required for the subject alternation program, grades 9 and 10. The instructional program may be departmentalized in grades 7-10 in terms of teacher preparation and special skills.
2. Each person assigned teaching responsibility in grades 9 and 10 shall hold a valid denominational teaching certificate with a subject endorsement for each course taught. A person holding a certificate with elementary endorsement or secondary subject endorsement(s) may obtain additional subject endorsement(s) valid for the junior academy.
3. For instructional resources, library, and technology criteria see Section C12.
4. Sufficient laboratory equipment and materials are to be provided for laboratory courses.
5. Course offerings may include both required and elective courses. The proposed offerings are to be approved annually based on the provisions of the Sections C18-116 and C18-120.

A14-140 Secondary School [Revised 4/2018; 5/2019; 12/2024]

A. Definition

The senior academy is a unit authorized to include grades 11 and/or 12 to an authorized regionally accredited junior academy.

B. Authorization Procedure

1. Ongoing consultation of any existing junior academy with the local conference office of education and the union office of education should take place prior to any formal discussions at the local school.
2. A formal action supporting the request for extension for the educational program to include grade 11 and/or grade 12 is to be voted by both the school constituency and the school board.
3. The proposal for grade 11 and/or grade 12 should be reviewed by the local conference during the curriculum review process (with a representative of the union office of education present).
4. If the curriculum review is approved by the local conference board of education, the union office of education must be notified by March 1 prior to the academic school year in which grade 11 and/or grade 12 is to be offered.
5. The union office of education will facilitate a substantive change visit to assess the viability of the added grades.

ACCREDITATION TK-12 | A15

A15-104 Accreditation – Rationale [Revised 4/2016]

School accreditation provides recognition that a school meets established standards of educational quality, extending credibility for its educational program. Accreditation holds schools accountable to established educational standards and serves as the catalyst for on-going school improvement.

A15-108 Denominational Accreditation [Revised 4/2016; 4/2018]

All schools in the Pacific Union Conference shall seek and maintain accreditation from the Accrediting Association (AAA) of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, College, and Universities, Inc. Schools will utilize the approved denominational accreditation instruments and cooperate with the NAD Commission on Accreditation, the Pacific Union Conference, and the local conference office of education which oversees denominational accreditation for Seventh-day Adventist schools in the Pacific Union Conference.

A15-112 Regional Accreditation [Revised 4/2016; 11/2023]

In addition to denominational accreditation, all secondary schools shall seek and maintain regional accreditation from the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC/AAA). All interactions with WASC will be coordinated by the union office of education. Secondary schools in California must also obtain University of California approval for their courses of study.

The current version of the document, *Focus on Learning*, WASC/SDA is to be used as the basis for development of the self-study for joint WASC/AAA accreditation.

Elementary schools and junior academies may also seek regional accreditation after consultation with the local conference office of education and the union office of education.

A15-132 Affiliate and Extension Schools [New Policy 11/2023]

Schools previously approved as affiliate and/or extension schools will be accredited by both denominational accreditation through Accrediting Commission of Seventh-day Adventist Schools and Colleges (AAA) for the school status TK-8/TK-10 and by regional accreditation through Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in conjunction with the sponsoring school.

THE CONSTITUENCY | A16

A16-104 The School Constituency

A. Membership Defined

The constituency which operates a school consists of the church, or churches, and the conference in which the school is located. The voting members of the constituency shall include members of the church or churches operating the school, the local conference and union administrative officers, and office of education personnel.

B. Meetings of the Constituency

The school constituency is to meet annually or as specified in the school constitution.

C. The functions of the constituency are to:

1. Establish and adopt a constitution in harmony with denominational policies and based on the model provided by the local conference office of education.
2. Receive reports on the operation of the school.
3. Provide adequate financing for the general operating costs.
4. Approve financial plans for major capital improvements as recommended by the school board, with the guidelines outlined in the school constitution.
5. Consider plans and policies for the operation of the school in harmony with the *Education Code*.
6. Encourage the organization and maintenance of a parent/teacher organization.

A16-108 Home and School Association [Revised 11/2016]

The Home and School Association is an organization of parents and interested church members whose purpose is to provide parent education and unite the home, the school, and the church in providing Seventh-day Adventist education for all Adventist students.

A. Objectives and Responsibilities of the Home and School Association

1. Aid and educate parents in parenting skills, including health and nutrition, discipline, and spiritual development.
2. Strengthen the relationship between the home, school, and church.
3. Aid in the recruitment of students for the school and assist the church in providing funds so all Adventist students may attend church school.
4. Assist the school in providing funds for needed equipment, materials, and library resources.
5. Provide activities that promote social interaction between the home, school, and church.

A16-108 Home and School Association (Cont'd)

6. Assist the school in the recruitment of volunteers for such activities as teaching assistance, field trip drivers, homeroom parents, plant improvement and beautification, and other special projects requiring volunteer assistance.

B. Additional Resources [Revised 11/2016]

1. *A Quick Start Guide – Home and School Association Leader* published by the NAD is available from AdventSource.
2. *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual* is available from the local Adventist Book Center.

THE SCHOOL BOARD | A17

A17-104 The School Board

In each school in the union there shall be organized a school board elected by the church(es) of the school constituency.

The school board should meet at a regular time and place during the school year and as often as needed during the summer months.

School board meetings are open meetings, except when sensitive topics are being discussed. In this instance, the board chair may call for an executive session, which is a closed meeting of the board when only the regular and ex officio members are present. The board may, however, invite interested persons to be present to provide needed information. However, such persons should be excused prior to discussion and vote by the school board.

A17-108 School Board Membership [Revised 11/2012; 12/2019]

The school constitution and/or working policy should contain provisions regarding the membership of the school board that meets the following criteria.

The school board shall be composed of members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church who represent a cross section of the school constituency and who are supportive of Seventh-day Adventist education. This membership is to include as voting members the chair, vice-chair, executive secretary (the principal), and pastoral representation from the constituent church(es) based on the school constitution/working policy. In addition, the board is to include the following as ex officio voting members: local conference officers and local conference and union office of education personnel.

The school board members (other than ex officio members) are to be elected by the constituent church(es) in accordance with the school constitution or working policies. The church(es) should ensure that multiple members of the same family (related by blood, adoption, or marriage) are not elected to the same school board.

Board membership of school employees and/or their relatives (related by blood, adoption, or marriage) has the potential to create misunderstanding and the appearance of vested interest, especially on personnel issues regarding colleagues. School employees and/or their relatives are ineligible for membership on the board of the school where employed. This policy does not prohibit a person from serving on the board of a small school when that person is employed part-time as school treasurer and is not a regular school employee.

A17-112 Functions of the School Board [Revised 11/2012; 4/2015; 4/2018]

A. Basis for Operation of the Schools

The school board is responsible for the operation of the school within the guidelines and policies adopted by the NAD, the union, the local conference, and the local board.

A17-112 Functions of the School Board (Cont'd)

B. Authority of the Board and/or Members

The board has authority only when meeting in official session. The board acts as a whole and individual members or committees cannot act in place of the board, except when asked to do so by the board. Actions of the board are implemented through its executive secretary, the principal. In schools without a designated administrator, the board actions are implemented through the chair in counsel with the local superintendent of schools or designee.

C. Specific Functions of the School Board

1. Curriculum and Instruction

Cooperate with the union and local conference offices of education in matters of curriculum development and innovations.

2. Fiscal Management

Assume responsibility for the planning and funding of a balanced annual operating budget including:

- a. Operating expenses
- b. Curriculum materials
- c. Playground and physical education supplies
- d. Media center materials
- e. School supplies
- f. Insurance
- g. Indebtedness
- h. Capital budgeted expenses
- i. Operating Reserves.

3. General Operation

a. Support the principal (or head teacher) in the administration of the school program including:

- (1) Implementation of board policies
- (2) Teacher load
- (3) Daily schedule
- (4) Development and enforcement of a student handbook.

b. Participate in the process of school accreditation as scheduled by the local conference office of education or the union office of education and the regional accrediting association.

c. Consider, in counsel with the local superintendent of schools, a proposed plan of school organization including a constitution and bylaws, the administrative organization, and a basic curriculum for the school.

d. Adopt the recommended local conference school calendar annually. Proposed changes or modifications must receive prior approval from the local conference board of education.

e. Annually approve the school bulletin/handbook.

f. Approve all overnight, off-campus activities. [See Sections A24-104 to A24-144 for criteria and approval procedures for off-campus activities and tours.]

g. Act upon the recommendation of the school administration in situations involving serious disciplinary cases and serve as the ultimate authority in the expulsion of students. [See Section A23-152.]

A17-112 Functions of the School Board (Cont'd)

4. Personnel

- a. The employment, changes in employment status, or termination, of school personnel are by authority of the local conference board of education in consultation with the local school board. Thus, the local conference board of education is the employing organization, referred to hereinafter as the employer. [See Section E10-108 for the relationship of the school board to the local conference board of education.]

Note: A discussion which requires confidentiality, such as employment status of education personnel or dismissal of a student, is to be conducted in executive session.

- b. Cooperate with the local conference office of education in planning for in-service education and teacher conventions.

5. Policy Development and Implementation

- a. Ensure implementation of the policies contained in the *Education Code* and policies and plans of the local conference office of education and local conference board of education.
- b. Adopt policies in areas of local concern such as:

- (1) Use of school property
- (2) Bus schedules and routes
- (3) Purchasing procedures
- (4) Tuition and/or other methods of support
- (5) Admission requirements (in accordance with state and local conference guidelines)
- (6) Equipment and maintenance of school plant
- (7) Master planning
- (8) Student discipline and behavior.

6. Board Governance and Operations

- a. Organize itself in harmony with local conference policies and the school constitution.
- b. Ensure that official minutes of each meeting of the board be kept.
- c. Consider appeals regarding the operation of the school.
- d. Appoint the personnel committee members and form other committees as needed. The local superintendent of schools and/or designee and principal are members of the personnel committee. The local superintendent of schools, or designee, is chair of the personnel committee. [See Section A18-104.]

7. School/Church/Community Relations

- a. Support the home and school association or parent-teacher organization.
- b. Promote the school to the constituency church(es).
- c. Promote the school to the community.

A17-116 Responsibilities of the School Board Chair

A. The Board Chair Responsibilities

The major responsibilities of the board chair encompassed in the following are to:

1. Preside at board meetings and expedite the work of the board in session.
2. Cooperate with the principal as executive secretary of the board and chief administrator of the school.
3. Assist in the implementation of policies and board actions in counsel with the local superintendent of schools or designee in schools without a designated administrator.
4. Encourage board members, parents, and other constituent church members to communicate with the principal and other school personnel when there are problems, concerns, or suggestions.
5. Become knowledgeable about the school, its mission and program, and articulate this to parents and constituent church members.
6. Act in concert with the principal as liaison between the school and the constituent church(es) in matters that are pertinent to the constituency(ies).
7. Allow the staff to manage day-to-day operations of the school.
8. Avoid unilaterally acting or speaking for the board or the school.

A17-120 Code of Ethics for School Board Members

A. Definition of a Code of Ethics

A code of ethics is an expression of personal ideals that should guide those who serve as board members of a Seventh-day Adventist school.

The success in and contribution to the education program of the church will be in direct proportion to the behavior and ethics of those responsible for that program.

In all actions as a board member the first commitment is to the well-being of all the children and youth of the church.

B. Responsibility for Ethical Behavior

In fulfilling this responsibility, the school board members should:

1. Base decisions on the philosophy, mission and goals of Seventh-day Adventist education and reject proposed actions that are merely expedient.
2. Demonstrate attitudes and personal conduct which reflect the standards of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and refrain from actions or involvements which might prove embarrassing to the church or the school.
3. Work with other board members in a spirit of decency, harmony, and cooperation.
4. Recognize that a position on the board is not to be used for personal gain.
5. Recognize that the authority of the school board is derived from the church(es) that operate the school.
6. Accept the denominational policies as a basis for decisions regarding the school and its program.
7. Recognize that the authority of the board is only expressed by its actions as a board and that an individual member is to act or speak on behalf of the board only when authorized to do so.
8. Abide by and uphold actions of the board and maintain the confidentiality of deliberations and actions, especially as related to personnel.

A17-120 Code of Ethics for School Board Members (Cont'd)

C. Responsibility to Members of the Constituent Church

The school board member representing the members of the constituent church should:

1. Consider that the well-being of students is the fundamental value and basis of decision-making and subsequent actions.
2. Fulfill responsibilities with honesty, integrity, and confidentiality.
3. Recognize the value of quality education as a determining factor in the future welfare of the church.
4. Provide the constituency with information regarding the school and its future development.
5. Understand that the authority of the school board is derived from the constituent church(es) and local conference educational system.
6. Not neglect the personal obligation to the church members and the legal obligation to the State, nor surrender these obligations to any other person(s) group or organization.
7. Follow the policies which have been adopted by the NAD, union, and local conference for the organization and administration of Seventh-day Adventist schools.

A17-124 Conflict of Interest/Confidentiality Agreement [New Policy 4/2018]

A board member has a duty to be free from the influence of any conflicting interest or commitment or representing it in negotiations or dealings with third parties. Annually, each board member shall sign a "Conflict of Interest Statement". [See *NAD Working Policy E 85 40* for the "Model Statement of Acceptance".]

Board members must also maintain confidentiality regarding discussions and actions of the board. It is strongly recommended that each board member sign a "Confidentiality Agreement" annually. [See Union website: www.adventistfaith.com for a sample "Confidentiality Agreement".]

THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL | A18

A18-104 The School Principal [Revised 11/2014; 11/2015; 4/2018; 12/2019; 4/2025]

A. Certification

The principal should hold a valid denominational Administrator Certificate.

B. Responsibilities and Functions

The principal is the chief administrator of the school, with responsibilities and functions listed below and other functions as may be assigned by local conference and school board policies. In small schools, the principal/teaching principal should consult with the local conference superintendent of schools to determine who is responsible for each of the functions.

1. General Administration

- a. Serve as executive secretary of the board, which includes ensuring minutes are prepared and provided to all board members.
- b. Serve as a member of the finance and personnel committees.
- c. Serve as agent of the school board in administering the school in accordance with the *Education Code*, and any additional policies adopted by the local conference board of education and the school board.
- d. Provide leadership to the spiritual program and activities, and in the development and maintenance of a positive spiritual climate.
- e. Responsible for the organization of the school program including:
 - (1) Implementation of the annual school calendar adopted by the local conference board of education. [See Section C11-124.]
 - (2) Planning regularly scheduled staff meetings.
 - (3) Assignment of teaching responsibilities and other duties to the members of the school staff.
- f. Serve as chief financial officer and operate the school on a sound financial basis within the approved budget.
- g. Serve as, or designate, the chair for committees such as but not necessarily limited to:
 - (1) Staff and faculty meetings
 - (2) Administrative council
 - (3) Admissions committee
 - (4) Government committee
 - (5) Others as needed.

A18-104

The School Principal (Cont'd)

- h. Develop and maintain a record-keeping system to ensure the security of all school and board records including:
 - (1) Student scholastic, health, and attendance records.
 - (2) Minutes of faculty meetings and faculty committees.
 - (3) Minutes of the school board and board committee meetings.
 - i. Provide information as requested to the local conference, union, and NAD offices of education.
 - j. Maintain attendance records in accordance with state regulations, and report to the local attendance officer of the local public school system, when required. [See Sections A23-148, A23-152 and A23-156.]
 - k. Administer safety education programs.
 - l. Provide leadership to the school accreditation process in cooperation with the local conference and union offices of education. [See Sections A15-104 to A15-132.]
 - m. Facilitate strategic planning initiatives.
 - n. Prepare a student bulletin/handbook for annual board approval.
 - o. Annually secure signatures of the following, indicating receipt of the student bulletin/handbook.
 - (1) One parent or guardian of each student.
 - (2) Each student in grades 7-12.
2. Employment of Personnel
- a. Serve as agent of the school board in all sections relating to the employment status of school personnel. [See Sections A13-108, A13-112 and E10-108 for the relationship of the local conference superintendent of schools and the local conference board of education.]
 - b. Cooperate with the local conference office of education in conducting an annual pre-service orientation to acquaint the following groups of newly employed teachers with the philosophy and goals of Seventh-day Adventist education:
 - (1) Those whose previous teaching experience has been in public schools.
 - (2) Those whose professional preparation and degrees were received in non-Seventh-day Adventist colleges or universities.
 - (3) Those who have recently become members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
3. Supervision of Instruction and Curriculum Development
- a. Provide leadership and supervision of the educational program through areas such as, but not necessarily limited to, the following:
 - (1) Regular classroom visitations.
 - (2) Formal teacher evaluations.
 - (3) Conferences with individual teachers.

A18-104 The School Principal (Cont'd)

- (4) Curriculum planning with individual teachers departments and the faculty.
- (5) Assistance in classroom management.
- (6) In-service and professional growth activities for the staff.
- (7) Use of NAD and union adopted textbooks, standards and other instructional materials in the classroom.

b. Provide leadership in co-curricular programs and off-campus activities and tours.

4. Evaluation of School Personnel

Evaluation of school personnel is a major responsibility of the principal. The principal or designee is to evaluate each employee as indicated for the employment status.

a. Certificated Personnel

- (1) Regular Status. [See Section E11-116.]
- (2) Non-Regular Status.
 - (a) Provisional Employment. [See Section E12-112.]
 - (b) Part-time Employment. [See Section E14-116.]
- (3) Term Status. [See Section E16-120.]

b. Classified Personnel

- (1) Salaried Administrative.
- (2) Non-Exempt.

5. Student Behavior and Discipline

- a. Maintain student conduct consistent with guidelines set by the local conference board of education and specific regulations adopted by the school board.
- b. Maintain discipline in accordance with Christian principles.

6. School-Community Relations

- a. Develop and maintain positive community relations.
- b. Present the school as its official spokesman to the patrons of the school, to the school board, and to the public in general.
- c. Articulate and communicate to the board and to the constituency the policies and programs of the school.
- d. Arrange orientation programs for prospective students.

7. School Plant Management

Serve as the agent of the school board in periodic inspection, equipping and maintenance of the school plant, insuring efficiency and safety of the total operation.

A18-108 Sabbatical Leave [New Policy 11/2016]

A principal/teaching principal on a 12-month salary may be granted a leave of up to four weeks in addition to earned vacation. The leave may be given after seven years of service. The time granted for a sabbatical leave must be taken all at once and used for professional growth and personal renewal.

A. Definition

The sabbatical summer leave is defined as the time when an employee who qualifies is granted release time for travel and/or study while being retained on the payroll at full salary.

B. Approval for Sabbatical

The sabbatical must be approved by the local conference board of education.

C. Criteria for Approval

Full-time certificated principals/teaching principals on 12-month salary may request a sabbatical summer leave, provided:

1. The employee has served satisfactorily for seven consecutive years, or multiples of seven years, for the same employing organization on 12-month salary. Exceptions to this policy may be negotiated when a transfer is made between schools within the local conference.
2. The employee agrees to return for a minimum of one year of service following the summer sabbatical.

D. Responsibility for Unamortized Expenses When an Employee Transfers

A calling organization must reimburse, in full, the present employer for all sabbatical leave expenses if an employee is called before completing the one-year of service following the sabbatical.

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL | A19

A19-104 Administrative Vice-Principal

In large schools, the operating board may designate an individual as administrative vice-principal to assist the principal in the performance of duties as specifically assigned by the principal and/or operating board. The teaching load of this individual is to be reduced proportionately to the administrative responsibilities assigned.

The administrative vice-principal may be employed in one of the following categories:

A. Certificated Administrative

For a person who is assigned administrative responsibilities at least two-thirds time. [See Sections F11-104 and F11-136 for the basis for remuneration.]

B. Certificated Instructional

For a person who is assigned administrative responsibilities for less than two-thirds time. [See Sections F11-104 and F11-108 for the basis for remuneration.]

A19-108 Vice-Principal for Finance, Business Manager or Assistant Business Manager [Revised 11/2013]

The employee who is responsible for the financial affairs of the school may be designated as vice-principal for finance, business manager or assistant business manager. The operating board will determine the title for this position. The person so designated is under the direction of and responsible to the principal. [See Sections F11-104 and F11-136 for basis for remuneration for Certificated Administrative personnel or Sections F12-104 and F12-108 for remuneration for Classified and Non-Exempt Classified personnel.]

The vice-principal for finance, business manager or assistant business manager is to be employed in one of the following categories:

A. Term Status
[See Sections E16 to E17.]

B. Salaried Classified
[See Sections A21, E19 and E20.]

C. Non-Exempt Classified
[See Sections A22, E21-104 to E21-148.]

A19-116 Teaching Principal – Head Teacher [Revised 11/2009; 4/2025]

In the operation of a small elementary school or junior academy, it is the prerogative of the conference office of education in consultation with the local school board to appoint a teaching principal who is charged with the responsibility of performing the duties of a principal in addition to the teaching assignments as established by the conference office of education. In small schools, one teacher may be appointed as head teacher in lieu of designation as principal. Responsibilities will be detailed and defined by the local superintendent of schools in consultation with the school board. [See Sections F11-104 for the basis for remuneration.]

A19-120 Assistant Principal

[See Section A20-108 under Instructional Personnel for a description of the position of Assistant Principal.]

A19-124 Residence Hall Dean

The residence hall dean is an administrator with responsibility for maintaining the residence hall (dormitory) as a safe home environment for student residents, providing services for spiritual and social maturation, and serving as a parent-counselor. Appropriate certification is recommended for the residence hall dean. [See Sections F11-104 and F11-136 for the basis for remuneration.]

A19-128 Director of Development [Revised 11/2013]

The director of development provides administrative leadership, under the direction of the principal, for the fund raising and development activities of the school. Duties include: annual fund management, alumni relations, major gift cultivation, and endowments, if any. A job description for the director of development is to be developed and approved by the school board.

INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL | A20

A20-104 Certificated Instructional Personnel [Revised 11/2013; 11/2015; 4/2025]

A. 1. Definition

Certificated instructional personnel include classroom teachers, administrative personnel with responsibility for the instructional program, and other personnel who perform related support services such as the librarian or coordinator of the media center, coordinator of guidance and counseling, and coordinator of work experience education.

2. Certification

Instructional personnel are expected to hold a valid denominational certificate with proper endorsement(s).

B. Duties and Responsibilities

General responsibilities of instructional personnel include areas such as, but not limited to, the following:

1. Provide a dynamic environment with emphasis on Christian living and effective learning.
2. Establish and maintain effective classroom organization.
3. Assume responsibility for professional self-improvement.
4. Participate in church and community activities.
5. Develop effective relationships with parents, patrons, and colleagues.
6. Secure and maintain adequate records as required by the school administration and the local conference office of education.
7. Participate in home and school association activities.
8. Be supportive of and implement policies of the school administration and local conference office of education.
9. Cooperate with the administration in caring for school property.
10. Report for duty as stipulated by the school administration and local conference office of education.
11. Use NAD adopted textbooks, J2E, and other instructional resources.
12. Arrive at school not less than 30 minutes prior to the opening of the school day and remain for at least 30 minutes following the close of the school day.
13. Provide adult supervision for students at all times during the school day.

Detailed responsibilities for a respective school are provided in the faculty handbook and/or by the principal.

C. Professional Ethics

The measure of success in and contribution to the teaching profession will be in direct proportion to the standard of behavior and ethics of instructional personnel.

A20-104 Certificated Instructional Personnel (Cont'd)

The Christian educator has the responsibility to the church to:

1. Adopt and promote a lifestyle that incorporates principles and practices consistent with those associated with active membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
2. Have a high sense of loyalty to the aims and ideals of Christian education, particularly to the philosophy of education upon which has been built the Seventh-day Adventist system of schools.
3. Recognize equality of opportunity for all regardless of gender or ability, without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, or social antecedents.
4. Look upon Christian teaching as a holy vocation.
5. Strive for excellence in teaching methods and techniques, always for the purpose of rendering more effective service to students.

The Christian educator has the responsibility to fellow teachers to:

1. Give encouragement and moral support to associates on the school staff.
2. Give due recognition to lines of authority and to duties and responsibilities assigned to other staff members and to functions of administrators.

The Christian educator has the responsibility to the students to:

1. Recognize an obligation to meet promptly and faithfully all appointments with classes, with individual students, and with student groups.
2. Cultivate friendly relationships with students, avoiding undue familiarity.
3. Allow students the freedom to express personal views and the assurance of careful and objective consideration of all opinions.
4. Hold in professional confidence the ideas, needs, weaknesses, and failures of students.
5. Refrain from discussing personal problems with the students.

The Christian educator has the responsibility to the school to:

1. Demonstrate loyalty to the school by observance of its regulations and policies.
2. Participate in the activities and programs sponsored by the school and accept and carry such responsibilities as may be assigned.
3. Refrain from discussing confidential or official information with unauthorized persons.

D. Employment Policies

[See Sections E10 to E17 for the employment policies for Certificated Instructional Personnel.]

E. Assigned Teaching and Co-curricular Responsibilities

Instructional personnel are to be assigned responsibilities based on professional preparation, experience, and personal qualifications.

A20-108 Assistant Principal

In a small school-secondary school, junior academy, elementary school, where there is not a need for an administrative vice-principal, the principal, in counsel with the board chair, may designate a teacher as assistant principal. The position is not an administrative position. The basic responsibility of the assistant principal is to function as the contact person when the principal is off campus. The teacher load is not to be adjusted since the assistant principal does not have regular administrative responsibilities.

A20-112 Related Instructional Services Personnel

The related services personnel include those persons involved with the instructional program who do not ordinarily serve in an administrative capacity or as full-time classroom teachers. This may include, but not necessarily be limited to, the following: librarian, registrar, director of guidance and counseling.

A person employed as a paraprofessional in the library or registrar's office who does not hold a certificate is to be a non-exempt classified employee. [See Section A22-112.]

A20-116 Non-Seventh-day Adventist Personnel Used as Volunteers

When involving a non-Seventh-day Adventist member as a volunteer to serve as a teacher aide or for any other special purpose, it is the responsibility of the school administration and/or school board to determine that such an individual represents the standards of the Seventh-day Adventist church in word, dress, conduct and Christian influence.

SALARIED CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL | A21

A21-104 Salaried Classified Personnel [Revised 11/2023]

A. Criteria for Employment as a Salaried Classified Employee

Salaried classified personnel are employees who meet the criteria of the Fair Labor Standards Act 29 U.S.C. 213 (a)(1) and the state requirements and are employed in a management or supervisory position.

Copies of federal and state regulations are available as follows:

1. Federal Regulations

W. H. Publication 1281 Revised June 1983
Title 29, Part 541 of the Code of Federal Regulations

Obtain from:

U. S. Department of Labor
Employment Standards Administration
Wage and Hour Division
Washington DC 20210

2. State Regulations

A copy of the state regulations can be obtained by writing to the appropriate State Department of Industrial Relations or State Office of Labor Standards Enforcement.

B. Employment Policies for Salaried Classified Personnel

The employment policies for salaried classified personnel are detailed in the following:

Sections E18-104 to E18-148	General Employment Policies for Classified Personnel
Sections E19-104 to E20-104	Salaried Classified Personnel

C. Remuneration for Salaried Classified Personnel

Remuneration for full-time salaried classified personnel is based on the provisions of Section F12-104.

A21-108 Director of Food Service

The director of food service is the administrative employee responsible for the planning and preparation to meet the requirements of the school. The director of food service is responsible for the proper care of service facilities and equipment, and the management of personnel required to provide an efficient food service operation.

A21-112 Director of Health Service

The director of health service is responsible for the organization of a student health care program in accordance with state regulations and operating board requirements. Complete health records including records of medical examinations must be maintained.

The director of health service should possess the appropriate professional qualifications.

A21-116 Other Salaried Classified Administrative Personnel

Other salaried classified administrators, such as director of marketing/recruitment and director of student services, may be employed by a school. A job description for each position is to be developed and approved by the school board.

NON-EXEMPT CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL | A22

A22-104 Non-Exempt Classified Personnel [Revised 11/2023]

A. Definition

A non-exempt classified employee is an “at-will” employee who is employed in a position that does not require a certificate and is paid an hourly rate. “At-will” means that either the employer or employee can terminate the employment without requirement of cause or advance notice. This includes positions such as, but not necessarily limited to, those listed in Sections A22-108, A22-112 and F12-112.

B. Employment Policies Pertaining to Non-Exempt Classified Personnel

Employment policies pertaining to non-exempt classified personnel are detailed in the following sections.

Sections E18-104 to E18-148 General Employment Policies for Classified Personnel

Sections E21-104 to E21-148 Non-Exempt Classified Personnel

A22-108 Treasurer/Accountant

A treasurer may receipt, disperse, and deposit funds of the organization as directed by management. Accounting functions include recording, classifying, summarizing, and reporting business transactions of the organization.

A22-112 Instructional Aides [Revised 11/2013]

A. Definition

Instructional aides are classified as non-exempt classified personnel. Instructional aides are not intended to be the classroom teachers. Paraprofessionals and attendance clerks in supportive roles would be included in this classification.

B. Duties and Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of the instructional aide may include, but are not necessarily restricted to, the following:

1. Assist a certificated professional employee in the instructional program with such duties as:
 - a. Distributing and collecting materials.
 - b. Maintaining learning materials, resource files.
 - c. Issuing materials, equipment, and supplies.
2. Assist pupils in instructional services as delegated by the teacher.
3. Serve as a clerical aide, which could include office-type work.

A22-112 Instructional Aides (Cont'd)

4. Assist in activities such as, but not limited to, monitoring hallways, lunchrooms, playground periods, pre- and post-school free play, bus loading, assemblies, field trips.
5. Serve as a technical aide such as, but not limited to, library aide, health services aide.

C. Remuneration

An instructional aide is to receive remuneration based on the provisions of Section F12-108.

STUDENTS | A23

A23-104 Opening and Closing Reports [Revised 4/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]

School opening reports are considered official at the close of the third week of school.

School closing reports are considered official five days after the close of the school year.

A23-108 Nondiscrimination Policy [Revised 4/2016]

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church schools, admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools, and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin or gender in administration of education policies, applications for admissions, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.

A statement of nondiscrimination is to appear in each school bulletin and on student application forms. The following model statement contains the basic elements that are to be included in the nondiscrimination statement.

"(Name of school) admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. (Name of school) makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin or gender in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs."

A23-112 Exceptional Students [Revised 4/2024]

All students should be interviewed by school administration to determine whether the school can provide the most appropriate academic placement. The school administrator, in consultation with the local conference office of education and appropriate faculty members must determine if the school has the resources to serve a student with exceptional mental, physical, or social needs. When exceptional students are accepted, there must be a waiver/contract signed by the school and the parents/guardian which outlines the academic expectations for the student. Ongoing assessment will determine whether the academic placement continues to be appropriate and if the school can continue to serve the needs of the student.

A23-114 International Student Programs [New Policy 11/2013]

It is expected that each local conference should have a voted policy for schools wishing to provide international student programs. Such a policy should include items, such as, the following:

- A. The type of international student program being offered.
- B. Admission standards.
- C. Percentages of international students included on campus.
- D. Living arrangements for students.
- E. Financial implications.

A23-116 Student Medical Examinations [Revised 11/2023]

Physical examinations are required of all students as follows:

- A. Upon entering school for the first time.
- B. At grade 7 (this should include the scoliosis examination).
- C. At least once in grades 9 through 12.
- D. At other grades, when required by the local conference office of education.

A physical examination shall be considered current, except scoliosis examination, if taken not more than twelve months prior to any of the above dates and the report is submitted to the school.

When a student transfers, the receiving school should request the health record from the former school of attendance. Verification should be made that a physical examination was done within twelve months of the above required times.

A23-120 Immunizations [Revised 4/2016]

Immunization requirements of the respective states apply to Seventh-day Adventist schools. Proof is required for entry to the elementary and secondary schools in the union and must be presented to the school office when the student initially registers.

It is the responsibility of the principal to enforce the immunization regulations and to ensure that an up-to-date record is maintained for each student.

Immunization requirements will be provided by the local superintendent of schools/designee for each school in the local conference.

A23-124 Administering Medications [Revised 7/2025]

Teachers are not to diagnose a health condition or give any internal medications, except as indicated in the following statement.

A. Prescription Medications

Any student who is required to take medication during the regular school day as prescribed by a physician, surgeon, or physician assistant may be assisted by the school nurse or other designated school personnel if the school has on file the following:

1. A written statement from such physician, surgeon, or physician assistant detailing the time name of the medications, time schedules, amount, and method by which such medications are to be taken, and,
2. A written statement from the parent or guardian of the student indicating the desire that the school assist the student in matters set forth in the physician's, surgeon's, or physician assistant's statement.

Such medication must be delivered to the school in the original container bearing the pharmacy label. This label is to contain the name and place of business of the seller, the serial number and the date of such prescription, the name of the person for whom such a drug is prescribed, the name of the member of the medical profession who prescribed the drug, and must bear directions for use as prescribed by the member of the medical profession.

A23-124 Administering Medications (Cont'd)

All medication must be stored safely and securely. A strict system of logging administered medications must be maintained. All medications should be returned to the parent at the end of the school year. New medication documentation (as stated above) is required for each school year. New medication documentation should also be provided if there are changes to the medication, dosage, frequency of administration, or reason for administering the medication.

B. Self-Administered Prescription Medications

The following is required for a student to carry and self-administer prescription medication, such as asthma inhalers, insulin, EpiPens, and anticonvulsants:

1. A written statement from the physician, surgeon, or physician assistant detailing the name of the medication, method, amount, and time schedules by which the medication is to be taken and confirming that the student is able to self-administer the medication.
2. A written statement from the parent or guardian of the student consenting to the self-administration, providing a release for the school nurse or other designated school personnel to consult with the healthcare provider of the student regarding any questions that may arise with regard to the medication.
3. This statement shall be provided at least every school year, or when the medication, dosage, frequency of administration, or reason of administration of the medication changes.
4. Students who use such medications other than as prescribed will be subject to discipline.

C. Over-the-Counter Medications

The following is needed for a school to provide and administer over-the-counter (OTC) medication on campus or at any school-sponsored activity:

1. A written statement from the parent or guardian of the student permitting the school to provide and administer OTC medication.
2. This statement shall be provided at least annually.
3. Schools must maintain a log of all OTC medications, including date, time, and dosage for each medication provided and administered.

A23-128 Emergency Information and Authorized Student Release

The following current emergency information must be on file at the start of each school year and readily available to administration and teachers both at the school and on field trips.

Parent/guardian contact information:

- A. Alternate contact persons.
- B. Consent for emergency medical treatment.
- C. Authorized persons to whom students may be released.
- D. Severe known allergies (if none, state "None").

A23-132 Permission to Leave Campus During School Day

A student is not to leave campus at any time during the regular school day without permission of the school administrator or designee and a request from the parent either by telephone or written note.

A23-136 Student Discipline

Discipline should be designed to be redemptive, remedial, and corrective rather than punitive. Corporal punishment is not to be used as a means of discipline.

A23-140 Disciplinary Authority

The principal in cooperation with the faculty is responsible for establishing disciplinary procedures. All members of the school staff share in the responsibility for supervision of student conduct. Minor irregularities are handled by individual staff members. Repeated offenses or major infractions of school rules are to be cared for by the administration, the administrative committee or the school board.

A23-144 Detention of Students

Students may be detained in school for disciplinary, or other reasons, one hour after the close of the regular school day. Parents are to be notified of this action prior to the detention.

A23-148 Suspension of Students

Procedures for suspension are to be developed by the staff and approved by the school board. A teacher may temporarily suspend a student from class but suspension from school is to be done only by the principal, the head teacher or, in a one-teacher school, by the teacher in consultation with the local conference office of education.

A student may be suspended for repeated offenses when other procedures have not been effective. Written evidence of prior corrective measures and parental notification should be maintained.

In the case of a serious overt act or violation of school regulations, the principal may suspend a student from school, even though there has been no prior serious misbehavior. The suspension period is generally not to exceed two weeks, except under extenuating circumstances. Written notification of the length of the suspension should be provided to parents.

A23-152 Expulsion of Students [Revised 11/2014; 4/2015; 12/2018; 11/2022]

Attendance at a Seventh-day Adventist school is a privilege as opposed to a right. It is conditioned on acceptance and conformance to the rules of the school.

- A. Expulsion is the discontinuance of a student from enrollment in a school by action of the school board for one or more behavioral reasons including but not limited to those listed in sections B and C.
- B. Expulsion Presumed

The following actions presume the student shall be expelled:

1. Intentionally causing serious injury to another not in self-defense.
2. Possession of a firearm at school or school activities.
3. Possession of a bomb.
4. Sale or distribution of a controlled substance.
5. Robbery (taking property from the person of another by force or fear).
6. Assault or battery upon any school employee.
7. Sexual assault or battery.
8. Brandishing a knife at another person.

A23-152

Expulsion of Students (Cont'd)

Continuing a student who has violated the provisions of this section shall only be done when considering the totality of circumstances including the student's history and amenability to change, the principal or school committee determines that expulsion is inappropriate and does not recommend it.

C. Permissive Causes

The following actions may form the basis for expulsion when the principal or school committee, considering the totality of circumstances including the history of the student, determines the student is not amenable to improving behavior and the student's continued presence constitutes a threat to the safety and/or welfare of the other students or a substantial disruption of the school environment.

1. Major or repeated theft at school.
2. Possession and/or use of controlled substances including alcohol and tobacco, especially continued use after attempt to assist the student has failed.
3. Severe or repeated harassment, sexual or otherwise, of other students. Harassment can be spoken, written, physical and/or distributed through electronic means.
4. Persistently advocating atheism and/or ideas that are destructive of Christian principles or the moral teachings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
5. Academic non-performance.
6. Intentionally causing serious damage to school property or other personal property.
7. Committing an obscene act or engaging in habitual profanity or vulgarity.
8. Willfully defying the valid authority of school personnel or willfully violating school policy.
9. Intentionally threatening or intimidating school personnel or students. The threats or intimidation cause reasonable fear of life or well-being or materially disrupts the school environment.
10. Acts disrupting the learning environment and school activities.
11. Sexual misconduct or the encouragement or advocacy of any form of sexual behavior that would undermine the Christian identity or faith mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

In addition, a student may be expelled when the principal, appropriate school committee, or school board, considering the totality of circumstances, include the history of parental or guardian conduct, determines: 1) that a parent or guardian's and/or school employee's misconduct is serious enough to constitute a threat to the safety and/or welfare of students, a substantial disruption of the school environment, and/or a serious violation of a generally accepted practice or tenet of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; and 2) the parent or guardian is not amenable to improving behavior.

D. Procedure

The principal or school committee takes an action to recommend expulsion to the school board. The student and parents/legal guardian shall be notified of the recommendation and of the right to a hearing.

1. A deadline for the students and parents/legal guardian to submit a written request for a hearing.
2. The fact that expulsion is being recommended.
3. The factual basis for the expulsion.
4. Any written documents that shall be used by the school board or hearing body in deciding the issue.
5. A copy of this policy.

A23-152 Expulsion of Students (Cont'd)

If a student and parent/legal guardian do not request a hearing, the board will consider the recommendation for expulsion.

The student is suspended from school during this process. [See Section A23-148.]

E. Hearing

If requested in writing a hearing shall be scheduled. The time and place of the hearing and the body conducting the hearing shall be forwarded to the student and parents/legal guardian. The hearing shall be conducted by the school board or a committee authorized by the school board. The body conducting the hearing shall make the final decision. The following procedures shall be used.

1. The hearing is closed. Only members of the board/committee may attend. The parents/legal guardian and student may be present until the conclusion of the evidence. The student may have persons who have relevant evidence speak to the committee. These persons shall be excluded except during testimony. The student or parents/legal guardian may not bring an attorney.
2. At the hearing the principal or a school representative shall present the recommendation for expulsion and the evidence supporting the recommendation.
3. The student and parents/legal guardian may:
 - a. Hear the evidence.
 - b. Ask questions of any witnesses or the school representative.
 - c. Present relevant evidence including witnesses.
 - d. Make a summary statement.
4. The body conducting the hearing shall, at the conclusion of the presentation of evidence and statement on behalf of the student, dismiss the student and parents/legal guardian. No further evidence shall be presented. The body shall deliberate and reach a conclusion. This decision is final.

A23-156 Student's Withdrawal or Severance from School

Following the withdrawal or severance of a student who is required by state law to be enrolled in school, the school principal is to ascertain that the student has enrolled in another school as stipulated by state law. If the student fails to do this within the required time period, it is the responsibility of the school principal to notify the attendance officer of the local public school district.

Following the withdrawal or severance of any non-resident student enrolled on a student visa, it is the responsibility of school administration to notify the appropriate immigration officials according to current immigration law.

A23-160 "Hazing" of Students

No staff member, student, or any other person employed by or in attendance at a Seventh-day Adventist school shall concur with, cooperate, permit, or participate in any act that injures, degrades, or disgraces, or tends to injure, degrade, or disgrace any student attending the school.

"Hazing" includes any method of initiation into the school or a student organization or any pastime or amusement in connection with an activity or organization which causes, or is likely to cause, bodily danger or physical harm.

A23-164 Student Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment of any student by another student or any employee, or other person under the supervision of the school is unlawful and is prohibited.

Teachers shall discuss this policy with students in an age-appropriate way. Any student who engages in sexual harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal. Any employee who permits or engages in sexual harassment may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Each school shall adopt a sexual harassment policy. The policy shall include a definition of sexual harassment and procedures for reporting sexual harassment. In addition, each school shall adopt administrative guidelines for investigating and responding to reports of harassment.

Each school's written policy shall be published in the student handbook or bulletin which is distributed to students.

A copy of the school's policy regarding sexual harassment shall be displayed in a prominent location in the administrative building or other location where such notices are posted for students.

A copy of the policy shall be provided as part of the orientation of new students at the beginning of each new term.

A copy of the policy shall be provided to each school staff member at the beginning of the school year and to each new staff member when employed.

A23-168 Model School Policy for Student Sexual Harassment [Revised 11/2014; 4/2024]

_____ (name of school) _____ is committed to providing a school environment free from sexual harassment for all students. Incidents of harassment should be reported in accordance with these procedures so school authorities may take appropriate action. Students who sexually harass others are subject to discipline, up to and including dismissal. Employees who engage in sexual harassment are subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

Definition: Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual advances or requests and other conduct of a sexual nature which is offensive. Harassment can be spoken, written, physical and/or distributed through electronic means. It includes offensive pictures, graffiti, jokes, and gestures.

If submission to offensive sexual conduct is made a condition of academic status, progress, benefits, honors, or activities, it is prohibited sexual harassment. Sexual harassment also occurs when the offensive behavior or material creates a hostile school environment.

Reporting Procedures: Students who have experienced sexual harassment shall report the incident to school authorities as soon as possible. If the harassment is between students, the student shall report the incident to the classroom teacher in grades TK-8 or to any teacher in grades 9-12. The student may also report to the principal, vice-principal or counselor.

If the harassment comes from an adult, the student should report directly to the principal or another responsible adult.

A23-170 Guidelines for Responding to Student Sexual Harassment Complaints

Several principles should guide the school in appropriately responding to a sexual harassment complaint.

- A. Take the complaint seriously. Investigate privately and keep notes.
- B. The investigation and response should be age-appropriate.

A23-170 Guidelines for Responding to Student Sexual Harassment Complaints (Cont'd)

- C. Discipline should fit the behavior and the age of the offender. Progressive discipline should be used, unless the first offense is of a serious nature.
- D. Educating students regarding sexual harassment is the cornerstone of prevention.

Sexual harassment is sometimes categorized legally into two categories, *quid pro quo* and hostile environment. Of the two, *quid pro quo* is considered the most serious, but both types should be taken seriously. *Quid pro quo* is where sexual favors are requested or demanded in return for benefit. Hostile environment is where jokes, pictures, comments, gestures, or stares create a school environment that is hostile and offensive to the victim.

Complaints of sexual harassment should be investigated promptly and confidentially. Corroborating evidence is helpful in determining the truthfulness of the complaint. False accusations, occur that may be a form of sexual harassment.

Appropriate discipline can range from education and teacher counseling to expulsion. Often it is well to get the perspective of an adult of the same sex as the victim when evaluating the seriousness of the event. The response should fit the behavior and be age-appropriate. For instance, a joking remark that is an isolated event could be handled by a teacher talking to the offending student, explaining the significance of the remark, and asking the student not to repeat it. On the other hand, offensive touching is much more serious and in some cases is a criminal offense reportable as child abuse. Suspension and possibly expulsion may be the appropriate response. Adult to student sexual harassment is more serious and calls for a stronger response. Sometimes retaliation, open or subtle, is used against the victim. The offender should be warned this will not be tolerated.

At times no clear determination can be made as to the truthfulness of accusations. In those cases, if the reported behavior is not extremely serious, the suspected offender should be told such behavior, if it occurred, is offensive and will not be permitted.

After the investigation and response, the victim should be informed that appropriate corrective action has been taken and the victim encouraged to report any further events.

TOURS AND OFF-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES | A24

A24-104 Off-Campus Tours and Activities

All off-campus tours and activities are to be planned, organized and conducted so as to ensure the health and safety of students. Plans shall include provisions for all eligible students to attend regardless of personal finances. Plans shall also include provision for appropriate Sabbath observance during the tour or activity. Each tour and activity is to be approved by the school administrator and the appropriate board(s) as specified for the type of tour or activity as follows.

- A. One Day Off-Campus Field Trips and Activities
[See Section A24-108.]
- B. Intra-Union Overnight Tours and Activities
[See Section A24-112.]
- C. Out-of-Union Tours and Activities (Including Mexico)
[See Section A24-120]
- D. Tours to Hawaii
[See Section A24-116.]
- E. Interdivision Tours
[See Section A24-124.]

A24-108 One Day Off-Campus Field Trips and Activities [Revised 10/2018]

A. Definition

A one day off-campus field trip or activity is one which is limited to one day or portion of a day and may include travel outside of the local conference boundaries but does not include travel in Mexico and does not require overnight accommodations.

B. Authorization/Approval

1. Approval Process

Proposed plans for a one day off-campus field trip or activity are to be approved by the school administrator or school board chair, if there is no principal.

2. Documentation Required

Plans submitted for approval are to include details which support compliance with each of the areas listed in this section as follows:

- a. Purpose of field trip or activity.
- b. Transportation arrangements.

A24-108 One Day Off-Campus Field Trips and Activities (Cont'd)

- c. Insurance coverage of vehicles and students.
- d. Safety requirements.
- e. Parental consent.
- f. Supervision arrangements.

C. Transportation Arrangements

Transportation of students for a one day off-campus field trip or activity is to meet the stipulations of Section A23-132.

D. Insurance Coverage

Insurance coverage for vehicles and students for a one-day field trip or activity is as follows:

- 1. Vehicles. [See Section A24-136.]
- 2. Students. [See Section A24-140.]

E. Safety Requirements

The provisions for safety of students participating in a one day off-campus field trip or activity are given in Section A24-144.

A24-112 Intra-Union Overnight Tours and Activities [Revised 10/2018]

A. Definition

An intra-union overnight tour or activity is within the union boundaries, extends beyond one day, and involves overnight accommodations for one or more nights.

B. Authorization/Approval

1. Approval Process

Proposed plans for an intra-union overnight off-campus tour or activity are to be approved by the following:

- a. The school administrator.
- b. The school board.

2. Documentation Required

Plans submitted for approval are to include details that support compliance with each of the areas listed in this section as follows:

- a. Purpose of tour or activity.
- b. Itinerary.
- c. Number of school days.
- d. Transportation arrangements.
- e. Insurance coverage for vehicles and students.
- f. Safety requirements.
- g. Supervision arrangements.
- h. Housing plans, if the tour or activity requires overnight accommodations.
- i. Parental consent.

A24-112 Intra-Union Overnight Tours and Activities (Cont'd)

C. Number of School Days for the Tour or Activity

The number of school days authorized for any intra-union overnight tour or activity is not to exceed the maximum number of days for the type of activity given in Section A24-128.

D. Transportation Arrangements

Transportation arrangements for an intra-union overnight tour or activity are to meet the stipulations of Section A24-132.

E. Insurance Coverage

Insurance coverage for vehicles and students for an intra-union overnight tour or activity is to be provided as follows:

1. Vehicles. [See Section A24-136.]
2. Students. [See Section A24-140.]

F. Safety Requirements

The provisions for safety of students participating in an intra-union overnight tour or activity are given in Section A24-144.

A24-116 Tours to Hawaii [Revised 4/2018]

A. Definition

A tour to Hawaii is one that has as its basic purpose a mission outreach and/or educational function and in which the group is completely self-sustaining while in Hawaii. The Hawaii Conference, Adventist Health Castle, Camp Waianae, Seventh-day Adventist schools, and churches, including church members, are not to be contacted for the purpose of requesting courtesies.

B. Authorization/Approval

A "Tour to Hawaii" request form is available on the Hawaii Conference website.

Proposed plans for schools planning to take a Hawaii tour are to be approved by:

1. That local school administrator.
2. That local conference superintendent of schools.
3. The Hawaii Conference Superintendent of Schools.
4. That local school board.
5. That local conference board of education.

C. Safety Requirements

The provisions for safety of students participating in a Hawaii tour are given in Section A24-144.

A24-120 Out-of-Union Tours and Activities [Revised 10/2018]

A. Definition

An out-of-union tour or activity is one that has as its purpose a mission outreach, educational enrichment, or recreation and involves travel outside the boundaries of the union and may or may not involve overnight accommodations.

B. Authorization/Approval

1. Approval Process

Proposed plans for an out-of-union overnight tour or activity are to receive approval by the following:

- a. The school administrator.
- b. The school board.
- c. The local conference board of education.

2. Documentation Required

Plans submitted are to include details which support compliance with each of the areas listed in this section as follows:

a. Purpose of the tour or activity

Note: A tour that has as its purpose a special mission project is to include information on: the purpose of the activity, those who are to be involved, and the financing plan. The group is to be completely self-sustaining while at the location of the mission project.

- b. Itinerary.
- c. Number of school days.
- d. Transportation arrangements.
- e. Insurance coverage of vehicles and students.
- f. Safety requirements.
- g. Supervision arrangements.
- h. Housing plans if the tour or activity requires overnight accommodations.
- i. Parental consent.

C. Number of School Days for the Tour or Activity

The number of school days authorized for an out-of-union overnight tour or activity is not to exceed the maximum for the type of tour or activity given in Section A24-128.

D. Transportation Arrangements

Transportation arrangements for an out-of-union overnight tour or activity are to meet the stipulations of Section A24-132.

E. Insurance Coverage

Insurance coverage for vehicles and students for out-of-union overnight tour or activity is as follows:

1. Vehicles. [See Section A24-136.]
2. Students. [See Section A24-140.]

A24-120 Out-of-Union Tours and Activities (Cont'd)

F. Safety Requirements

The provisions for safety of students participating in an out-of-union overnight tour or activity are given in Section A24-144.

A24-124 Interdivision Tours [Revised 11/2010; 10/2018]

A. Definition

An interdivision tour is one that involves travel outside NAD. Such tours are to be coordinated through the Adventist Volunteer Ministries Network, Office of the Secretariat, NAD.

B. Tours which need to be coordinated include the following:

1. Tours organized or sponsored by schools, colleges, and universities.
2. Tours of school organizations which have received an official invitation from an overseas denominational, cultural, or government organization.

C. Preliminary Planning

Preliminary planning should include:

1. Financial feasibility.
2. Evaluation of safety for proposed travel locations, including a review of travel advisories as listed on the website for the United States Department of State. (<http://travel.state.gov>)

D. Authorization/Approval

1. Approval Process

An interdivision tour must be approved by the following:

- a. The school administrator.
- b. The school board.
- c. The local conference board of education.

2. Documentation Required

Plans submitted are to include details which support compliance with each of the areas listed in this section as follows:

- a. Purpose of the tour or activity.
- b. Itinerary.
- c. Number of school days.
- d. Transportation arrangements.
- e. Insurance coverage for students.
- f. Safety requirements.
- g. Supervision arrangements.
- h. Housing plans.
- i. Parental consent.

E. Number of School Days for the Tour or Activity

The number of school days authorized for an interdivision tour or activity is not to exceed the maximum for the type of tour or activity given in Section A24-128.

A24-124 Interdivision Tours (Cont'd)

F. Transportation Arrangements

Transportation arrangements for an interdivision tour or activity are to meet the stipulations of Section A24-132.

G. Insurance Coverage

All interdivision tours must have adequate travel insurance for bodily injury and medical expenses caused by an accident, or sickness, and provisions for emergency extraction of individuals, if needed. Review any student accident insurance plans to determine if travel outside of the home country is included under the terms of the policy.

All trips must have general liability coverage to protect the denomination from liability risks. All travel agent/agency agreements should be reviewed by legal counsel to minimize the potential of financial loss in the event the trip is canceled due to the negligence or fraudulent actions of the travel agent or agency.

Participants must sign an acknowledgment of risk and code of conduct statement.

In addition, insurance coverage for students for an interdivision tour or activity is to meet the stipulations in Sections A24-136 and A24-140.

H. Safety Requirements

The provisions for safety of students participating in an interdivision tour or activity are given in Section A24-144.

I. Out-of-Division Trips

Notification of approved tours shall be submitted to the Adventist Volunteer Ministries Network, Office of the Secretariat, NAD, 60 days in advance of the date for the tour on the form available from the local conference office of education. Applications are available at the North American Division Office of Education.

Upon receipt of the above information the NAD Secretariat will notify the GCDE for the purpose of communicating to the host division regarding the visit of the group.

J. Financial Responsibility When Visiting Denominational Institutions and Organizations

Groups and individuals should be advised of personal responsibility for expenses incurred while visiting denominational institutions and/or personnel. No tour groups or individuals should expect denominational institutions or organizations to care for entertainment gratis.

A24-128 Number of School Days for Off-Campus Tours and Activities [Revised 11/2023]

The number of days (school days, weekends, regularly scheduled vacation days) authorized for off-campus tours and activities is identified according to the type of tour or activity. Each tour or activity is to be approved by the school administrator and the appropriate board(s). [See Section C11-128 for the definition of teacher-student contact days and Section C11-152 for innovative programs.]

A. Class, Club and Student Association Activities

Class activity days, such as senior class trips, class or club picnics, student association activities and other special class or club activities, are to be limited to a maximum of two school days per year.

A24-128 Number of School Days for Off-Campus Tours and Activities (Cont'd)

A class, club or student association activity may be extended to include the weekend or regularly scheduled vacation day(s) in addition to the two school days.

B. Athletic Teams, Music Organizations, and Other Promotional Groups

Promotional groups include such groups as, but not limited to, music organizations, gymnastic, and athletic teams.

The approved tour is not to exceed three school days during a school year for any one organization.

Additional days which involve a weekend or regularly scheduled vacation day(s) may be granted in addition to the three school days.

C. Outdoor and Extended Campus Educational Activities and Mission Outreach Projects

These activities include curriculum enrichment activities such as Languages Other Than English, class tours, history class tours, outdoor education, and mission outreach projects.

The approved tour or activity is not to exceed five school days during a school year for any one grade, class or organization. Additional days which involve weekend day(s), or regularly scheduled vacation day(s) may be granted in addition to the five school days.

D. Combination of Tours or Activities and/or Requests for Additional School Days for a Specific Type of Tour Identified in A, B, C.

If various types of off-campus tours or activities are combined, no more than five consecutive school days are to be authorized. However, the local conference board of education may grant additional school days for a tour that involves a mission outreach project.

E. Hawaii Mainland Tours and Activities

The Hawaii Conference Board of Education may grant additional travel days for mainland tours and activities. The number of travel days granted should take into consideration the destination of the proposed tour and the number of additional days needed for travel to and from the destination.

A24-132 Transportation of Students for Off-Campus Activities and Tours

A. Ground Transportation

Where possible, transportation of students for an off-campus tour or activity is to be in a state certified bus. When a certified bus is not available, students may be transported in a private vehicle which meets the requirements of the vehicle code of the state in which the school is located. However, under no circumstances are students to be transported in the cargo area of a vehicle.

In the absence of state vehicle code requirements for vehicles used to transport elementary and secondary students to and from a school tour or activity the following criteria are to apply:

A vehicle may be used if it is:

1. A vehicle carrying only the family members of the owner.

A24-132 Transportation of Students for Off-Campus Activities and Tours (Cont'd)

2. A passenger vehicle designed for and actually carrying, not more than twelve persons, including the driver.

Each vehicle is to have at least one adult authorized by the school administration as the driver. The driver must meet age and insurance requirements as per local conference policy and state law.

B. Air or Water Transportation

Air travel is to be only by commercial airlines. Arrangements for transportation of students by air or water for all off-campus tours or activities are to be approved by the local school board.

A24-136 Insurance Coverage for Vehicles – Off-Campus Tours and Activities [Revised 10/2018]

A. Employee-owned Vehicles

Employee-owned vehicles used for off-campus activities and tours are required to carry automobile insurance coverage as established by the local conference board of education.

B. Institution-owned Vehicles

All vehicles, including those operated by the churches and schools, should be registered in the name of the local conference and association and insured under a policy with an automobile fleet endorsement or equivalent attached. A non-ownership liability endorsement should also be attached to the above policy.

C. Private-owned Vehicles – Non-employee

Private-owned vehicles of non-employees used for off-campus activities and tours are required to carry required coverage established by the local conference board of education.

D. Travel Outside of the United States

Each vehicle used for transportation of students outside of the United States is to have appropriate insurance coverage for:

1. Bodily injury and property damage liability.
2. Medical payments.

A24-140 Insurance Coverage for Students – Off-Campus Tours and Activities

Each student participating in an off-campus tour or activity is to be covered with student accident insurance. Special coverage for activities not included in the student accident insurance is to be obtained.

A24-144 Safety of Students – Off-Campus Tours and Activities [Revised 10/2018; 12/2024]

Care for the safety of students for off-campus activities shall include:

A24-144 Safety of Students – Off-Campus Tours and Activities (Cont'd)

A. Supervision

Each off-campus activity and tour is to be planned, organized and conducted so as to ensure the health and safety of students. A reasonable number of adult sponsors is to be provided for an off-campus tour or activity based on the policy adopted by the local conference board of education.

B. Parental Consent

The local conference board of education is to establish a policy regarding parental consent for a student to participate in off-campus tours and activities.

C. Operation of Vehicles – Transportation

A bus driver is to have a valid school bus driver's license and to observe all state regulations pertaining to the safe operation of vehicles. A vehicle used for the transportation of students must meet state regulations for maintenance and operation.

At least one adult authorized by the school administration is to ride in and be the driver of each vehicle used for the tour or activity. An additional adult driver is to be designated for longer trips.

D. Operation of Vehicles – Recreation

Vehicles used for recreation are to be operated according to applicable state and federal regulations. Appropriate safety equipment is to be used at all times when engaging in recreational activities, i.e. skiing, bicycling, skateboarding, snowmobiling.

E. Consent to Treatment Forms

Schools must have parents complete and sign the appropriate school form which will give permission for a child to receive medical treatment in the parents absence. This form will be completed at the beginning of every school year. Forms should include:

1. All contact information for parents or guardians.
2. Medical information that identifies special medical instructions, including allergies to medication, that might impact emergency medical treatment
3. Names and telephone numbers of physicians.
4. Possible hospital preference.
5. At least one, preferably two, relatives or friends who have consented to assume responsibility in the event the parent or guardian cannot be reached.
6. A signature line for the parent or guardian that is dated.

A24-146 Academic Credit for Study Tours [New Policy 11/2008; Revised 4/2020]

Academic credit for study tours may be granted if the following criteria are met:

- A. Only elective credit may be granted.
- B. Credit earned for study tour cannot be applied towards meeting the Community Service graduation requirement.
- C. A request for academic credit (based on a Carnegie Unit) for a study tour must be included in the annual curriculum review report and approved by the local conference office of education.

GENERAL PERSONNEL POLICIES | A25

A25-108 Continuing Education of Certificated Personnel [Revised 11/2013; 5/2019; 4/2020]

Certificated administrative and instructional personnel in the union may be authorized to attend a college or university with financial assistance based on the following provisions.

A. Attendance at La Sierra University and Pacific Union College

1. General Provisions

Full-time certificated administrative and instructional personnel employed in the union may take up to a maximum of 12 quarter hours, during an academic year, July 1 - June 30 under the subsidized tuition program if authorized to attend La Sierra University or Pacific Union College.

- a. Personnel who wish to enroll in courses and/or programs under the subsidized tuition plan must submit the tuition authorization form obtained from the principal and/or local conference office of education and receive authorization from the local superintendent of schools in the local conference where the person is employed.
- b. Personnel must have a valid signed contract for the following school year as a prerequisite for authorization to enroll in courses and/or programs in a summer session.
- c. To be eligible for courses to count towards renewal for a current year all course work must be completed and returned to the instructor by September 1.
- d. Authorized Early Childhood Education professionals may enroll in courses that meet state requirements based on the following provisions.
 - (1) A local conference office of education is granted a specific number of units per year that can be allocated to full-time Early Childhood Education professionals for completion of state requirements.
 - (2) The total hours granted to a local conference office of education is based on the allocation of 1 quarter hour per year for each Early Childhood Education professional. An Early Childhood Education professional may not be allocated more than 12 quarter hours during an academic year of the total hours available to the local conference office of education.

A25-108

Continuing Education of Certificated Personnel (Cont'd)

2. Special Provisions for Attendance at La Sierra University

The following special provisions apply to attendance at La Sierra University under the subsidized tuition plan.

- a. Authorized personnel attending La Sierra University may enroll in courses offered by the School of Education.
- b. Admission to degree programs is achieved only by formal application. Those interested in a graduate degree should apply for admission into a degree program during the first summer of attendance.
- c. In special circumstances, after consultation with the union office of education, the superintendent of schools or designee, may authorize enrollment in courses and/or degree programs in the Divinity School, School of Business, and/or College of Arts and Sciences.
- d. The following courses and/or programs are not covered by the subsidized tuition plan at La Sierra University.
 - (1) Courses and/or programs to complete a baccalaureate degree. (Early Childhood Education professionals who are completing the credential requirements based on A.1.e. are exempted from this provision.)
 - (2) Courses taken to complete the requirements for the Ed.S. degree. This does not include the 9 quarter hours that are needed for renewal of the Professional Certificate or the courses needed for the Principal endorsement.
 - (3) Courses leading to the Ed.D. and/or Ph.D. degrees.

B. Attendance at Seventh-day Adventist Colleges Outside of the Union

As a general rule education personnel are expected to attend either La Sierra University or Pacific Union College. However, exceptions may be authorized when:

1. The necessary courses or programs are not available at either La Sierra University or Pacific Union College.
2. A person newly employed in the union is currently enrolled in a degree program at a college/university in the union where formerly employed and a transfer would entail hardship or loss of credit.

C. Attendance at Non-Seventh-day Adventist Institutions

Education personnel who are authorized to attend non-Seventh-day Adventist institutions, if the necessary courses or programs are not available at La Sierra University or Pacific Union College, may receive reimbursement for mileage or the lowest air fare, whichever is less, plus tuition and fees. No additional salary is granted for attendance at summer school.

An employee who elects to enroll in courses or programs at non-Seventh-day Adventist institutions for reasons of convenience or choice is not to receive assistance on tuition or fees.

A25-108 Continuing Education of Certificated Personnel (Cont'd)

D. Authorization for School Attendance

Education personnel who plan to attend La Sierra University or Pacific Union College with the exception of financial assistance on expenses must have written authorization prior to registering for courses or programs.

Elementary and junior academy personnel are to receive approval from the local conference office of education.

Secondary school personnel are to receive approval from the secondary school principal. Board approval must be obtained for attendance at a college or university outside the union.

The authorization is as follows:

1. Attendance at La Sierra University or Pacific Union College

The school attendance authorization form is to be completed prior to registration at either La Sierra University or Pacific Union College. This form is available from the principal or the local conference office of education. The form is to be returned to the local conference office of education.

2. Attendance at a Seventh-day Adventist Institution Outside of the Union

A certificated employee from another union newly employed in the union who is currently enrolled in a study program elsewhere, may, upon board approval, be permitted to complete work where enrolled if a transfer would entail hardship or a loss of credit. In such a situation, the employee is to receive benefits from the employing organization equal to those granted to personnel enrolled at La Sierra University or Pacific Union College.

Written authorization including information on any financial assistance that will be granted is to be received prior to registration.

E. Financial Assistance at La Sierra University and Pacific Union College

1. Tuition and fees

Tuition and fees for courses, including workshops and seminars are covered by the annual appropriation from the union.

2. Mileage

A mileage allowance will be granted for one round-trip by the most direct route to either La Sierra University or Pacific Union College based on the current mileage rate. This is to be paid by the employing organization [with the exception of Hawaii].

A25-112 Student Teaching In-Service Program [Revised 12/2021]

Employed personnel may earn academic credit for student teaching under the following conditions:

A25-112 Student Teaching In-Service Program (Cont'd)

A. Purpose

The purpose of the student teaching in-service program is to assist an employed teacher-candidate who has completed a baccalaureate degree and all of the requirements for the Seventh-day Adventist Basic Teaching Certificate and/or the

California Preliminary Credential except student teaching. The Student Teaching In-service Program is offered in cooperation with the union as a service to a limited number of applicants.

B. Prerequisites

1. Completion of a baccalaureate degree.
2. Completion of all credential requirements, with the exception of student teaching, and grades at or above the required GPA, as stated in the bulletin of the college or university granting the student teaching credit.
3. Admission into the teacher education program at La Sierra University or Pacific Union College.

C. Procedure

1. The employed teacher is to present a written request for the student-teaching in-service program to the principal, who will submit it with recommendations to the local conference office of education. A teacher in a small school where there is no principal will submit the request directly to the local conference office of education.
2. All requests will be evaluated by the local conference office of education. If approved, it will be forwarded to La Sierra University School of Education or Pacific Union College Department of Education.
3. The request forwarded from the local conference office of education will be processed by La Sierra University School of Education or Pacific Union College Department of Education. Notification of the action taken will be sent to the local conference office of education.
4. When approval is granted, the college or university will inform the applicant of registration procedures, including payment of tuition and fees.
5. Requests for student-teaching in-service are to be submitted to Pacific Union College Department of Education or La Sierra University School of Education by June 1 for the Fall Quarter and December 1 for the Spring Quarter.

D. Supervision

1. La Sierra University School of Education or Pacific Union College Department of Education designates a coordinator.
2. The local conference office of education, in consultation with the principal and college/university coordinator, designates a qualified individual as the on-site supervisor.
3. Qualifications of the on-site supervisor include:
 - a. Successful teaching experience.
 - b. Possession of a valid denominational Standard or Professional Certificate and/or State Credential.
4. Duties of the on-site supervisor include:
 - a. Attendance at an orientation program planned by the respective college or university, if requested by higher education.

A25-112 Student Teaching In-Service Program (Cont'd)

- b. Regular reports to the college/university coordinator regarding progress of the in-service student teacher.
 - c. Maintaining a schedule for weekly classroom supervision.
 - d. Counseling and advising the in-service student teacher.
5. An on-site supervisor currently employed by the school is to be given release time to meet the responsibilities as specified by the higher education institution responsible for granting the credit.
 6. The college/university coordinator is to make bi-monthly visits during the student teaching in-service program to evaluate and supervise the work of the in-service student teacher. This shall include a coordinator-teacher conference outside of class time.
 7. Final evaluation and assignment of a grade for the student teaching in-service program is the responsibility of the college/university coordinator and is to be determined after consideration of the recommendations of the on-site supervisor.

E. Course Requirements

The in-service student teacher will:

1. Cooperate with the supervisor in a pre-assessment to determine specific needs of the program and to develop objectives and long-range plans.
2. Maintain long-range and daily plans for approval by the supervisor and coordinator.
3. Maintain a file of class materials such as tests, work sheets, learning center materials, samples of students' work, etc., for the supervisor to review.
4. Submit a report for at least one professional activity approved by the coordinator in areas such as, but not limited to:
 - a. Classroom organization.
 - b. Discipline.
 - c. A specific curriculum area.
 - d. Teaching the handicapped, slow learner, gifted.
 - e. Child psychology.
 - f. Human relations.
 - g. Others as approved.
5. Participate in an orientation seminar if required by the higher education campus.
6. Meet the requirements as specified by the higher education institute granting credit.
7. Maintain weekly log, if required to do so, which is a summary of the learning gained in the program. The form for this will be provided by the college/university coordinator at the beginning of the student-teaching internship.

F. Financial Arrangements

1. The financial plan for a teacher employed as an in-service student teacher includes the following provisions:
 - a. Payment of regular tuition prior to admission to the in-service student teaching.
 - b. Expenses for attending the mid-term seminar at the college/university.

A25-112 Student Teaching In-Service Program (Cont'd)

- c. Coordinator's travel (board and room costs of the coordinator, if necessary) for any mileage over 50 miles from the higher education campus.
2. The employer is responsible for:
 - a. Costs incurred for the substitute teachers.
 - b. Cost of transportation, board and room for the on-site supervisor attending the orientation session held by the institute of higher education.
 - c. Transportation expenses for an on-site supervisor who is not denominationally employed.
 3. The higher education institution is responsible for:
 - a. Salary and work load assignment of the coordinator.
 - b. Cost of transportation for visits by the coordinator to the in-service site up to a radius of 50 miles.
 - c. Cost incurred due to absence of the coordinator from campus duties.
 - d. Any remuneration paid to the on-site supervisor.
 4. Amortization

Upon completion of the course, the intern-teacher is obligated for expenses, other than salary, incurred by the school and/or local conference in providing for the student teaching in-service. These expenses will be amortized by completion of two years of full-time teaching immediately following the school year during which the course was completed, at the rate of 50 percent per year.

A25-120 Deans' Leave and Vacation Time

Secondary school principals shall arrange for full-time residence hall deans to be relieved from duties on the regularly scheduled weekend leaves, or for corresponding time the weekend before or after the scheduled leave. The weekend of Christmas or New Year's vacation shall be considered a weekend leave as well as the weekend of spring vacation. (A weekend leave is generally considered a three-day weekend, Friday through Sunday.)

When the Christmas recess and spring vacation are taken as vacation time, this is to be counted as two weeks of the total annual earned vacation time.

Schools that do not have need for a dean during the summer months may employ a dean on the 42-week schedule. Release time for weekend leaves will follow the same policy as those employed on the 52-week schedule.

A25-124 Leaves

For information regarding employee leaves such as: bereavement, jury duty, family and medical, leave of absence, personal, or sick, refer to the local conference policy.

A25-132 Transfer of Teacher During Summer [Revised 4/2025]

- A. A calling organization is responsible for obtaining information regarding an employee's financial indebtedness with the current employing organization.
- B. If a teacher transfer occurs during the summer (as permitted by the employing organization), salary and summer school expenses, if any, are to be assumed by the calling organization. The former organization will carry the salary until a transfer date is agreed upon by the two organizations. Salary for the new school year which has been advanced is to be reimbursed to the former employing organization.

A25-136 Teaching Certificate [Revised 5/2013; 12/2019]

Denominational certification is the process whereby a person is recognized to be academically and professionally qualified to teach in Seventh-day Adventist schools. A teaching certificate with its endorsement(s) indicates that the individual has completed the qualifying requirements to practice the professional instruction of children and youth in a Seventh-day Adventist school setting.

Qualifying for the appropriate certificate and maintaining it through continued professional preparation and growth is the responsibility of a professional educator.

The NAD Office of Education establishes certification requirements for education personnel.

Implementing the certification policy is the responsibility of the NAD office of education. It delegates to the union offices of education the authority to issue certificates in its behalf to education personnel who meet the requirements. All teaching certificates are issued through the union office of education.

Details regarding certification are contained in the booklet *PK-12 Educators' Certification Manual for North American Division and the Pacific Union Conference addendum*.

A25-138 Suspension or Revocation of a Certificate [New Policy 5/2013; Revised 11/2014; 10/2018; 5/2019; 11/2022; 11/2023; 12/2024]

- A. The certificates subject to suspension or revocation are: Conditional, Basic, Standard, Professional, Administrator, and Designated Subjects/Services.
- B. A certificate will automatically be revoked for any of the following:
 - 1. Any admission of guilt pertaining to sexual abuse, or of the following sexual misconduct.
 - a. Actual or attempted sexual contact with a minor or with any person where there exists a relationship with inequality of power.
 - b. Actual or attempted rape or sexual contact by force, threat, or intimidation.
 - c. Criminal behavior of a sexual nature.
 - d. Possession, manufacture, distribution or access with intent to view child pornography.
 - 2. Any criminal conviction or plea of guilty, nolo contendere (no contest), or its equivalent for crimes of violence, sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, or possession, manufacture, distribution or access with intent to view child pornography.

A25-138

Suspension or Revocation of a Certificate (Cont'd)

3. Withdrawal or removal from membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

C. A certificate will automatically be suspended upon filing of criminal charges of any of the following:

1. Sexual contact with a minor.
2. Behaviors of sexual nature.
3. Crimes of violence.
4. Possession, manufacture, distribution or access with intent to view child pornography.

In the event of an acquittal or the dismissal of criminal charges, reinstatement of the certificate will be reviewed by the union certification committee.

D. Suspension or Revocation of a Certificate

1. The certificate may be suspended or revoked for any of the following:
 - a. Moral or personal conduct not in accordance with the principles of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
 - b. Conviction of a crime that is a felony or involves moral turpitude.
 - c. Persistence in advocating, practicing, or teaching beliefs, and/or philosophy contrary to the basic tenets, standards, and doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
 - d. The use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, or misuse of other dangerous drugs.
 - e. A condition of health detrimental to the welfare of students.
 - f. The willful failure to report an instance of child abuse or neglect.
 - g. Insubordination as evidenced by persistent violation of, or refusal to cooperate with policies and assignments.
 - h. Membership in an organization advocating the overthrow of the government by force or subversion.
 - i. When a contract has been prematurely terminated without the employer's consent.
 - j. When an employee resigns and fails to repay money owed to employer such as but not necessarily limited to the following: advanced salary, unamortized graduate study assistance, unamortized moving, housing loans.
 - k. Acting in a manner that seriously jeopardizes the health and safety of students or staff failing to act in a manner that ensures the health and safety of students.

2. Procedure

- a. The local conference office of education and the union office of education will collaborate to determine whether a request should be made for revocation or suspension of a certificate.
- b. The request will be considered by the local conference board of education. If affirmed, supporting documents will be sent to the union office of education.
- c. The union Vice President for Education shall give notice to a certificate holder of the proposed action to suspend or revoke the certificate including the right to a hearing by the union Certification Review Committee.

A25-138 Suspension or Revocation of a Certificate (Cont'd)

- d. The union Certification Review Committee shall conduct a hearing if such is requested by the certificate holder and shall act on the recommendation of the local conference board of education.
- e. The union board of education shall have the final decision regarding suspension or revocation.

3. Request for Reinstatement

The certificate holder may submit a request for reinstatement to the union Certification Review Committee after 90 days have elapsed following the decision regarding suspension or revocation.

A25-140 Denominational Classification and Licensing [Revised 5/2013]

In addition to being professionally certificated, educators also receive denominational credentials and licenses.

Denominational employees shall be classified and accredited by the employing organization according to the categories listed below. No person shall be included in more than one category at the same time.

A. Certificated Educational Personnel-Ministerial Employees – Ordained, Commissioned and Licensed

Full-time certificated administrative and instructional personnel may be issued a credential or license when the provisions for a ministerial credential or license are met. [See *NAD Working Policy E 05 10*, "Ministerial Employees—Ordained, Commissioned and Licensed."]

B. Certificated Educational Personnel – Non-ministerial

Local conferences should refer to the procedures listed in *NAD Working Policy E 05* when issuing denominational licenses and credentials such as the Commissioned Ministry of Teaching Credential.

C. Classified School Personnel

1. Missionary Credential

Issued to employees with significant experience in denominational service, usually not less than five years, who demonstrate proficiency in the assigned responsibilities and whose remuneration is at approximately the maximum in the assigned category in the denominational remuneration scale. These may include regularly employed classified school employees.

2. Missionary License

Issued to employees with limited experience (less than five years) including regularly employed classified school employees.

A25-144

Conflict of Interest and/or Commitment [Revised 11/2009]

A. Statement of Policy

Conflict of interest shall mean any circumstance under which an employee or volunteer by virtue of financial or other personal interest, present or potential, directly or indirectly, may be influenced or appear to be influenced by any motive or desire for personal advantage, tangible or intangible, other than the success and well-being of the denomination.

Because of the common objectives embraced by the various organizational units and institutions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, membership held concurrently on more than one denominational committee or board does not of itself constitute a conflict of interest provided that all the other requirements of the policy are met. While serving as an officer, trustee, or director of multiple denominational entities is thus acknowledged and accepted, an officer, trustee, or director serving on an organization's board is expected to act in the best interest of the organization and its role in denominational structure.

A conflict of commitment shall mean any situation which interferes with an employee's ability to carry out duties effectively. Elected, appointed, or salaried employees on full-time assignment are compensated for full-time employment; therefore, outside or dual employment or other activity, whether compensated or not, that in any way interferes with the performance of an employee's duties and responsibilities is a conflict of commitment. A conflict of commitment also exists in situations where an employee functions contrary to the values and ethical conduct outlined in the organization's statement of ethical foundations and conduct or when an employee functions contrary to established codes of ethical conduct for employees in particular professions (e.g. legal, investments).

All trustees, officers, board members, employees, and volunteers of denominational organizations shall be subject to this policy.

B. Conditions Constituting Conflict

A trustee, officer, board member, employee, or volunteer has a duty to be free from the influence of any conflicting interest or commitment when serving the organization or representing it in negotiations or dealings with third parties. Both while on and off the job an employee is expected to protect the best interests of the employing organization. The following list, though not exhaustive, describes circumstances and conditions that illustrate conflict of interest or commitment:

1. Engaging in outside business or employment that encroaches on the denominational organization's call for the full services of its employees even though there may be no other conflict.
2. Engaging in business or employment that is in any way competitive or in conflict with any transaction, activity, policy, or objective of the organization.
3. Engaging in any business with or employment by an employer that is a supplier of goods or services to any denominational organization.
4. Making use of the fact of employment by the denominational organization to further outside business or employment, associating the denominational organization or its prestige with an outside business or employment or using one's connection to the denomination to further personal or partisan political interests.
5. Owning or leasing any property with knowledge that the denominational organization has an active or potential interest therein.

A25-144 Conflict of Interest and/or Commitment (Cont'd)

6. Lending money to or borrowing money from any third party, excluding financial institutions, who is a supplier of goods or services or lending to/borrowing from a trustor or anyone who is in any fiduciary relationship to the denominational organization or is otherwise regularly involved in business transactions with the denominational organization.
7. Accepting or offering of any gratuity, favor, benefit, or gift or of any commission or payment, monetary or non-monetary, of greater than nominal value, in connection with work for the denominational organization other than the compensation agreed upon between the denominational organization and/or the employee.
8. Making use of or disseminating, including by electronic means, any confidential information acquired through employment by the denominational organization for personal profit or advantage directly or indirectly.
9. Using denominational personnel, property, equipment, supplies, or goodwill for other than approved activities, programs, and purposes.
10. Expending unreasonable time, during normal business hours, for personal affairs or for other organizations, to the detriment of work performance for the denomination.
11. Using one's connections within the organization to secure favors for one's family or relatives.
12. Employees shall not accept loans from church members or churches.

C. Statement of Acceptance

1. By Employees

At the time of initial employment an employee shall sign a statement indicating acceptance of the conditions of employment as outlined in the organization's employee handbook. This acceptance shall constitute the employee's declaration of compliance and resolve to remain in compliance with the conflict of interest and/or commitment policy. On an annual basis the employer shall provide employees with a copy of the Statement of Ethical Foundations, plus a copy of the conflict of interest and/or commitment policy, and shall inform employees regarding the duty to disclose potential conflicts of interest and/or commitment.

2. By Administrators, Department Directors and Trustees

The administrator or designee, of the organization concerned shall receive annually a statement of acceptance and compliance with the policy on conflict of interest and/or commitment from each administrator, department director, member of the board, and any other person authorized to handle resources of the organization. (The employing organization may determine that other individuals shall also be required to submit annually a statement of acceptance and compliance.) Submission of the statement by persons identified above shall constitute a declaration of compliance with the policy and shall place the individual under obligation to disclose potential conflicts of interest and/or commitment that may arise during the ensuing year.

3. All statements of acceptance and compliance shall be reviewed annually through a process and reporting mechanism as determined by the board/executive committee of the organization.

A25-144

Conflict of Interest and/or Commitment (Cont'd)

D. Reporting Potential or Actual Conflicts of Interest or Commitment

All present and potential conflicts of interest must be disclosed:

1. If known, in advance of any meeting, business transaction, or other activity at which the issue may be discussed or on which the issue may have a bearing on the person's approach to the issue, whether directly or indirectly; or
2. If not known in advance, when the actual, possible, or potential conflict becomes apparent. Disclosure must be made to the person in charge of the meeting or activity and to the full meeting, or to the person's supervisor, as appropriate. The person should leave the room or situation to avoid participation in all discussion or deliberation on the issue, and voting. All such actions should be recorded in any minutes or records kept. Following full disclosure of the present or potential conflict, the board or equivalent group may decide that no conflict of interest exists and invite the participation of the person.

This policy establishes a process which is self-identifying. However, third parties may report alleged conflicts in writing with supporting documentation, to an officer of the organization concerned if the employee fails to disclose a conflict or does so inadequately. The source of the third-party reports shall be held in confidence by the recipient unless it is required to divulge the information pursuant to a court order or if there is indication that the report is fraudulent or made with malicious intent.

E. Review Process for Conflicts of Interest and/or Commitment

The officer or human resource/personnel office that receives the report of potential conflict shall inform the employee's supervisor and shall have the matter reviewed by the appropriate employing authority or by the committee assigned to review such matters. If the disclosure has come from a third party, the officer or human resource/personnel office shall inform the employee concerned and shall give the employee an opportunity to submit any information which may help in the review of the reported conflict. The decision of the employing authority or review committee as to whether or not a conflict exists shall be communication to the employee in writing.

F. Sanctions for Noncompliance

Noncompliance includes failure to:

1. Comply with this policy;
2. Report accurately on the disclosure form;
3. Comply with decisions made by the employing authority or review committee as a result of reported potential or actual conflicts of interest and/or commitment.

Noncompliance may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination from employment. Termination from employment shall be processed in harmony with existing policies.

G. Model Statement of Acceptance

[See *NAD Working Policy E 85 40* for the "Model Statement of Acceptance".]

RECORDS MANAGEMENT | A26

A26-104 School Records [Revised 11/2012; 11/2014; 11/2016; 10/2018; 4/2020]

A. Records Management

The normal operation of the school results in the production and the accumulation of a large volume of files and records of varying degrees of administrative and historical value. In order to preserve documents of permanent value and to avoid the unnecessary preservation of unneeded materials, each school will find it advantageous to establish a records management system.

The administrators, business managers, and other employees in all organizations should evaluate the legal, financial, and cultural worth of various types of files and records produced in all offices. The political unrest through which the world is constantly passing seriously effect property rights, for example, and demand the proper preservation of denominational property records. Corporate papers and board minutes not only tell the history of an organization but may be called upon in case of litigation. Many other documents and general files that seem to be of little value beyond the initial retention period grow rapidly in historical value as time passes and may serve future administrators in re-studying issues and problems

B. Records Retention

1. Each school should establish a records center, that is, a storage place to protect documents from fire, deterioration and unauthorized access.
 - a. The record center should have non-current documents or files designated for either short term or permanent storage. The record center should not be used for the storage of current files, that is, those that are consulted several times a year in a normal course of business.
 - b. Documents and files stored in the records center awaiting later destruction shall be boxed in such a way as to make clear the dates of destruction under the provision of a records retention schedule approved by the local conference office of education.
 - c. Documents and files considered to be permanent, may be kept in hard copy or microform at the discretion of the local conference office of education. Storage may be in the same storage facility with less permanent items, but should be physically separated and clearly labeled.
 - d. Schools or conferences with sizeable collections of records, aged fifty years or older, shall make provision to create an historical archive, where measures can be taken for long-term preservation and for making documents accessible to researchers.
2. The following retention schedule should be used for the specific types of school records listed.

A26-104 School Records (Cont'd)

a. Student Permanent Records

These records are to be kept indefinitely. [See Section A26-108 for description of what constitutes the student permanent records.]

b. Student Cumulative Record

(1) Grades TK-8

The cumulative record for an elementary school student that has not been transferred to another school may be destroyed after the date the student would normally graduate from grade 12.

(2) Grades 9-12

The cumulative record for a student in grades 9-12 is to be kept for five years beyond the year when the student did or should have graduated from grade 12.

c. Teacher Grade Books or Equivalent Record

Teacher grade books or equivalent records should be kept as follows:

(1) Grades TK-8 – A minimum of one year.

(2) Grades 9-12 – A minimum of seven years. The local conference office of education or the secondary school board should adopt a policy regarding the status of the class record/grade books or equivalent record beyond the years stated above.

d. Vital School Records

These records are to be kept indefinitely. These include, but are not necessarily limited to articles of incorporation, constitutions and by-laws, minutes of boards or governing committees, property records and other legal documents.

e. Historical Materials

The materials that have historical significance include, but are not necessarily limited to faculty and committee minutes, school bulletins, student publications, class composite pictures.

f. Standardized Achievement Test Results

Standardized achievement test results should be kept for a minimum of seven (7) years.

The local conference office of education should adopt a policy regarding the status of the conference level standardized achievement test results.

C. Discontinued Schools – Permanent Records

The local conference office of education is responsible for the preservation of all records of discontinued schools.

A26-104 School Records (Cont'd)

If a new elementary school, junior academy, or secondary school succeeds one that is discontinued, the old records are to be transferred to the new school, otherwise, such records are to be transferred to the local conference office of education.

D. Ownership of Records

The local conference office of education shall adopt a policy regarding the ownership of records, files and documents created by the employee in the course of employment. Such a policy shall include parameters for which records, files, and documents shall remain at the school. The term "records" includes, but is not limited to, information recorded on or transmitted by paper, film, audio and video tape, email, or other electronic media or sound media, as well as charts, drawings, and maps. Such a policy should exclude materials closely related to an employee's professional career or graduate education.

A26-108 Permanent Record – Student [Revised 5/2014; 10/2018]

A. Contents

A permanent record is to be established for each student. The record is to include name, date and place of birth, gender, scholarship, attendance, parent information and verification of immunizations or waiver. When provided with appropriate legal documentation of a lawful name and/or gender change, the student profile information will be changed on the permanent record by the school and/or local conference office of education. The individual permanent record is to be available only to authorized personnel, the parents and the student.

B. Location of the Student Permanent Record

1. Elementary School and Junior Academy

All student permanent records, of elementary schools and junior academies, are to be kept by the local conference office of education, including those of a secondary school - associated elementary schools.

2. Secondary School

The permanent records of secondary school students are to be kept by the respective school.

3. Discontinued Schools

The permanent student records of discontinued schools are to be transferred to the local conference office of education. [See Section A26-104.C.]

A26-112 Cumulative Record – Student

A. Purpose and Location

A cumulative record is to be maintained for each student. A student's cumulative record is to be readily available and accessible only to authorized personnel, the student, and the student's parents. The cumulative records should be kept in a fire-resistant safe or vault.

A26-112 Cumulative Record – Student (Cont'd)

B. Contents

1. Elementary School, TK-8

Cumulative record folders are supplied by the local conference office of education. Cumulative folders must contain the following items:

- a. Standardized achievement test scores.
- b. Photo of student.
- c. Yearly progress report.
- d. Reading record card.
- e. Health Exam including inoculation record.
- f. Record of recommendation for retention, acceleration, special education.
- g. Verification of place and date of birth.

2. Grades 9-12

The cumulative record for each student should contain the records that the administration considers necessary for the proper guidance of the student.

C. Transfer of Cumulative Record

When a student transfers to another school, either Seventh-day Adventist or public, the cumulative record, or a copy thereof, shall be transferred to the school where the student intends to enroll upon written request of the student or parents if the student is under 18 years of age. [See Section A26-120.]

A26-116 Health Records – Student

A school health record for each student is to be maintained in the health folder. This record is to be kept up-to-date by school personnel in cooperation with medical personnel. Arrangements for the services of medical personnel are the responsibility of the school administrator and school board.

A26-120 Access to Student Records

Parents of currently enrolled or former students and students 18 years or older have the right of access to the cumulative and permanent student records maintained by the school relating to the children in the family or the individual student.

Each local conference shall adopt procedures to grant requests by parents to inspect and review records during regular school hours. Access shall be granted no later than five days following the date of the request. The procedures shall include notification to the parent of the location of all official student records, if not centrally located, and providing qualified certificated personnel to interpret records where appropriate.

A26-124 Health Records – Employees [New Policy 11/2016]

Health records are maintained at the employee's payroll center or the local conference office of education. The records shall be kept in a file separate from the personnel files.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES | A27

A27-104 Major Fund-Raising Projects

Major fund-raising projects are to have local school board approval.

A27-108 Safety of Students on Campus [Revised 5/2014; 11/2016; 11/2022]

Each local conference office of education should develop student health and safety policies in compliance with state law as they apply to private schools.

A. Drills

Safety drills should be effectively conducted throughout the school year as required by state and local law and at a minimum should include fire drills, earthquake drills, and lockdown drills.

B. Emergency Planning

Each school shall have an annually updated Emergency Plan in place and should review it with staff at the start of each school year. Ensure that the plan addresses natural hazards, technological hazards, biological hazards, and adversarial, incidental, and human-caused threats. It shall address prevention/ protection, mitigation, response, and recovery. The plan will also include safety processes for First Aid and CPR.

A27-112 Labor Laws and Work Permits

All employing organizations shall comply with state and federal regulations governing the employment of minors.

A27-116 Flight Safety

Schools operating flight training programs shall conform to the *NAD Working Policy*.

A27-120 School Bus Safety and Operations

- A. The definition of church, camp, and school buses includes all vehicles designed for nine or more passengers, excluding the driver.
- B. Buses shall be used only for official activities of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and shall not be loaned, leased, or rented to individuals or nondenominational organizations.
- C. Pre-1977 buses shall not be purchased or otherwise obtained. It is recommended that currently owned pre-1977 buses should be removed from the fleet. [See *NAD Working Policy* S 60 31.]
- D. The maintenance of school buses and the driver qualifications shall meet state regulations.

A27-124 Identification of “Seventh-day Adventist” Institutions [Revised 11/2023]

Denominationally-owned and operated educational institutions in the union should identify themselves as Seventh-day Adventist institutions.

A27-136 Volunteers – Screen Policies [New Policy 3/2012; Revised 5/2013]

It is the responsibility of the school to select, screen and manage trustworthy individuals to fill volunteer positions for school activities. The local conference office of education, in conjunction with conference administration, must develop a policy for the selection, screening, and training of volunteers. [See *NAD Working Policy* FB 25.]

GRADES TK-12:**Curriculum**

C10-104	Definition of Curriculum [Revised 4/2024]
C10-108	Spiritual Activities

General Provisions

C11-104	Elementary Teaching Assignment and Load [Revised 10/2018; 11/2023; 12/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]
C11-108	Secondary Teacher Load [Revised 11/2022; 11/2023; Renumbered 4/2025]
C11-112	Student Organizations, Clubs and Special Groups [Revised 4/2024]
C11-116	School-Sponsored Public Functions
C11-120	Graduation Honors
C11-124	Annual School Calendar [Revised 4/2024]
C11-128	Teacher-Student Contact Day [Revised 4/2024]
C11-144	Procedure for Establishing Innovative Programs [Revised 4/2024]
C11-152	Approval of Innovative and/or Alternative Programs [Revised 4/2024]
C11-154	Textbook Selection and Use [Revised 4/2016; 10/2018; 4/2024; Renumbered and Revised 4/2025]
C11-156	Classification of Curriculum Materials [Revised 11/2015; 4/2024]

Instructional Resources, Library, and Technology [Revised 4/2024]

C12-104	Definition and Selection of Instructional Technology Resources [Revised 4/2024]
C12-108	Library/Media Center [Revised 4/2024]
C12-112	Library/Media Budget [Revised 4/2024]
C12-116	Library/Media Center Resource Materials [Revised 4/2024]
C12-120	Instructional Technology Coordinator [Renumbered and Revised 4/2024]
C12-124	Instructional Technology Budget [Renumbered and Revised 4/2024]
C12-128	Network [Renumbered and Revised 4/2024]
C12-132	Technology Plan [Renumbered and Revised 4/2024]
C12-136	Acceptable Use Policy [Renumbered and Revised 4/2024]
C12-140	Staff Development [Renumbered and Revised 4/2024]

Admission and Placement of Students [Renumbered and Revised 4/2025]

C13-104	Admission Policies and Requirements for Students [Revised 4/2024; Renumbered and Revised 4/2025]
C13-108	Admission of Non-Adventist Students [Renumbered 4/2025]
C13-112	Age of School Entrance [Renumbered 4/2025]
C13-116	Evidence of Completion of Elementary School Requirements [Renumbered 4/2025]
C13-120	Appropriate Academic Placement [Renumbered 4/2025]
C13-124	Acceleration of a Student [Revised 4/2020; 4/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]
C13-128	Approval Procedure for Acceleration of a Student [Renumbered 4/2025]
C13-132	Retention of Students [Renumbered 4/2025]

GRADES TK-12 (Cont'd):**Evaluating, Recording, and Reporting of Student Progress**

C14-104	Student Attendance Records [Revised 11/2013; 10/2018; Renumbered 4/2025]
C14-108	Evaluation and Reporting of Student Progress [Renumbered 4/2025]
C14-112	Frequency of Student Progress Reports [Renumbered and Revised 4/2025]
C14-116	Forms for Reporting Student Progress [Revised 4/2024; Renumbered and Revised 4/2025]
C14-120	Carnegie Unit of Credit [Revised 4/2020; Renumbered 4/2025]
C14-124	Grade Point Average System [Renumbered 4/2025]
C14-128	Grade Reporting [New Policy 4/2016; Revised 4/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]
C14-132	Parent-Teacher Conferences [Revised 4/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]
C14-136	Standardized Achievement Tests [Revised 11/2016; 4/2020; 4/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]
C14-140	Teacher Autonomy in Grading [New Policy 4/2025]

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:**Curriculum**

C15-104	Definition of Curriculum [Duplicated 4/2025]
C15-108	Subject Areas [Revised 4/2017; 10/2018; 4/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]
C15-112	Weekly Time Requirements [Revised 4/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]
C15-116	Algebra I and/or Languages Other Than English (LOTE) in Eighth Grade for Secondary Credit [Revised 4/2016; 4/2020; 12/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]
C15-118	Eighth Grade Completion Requirements [Revised 4/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]

JUNIOR ACADEMY:**Curriculum**

C18-104	Definition of Curriculum [Duplicated 4/2025]
C18-108	Authorization for Curriculum [Revised 4/2024]
C18-116	Basic Curriculum for Grades 9 and 10 [Revised 4/2016; 4/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]
C18-120	Subject Alternation Schedule Grades 9 and 10 [Revised 4/2016; 4/2024]

Curriculum

C21-104	Definition of Curriculum
C21-106	Class Time Requirements [Renumbered 4/2025]
C21-108	Subject Areas [Revised 11/2013; 12/2024]
C21-110	English Support for International Students [New Policy 11/2013; Revised 11/2022]
C21-112	Innovative and/or Alternative Programs
C21-116	High Risk Curricular Programs [Revised 11/2009; 4/2024]
C21-120	Secondary Curriculum Review Committee – Membership
C21-124	Secondary Curriculum Review Committee – Responsibilities [Revised 11/2011]
C21-128	Subject Alternation Schedule Grades 11 and 12 [Revised 4/2018]

GRADES 9-12:**Definition of Class Status**

C23-104	Freshman Class
C23-108	Sophomore Class [Revised 4/2020]
C23-112	Junior Class [Revised 4/2020]
C23-116	Senior Class [Revised 4/2020]
C23-120	Graduating Class [Revised 4/2024]

Graduation Requirements

C25-104	Graduation Requirements, Minimum [Revised 11/2013; 11/2014; 11/2015; 12/2021; 11/2022; 12/2024; 4/2025]
C25-106	Increased Expectations [New Policy 11/2014]
C25-108	Waiver Provision – Subject-area Graduation Requirement [Revised 4/2020; 11/2022]
C25-112	Criteria for Implementation of the Waiver Provision [Revised 5/2020; 11/2022]
C25-116	Residence Requirements
C25-124	Challenge of a course for Credit [Revised 11/2013]
C25-128	Citizenship and Attendance
C25-136	Guidelines for Remediation [Revised 11/2022]
C25-140	Graduation Requirements for Schools Establishing Performance-based Programs
C25-144	Certificate of Attendance/Differentiated Diploma [Revised 11/2013]

Special Curriculum Plans

C26-104	Off-Campus Courses [Revised 4/2016]
C26-108	Dual Credit [New Policy 11/2008; Revised 11/2013; 4/2016; 4/2017; 12/2017; 4/2025]
C26-112	Summer School Classes [Revised 11/2013; 4/2020]
C26-120	Credit by Proficiency Examination [Revised 11/2013]
C26-124	Credit by School Sponsored Independent Study [Revised 11/2013]
C26-128	Credit Transfer from Home Schools, Non-Accredited Schools, Non-Approved Correspondence/Online Schools [Revised 4/2016]

Academic Placement

C27-108	Opportunities to Earn College/University Credit
C27-116	Early Graduation [Revised 4/2024]
C27-120	California High School Proficiency Examination
C27-124	Advanced Placement, Honors, and/or Dual Credit Courses [Revised 11/2013; 11/2022]

Co-Curricular Activities

C28-104	Definition
C28-108	Student Officers
C28-112	School Publications
C28-116	Class Organizations
C28-120	Class Will and Prophecy
C28-124	Student Organizations, Clubs and Special Groups [Revised 10/2018; 4/2024]
C28-128	Student Association

GRADES TK-12 CURRICULUM | C10

C10-104 Definition of Curriculum [Revised 4/2024]

Curriculum taught in NAD Seventh-day Adventist schools is based on the Word of God, is rooted in the belief that God created us with minds that can grasp spiritual and intellectual truths, and places first leading the student to accept Christ as personal Lord and Savior. With some common learning as a core, it is a dynamic, evolving, emerging plan for the education of children and youth in terms of physical, mental, spiritual, and social needs, in a continuously changing local, national, and world community. The curriculum stresses educating students for life of worship, growth and service, places a high estimate on the worth of the individual student, and dictates that Seventh-day Adventist Christian values be developed in every subject at all grade levels.

The Seventh-day Adventist system of education defines curriculum as all learning experiences, both formal and informal, recognizing the value of integrating the home, school, and church. The Adventist curriculum is developed by integrating spiritual values with rigorous academic standards for all content areas.

The goals for curriculum in Seventh-day Adventist schools are included in the *Journey to Excellence* framework developed by the NAD.

1. Followers of Jesus and sharers of His love, grace, and the hope of His second coming.
2. Reflective thinkers and creative problem-solvers.
3. Effective communicators.
4. Caring and compassionate people.
5. Responsible and contributing citizens.
6. Healthy and resilient individuals.
7. Self-directed and lifelong learners.

Curriculum materials prepared under the sponsorship of and adopted by the NAD are basic to the structure for learning experiences.

C10-108 Spiritual Activities

Spiritual activities are an essential part of Seventh-day Adventist education. Spiritual activities include events such as:

- A. Weeks of Spiritual Emphasis.
- B. Spirit of Prophecy Emphasis.
- C. Student Bible Study and Prayer Groups.
- D. Chapels and Assemblies.
- E. Vespers.
- F. Student-led Church Services.
- G. Retreats.
- H. Mission Trips.
- I. Community Service Activities.

These activities should be organized to encourage maximum student participation. [See Section A11-120.] These activities should serve as additional opportunities for staff members to provide spiritual mentoring for students. Students should regularly be given the opportunity to make a decision for baptism and/or rededication to Jesus Christ.

GRADES TK-12 GENERAL PROVISIONS | C11

C11-104 Elementary Teaching Assignment and Load [Revised 10/2018; 11/2023; 12/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]

A. Kindergarten or Transitional Kindergarten (TK) Teacher Load

Two half-day daily sessions of kindergarten or TK is considered a full-time load for a kindergarten/TK teacher. When a school has only one half-day daily session, additional duties, equivalent to those of other faculty members shall be assigned by the administrator for a teacher to be classified full-time.

B. Elementary School Teacher Load

1. Maximum number of grades

Six grades are the recommended maximum load for the elementary school teacher. A multi-grade classroom may include more than six grades if approval is granted by the local conference office of education. The need for a teacher assistant shall be determined in consultation with the local conference office of education.

2. Maximum number of students per teacher (See B.2.d.)

a. Single Grade Classroom

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Maximum Number of Students</u>
TK (under age 4.9)	10
TK (4.9 or older)	20
K	20
1	22
2	25
3	30
4	30
5	32
6	32
7	34
8	34

b. Combination (two-grade) Classroom

<u>Grade Levels</u>	<u>Maximum Number of Students</u>
TK/K	20
1-2	20
3-4	28
5-6	32
7-8	34

C11-104 Elementary Teaching Assignment and Load (Cont'd)

c. Multi-grade Classroom (See B.2.e. Student Equivalent)

<u>Grade Levels</u>	<u>Number of Grades</u>	<u>Maximum Number of Students</u>
Lower grades	Three or more grades	20
Upper grades	Three or more grades	20
Any combination of grades	Three or more grades	20
Any combination of grades	Six grades	18

d. Notes

- (1) Up to a maximum of five students may be added to a classroom (single grade, combination or multi-grade) if teacher assistant time of one hour per day for each additional student is provided. In classrooms with TK students younger than 4.9, the adult to student ratio of 1:10 must be maintained.
- (2) A classroom with TK students younger than 4.9 may only be combined with K.
- (3) The number of students with special needs may warrant an adjustment in the class load.
- (4) Any variation to the above policies requires the approval of the local conference office of education.

e. Student Equivalent

When determining student load in a multi-grade classroom each transitional kindergarten, kindergarten or first grade student counts as 1 1/2 students.

Example: In a multi-grade room 5 kindergarteners, 5 first graders, and 5 second graders would be counted as 20 students ($5 \times 1.5 = 7.5$ kindergarteners, plus $5 \times 1.5 = 7.5$ first graders, plus 5 second graders for a total of 20 students).

C11-108 Secondary Teacher Load [Revised 11/2022; 11/2023; Renumbered 4/2025]

A full load generally consists of six or seven teaching periods and no more than five subject preparations. In a departmentalized program the major elementary subject areas and secondary subjects are to be considered equivalent when determining teacher load. Supervisory and co-curricular duties will be assigned by the school administrator as part of the teacher's professional responsibilities. Care should be exercised in the equal distribution of supervisory and co-curricular duties. [See Sections A14-128.B., A14-132.B., and A14-136.B. for the minimum number of full-time teachers or equivalent based on the organizational plan of the junior academy.]

C11-112 Student Organizations, Clubs and Special Groups [Revised 4/2024]

All student organizations and student-conducted cultural, social, and recreational activities shall be under direct supervision of the school staff. Student organizations, clubs and special groups at schools should exist to enhance the learning environment.

C11-112 Student Organizations, Clubs and Special Groups (Cont'd)

Academic clubs, sports clubs and other clubs that are related to extracurricular activities of the school may be organized as student and staff interests, needs, and abilities may warrant.

Social and political issue clubs must be avoided where the social or political issue is in conflict with the values and philosophy of the Seventh-day Adventist Church or where the social issue is in conflict with the values the school seeks to inculcate as a Seventh-day Adventist school.

To obtain authorization for any organization:

- A. School board, administration and staff approval must be acquired.
- B. Purposes, objectives, or goals must be clearly stated, and these purposes must be in harmony with the philosophy and objectives of the school.
- C. Officers must meet the standards required of student body officers or class officers.
- D. Must be assigned faculty sponsor.

C11-116 School-Sponsored Public Functions

Public functions such as student rallies, class night, graduation, and all other activities for which the school bears direct or indirect responsibility shall:

- A. Be conducted in accordance with recognized principles of correct decorum.
- B. Conform to the standards and principles of Seventh-day Adventist schools.
- C. Be free from objectionable features in subject and in presentation.

C11-120 Graduation Honors

The designations, valedictorian and salutatorian, of a graduating class are not to be given. Graduation honors are to be based on criteria developed by the faculty and approved by the school board.

C11-124 Annual School Calendar [Revised 4/2024]

- A. Union Model School Calendar

The union model school calendar is adopted annually by the union board of education and consists of the following:

- 1. Teacher-Student Contact Days

A total of 180 student-teacher contact days is the basic requirement. [See Section C11-128.A. for the definition of "student-teacher contact days".] Instructional activities and tours that may be counted as teacher-student contact days are listed in Section C11-128.B.

- 2. Related Activity Days

Related activity days as approved by the local conference office of education may be scheduled for the following: registration (one day); teachers' convention and/or in-service; parent-teacher conferences. (Parent-teacher conferences may be scheduled in connection with a minimum school day. See Section C11-128.A.)

C11-124 Annual School Calendar (Cont'd)

3. Guidelines for Exceptions

When a school or local conference desires to implement a new curricular program that requires more teacher in-service and follow-up than can be scheduled during pre- and post-sessions of the regular school year, application may be made to the local conference board of education for permission to modify the 180 teacher-student contact day requirement. The following criteria shall be used in determining eligibility for the modified yearly calendar.

- a. The request shall be for no more than a five day reduction in the number of teacher-student contact days. In no case shall the number of teacher-student contact days be less than 175.
- b. A reduction from the 180 teacher-student contact days shall be approved annually.
- c. A rationale for reducing the teacher-student contact days is to be submitted to the local conference board of education as a part of the application process.
- d. The days for the staff development activities shall be for a specifically stated, planned program.
- e. Specific dates for the staff development activities shall be requested.
- f. The planned staff development activities for each day shall be specified, including speakers or facilitators, if used.
- g. Approval for the calendar adjustment shall be approved by the local conference board of education with written notification submitted to the union office of education.

B. Local Conference Model School Calendar

Each local conference board of education is to adopt a school calendar based on the union model.

C. Local School Calendar

Each school is to follow the local conference adopted school calendar. Proposed modification in the calendar to meet the needs of a school must be approved by the local conference board and/or office of education.

C11-128 Teacher-Student Contact Day [Revised 4/2024]

A. Criteria for Student-Teacher Contact Days

An official teacher-student contact day is one that meets the following criteria:

1. Planned and organized learning experiences are implemented.
2. Direction and supervision is provided by a qualified teacher.
3. Specific educational objectives and/or goals are to be achieved.

C11-128 Teacher-Student Contact Day (Cont'd)

4. Student attendance is required.
5. The session is scheduled as a minimum school day subject to the following:
 - a. The session is to include four hours of instruction exclusive of the lunch period.
 - b. Approval is obtained from the local conference office of education.

B. Instructional Activities and Tours as Student-Teacher Contact Days

The following instructional activities and tours may be counted as teacher-student contact days if the criteria listed above are met.

1. Bible conferences.
2. Outdoor school.
3. Witnessing/Service activities.
4. Educational field trips.
5. Track and field activities.
6. School picnic.

C11-144 Procedure for Establishing Innovative Programs [Revised 4/2024]

A written request must be submitted by the school to the local superintendent of schools for authorization to pursue innovative programs involving such activities as are listed in Section C11-152. For permission to institute innovative programs as listed in Section C11-152, teachers must receive authorization from the school administrator. Progress reports are to be prepared and submitted to the local superintendent of schools for evaluation.

The written request must include definitive plans outlining basic factors such as:

- A. Rationale.
- B. Objectives.
- C. Time Factor (length of trial period).
- D. Description of Course or Activity.
- E. Plans for assessing the innovative program.

C11-152 Approval of Innovative and/or Alternative Programs [Revised 4/2020; 4/2024]

Proposed innovative and/or alternative activities and programs are to be approved prior to implementation. [See Section C11-144 for the procedure for establishing innovative or alternative programs.]

- A. The following are activities which require approval of the school administration:
 1. Adjustments in schedules in which the basic time requirements are not altered.

C11-152 Approval of Innovative and/or Alternative Programs (Cont'd)

2. Adoption and use of supplementary materials.
 3. School in-service sessions for staff members.
- B. The following are types of activities or proposals which require local conference and/or union approval:
1. Major tours and extended field trips.
 2. Outdoor classes or nature classes in which school is conducted at a location other than the school campus.
 3. Schedules that alter the basic time requirements.
 4. Adoption of a curriculum plan involving the entire school or a significant segment of the school program.
 5. Adoption of hybrid curriculum delivery.
- C. The following plan should be used for distance learning and/or traditional courses which alter the basic 200/240 minute minimum time requirement.
1. Full Carnegie Units of credit may be granted for competency-based courses with acceptable standards of achievement as approved by the local conference office of education in consultation with the union office of education, when these courses may not meet minimum time requirements.
 2. Competency-based course descriptions should include at least the following:
 - a. Goals for teacher(s) and students.
 - b. Basic elements of the course content.
 - c. Means of curriculum delivery.
 - d. Assessment procedures.

Annual evaluation reports are to be submitted to, and approval obtained from the local superintendent of schools for innovative and/or alternative programs to be authorized as an on-going program.

C11-154 Textbook Selection and Use [Revised 4/2016; 10/2018; 4/2024; Renumbered and Revised 4/2025]

The textbooks officially adopted by the NAD Curriculum Committee are to be used in all schools in the union unless specific arrangements have been granted by the local conference office of education to use an alternative. If such an alternative is desired, arrangements are to be made as follows:

- A. The teacher(s) should submit the request for use of a proposed alternative with accompanying written evaluation and reasons for the alternate textbook to the school principal.
- B. The principal shall submit a recommendation along with the written evaluation and the reasons for the use of an alternate textbook to the local conference office of education.

C11-154 Textbook Selection and Use (Cont'd)

- C. Written authorization to use the alternate choice will be received from the local conference office of education.

The *NAD Elementary Textbook List* provides an outline of the alternation of subjects schedule.

C11-156 Classification of Curriculum Materials [Revised 11/2015; 4/2024]

Curriculum materials adopted by the NAD curriculum advisory are placed in classification levels. The general guidelines and a description of the classification levels for these materials are listed below.

A. General Guidelines

Materials classified in Level No. 1 are to be adopted by each local conference as basic and required for use in the schools in the union.

Adoptions or revisions of any curriculum materials are to be made only with the permission of the author(s), union(s), or local conference(s) responsible for the development of the materials.

B. Classification Levels [Revised 11/2015]

1. Level #1 – REQUIRED

Materials placed in level #1 are required and are to be used in the schools in the union.

Textbooks and other instructional materials produced and/or published by the NAD office of education are placed in this classification.

2. Level #2 – RECOMMENDED

Materials placed in level #2 are recommended for basic, supplementary, or for enrichment.

3. Level #3 – ACCEPTABLE

Materials placed in level #3 have been reviewed and are considered acceptable for use in schools in the union.

4. Level #4 – EXPERIMENTAL

Materials placed in level #4 are those which require field testing and/or use in pilot or experimental programs. These materials may be returned to the union for reclassification when testing is complete.

5. Level #5 – REFERRED

Materials placed in level #5 require revision or additional editing prior to reclassification and use in schools in the union.

6. Level #6 – NOT APPROVED

Materials placed in level #6 are not approved for use in schools in the union.

GRADES TK-12 INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES, LIBRARY, AND TECHNOLOGY | C12

C12-104 Definition and Selection of Instructional Technology Resources [Revised 4/2024]

Instructional technology is the use of digital resources to support and enhance student learning opportunities. Technology resources are tools that should be integrated into the instructional program to innovatively maximize student learning appropriate to the age/grade level of the student. Instructional technology is not a subject to be taught. Rather, it is developing competency and skills to integrate technology into teaching and learning. The instructional technologies are varied and abundant and are constantly changing and evolving based on the latest technological discoveries. Each school should only implement instructional technologies that are aligned with the principles and values of Adventist Education.

To achieve the purpose of Adventist education and support quality student learning, educators will use a variety of instructional resources that align with Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and values. From denominational standards, approved textbooks and supplementary curriculum materials to media and technology in the school, it is the responsibility of every Adventist educator and each curriculum committee to evaluate and select rigorous faith-aligned resources for implementation.

C12-108 Library/Media Center [Revised 4/2024]

Each school should provide a collection of appropriate instructional resources selected and organized to see student learning needs. The materials should be available in an accessible library/media center either in a central location or in individual classrooms and organized utilizing a standardized classification system and technology-based library management program.

C12-112 Library/Media Budget [Revised 4/2024]

Each school should annually provide an appropriate budgetary allocation for the acquisition of library books and media. Media should not be confused with instructional software. The amount budgeted per student will be left at the discretion and needs of the school.

C12-116 Library/Media Center Resource Materials [Revised 4/2024]

The resources in the library/media center holdings include print, non-print, and electronic/digital materials. These should cover a range of topics, support the curriculum of the grade/age and reading abilities of students enrolled in the school. Library/media center materials should meet the academic, cultural, and spiritual interests and needs of the students.

C12-120 Instructional Technology Coordinator [Renumbered and Revised 4/2024]

The instructional technology coordinator is primarily concerned with the development, implementation, operation, monitoring and evaluation of the technology program for the school. Schools are to provide instructional technology services appropriate to the needs of the students. The responsibilities of this position may include:

C12-120 Instructional Technology Coordinator (Cont'd)

- A. Provide leadership and implementation in a school technology plan.
- B. Provide leadership in instructional technology purchasing.
- C. Assist in coordination of staff development.
- D. Promote and implement special activities to promote technology.
- E. Share information on trends, research and effective practices in instructional integration.
- F. Be knowledgeable about infrastructure requirements and components of networking, the Internet, intranets and distributed learning.
- G. Be knowledgeable about software and hardware configurations for technology devices.
- H. Supervise the inventory of technology assets.

C12-124 Instructional Technology Budget [Renumbered and Revised 4/2024]

Schools should annually budget appropriate funds that provide for maintaining licenses, subscriptions, instructional software, and internet connectivity as well as regular updates of device software and hardware according to the needs of the school. The annual budgetary allocation amount will be left to the discretion and needs of each school.

C12-128 Network [Renumbered and Revised 4/2024]

- A. The school should contract with an Internet service provider for Internet service and select the fastest affordable connection with appropriate screening technology.
- B. A local area network with a server can expand resources, centralize information, streamline routine tasks and reduce costs.

C12-132 Technology Plan [Renumbered and Revised 4/2024]

The instructional technology coordinator, the principal and additional knowledgeable individuals should revise the school technology plan annually. The plan should focus on applications for student learning as well as equipment.

C12-136 Acceptable Use Policy [Renumbered and Revised 4/2024]

All students and parents must annually sign the acceptable use policy.

C12-140 Staff Development [Renumbered and Revised 4/2024]

The school should provide opportunities, funding, and time for teachers to participate in continuing education in the field of instructional technology, preferably annually.

GRADES TK-12 ADMISSION AND PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS | C13

- C13-104 Admission Policies and Requirements for Students [Revised 4/2024; Renumbered and Revised 4/2025]
- A. Students who qualify shall be admitted without regard to race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, or gender. [See Section A23-108 for the nondiscrimination policy for the admission of students.]
 - B. All students should be interviewed by school administration to determine whether the school can provide the most appropriate academic placement. The school administrator, in consultation with the local conference office of education and appropriate faculty members must determine if the school has the resources to serve a student with exceptional mental, physical, or social needs. When exceptional students are accepted, there must be a waiver/contract signed by the school and the parents/guardian which outlines the academic expectations for the student. Ongoing assessment will determine whether the academic placement continues to be appropriate and if the school can continue to serve the needs of the student.
 - C. Application forms available from the registrar's office are to be completed by all students applying for admission. These are to be reviewed by the admissions committee.
 - D. A cumulative record from the previous school attended should be requested as part of the admission documents.
 - E. An individual who is applying for admission, but who has an unpaid account at the school attended previously must make satisfactory arrangements for payment before the student may be enrolled.
 - F. The school administration is to keep informed as to the state laws relating to compulsory school attendance and reporting requirements related to denial of admission, withdrawal or severance from school.
 - G. Criteria for Acceptance of Transfer Students

Prior to accepting a transfer student from another school, home school or an informal type of educational setting the following is to be evaluated:
 - 1. Prior school performance as evidenced by cumulative records, report cards, and/or conversations with personnel of the previous school attended.
 - 2. Age and physical development.
 - 3. Social development.
 - 4. Student's and parents' attitude toward the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its educational system.
 - 5. Willingness to cooperate with the school.
 - 6. Performance on a standardized achievement and/or readiness test(s).
A conference involving a parent and the child may be held to determine the extent to which the applicant meets the above criteria.

C13-108 Admission of Non-Adventist Students [Renumbered 4/2025]

Seventh-day Adventist education has a two-fold mission. The school's primary role is to educate and to spiritually strengthen Seventh-day Adventist youth. The school is to serve as a mission outreach to the community. Enrollment in Adventist schools is open to all applicants willing to accept and follow the established policies and practices of the school.

See the following section for the stipulations on admission of non-Adventist students.

Section A11-120.E. "The Seventh-day Adventist School as an Integral Part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church".

C13-112 Age of School Entrance [Renumbered 4/2025]

Students are recommended for admission to kindergarten when reaching the age of five years on or before September 1 of the current year. The entrance age requirement for transitional kindergarten is defined by the state law.

C13-116 Evidence of Completion of Elementary School Requirements [Renumbered 4/2025]

The student entering the Seventh-day Adventist secondary school must give evidence of having completed elementary school through the eighth grade. This evidence may be in the form of an official transcript, diploma, or progress report.

C13-120 Appropriate Academic Placement [Renumbered 4/2025]

Appropriate academic placement of a student is a fundamental principle of education. The following factors are to be considered in the grade placement of a student who has not been enrolled in a regular school program through grade eight but applies for admission as a secondary ninth grade student.

- A. Chronological age.
- B. Emotional, physical, and social readiness.
- C. Scholastic achievement as determined by:
 - 1. Standardized achievement test scores.
 - 2. Teacher evaluation of academic readiness which should include an interview to assess the student's ability to reason and express ideas logically.
 - 3. Documentation of academic progress.

C13-124 Acceleration of a Student [Revised 4/2020; 4/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]

Criteria for acceleration of a student are to be based on the following minimal requirements:

- A. On the most recent standardized achievement test a student is expected to score at the 90th percentile or above on all subtests.
- B. Seek parental/guardian involvement and approval as early in the school year as is possible.

C13-124 Acceleration of a Student (Cont'd)

- C. The student must demonstrate satisfactory evidence of academic, emotional, and social readiness for acceleration to the school staff and to the parents.
- D. Prior written requests for acceleration of the student in elementary education (i.e. two years in one, or three years in two) must be submitted to the local conference office of education. Written approval from the local conference office of education must be on file at the school.
- E. The student must maintain an average or above average level of achievement on the accelerated program.

C13-128 Approval Procedure for Acceleration of a Student [Renumbered 4/2025]

Procedures for the acceleration of a student are as follows:

- A. To initiate this program the faculty and principal must submit a form/letter of request to the local conference office of education. This request must include the written consent of the parent/s.
- B. An implementation plan showing how the student will demonstrate mastery of the subject areas in the grade levels being accelerated shall accompany the application.
- C. The request must be approved by the local conference office of education and made a matter of record before a student is permitted to accelerate.

C13-132 Retention of Students [Renumbered 4/2025]

Grade level retention is intended to provide an opportunity for a student to master basic skills required for academic success before proceeding to the next grade level, or to provide an extension of time for a student to complete the work of a single grade in two years. The decision to retain a student should be given careful consideration, evaluating a variety of factors. If circumstances should warrant retention, the following process should be followed:

- A. Provide the identified factors in written form to the parent/guardian that indicate the need for retention.
- B. Seek parental/guardian involvement and approval early in the school year.
- C. Implement the procedure for grade level retention using the approved local conference office of education form.
- D. Obtain approval for the retention from the local conference office of education.

Contact the local conference office of education for additional student retention guidelines.

GRADES TK-12

EVALUATING, RECORDING, AND REPORTING OF STUDENT PROGRESS | C14

C14-104 Student Attendance Records [Revised 11/2013; 10/2018; Renumbered 4/2025]

An attendance record for each student must be kept by the school using a method which has been approved by the local conference office of education.

The individual student attendance record must indicate absences from school for each day that school is in session.

The attendance record is to be maintained as a part of the student permanent record. [See Section A26-108.]

C14-108 Evaluation and Reporting of Student Progress [Renumbered 4/2025]

Evaluation in education is concerned primarily with student growth. Measurement of student growth may be concerned with three areas: the cognitive or intellectual; the affective, or the area of the values and attitudes; and the psychomotor, the area of physical development and coordination.

C14-112 Frequency of Student Progress Reports [Renumbered and Revised 4/2025]

The student progress reports are to be distributed at the close of each nine-week period. For secondary students, the semester grades are to be recorded as permanent.

C14-116 Forms for Reporting Student Progress [Revised 4/2024; Renumbered and Revised 4/2025]

The following factors shall be included in the development of forms for reporting student progress:

- A. The name of the student, age, year in school, date of the report, name of school, local conference, and teacher.
- B. An attendance record including both absences and tardinesses.
- C. An evaluation of growth in all subject areas as currently prescribed by NAD curriculum.
- D. Information regarding social development/work ethic.
- E. Appropriate explanations for all symbols.

Elementary schools are to use a student progress report form approved by the local conference office of education. Information is to be provided regarding the student's subject-area progress, attendance, and social development/work ethic.

C14-120 Carnegie Unit of Credit [Revised 4/2020; Renumbered 4/2025]

The Carnegie Unit should be used for reporting course credit in grades 9 to 12.

One-half of a Carnegie Unit of credit is defined as a minimum average of 200 minutes of class per week for one semester for non-laboratory courses and a minimum average of 240 minutes of class/laboratory per week for one semester for laboratory courses.

Carnegie Units are granted for music organizations on the same basis as that used for granting credit in other subject areas. One-half Carnegie Units is granted for a minimum of 30 half-hour music lessons per year or one half-hour lesson per week for one school year. The credit may be prorated according to the number of lessons if there are more or less than the 30-35 lessons per year.

C14-124 Grade Point Average System [Renumbered 4/2025]

The four-point system is to be used to determine grade-point average. The use of plus and minus with a letter grade is optional but if used the following numerical values are to be assigned: A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, B = 3.0, B- = 2.7, C+ = 2.3, C = 2.0, C- = 1.7, D+ = 1.3, D = 1.0, D- = 0.7, F = 0.0. [See Section C27-124 for "Advanced Placement, Honors, and/or Dual Credit Courses-Secondary School".]

C14-128 Grade Reporting [New Policy 4/2016; Revised 4/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]

When reporting the progress of students, the following definitions must be considered:

- A. Accommodations are any variation in the educational environment or process that does not fundamentally alter the content of the course based on voted content standards.

Examples of accommodations include using alternative forms of textbooks (Braille, audio, etc.), allowing a student a different seat in the classroom, oral examinations, extra time for examinations, etc.

Students for whom accommodations are made will receive grades and credit in the same manner as students without accommodations.

- B. Modifications are any variation in the educational environment or process that fundamentally alters the content of the course based on voted content standards.

Examples of modifications include changing the learning expectations, reducing the number standards to be mastered, use of aides that interfere with the independent work of the student, etc.

Students for whom modifications are made may receive reports which indicate progress of the student toward the goals outlined in the IEP/ISP (if one exists). However, permanent school records may not indicate that a student received special education, has a disability, or received related services. Schools may, however, indicate that the student was enrolled in a different course.

For example, at a secondary school, the US History course may be listed on the transcript as a college-prep US History course for students with no modifications. For a student with modifications, the course may be listed as an Intro to US History. Difference in grading systems (letter grade vs. pass/fail) may not be based on a student's need for special services.

C14-132 Parent-Teacher Conferences [Revised 4/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]

The school is to schedule a minimum of two parent-teacher conferences in grades TK-8 each school year. Among the purposes of the parent-teacher conferences are the following:

- A. To report the progress of the students in the various aspects of school experience.
- B. To gain insights from the parents which may assist the school in furthering the progress of the student.

C14-136 Standardized Achievement Tests [Revised 11/2016; 4/2020; 4/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]

Each school is to use the union adopted standardized achievement tests with the voted frequency.

C14-140 Teacher Autonomy in Grading [New Policy 4/2025]

Teachers shall retain full ownership and responsibility for the academic grades they assign to students. Any grading decision must be based solely on the academic performance of the student, in accordance with established grading criteria and standards.

School administrators shall support teachers in maintaining the integrity of their grading decisions. In cases of dispute, administrators are required to protect the teacher's right to assign grades and to ensure that no undue influence is applied.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM | C15

C15-104 Definition of Curriculum [Duplicated 4/2025]

The curriculum encompasses the planned learning activities sponsored by the school.

A comprehensive curriculum for the Seventh-day Adventist Church educational system is defined as all the learning opportunities, both formal and informal, planned and guided cooperatively by the home, school, and church. [See Section C10-104 for the comprehensive definition of curriculum.]

C15-108 Subject Areas [Revised 4/2017; 10/2018; 4/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]

The teacher in a Seventh-day Adventist school will be expected to incorporate the Adventist world view in all areas of curriculum and provide for a proper balance of physical, mental, spiritual, social development, including the practical elements.

The adopted course of study for grades TK-8 shall include learning opportunities in the following areas:

- A. Bible: The focus of Bible curriculum and instruction is to lead students to encounter God and accept the saving relationship provided through Jesus Christ. Instruction will provide opportunity for students to acquire Biblical literacy, including knowledge of Bible stories, events, and memorable Bible verses. Instruction shall be from denominationally adopted curriculum sources.
- B. Fine Arts: The purpose of Fine Arts is the development of aesthetic appreciation and skills of creative expression through the domains of media arts, visual arts, music and drama, within the context of Adventist principles.
- C. Mathematics: Mathematics curriculum is focused on content in the domains of numbers and operations, algebraic thinking, measurements, geometry, data analysis, and statistics and probability. Instruction will equip students with essential concepts and skills for analytical thinking and problem-solving.
- D. Physical Education: The purpose of physical education curriculum is to develop students in the areas of motor skills, performance application, physical fitness, responsible behavior, and health values.
- E. Language Arts: Curriculum includes foundations of reading, reading literature and informational text, writing, listening and speaking, and language. Instruction includes opportunities to evaluate various media and to study literature in its various forms within the context of the Adventist philosophy and worldview should lead students to develop discrimination in literature selection, preference for the beautiful and true, and accepting personal responsibility for the individual choices.
- F. Science: Science curriculum is based on the concepts of God as Creator and Sustainer of life and focuses on life science, health science, earth and space science, physical science, and engineering, technology and application of sciences. Instruction incorporates strategies such as inquiry, research,

C15-108 Subject Areas (Cont'd)

investigations, hands-on activities, etc. and shall utilize denominationally adopted curriculum sources.

- G. Social Studies: Curriculum focuses on developing an understanding of the world from multiple perspectives, local to global, through an Adventist world view. Content is organized by concept and covers culture; time, continuity and change; people, places and environments; individual development and identity; individuals, groups, and institutions; power, authority, and governance; production, distribution, and consumption; science technology and society; global connections; and civic ideals and practices. Instruction will lead students to understand the forces of good and evil in the story of nations, learn of one's Christian heritage, understand and appreciate the diversity of populations, learn and promote Christian principles while developing social, ethical, and cultural values aligned with Adventist beliefs.

Note: Technology experiences are integrated across subject areas that provide opportunity for students to develop age-appropriate competency in the use of digital devices, software applications that support learning, and the responsibilities of ethical digital citizenship.

C15-112 Weekly Time Requirements [Revised 4/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]

The elementary school instructional schedule is to meet the following minimum time requirements:

Grades TK/K:	20 hours per five-day week including lunch, recesses and passing time.*
Grades 1 and 2:	24 hours per five-day week excluding lunch, including recesses and passing time*
Grades 3 through 8:	25 hours per five-day week excluding lunch, recesses and passing time*

*Passing time is defined as the minutes expended when students change learning locations.

C15-116 Algebra I and/or Languages Other Than English (LOTE) in Eighth Grade for Secondary Credit [Revised 4/2016; 4/2020; 12/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]

An elementary school may offer Algebra I and/or LOTE for secondary credit when all the following conditions have been met.

- A. The student must exhibit satisfactory evidence of academic, emotional, and social readiness for admission into secondary courses;
- B. It is taught as a separate class by a certificated teacher with the appropriate endorsement;
- C. The course content is aligned with the NAD Standards;
- D. Class time requirement as specified in the Sections C14-104 and C21-106 is met;
- E. The elementary school seeks prior authorization from the local conference office of education using the Annual Curriculum Audit and Accreditation Progress Report.

C15-118 Eighth Grade Completion Requirements [Revised 4/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]

The required subject areas for the completion of the eighth grade are:

- A. Bible.
- B. Fine Arts.
- C. Mathematics.
- D. Physical Education.
- E. Language Arts (Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language).
- F. Science.
- G. Social Studies.

JUNIOR ACADEMY CURRICULUM | C18

C18-104 Definition of Curriculum [Duplicated 4/2025]

The curriculum encompasses the planned learning activities sponsored by the school.

A comprehensive curriculum for the Seventh-day Adventist Church educational system is defined as all the learning opportunities, both formal and informal, planned and guided cooperatively by the home, school, and church. [See Section C10-104 for the comprehensive definition of curriculum.]

C18-108 Authorization for Curriculum [Revised 4/2024]

Authorization to offer secondary subjects in grades 9 and 10 [See Section A14-122].

C18-116 Basic Curriculum for Grades 9 and 10 [Revised 4/2016; 4/2024; Renumbered 4/2025]

The basic curriculum for grades 9 and 10 includes the following:

A. Grade 9

Religion I
English I
Social Studies
Mathematics
Physical Education
Elective-Practical and/or Fine Arts

B. Grade 10

Religion II
English II
Science
Mathematics
Health
Physical Education
Elective-Practical and/or Fine Arts
First Aid and Safety (optional)
Driver Education (optional)
Career Education (optional)

C. Elective courses are offered to enrich the educational experience of students within the following considerations: Interests and needs of the students, qualified instructors, appropriate facilities, and schedule availability.

D. Secondary courses provided at a junior academy must align with the descriptions of courses required for graduation found in Section C25.

C18-120 Subject Alternation Schedule Grades 9 and 10 [Revised 4/2016; 4/2024]

Certain subjects in grades 9 and 10 may be taught on a yearly alternation basis. These include mathematics, religion, social studies, science, practical arts, first aid and safety. The pattern of alternation is indicated by the term “odd year” which designates a year ending in an odd number and “even year” which designates a school year ending in an even number. Larger Schools may not need to alternate classes. Schools using the subject alternation plan should place a statement in the bulletin indicating that. However, if classes are alternated the subject alternation schedule must be followed.

A. Odd year (the school year ending with an odd number)

Religion I	
English I	
Social Studies	
Mathematics	
Grade 9:	General Math
	Algebra I
Grade 10:	Algebra II
	Geometry
Combined 9 th & 10 th :	Algebra I
Physical Education	
Elective(s):	Applied Arts, Fine Arts, Computer Science, Career Education

B. Even year (the school year ending with an even number)

Religion II	
English II	
Science	
Mathematics	
Grade 9:	Algebra I or General Math
Grade 10:	Algebra II or Geometry
Combined 9 th & 10 th :	Geometry
Physical Education	
Health	
Elective(s):	Applied Arts, Business Education, Fine Arts, First Aid and Safety, Driver Education, Career Education

C. Elective courses are to be determined after consideration of faculty qualifications and load, availability of equipment and facilities, and student and community interests and needs and appropriateness of the course(s) for the grade level.

[See Section A14-136 for the course offerings based on the subject alternation program grades 9 and 10.]

GRADES 9-12 CURRICULUM | C21

C21-104 Definition of Curriculum

The curriculum encompasses the planned learning activities sponsored by the school.

A comprehensive curriculum for the Seventh-day Adventist Church educational system is defined as all the learning opportunities, both formal and informal, planned and guided cooperatively by the home, school, and church. [See Section C10-104 for the comprehensive definition of curriculum.]

C21-106 Class Time Requirements [Renumbered 4/2025]

Non-laboratory classes shall be scheduled for a minimum of 200 minutes per week. Laboratory courses shall be scheduled for a minimum of 240 minutes per week.

Schools which inaugurate innovative programs which may not meet the minimum time requirements are to follow the procedures and guidelines for implementation of innovative programs as given in Sections C11-144 and C11-152.

C21-108 Subject Areas [Revised 11/2013; 12/2024]

The adopted course of study for grades 9 through 12 shall include instruction in the following areas:

- A. Bible/Religion: Instruction which provides opportunities for the student to know God, His Church, His Word, and His World. This instruction will provide opportunities for the student to develop a relationship with God as a person utterly worthy of love, trust, and admiration; an understanding of salvation by grace and the meaning of the Good News of the Gospel; and the ability to articulate the fundamental beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Such instruction provides a climate conducive to individual commitment to the goal of becoming a loving person.
- B. Communication/Language Arts: Instruction in reading; the skills of listening, speaking, spelling, handwriting, reference and study; study of the English language; composition; critical evaluation of media forms; study of and appreciation for literature which provides opportunity to develop discrimination in selection, preference for the beautiful and the true, and acceptance of responsibility for individual choices within the context of the Adventist philosophy of literature selection.
- C. Computers: Instruction designed to assist students in functioning effectively as members of a changing society. Since computers impact most other educational disciplines, competency in the use of computers is essential for all students.
- D. Fine Arts: A program of art and music which includes opportunities for the development of aesthetic appreciation, skills of creative expression, and use of creative imagination within the context of Biblical principles.

C21-108 Subject Areas (Cont'd)

- E. Health: Instruction designed to assist the student to gain a knowledge of the development, function and interrelationship of the body systems; develop skills essential to achieving and maintaining optimum physical and mental health, effective family participation, and positive community witness service; accept Biblical and scientific principles of health as basic to a vibrant, productive Christian life free of debilitating physical or mental illness or disease; implement positive productive health principles and ideals through divine guidance and personal commitment; and understand that the quality of our relationship to God and man is affected by personal health.
- F. Languages Other Than English (LOTE): Instruction designed to develop facility for understanding, speaking, reading, and writing the particular language. The study shall also be concerned with the social and cultural backgrounds of the people.
- G. Mathematics: Instruction designed to develop mathematical understanding, operational proficiency, insight into problem-solving procedures, and development of basic skills relevant to the world of work.
- H. Physical Education: Instruction and activities which promote the development of mental and physical health and fitness, motor skills, desirable attitudes and habits, an awareness of and interest in the need for life-long involvement in physical activity, and skill in a variety of activities which will encourage participation in the activities throughout life.
- I. Science: Instruction in biological and physical/earth sciences with emphasis on attitudes, basic concepts, theories, the processes of scientific investigation, with appropriate applications of the interrelationship and interdependence of the sciences. Basic to this approach is a growing understanding of the relationship of scientific methods and theories to Biblical concepts and principles which seeks to guide students to a knowledge of and respect for God as Designer, Creator, and Sustainer of orderly universe.
- J. Social Studies: Instruction in World History, United States History, and local, state, and national government with consideration of the mission of the church, the fulfillment of Bible prophecy, contemporary societal issues, contributions of ethnic groups, and the American legal system. The emphasis is on guiding students to develop a growing awareness of God's hand in the affairs of men; to evaluate and preserve national justice; to understand the forces of good and evil as related to men and nations; and to develop a lifestyle of social, ethnic, and cultural values consistent with Seventh-day Adventist beliefs.

Some schools may also choose to include the following courses of study for grades 9-12:

- A. Business Education: Instruction which provides opportunity for the development of skills with which to earn a living and knowledge of business practices that is vital for functioning effectively as an intelligent member of society. The concept of service as a life goal is emphasized as well as utilization of Biblical principles and decision-making skills in business practices. Self-realization, human relationships, economic efficiency and stewardship are emphasized.
- B. Driver Education: Instruction designed to develop a knowledge of the provisions of the state vehicle code and other laws relating to the operation of motor vehicles, acceptance of personal responsibility in traffic, appreciation of the causes, seriousness, and consequences of traffic accidents, and to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for the safe operation of motor vehicles.
- C. Keyboarding: Instruction to assist students in adapting to an information-oriented era.

C21-108 Subject Areas (Cont'd)

- D. Practical Arts/Technology Education: A comprehensive, action-based, hands-on program concerned with communication, manufacturing, construction, transportation, and bio-technical systems and possible uses to adapt the environment for social purposes. Emphasis is given to technological literacy by encouraging students to discover, create, problem solve, and construct using a variety of resources. Instruction in home arts, life skills, and a variety of industrial arts may be included.
- E. Work Experience: Instruction which emphasizes the development of the whole person as the student relates to the world of work. Work experience education represents a cooperative effort of the school and the community to provide opportunities for students to discover career interests and aptitudes by doing meaningful and productive work.
- F. Other Studies: Instruction may be offered in such other studies as authorized by the governing board in counsel with the local conference board of education.

C21-110 English Support for International Students [New Policy 11/2013; Revised 11/2022]

When accepting international students, schools must ensure that the curriculum provides appropriate English language support for these students. The expectations of the regular curriculum must not be reduced in order to accommodate the language limitations of international students.

- A. Schools accepting international students must have an assessment process for identifying appropriate placement standards.
- B. Schools wishing to use an assessment other than ITEP or TOEFL should obtain local conference office of education approval.
- C. Schools should have a policy defining the scores necessary for students to experience immersion programs and/or scores requiring additional English language support.
- D. Schools with five (5) or more secondary students needing additional language support will be expected to have an identified English as a Second Language (ESL) program on campus. Such a program will include these minimum standards:
 - 1. A teacher with an ESL endorsement or Advanced TESOL certificate.
 - 2. Two years of ESL courses (as approved by the local schools' academic standards committee) such as:
 - a. English (not more than two years of ESL English shall be counted towards graduation; at schools in California ESL English must be approved by the University of California).
 - b. Introduction to Christianity (one or two years may be counted towards graduation).
 - c. Introduction to American Culture.
 - d. ESL Orientation.
 - 3. ESL courses should be included for approval with the local conference office of education annual curriculum and accreditation review committee.
 - 4. Graduation requirements as outlined in the *Education Code*. [See Section C25-104.]

C21-112 Innovative and/or Alternative Programs

[See Sections C11-144 and C11-152 for procedures for establishing and approval of innovative and/or alternative programs.]

C21-116 High Risk Curricular Programs [Revised 11/2009; 4/2024]

Schools considering high risk curricular programs, e.g. flight training must receive approval from the local conference office of education after consultation with Adventist Risk Management and the student accident insurance carrier.

C21-120 Secondary Curriculum Review Committee – Membership

A Secondary Curriculum Review Committee shall be established in each local conference for junior and senior academies and shall be responsible to the local conference board of education.

The committee membership shall include but not be limited to the following:

- A. Chair – Superintendent or associate superintendent of schools.
- B. Superintendent and other associate superintendents.
- C. Secondary school principals.
- D. Junior academy principals.
- E. Vice President for Education or associate director for secondary education, union office of education.

C21-124 Secondary Curriculum Review Committee – Responsibilities [Revised 11/2011]

The Secondary Curriculum Review Committee is responsible for reviewing the Annual Curriculum and Accreditation Review Report from each junior academy and senior academy to:

- A. Maintain quality control for subjects taught in the secondary schools, and to determine whether all subjects are taught by qualified, certificated teachers.
- B. Verify that authorization was granted for each course offered during the current school year including teacher load and assignments.
- C. Review and approve the course requests for the following school year, including honors and advancement, teacher loads, endorsements and any stipulations that are to be met.
- D. Correlate scheduled minutes of instruction with units of credit being offered and verify accuracy.
- E. Provide for consistency in course sequencing for effective articulation among the secondary schools.
- F. Provide for consistency in course nomenclature for transcript recording.
- G. Determine whether the weekly class schedules meet the *Education Code* guidelines.
- H. Assist in providing legitimacy for courses that are offered.

C21-124 Secondary Curriculum Review Committee – Responsibilities (Cont'd)

- I. Assist principals in curriculum planning and scheduling.
- J. When circumstances develop which necessitate additional courses, such courses should be authorized by the academic policies committee for the following year only, with notification of changes sent to the local conference office of education.

Local conference approval for all secondary subjects offered is a requirement for secondary credit for students enrolled in the courses.

C21-128 Subject Alternation Schedule Grades 11 and 12 [Revised 4/2018]

Certain subjects in grades 11 and 12 may be taught on a yearly alternation basis. The pattern of alternation is indicated by the term “odd year” which designates a year ending in an odd number and “even year” which designates a school year ending in an even number. Larger schools may not need to alternate classes. Schools using the subject alternation plan should place a statement in the bulletin indicating that. However, if classes are alternated the subject alternation schedule must be followed.

- A. Odd year (the school year ending with an odd number)
 - Religion III
 - Chemistry
 - English III
 - Physical Education
 - U. S. History
 - Electives
- B. Even year (the school year ending with an even number)
 - Religion IV
 - English IV
 - Physical Education
 - Physics
 - U. S. Government
 - Electives
- C. Elective courses are to be determined after consideration of faculty qualifications and load, availability of equipment and facilities, and student and community interests and needs and appropriateness of the course(s) for the grade level. Sufficient electives should be provided to ensure that students have adequate breadth of course work for preparation for higher education.
- D. If schools use the alternation plan, notification should place in the school bulletin indicating that scheduling and/or course sequencing difficulties may arise for transferring students.

GRADES 9-12 DEFINITION OF CLASS STATUS | C23

C23-104 Freshman Class

All first-year secondary school students are classified as freshman and are eligible to participate as a voting member of the class.

C23-108 Sophomore Class [Revised 4/2020]

All second-year secondary school students who have completed 5 Carnegie Units of credit are classified as sophomores and are eligible to attend the sophomore class meetings participate as a voting member.

C23-112 Junior Class [Revised 4/2020]

All third-year secondary school students with a minimum of 10 Carnegie Units of credit, currently enrolled in enough credits to have 15 Carnegie Units at the end of the junior year are classified as juniors and are eligible to attend the junior class meetings as a voting member. An approved accelerated student will not have junior standing regardless of the number of credits.

C23-116 Senior Class [Revised 4/2020]

All fourth-year secondary school students are classified as seniors who will have completed all requirements for graduation as set forth under graduation requirements. The student shall have completed a minimum of 15 Carnegie Units of credit at the start of the senior year.

C23-120 Graduating Class [Revised 4/2024]

The graduating class is composed of seniors who prior to graduation will have:

- A. Met the school's graduation requirements.
- B. Placed all credits from other schools on file in the registrar's office.
- C. Removed all incompletes.
- D. Completed all correspondence work and submitted final grades to the school registrar.

GRADES 9-12 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS | C25

C25-104 Graduation Requirements, Minimum [Revised 11/2013; 11/2014; 4/2020; 5/2020; 12/2021; 11/2022; 4/2024; 12/2024; 4/2025]

Two graduation diploma tracks are available to students in the union. Course expectations, minimum proficiency and total Carnegie Units of credit required for each diploma are shown below. If the conventional curriculum is used, the maximum credit given for any class is 1 Carnegie Unit (10 semester periods). [See Section C14-120.]

Subject Area	General Diploma	College Prep/Advanced Diploma	Clarification
A. Basic			
Bible/Religion	<i>4 Carnegie Units</i>	<i>4 Carnegie Units</i>	<i>See Note 1</i>
English	<i>4 Carnegie Units</i>	<i>4 Carnegie Units</i>	
Health Education	<i>.5 Carnegie Unit</i>	<i>.5 Carnegie Unit</i>	<i>See Note 2</i>
Languages Other Than English (LOTE)		<i>2 Carnegie Units</i>	<i>See Note 3</i>
Mathematics	<i>2 Carnegie Units</i>	<i>3 Carnegie Units</i>	<i>See Note 4</i>
Physical Education	<i>3 Carnegie Units</i>	<i>3 Carnegie Units</i>	<i>See Note 5</i>
Science	<i>2 Carnegie Units (1 may be non-lab)</i>	<i>3 Carnegie Units</i>	<i>See Note 6</i>
Social Studies	<i>3 Carnegie Units</i>	<i>3 Carnegie Units</i>	<i>See Note 7</i>
Subtotal	<i>18.5 Carnegie Units</i>	<i>22.5 Carnegie Units</i>	
B. Cognates			
Computer Technology	<i>.5 Carnegie Unit</i>	<i>.5 Carnegie Unit</i>	<i>See Note 8</i>
Career Education	<i>Required</i>	<i>Required</i>	<i>See Note 9</i>
Community Service	<i>Required</i>	<i>Required</i>	<i>See Note 10</i>
Fine Arts	<i>.5 Carnegie Unit</i>	<i>2 Carnegie Units</i>	<i>See Note 11</i>
Subtotal	<i>1 Carnegie Unit</i>	<i>2.5 Carnegie Units</i>	
Total	<i>19.5 Carnegie Units</i>	<i>25 Carnegie Units</i>	
Electives – Total (Courses from Basic, Cognates, and/or other electives offered by the school)	<i>4.5 Carnegie Units</i>	<i>2 Carnegie Units</i>	<i>See Note 12</i>
Senior Project			<i>See Note 13</i>
Minimum Credits Required for Diploma	<i>24 Carnegie Units</i>	<i>27 Carnegie Units</i>	

Minimum Requirements for Graduation

The graduation requirements are the **minimum** expected of each student depending on the diploma track chosen. A secondary school may adopt, through local board approval, additional requirements beyond the minimum listed.

However, since the primary concern and focus of the educational program is on the welfare of the student, a specific subject-area requirement, except the Bible/Religion requirement, may be waived or substituted if it is determined that it is in the best interest of the student to apply such a waiver [See Waiver Policy Section C25-108] when;

C25-104 Graduation Requirements, Minimum (Cont'd)

- a. the requirement is unrealistic or unattainable for the student, and the criteria and guidelines for the waiver are followed [See Sections C25-108 and C25-112]; or
- b. the student has proficiency/competency in the specific course(s) as assessed by appropriate evaluation. [See Section C25-112 for details on challenge of a course for credit.]

Note 1 – Bible/Religion

The Bible/Religion requirement is to be met by completion of a minimum four Carnegie Units or one-half Carnegie Unit for each semester of attendance in a Seventh-day Adventist school in grades 9-12.

The following titles shall be used for recording Religion credit on the transcript.

Religion I	– One Carnegie Unit	[Grade 9]
Religion II	– One Carnegie Unit	[Grade 10]
Religion III	– One Carnegie Unit	[Grade 11]
Religion IV	– One Carnegie Unit	[Grade 12]

Note 2 – Health Education

The health education requirement is to be met by completion of one-half Carnegie Unit in a separate course.

Note 3 – Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

The study of LOTE is not required for the basic diploma. Two Carnegie Units of the same LOTE are required for the college prep/advanced diploma.

Note 4 – Mathematics

A college prep/advanced diploma includes mathematics courses from the following: Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Probability, Statistics or Trigonometry.

Note 5 – Physical Education

The physical education requirement is to be met by completion of the following:

- a. Credit for physical education must be earned over six of the eight semesters with a maximum of two Carnegie Units of formal physical education classes (excluding varsity sports) earned in 9th and 10th grades.
- b. Credit for the third year of physical education may be earned during the junior and/or senior years in:
 - (1) Formal physical education classes, or
 - (2) An approved program offered by the secondary school that emphasizes physical fitness and/or lifetime recreation skills and meets the minimum class time requirements.

Note 6 – Science

- A. The science requirement for the basic diploma is to be met by completion of the following:

C25-104 Graduation Requirements, Minimum (Cont'd)

1. One Carnegie Unit of biological science taught as a laboratory course. These courses include, but not limited to:
 - (a) Biology I and II
 - (b) Marine Biology
 - (c) Anatomy and Physiology

2. One Carnegie Unit of physical science. These courses include, but not limited to:
 - (a) Physical Science (lab or non-lab)
 - (b) Earth Science (lab)
 - (c) Physics (lab or non-lab)
 - (d) Chemistry (lab)

- B. Three Carnegie Units of a laboratory science are required for the college prep/advanced diploma.

- C. Laboratory courses must be scheduled for a minimum of 240 minutes per week. [See Section C21-106.]

Note 7 – Social Studies

The social studies requirement is to be met by completion of the following:

- a. One Carnegie Unit of World History, Geography, or World Culture.
- b. One Carnegie Unit of United States History.
- c. One-half Carnegie Unit of United States Government including state government.
- d. One-half Carnegie Unit of Economics or Civics.

Note 8 – Computer Technology

The requirement for Computer Technology is to be met by any course that meets, at minimum, the NAD Cross Curricular Technology Standards.

Note 9 – Career Education

The career education requirement is to be met by completion of the following:

- a. Classroom instruction in career education

Classroom instruction in career education is to be offered through one of the following options:

- (1) As a separate course
 - (2) As a part of a Religion Course
 - (3) Other plans as approved by the local conference office of education in consultation with the union.
- b. Each secondary school is to establish the minimum time and credit requirement for the classroom instruction in career education and evidence of completion.

C25-104 Graduation Requirements, Minimum (Cont'd)

Note 10 – Community Service

Students shall participate in a minimum of 25 clock hours of community service/service learning for each year of attendance in an Adventist school. Each secondary school is to establish the minimum time and credit requirement for the classroom instruction in career education and evidence of completion.

Note 11 – Fine Arts

This requirement can be met by completion of fine arts courses such as art appreciation, photography, videography, cinematography, music appreciation, general art courses, music performance organizations, and private music lessons.

Note 12 – Electives

This requirement can be met by the completion of courses such as, like skills, fine arts, home economics, business education, computer education, study skills, and technology education.

Note 13 – Senior Project

Up to one Carnegie Unit of credit may be granted depending on the specific expectations of the senior project, which may include a multi-media or other form of presentation of the senior project to the school/community.

Each secondary school is to establish the policies for the senior project and how credit will be granted. Senior project credits will be in addition to the 270 credits necessary for the college prep/advanced diploma.

C25-106 Increased Expectations [New Policy 11/2014]

Increases in expectations for graduation requirements must be approved by the local school board in consultation with the local conference office of education. This process also applies to the addition of any diplomas not listed in Section C25-104.

C25-108 Waiver Provision – Subject-area Graduation Requirement [Revised 4/2020; 11/2022]

The graduation requirements listed in Section C25-104 are the minimum expected of each student. However, since the primary concern and focus of the educational program is on the welfare of the student, a specific subject-area requirement, except the Bible/Religion requirement, may be waived or substituted when:

- A. The requirement is unrealistic or unattainable for the student, or
- B. The student has proficiency/competency in the specific course(s) as assessed by appropriate evaluation.

A secondary school may develop and implement a waiver policy based on the following criteria:

- A. The plans and procedures are developed and approved by the appropriate faculty committees and/or the faculty and adopted by the school board.
- B. The minimum number of twenty-one (21) Carnegie Units plus physical education are required of each student for graduation.

C25-112 Criteria for Implementation of the Waiver Provision [Revised 5/2020; 11/2022]

- A. A waiver is to be requested in writing by the student and supported by the parent(s) or guardian.
- B. Documentation such as an IEP/ISP, standardized achievement test scores, and/or demonstrated proficiency, supports the need for a waiver of a graduation requirement.

C25-116 Residence Requirements

To qualify for graduation the student is to be enrolled at the present school for at least the entire semester prior to graduation. Exceptions for valid transfers must be approved by the appropriate faculty committee(s) or faculty.

C25-124 Challenge of a Course for Credit [Revised 11/2013]

A student who wants to challenge a course for credit is to meet the criteria and guidelines as established by the local conference office of education.

C25-128 Citizenship and Attendance

The student is to maintain satisfactory citizenship and attendance as specified by the local school.

C25-136 Guidelines for Remediation [Revised 11/2022]

- A. The school assumes responsibility for helping students who are deficient in the basic skills to reach a minimum level of competency by incorporating programs and/or courses as an integral part of the curriculum.
- B. The programs and/or courses developed and the instructional methods employed focus the emphasis of the instructional process on the individual student needs and utilize the techniques of diagnosis, prescription, and evaluation of those student needs.
- C. The emphasis is on assisting students to meet the proficiency rather than on the denial of graduation.

C25-140 Graduation Requirements for Schools Establishing Performance-based Programs

Schools structuring curricula in which students are expected to reach specified minimal performance levels in order to be eligible for graduation must submit proposals to the local conference office of education for approval. [See Sections C11-144 and C11-152.]

C25-144 Certificate of Attendance/Differentiated Diploma [Revised 11/2013]

A Certificate of Attendance may be issued to a student who has not completed all the requirements for a Basic diploma. Criteria for differentiated diplomas/certificates must be developed in consultation with the local conference office of education. Provision should be made for noting on the transcript the type of diploma or certificate to be issued.

GRADES 9-12 SPECIAL CURRICULUM PLANS | C26

C26-104 Off-Campus Courses [Revised 4/2016]

With prior approval of the appropriate faculty committee/administration a student may be granted permission to enroll in an off-campus course(s) at a local secondary school and/or college/university, and/or correspondence/online school.

- A. The criteria for granting a request includes, but is not necessarily limited to the following:
 - 1. The course is not offered at the secondary school.
 - 2. The student is not able to take the course because of schedule conflicts.
 - 3. The student needs to retake a course.
 - 4. The student qualifies for early graduation, and this will create an overload. [See Section C27-116.]
 - 5. Other special circumstances.
- B. Correspondence/online courses should be taken only from accredited correspondence/online schools as approved by the union office of education. [Refer to the union *Registrars' Handbook*.]

C26-108 Dual Credit [New Policy 11/2008; Revised 11/2013; 4/2016; 4/2017; 12/2017; 4/2025]

Dual credit may be granted for college/university courses when:

- 1. Taken in residence on an academy campus,
- 2. Taught by academy personnel,
- 3. The academy has a matriculation agreement with an accredited Seventh-day Adventist college/university.

C26-112 Summer School Classes [Revised 11/2013; 4/2020]

With board and local conference office of education approval, a secondary school may offer summer school work. Each course is to be taught by a certificated teacher and is to be under the supervision of the school administrator. Courses for which one Carnegie Unit is granted shall meet for 120 clock hours, and courses for which one-half Carnegie Unit is granted shall meet for 60 clock hours.

If a performance-based curriculum has been established and approved, the above clock hours may not apply.

C26-120 Credit by Proficiency Examination [Revised 11/2013]

In special cases, a student may earn secondary credit by examination or by demonstrating that the required level of proficiency has been achieved. [See Section C25-124.]

C26-124 Credit by School Sponsored Independent Study [Revised 11/2013]

Credit for school sponsored independent study courses must be approved by the appropriate faculty committee and the local conference office of education annual curriculum and accreditation review committee.

C26-128 Credit Transfer from Home Schools, Non-Accredited Schools, Non-Approved
Correspondence/Online Schools [Revised 4/2016]

Students transferring credits from a home school, a non-accredited school, or a correspondence/online school not approved by the union may receive credit towards graduation for those courses in accordance with Section C13-120. Transfer grades should be recorded on a pass/fail basis with no honor points computed.

GRADES 9-12 ACADEMIC PLACEMENT | C27

C27-108 Opportunities to Earn College/University Credit

To accommodate students who have demonstrated satisfactory performance on tests of basic skills, who have an accumulative GPA of 3.0, and who have taken enrichment courses offered at the secondary level, the following opportunities are available by which college/university credit may be earned at La Sierra University and Pacific Union College.

The procedures by which secondary school students may be able to earn college/university credit are as follows:

- A. Credit by examination is given to students who demonstrate knowledge comparable to that ordinarily acquired through regular college/university courses. Such credit is recorded on a Pass/Satisfactory basis.
 1. College Level Examination Program (CLEP) or Proficiency Examination Program (PEP) single subject examinations may be taken at designated testing centers, and earn college/university credit according to the published regulations of the college or university regarding the specific tests for which credit is granted, the percentile level that must be achieved, the amount of credit granted, its applicability to various program requirements, and the fee for test administration and the recording of credit.
 2. Examinations prepared by the academic departments in subjects regularly taught by the college/university may be taken for credit. The fees for such examinations, the amount of credit granted, and its applicability to various program requirements is determined by the college/university.
- B. Advanced Placement examinations are prepared and administered by the College Entrance Examination Board in connection with special secondary school courses. Credit is granted for satisfactory performance (level 3) or better.
- C. Extension courses may be offered by the college/university for students with appropriate academic qualifications. Such courses are comparable to regular college/university courses in regard to content, materials, examinations, and credit, as determined by the college/university. Credit for such courses conducted by secondary school personnel is granted only when prior arrangements for instruction and supervision have been made by the secondary school with the college/university.
- D. Enrollment in regular college/university courses is possible, for students who live within commuting distance of the college/university, with the approval of the principal and the academic dean involved. Students must have the prerequisite educational background, and the courses considered must not be duplicated by courses available at the secondary school.

C27-108 Opportunities to Earn College/University Credit (Cont'd)

- E. Summer courses may be offered on the college/university campus for selected students during the summer prior to the senior year. Admissions to such courses is granted on the recommendation of the secondary school principal.
- F. Individual directed study programs carrying college/university credit may be arranged under the joint supervision of a secondary school teacher and a college or university teacher, with the approval of the secondary school principal and the academic dean of the college/university.
- G. Correspondence course work for college/university credit may be taken by secondary school students with the prior approval of the secondary school principal and the academic dean of the college/university.

College/university credit earned by examination is granted and recorded when the student establishes an academic record at the college/university.

C27-116 Early Graduation [Revised 4/2024]

Early graduation is an option available to a student who wishes to complete the secondary curriculum in less than four years and who meets the following guidelines for early graduation. Exceptions to these guidelines should be made in consultation with the local conference office of education.

- A. Criteria for early graduation [Revised 4/2024]
 - 1. The student has achieved a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.5 and continues to maintain the grade-point average following approval as a candidate for early graduation.
 - 2. The student has achieved the 85th percentile of all required subtests on the union adopted standardized achievement test.
 - 3. The student is to meet the graduation requirements listed in Section C25-104 and any additional requirements of the school which apply to all graduating seniors.
- B. Procedure
 - 1. The student is to submit a written request for early graduation to the secondary school principal. The request is to be submitted as early as possible but no later than the end of the first quarter of the third year. A request received later than the end of the second year may mean that it will be very difficult for a student to arrange for all the courses needed to fulfill the school's graduation requirements. The request is to be accompanied by the written consent of the parent/s.
 - 2. The request and the projected courses must have the approval of the faculty.

C27-120 California High School Proficiency Examination

A student enrolled in a secondary school in California may elect to take the California High School Proficiency Examination (CHSPE) in lieu of completing the requirements for graduation. Information regarding eligibility and dates when the examination is administered are available at each secondary school.

A student who passes the CHSPE and elects to leave school is awarded an equivalency certificate and is not eligible for a diploma.

Students who have passed the CHSPE may apply for admission to a Seventh-day Adventist college/university. Admission to the college/university will be based on the college/university entrance requirements.

C27-124 Advanced Placement, Honors, and/or Dual Credit Courses [Revised 11/2013; 11/2022]

The following procedures are to be used when a secondary school implements advanced placement and/or honors courses.

A. Advanced Placement (AP)

1. Schools offering Advanced Placement courses must follow the course descriptions and requirements of the College Boards.

For California schools Advanced Placement courses must be approved by University of California system.

2. Advanced Placement courses must be taught by a teacher with secondary subject endorsement in the specific content area.

3. The GPA for Advanced Placement courses is to be based on a 5.0 scale:

A = 5; B = 4; C = 3

Note: A letter grade of "D" may be recorded but no GPA advantage is allowed.

4. The advanced placement courses will be subject to review by the local conference office of education annual curriculum and accreditation review committee.

B. Honors Courses

1. Student eligibility requirements are to be established by the school.

2. Honors Courses must be taught by a teacher with secondary subject endorsement in the specific content area.

3. Schools offering Honors Courses must follow the course descriptions and requirements of the University of California system. (California schools)

4. The GPA for Honor Courses is to be based on a 5.0 scale:

A = 5; B = 4; C = 3

Note: A letter grade of "D" may be recorded but no GPA advantage is allowed.

C27-124 Advanced Placement, Honors, and/or Dual Credit Courses (Cont'd)

5. Courses cannot be designated as Honors Courses unless one of the following is met:
 - a. For California schools: approval is obtained for the course from the University of California.
 - b. For out-of-California schools: approval is obtained by the local academic standards committee for the well-defined course descriptions and requirements which provide clear differentiation from the regular courses.
6. Honors courses are not to be taught in conjunction with a regular class by the same teacher at the same time.
7. The honors courses will be subject to review by the local conference office of education annual curriculum and accreditation review committee.

C. Dual Credit

1. Refer to C26-108 for information regarding Dual Credit courses.
2. The GPA for Dual Credit courses is to be based on a 5.0 scale:

A = 5; B = 4; C = 3

Note: A letter grade of "D" may be recorded but no GPA advantage is allowed.
3. The dual credit courses will be subject to review by the local conference office of education annual curriculum and accreditation review committee.

GRADES 9-12 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES | C28

C28-104 Definition

In this *Education Code* the term “co-curricular” is synonymous with the terms “extra-curricular” and “extra-class” when referring to school-sponsored student activities. The administration and staff are to develop guidelines and procedures for the organization and implementation of co-curricular activities and organizations.

C28-108 Student Officers

Student officers for all co-curricular activities and class organizations must meet the following qualifications and standards:

A. Faculty approval

Officers must be selected with the approval of the faculty and must meet specified standards of citizenship, scholarship, reliability, cooperation, and leadership.

B. Standards

Officers must live in harmony with the distinctive standards of Seventh-day Adventist church and schools.

C. Leadership preparation

Officers must have leadership preparation under teacher direction for assigned responsibilities.

C28-112 School Publications

School publications are to be in harmony with the philosophy and principles of the school. Such publications are to be the product of student leadership and under the direction and counsel of the staff and administration. The factors to be considered are, but are not limited to, the following:

A. The qualifications of student body officers apply in the selection of the editorial staff of the student publications.

B. A member of the teaching staff will be assigned to advise and screen all publications.

C. Authorization for any publication must be obtained through staff, administration and board on the following basis:

1. The board must initially approve the publication.
2. Approval of the proposed budget is to be obtained from the principal.
3. A contract, where applicable, must be approved and signed by the principal.
4. Editorial plans are to be approved by the principal before any editorial work is undertaken.
5. The final copy is to be approved by the principal prior to publication.

C28-116 Class Organizations

The purpose of class organizations is to provide for spiritual and social activities, to foster school spirit and to afford training for leadership.

Each school is to adopt a policy for organization of classes which includes, but is not limited to, details of organization, qualifications of officers, social functions, financial policies, and sponsors.

C28-120 Class Will and Prophecy

Class wills and class prophecies are not to be a part of any class or school activity nor used in school publications.

C28-124 Student Organizations, Clubs and Special Groups [Revised 10/2018; 4/2024]

All student organizations and student-conducted cultural, social, and recreational activities shall be under direct supervision of the school staff. Student organizations, clubs and special groups at schools should exist to enhance the learning environment.

Academic clubs, sports clubs and other clubs that are related to extracurricular activities of the school may be organized as student and staff interests, needs, and abilities may warrant.

Social and political issue clubs must be avoided where the social or political issue is in conflict with the values and philosophy of the Seventh-day Adventist Church or where the social issue is in conflict with the values of the schools seeks to inculcate as a Seventh-day Adventist school.

To obtain authorization for any organization:

- A. School board, administration and staff approval must be acquired.
- B. Purposes, objectives, or goals must be clearly stated, and these purposes must be in harmony with the philosophy and objectives of the school.
- C. Officers must meet the standards required of student body officers or class officers.
- D. Must be assigned faculty sponsor.

C28-128 Student Association

A student association may be organized in a manner best suited to the students and faculty of the school. The student association is expected to be in harmony with the philosophy and objectives of the school.

- A. The organization membership is open to all students and staff members.
- B. An adequate number of staff advisors shall be appointed by the administration.
- C. A constitution shall be developed and subsequently approved by the administration and staff of the school prior to adoption by the student body.
- D. Major activities of the organization shall be approved by the administration and staff of the school.

EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL:

General Policies

E10-104	Employment Policies – Certificated Administrative and Instructional Personnel [Revised 3/2012; 11/2023]
E10-108	Employer [Revised 11/2012; 4/2015]
E10-112	Certificated Personnel – Defined [Revised 12/2024]
E10-116	Contract of Employment
E10-122	Local School Employees [New Policy 5/2013; Revised 4/2015; 12/2024]
E10-124	Conditions of Employment [Revised 11/2013; 11/2015; 4/2016; 11/2016; 4/2018; 5/2019; 12/2024]
E10-128	Nondiscrimination Exception – Employment [Revised 4/2025]
E10-132	Employment Plans for Certificated Personnel [Revised 3/2012; 11/2013; 4/2016; 12/2021]
E10-136	Employment Status for Certificated and Administrative Personnel [Revised 3/2012]
E10-140	Harassment Policy [Revised 11/2012; 11/2013; 11/2014; 12/2024]
E10-142	Employment of Sexual Offenders (Employment and Productivity) [New Policy 11/2008]
E10-144	Policy and Guidelines Relating to Sexual Misconduct Incidents Towards Students [Revised 3/2012; 11/2014; 5/2019; 12/2024]
E10-146	Dealing with Offenders in Financial Matters [New Policy 11/2013; Renumbered 12/2024]
E10-148	Remuneration – Full-time Certificated Personnel [Revised 12/2021; 4/2025]
E10-152	Continuing Education of Certificated Personnel [Revised 5/2019; 4/2020; 12/2024]
E10-156	Remuneration – Part-time Certificated Personnel [Revised 12/2024]
E10-160	Remuneration – Substitute Teacher [Revised 4/2010]
E10-164	Vacations and Paid Holidays – Full-time Certificated Personnel
E10-168	Vacations and Paid Holidays – Part-time Certificated Personnel [Revised 12/2024]
E10-172	Reduction in Force (RIF) [Revised 4/2015; 12/2017; 12/2018; 12/2021; 12/2024]
E10-176	North American Division Retirement Plan [Revised 12/2024]
E10-180	Service Credit for North American Division Defined Benefit Retirement Plan [Revised 12/2024]
E10-184	Service Records [Revised 12/2024]
E10-188	Suspension or Revocation of a Certificate [Revised 11/2012; 5/2013; 11/2015; 10/2018; 5/2019; 11/2022; 11/2023; 12/2024]
E10-192	Termination Settlement [Revised 11/2008; 11/2011; 5/2013; 5/2014; 12/2024]

Regular Status Employment

E11-104	General Policies [Revised 11/2023]
E11-108	Definition of Regular Status Employment [Revised 11/2012]
E11-112	Granting Regular Status
E11-116	Evaluation
E11-120	Status Change [Revised 3/2012]
E11-124	Term Status Employment
E11-128	Transfer of Employee on Regular Status Employment [Revised 12/2024; 7/2025]
E11-132	Resignation of Employee on Regular Status Employment
E11-136	Administrative Leave of Employee on Regular Status Employment [Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 12/2018; 12/2024]
E11-140	Termination of Employee on Regular Status Employment [Revised 11/2010; 11/2012; 5/2013; 11/2015; 4/2016; 12/2017; 4/2018; 12/2024; 4/2025]
E11-148	Retirement of Employee on Regular Status Employment [Revised 12/2024]
E11-152	Probation Restriction of Employee on Regular Status Employment [Revised 11/2011]

EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL (Cont'd):

Regular Status Employment (Cont'd)

E11-154	Lapse in a Standard or Professional Certificate [New Policy 11/2010]
E11-156	Leaves for Employee on Regular Status Employment

Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment

E12-104	General Policies [Revised 11/2023]
E12-108	Definition of Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment [Revised 11/2013]
E12-112	Evaluation [Revised 12/2024]
E12-116	Status Change [Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 4/2016; 12/2024]
E12-124	Transfer of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment [Revised 4/2018]
E12-128	Resignation of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment
E12-132	Administrative Leave of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment [Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 4/2018]
E12-136	Completion of Contract of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment [Revised 4/2016; 11/2023]
E12-140	Termination of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment [Revised 11/2012; 5/2013; 11/2015; 4/2016; 12/2017; 4/2018; 12/2024; 4/2025]
E12-148	Retirement of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment [Revised 12/2024]
E12-152	Leaves for Employee on Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment

Non-Regular Status, Part-Time Employment

E14-104	General Policies [Revised 11/2023]
E14-108	Definition of Non-Regular Status, Part-time Employment [Revised 4/2016; 12/2024]
E14-112	Employment Plan
E14-116	Evaluation
E14-120	Status Change [Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 4/2016; 11/2023; 12/2024]
E14-124	Resignation of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Part-time Employment
E14-128	Administrative Leave of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Part-time Employment [Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 12/2018]
E14-132	Completion of Contract of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Part-time Employment [Revised 4/2016; 11/2023]
E14-134	Termination of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Part-time Employment [New Policy 11/2023]
E14-136	Retirement of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Part-time Employment [Revised 12/2024]
E14-140	Leaves for Employee on Non-Regular Status, Part-time Employment

Non-Regular Status, Post-Retirement Employment

E15-104	General Policies [Revised 11/2023]
E15-108	Definition of Post-Retirement Employment [Revised 3/2012; 4/2016]
E15-112	Remuneration [Revised 12/2024]
E15-116	Vacations and Paid Holidays

EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL (Cont'd):

Non-Regular Status, Post-Retirement Employment (Cont'd)

E15-124	Status Change [Revised 3/2012; 4/2016; 11/2023]
E15-128	Resignation of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Post-Retirement Employment
E15-132	Administrative Leave of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Post-Retirement Employment [Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 12/2018]
E15-136	Completion of Contract of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Post-Retirement Employment [Revised 4/2016; 11/2023]
E15-138	Termination of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Post-Retirement Employment [New Policy 11/2023]
E15-140	Leaves for Employee on Non-Regular Status, Post-Retirement Employment

Term Status Employment

E16-104	General Policies [Revised 11/2023]
E16-108	Definition of Term Status Employment
E16-112	Employment with Term Status [Revised 11/2012; 4/2017]
E16-116	Relationship of Regular Status Classification to Term Status Employment [Revised 12/2021; 12/2024]
E16-120	Evaluation
E16-124	Status Change [Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 11/2023]
E16-128	Reassignment of a Term Status Employee [Revised 12/2017; 12/2024]
E16-132	Resignation of a Term Status Employee [Revised 12/2024]
E16-136	Administrative Leave of a Term Status Employee [Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 12/2018; 12/2024]
E16-140	Termination of a Term Status Employee [Revised 11/2012; 5/2013; 11/2015; 4/2016; 12/2017; 12/2024; 4/2025]
E16-144	Completion of Contract of a Term Status Employee [Revised 11/2011; 4/2016; 11/2023]
E16-148	Retirement of a Term Status Employee [Revised 12/2024]
E16-152	Leaves for a Term Status Employee

Hearing and Appeal Processes for Eligible Employees

E17-104	Hearing and Appeal Processes [Revised 11/2011; 11/2012; 12/2024]
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EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL:

General Policies

E18-104	Employment Policies – Classified Personnel [Revised 11/2023]
E18-108	Employer [Revised 11/2012]
E18-112	Employment Agreement for Salaried Classified Employees [Revised 12/2024]
E18-116	Conditions of Employment [Revised 11/2013; 11/2015; 4/2016; 11/2016; 4/2018; 5/2019; 12/2024]
E18-118	Dealing with Offenders in Financial Matters [New Policy 11/2013]
E18-120	Nondiscrimination Exception – Employment [Revised 4/2025]
E18-124	Employment Status of Classified Personnel
E18-128	North American Division Retirement Plan

EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL (Cont'd):

General Policies (Cont'd)

E18-132	Service Records for Classified Personnel [Revised 12/2024]
E18-136	Service Credit for North American Division Defined Benefit Retirement Plan [Revised 12/2024]
E18-140	Termination Settlement [Revised 11/2008; 5/2013; 5/2014; 12/2024]
E18-144	Harassment Policy [Revised 11/2012; 11/2013; 11/2014]
E18-146	Employment of Sexual Offenders (Employment and Productivity) [New Policy 11/2008]
E18-148	Sexual Misconduct Policy and Guidelines [Revised 11/2014; 5/2019]

Salaried Classified Personnel

E19-104	General Provisions for Salaried Classified Personnel [Revised 11/2023]
E19-108	Definition of Salaried Classified Employment Status
E19-112	Employment Plan for Salaried Classified Employees
E19-116	Remuneration for Full-time Salaried Classified Employees [Revised 4/2025]
E19-120	Vacation and Paid Holidays – Full-time Salaried Classified Employees [Revised 5/2013]
E19-124	Leaves for Full-time Salaried Classified Employees
E19-128	Status Change [Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 4/2016; 11/2023; 12/2024]
E19-130	Completion of Contract of Salaried Classified Employee [New Policy 11/2023]
E19-132	Resignation of a Salaried Classified Employee
E19-136	Administrative Leave of a Salaried Classified Employee [Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 12/2018]
E19-140	Termination of a Salaried Classified Employee [Revised 11/2015; 4/2016; 12/2017; 10/2018; 12/2024; 4/2025]
E19-144	Retirement of a Salaried Classified Employee [Revised 12/2024]
E19-148	Post-Retirement Employment of a Salaried Classified Employee

Hearing and Appeal Processes for Eligible Employees

E20-104	Hearing and Appeal Processes [Revised 3/2012; 11/2011; 11/2012; 12/2024]
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Non-Exempt Classified Personnel

E21-104	General Provisions for Non-Exempt Classified Personnel [Revised 11/2023]
E21-108	Definition of Non-Exempt Classified Employment Status [Revised 4/2016]
E21-112	Employment Plan for Non-Exempt Classified Employees
E21-116	Remuneration for Non-Exempt Classified Employees [Revised 4/2025]
E21-120	Vacation and Paid Holidays [Revised 5/2013; 11/2014]
E21-124	Leaves for Non-Exempt Classified Employees
E21-128	Status Change [Revised 3/2012]
E21-132	Resignation of a Non-Exempt Classified Employee
E21-136	Administrative Leave of a Non-Exempt Classified Employee [Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 5/2014; 12/2018]
E21-140	Termination of a Non-Exempt Classified Employee [Revised 4/2016; 10/2018]
E21-144	Retirement of a Non-Exempt Classified Employee [Revised 12/2024]
E21-148	Post-Retirement Employment of a Non-Exempt Classified Employee

EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL GENERAL POLICIES | E10

E10-104 Employment Policies – Certificated Administrative and Instructional Personnel [Revised 3/2012; 11/2023]

The policies related to the employment of certificated administrative and instructional personnel are in Sections E10 to E17 of the *Education Code*.

The policies are organized as follows:

E10-108 to E10-192 – General policies that are applicable to certificated administrative and instructional personnel

E11-104 to E11-156 – Specific policies applicable to certificated instructional personnel on Regular Status Employment

E12-104 to E12-152 – Specific policies applicable to certificated instructional personnel on Non-Regular Status-Provisional Employment

E14-104 to E14-140 – Specific policies applicable to certificated instructional personnel on Non-Regular Status-Part-time Employment

E15-104 to E15-140 – Specific policies applicable to certificated instructional personnel on Non-Regular Status-Post-Retirement Employment

E16-104 to E16-152 – Specific policies applicable to certificated administrative personnel on Term Status Employment

E17-104 – The Hearing and Appeal Processes for Eligible Employees

E10-108 Employer [Revised 11/2012; 4/2015]

For educational personnel, responsibility for employment policies resides with the union conference board of education and those policies are published in the union *Education Code*. Local conference boards of education are responsible for implementing these personnel policies with educational personnel.

The local conference board of education derives its authority from the local conference executive committee, and is the employing organization referred to hereinafter as the employer. The local conference board of education has an inherent legal obligation in the employment, changes in employment status, or termination of education personnel.

To ensure the effective and orderly operation of the schools within the local conference, the local conference board of education consults with the local school board and delegates selected functions. However, the local conference board of education may take action on its own initiative or may take action that supersedes a recommendation from the local school board.

Inasmuch as the local conference executive committee remains legally bound by actions of local school boards, it is incumbent that there be close cooperation between the local school boards and the local conference board of education in the operation of schools and in the application of employment policies for school personnel.

E10-112 Certificated Personnel – Defined [Revised 12/2024]

Certificated personnel are those employees who have responsibility for classroom instruction, student services or administrative duties that involve supervision of instruction. Such personnel are to hold a valid denominational certificate with endorsements for the position held.

E10-116 Contract of Employment

- A. The employer shall adopt and use a written instrument, which contains the agreement of the parties.
- B. The contract shall include, but not be limited to, the following terms and conditions of employment:
 - 1. Names of the parties.
 - 2. Duration of the obligation.
 - 3. Salary or wages to be paid.
 - 4. Employer's right to transfer an employee within the local conference when in the best interest of the students, the total school, or the employee.
 - 5. Employee's willingness to comply with the policies of the Seventh-day Adventist Church existing at the time of acceptance of a contract and changes that may be duly implemented during the contract period.
 - 6. Date and time by which acceptance of the offer shall be received by the employer. Failure to return the contract within 30 days of issuance indicates that the individual has chosen to decline employment or has voluntarily resigned.
 - 7. The employee agrees to accept the Hearing Process as recourse for grievances. [See Section E17-104, "Hearing and Appeal Processes for Eligible Employees".]

E10-122 Local School Employees [New Policy 5/2013; Revised 4/2015; 12/2024]

Conferences may have locally funded school personnel on payroll with costs funded by the local school. These employees are eligible to earn denominational service credit and to participate in all benefits for which they are eligible.

E10-124 Conditions of Employment [Revised 11/2013; 11/2015; 4/2016; 11/2016; 4/2018; 5/2019; 12/2024]

- A. Certification
 - 1. The NAD office of education establishes requirements for certification of elementary and secondary education personnel.
 - 2. The authority to issue certificates to qualified personnel is delegated to the union office of education.
 - 3. Personnel with responsibility for classroom instruction or administrative duties are to hold a valid denominational certificate with endorsement(s) for the position held. The requirements for certification are detailed in the current edition of the *PK-12 Educators' Certification Manual for North American Division and the Pacific Union Conference addendum*. [See also Section A25-136.]
- B. Church Membership

Employees shall be members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing and as such shall provide a positive Christian role model and demonstrate a concern for the spiritual and moral development of students so that the unique philosophy of Seventh-day Adventist education is reflected throughout the curriculum and the total school program.

E10-124 Conditions of Employment (Cont'd)

C. Tithe Paying

Faithful tithing is a condition for initial and continued employment, and transfer to another school, conference or other denominational organization. [See *NAD Working Policy E 80 20.*]

D. Conflicting Activities

An employee shall not engage in any business or activity, either denominational or extra-denominational which has the effect of diminishing the employee's influence and/or infringing on the time and efficiency of the work to which the employee is assigned.

E. Employment Eligibility Verification, Form I-9

A certificated employee who is given a conditional offer of employment must complete an I-9 Form, "Employment Eligibility Verification", U. S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, within 72 hours. The form shall be maintained at the payroll center.

F. Criminal Record Summary

To the extent required by law, state and federal criminal record summaries must be obtained for employer review on or before the first day of employment for any employee who will have contact with minor students. This includes any person hired to work in a private school on a regular paid full-time or regular paid part-time basis who will have contact with minors.

To satisfy this requirement, employees must cooperate with the employing local conference by submitting fingerprints and applications to appropriate state and federal agencies so that the employing local conference can obtain such reports from the agency, or from the employee in jurisdictions where such reports cannot be obtained directly by the employer from the agency. Furthermore, employee must cooperate in updating such criminal record summaries at the discretion of the employing local conference.

G. Statement of Knowledge of Duty to Report Abuse

A certificated employee is to sign a statement on the form provided by the employer acknowledging the duty to report cases of child abuse and will comply with the provisions of state law. This requires that any employee who is a child care custodian who has knowledge of or observes a child known or reasonably suspected of having been the victim of child abuse is to report the known or suspected instance of child abuse to a child protective agency immediately or as soon as practically possible by telephone and to prepare and send a written report within the time required of receiving the information concerning the incident.

H. Fitness for Duty

1. After a conditional offer of employment, an employee shall provide the employer with a completed physical examination form signed by a physician of the employer's choice. The form shall verify that the employee is capable of performing the job functions.

- a. If a disability is identified which interferes with performance of a job function, the employer shall determine if the job function is essential.
- b. If the job function is essential, the employer shall determine if a reasonable accommodation can be made.

E10-124 Conditions of Employment (Cont'd)

- c. If an essential job function cannot be performed and accommodation is not reasonably possible, the offer of employment may be revoked.
 - d. The examination referred to in I. above shall be conducted, and the written proof shall be filed, every four years after initial employment or as requested by the employer.
2. A prospective employee shall provide written proof of a TB risk assessment or TB skin test signed by a health care provider, conducted within 60 days preceding the date of employment. The superintendent of schools/designee may require additional testing as required by the state law where employed.
 3. Employee health records will be kept in accordance with Section A26-124.
 4. Any employee taking prescribed or over-the-counter medications will be responsible for consulting the prescribing physician and/or pharmacist to ascertain whether the medication may interfere with safe performance of the employee's job. If the use of a medication could compromise the safety of the employee, fellow employees, students or others, it is the employee's responsibility to use appropriate personal procedures (e.g., use sick leave, request change of duty, notify administrator) to avoid unsafe practices.

E10-128 Nondiscrimination Exception – Employment [Revised 4/2025]

For Seventh-day Adventists the free exercise of religion includes the right to operate educational institutions that are distinctively Seventh-day Adventist. To establish and maintain the mission of Adventist educational institutions requires that they be staffed only by those individuals who are in complete harmony with the beliefs and practices of the Church. Therefore, in the employment of personnel for its educational institutions one of the occupational qualifications for any position is that the individual must be a Seventh-day Adventist member, in regular standing, committed to the mission and ministry of the Church.

Inasmuch as the personal life and the professional identity of an individual are inseparable, all employees are expected to conform to the standards of conduct that are in harmony with Seventh-day Adventist principles.

To fulfill the mission of Seventh-day Adventist education employing entities shall exercise the right to employ only those who have freely chosen to be members, in regular standing, of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Except for this employment exemption provided by law, denominational employers shall practice, provide equal employment opportunities to all on the basis of qualifications without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, physical handicap, age, height, weight, marital status, or prior military service.

E10-132 Employment Plans for Certificated Personnel [Revised 3/2012; 11/2013; 4/2016; 12/2021]

A certificated employee is employed on one of the following plans:

A. Twelve-month Assignment Employment Plan

The 12-month assignment employment plan (July 1 through June 30) is primarily for administrative personnel. At the discretion of the employer, it may also be available for those instructional personnel who are offered summer employment. The summer assignment will be determined by the local conference office of education in cooperation with the principal.

E10-132 Employment Plans for Certificated Personnel (Cont'd)

B. Ten-month Assignment Employment Plan

The 10-month assignment employment plan is primarily for classroom teachers. A part-time teacher employed for the full school year may be employed on the 10-month assignment plan.

The annual contract period is July 1 through June 30, inclusive and is comprised of:

1. The local conference board of education votes work assignment dates with:
 - a. A minimum of 180 teacher-student contact days. [See Sections C11-124.A.1. and C11-128.]
 - b. A minimum of 15 on-duty days beyond the 180 teacher-student contact days.
2. Continuing education and professional growth activities for renewal and/or upgrading of the certificate or for curriculum and instruction activities related to the assignment.
3. Summer work assignments as requested by the employing organization for which teachers will be paid an additional amount.
4. Annual vacation and paid holidays.
5. A minimum of 195 days should be used to determine a per-day pay rate.

E10-136 Employment Status for Certificated and Administrative Personnel [Revised 3/2012]

Certificated and administrative personnel are classified for employment purposes in one of the following [See Section E10-112 for the definition of certificated personnel.]:

A. Regular Status

This category is for instructional personnel, including certificated administrative personnel who are assigned less than two-thirds time to administrative responsibilities, who meet the criteria for Regular Status. [See Sections E11-104 to E11-156.]

B. Non-Regular Status

This category is for instructional personnel listed in "A" who do not meet the criteria for Regular Status and are employed in one of the following:

1. Provisional Employment. [See Sections E12-104 to E12-152.]
2. Part-Time Employment. [See Sections E14-104 to E14-140.]
3. Post-Retirement Employment. [See Sections E15-104 to E15-140.]

C. Term Status

This category is for assigned administrators. [See Sections E16-104 to E16-152.]

E10-140 Harassment Policy [Revised 11/2012; 11/2013; 11/2014; 12/2024]

The following harassment policy applies to all certificated administrative and instructional personnel in the union.

E10-140 Harassment Policy (Cont'd)

A. Working Environment

The union recognizes its responsibility to all employees to maintain a working environment free from harassment. It endeavors to achieve this environment through educating employees that harassment violates the law and will not be tolerated. The union also endeavors to prevent harassment by publishing this policy, by developing appropriate sanctions for misconduct, and by informing all employees of a right to complain of harassment.

B. Personal Conduct

Education employees are to exemplify the Christ-like life. Engaging in behavior that is harmful to self or others, or that casts a shadow on their dedication to the Christian way of life should be avoided. Personal attire, posters, banners, bumper stickers, tags, flags, and other symbols whose message, historically or currently, is, or could reasonably be construed to be, one of prejudice, discrimination, or that is inflammatory, may not be displayed anywhere on the premises or while representing the employer in any capacity.

Employees should respect and uplift one another. Employees should never be placed in a position of embarrassment, harassment, ridicule, and belittlement or disrespect. Nor should they be targeted because of gender, race, color, national origin, age, disability, or any other classification under state or local law that does not conflict with the tenets of the church. To do so would be a violation of God's law and civil laws protecting human rights and governing workplace conduct.

C. Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a form of harassment and involves unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal, written or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment; or
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting an individual; or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

D. Improper Conduct

Improper conduct by the employer, co-workers and, in some instances, non-employees, can be spoken, written, physical and/or distributed through electronic means. It can include but is not limited to:

1. Any subtle or other pressure or request for sexual favors or activity, including any suggestion that an applicant's or employee's giving in to or rejecting sexual advances will have an effect on that person's employment or terms of employment;
2. Unwelcome sexual flirtation or propositions;
3. Unnecessary or inappropriate touching of a sexual or abusive nature (e.g., patting, pinching, hugging, repeated brushing against another person's body, etc.);
4. Displays, whether worn on the person, displayed in offices or on personal vehicles parked in parking lots used by the organization of sexually suggestive pictures, drawings, cartoons or objects or other erotica;
5. Threats or demands for sexual favors;

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Harassment Policy (Cont'd)

6. Unwelcome or derogatory statements related to gender, race, color, national origin, age or disability (for example, kidding, teasing, degrading jokes or offensive comments or tricks);
7. Demeaning or degrading comments about an individual's appearance;
8. Denying an employee the opportunity to participate in training or education on account of gender, race, color, national origin, age or disability;
9. Limiting opportunities for promotion, transfer or advancement on account of gender, race, color, national origin, age or disability; or
10. Requiring a protected employee to perform more difficult tasks or less desirable work assignments intended to force retirement or resignation.

E. Reporting Incidents

An employee who believes that harassment has occurred should immediately take the following steps:

1. If comfortable doing so, make it clear that such conduct is offensive and should be stopped immediately; and,
2. Report the incident to the immediate supervisor, principal, associate superintendent, superintendent of schools, or the conference human resources department. The initial report should be followed by a written statement describing the incident and identifying potential witnesses. There can be no expectation of investigation unless incidents have been reported.

F. Third Party Reports

Employees who are aware of incidents of potential workplace harassment toward others are to report such incidents to the immediate supervisory, principal, associate superintendent, superintendent of schools, or the conference human resources department.

G. Investigation

A complaint of harassment shall be promptly handled and maintained in confidence to the extent possible.

H. Discipline

A violation of this policy may result in discipline, up to and including termination from employment, based on the provisions of the *Education Code*.

I. Prohibition of Retaliation

The union prohibits retaliation against an employee who complains of harassment.

J. False Allegations of Harassment

While individuals are urged to report alleged harassment, unfounded allegations against another employee or volunteer can irreparably harm the reputation and limit the ability to fulfill duties and responsibilities. Employees who bring malicious, spiteful, or false allegations of harassment may be subject to the disciplinary standards policies in the union *Education Code*.

[NAD Working Policy E 84]

E10-142 Employment of Sexual Offenders (Employment and Productivity) [New Policy 11/2008]

A. Employment

In hiring all categories of denominational employees great diligence should be exercised to secure persons who are members of the Church and who exert a positive influence in up building the work along spiritual lines.

B. Productivity

Care is to be exercised in making assignments to conference and institutional employees so as to fully utilize their capabilities. The effectiveness of all employees is to be reviewed periodically. Where employees are found to be ineffective, counsel should be given them and if necessary they should be given other lines of work or be advised to seek employment outside of the denomination.

C. Employment of Sexual Offenders

The Seventh-day Adventist Church desires to make its work and worship environments a safe place at all times. To achieve this goal, no denominational employing organization shall knowingly employ an employee where any of the following exists:

1. Any admission of guilt pertaining to sexual abuse, or sexual misconduct (See *NAD Working Policy E 87 15*, paragraph 20)—Sexual Misconduct—Improper sexual behavior including any of the following:
 - a. Actual or attempted sexual contact with a minor or with any person where there exists a relationship with inequality of power;
 - b. Actual or attempted rape or sexual contact by force, threat, or intimidation;
 - c. Criminal behavior of a sexual nature.
 - d. Possession, manufacture, distribution or access with intent to view child pornography.
2. Any criminal conviction or plea of guilty, *nolo contendere* (no contest), or its equivalent for sexual abuse, or sexual misconduct.
3. Any civil judicial determination of liability, injunctive relief, non-monetary relief, punitive or exemplary damages, or factual finding, settlement for compromise of a civil suit or any finding by the employer's Sexual Ethics Committee or similar body in lieu of filing suite in favor of the claimant resulting from allegations of sexual abuse, or sexual misconduct.

As part of the employment due process, Designated Officers, or their designees, from denominational employing organizations shall make inquiry to officers, or their designees, of institutions or organizations currently employing, or having employed, individuals they are considering for employment. Designated Officers, or their designees, responding to inquiries about current or former employees of their organizations shall make every effort to assure that accurate information is being communicated.

[*NAD Working Policy E 81*]

E10-144 Policy and Guidelines Relating to Sexual Misconduct Incidents Towards Students
[Revised 3/2012; 11/2014; 5/2019; 12/2024]

Certificated and administrative employees are bound by the following sexual misconduct policy and guidelines for education personnel in the union.

E10-144 Policy and Guidelines Relating to Sexual Misconduct Incidents Towards Students (Cont'd)

A. Purpose of Policy and Guidelines

It is the policy of the union to eliminate sexual misconduct through prevention, appropriate investigation of complaints, civil reporting and corrective action where appropriate. Each local conference office of education and school is responsible for implementing policies and procedures to prevent sexual misconduct and to investigate and to take corrective action in response to complaints.

B. Definition of Sexual Misconduct

Sexual misconduct as used in this policy refers to sexually oriented behavior by an adult, volunteer or employee toward a student. It includes but is not limited to, sexual advances; requests for sexual activity; inappropriate touching of a sexual, offensive or abusive nature; sexual comments, suggestions or threats; or conduct, which has the purpose or effect of sexually stimulating the adult or student. Sexual misconduct can be spoken, written, physical and/or committed through electronic means.

C. Prevention of Sexual Misconduct

Local conferences and/or schools shall attempt to prevent sexual misconduct by:

1. Careful screening of adults before employment begins as per policy.
2. Periodic training for all adults who have a contact with students regarding sexual misconduct and child abuse reporting requirements.
3. Periodic training for students which emphasizes identification of and protection from sexual misconduct and reporting procedures of suspected incidents to an adult.

D. Obligation to Report Instances of Suspected Sexual Misconduct or Child Abuse

All instances of suspected sexual misconduct or child abuse must be reported to appropriate government authorities as specified by state law and the appropriate school administrator immediately or as soon as practicably possible.

E. Procedure for Reporting Suspected Instances of Sexual Misconduct or Child Abuse

The following reporting procedures should be followed:

1. An employee who has knowledge of or observes a child who is known or reasonably suspected of being the victim of sexual misconduct or child abuse shall report the known or suspected incident to a child protective agency as soon as practically possible by telephone. Child abuse includes sexual abuse, physical abuse and neglect. A written report should be sent within the specified time required by state law. The employee should consult with the administrator at the time of reporting.
2. If volunteers or other adults have reasonable suspicion of sexual misconduct or child abuse it should be promptly reported to child protective services and a school administrator.
3. The superintendent of schools or designee should be notified of the suspected incident as soon as practically possible if the suspected abuser is an employee or volunteer.
4. If the suspected incident involves an employee or volunteer that person may be placed on administrative leave from duty during the investigation by the child protection agency at the discretion of the superintendent of schools in consultation with the principal.

E10-144 Policy and Guidelines Relating to Sexual Misconduct Incidents Towards Students (Cont'd)

5. All suspected incidents of sexual misconduct or child abuse should be maintained in confidence apart from required notification to child protective services and school administrators. The information should only be shared with others on a need-to-know basis.

F. Investigation of Suspected Instances of Sexual Misconduct or Child Abuse

The superintendent of schools and the school administrator shall cooperate with civil authorities in any investigation of suspected sexual misconduct or child abuse. The superintendent of schools or school administrator may need to conduct an independent investigation of suspected sexual misconduct or child abuse for employment purposes. This investigation should be conducted in a thorough and confidential manner and should be documented. Employment action should be taken in compliance with the procedures set forth in the *Education Code*. Employees may be placed on administrative leave from duty with pay during the investigation.

E10-146 Dealing with Offenders in Financial Matters [New Policy 11/2013; Renumbered 12/2024]

When a volunteer, employee or agent of a Seventh-day Adventist organization performs an act in violation of the laws of the country and of the financial trust or responsibility reposed in him/her, discipline shall be administered and the employing organization will report all violations to appropriate law enforcement officials. [See *NAD Working Policy S 04 48*.] Available insurance coverage may be jeopardized by failing to report such matters to law enforcement.

E10-148 Remuneration – Full-time Certificated Personnel [Revised 12/2021; 4/2025]

Remuneration for a full-time certificated administrative or instructional employee consists of salary and the allowances or benefits for which the employee qualifies as follows:

A. Salary

The salary is determined annually by the employer after consideration of the following:

1. Salary-step Placement

The salary-step placement as determined by the certificate held at the time of issuance of the contract, the years of experience and the job assignment. [See the Section F11-104, "Relationship of Certification and Assignment to Remuneration".]

2. Employment Plan

[See Section E10-132 for descriptions of the employment plans for certificated personnel.]

The special salary provisions for the 10-month assignment plan are in item 4 below.

3. Cost-of-Living Remuneration Factor

The applicable cost-of-living remuneration factor voted by the local conference executive committee.

E10-148 Remuneration – Full-time Certificated Personnel (Cont'd)

4. Ten-month Employment Plan – Special Salary Provisions

The special salary provisions for the 10-month assignment plan are as follows:

- a. The annual salary is based on 95 percent of the annual 12-month salary. The 10-month annual salary is paid in equal installments over the 12-months of the contract year, July 1 - June 30.
- b. A person who is employed after the July 1 employment date and before the designated "report to work" date is to receive the full 10-month annual salary. A teacher employed after the designated "report to work" date is to receive salary based on the number of days employed, using a minimum of 195 days to determine a per day pay rate at the appropriate salary-step placement. [See also Section E10-132.]
- c. A person who discontinues employment is to repay all salary advanced but unearned for the time period between the employment date, July 1, and the designated "report to work" date.
- d. Additional salary is not granted for attendance at summer school.
- e. A teacher may be employed for special projects for a maximum of five weeks during that portion of the year not included in the 10-month working assignment and paid an additional amount based on the current rate. [See Section F11-112.D.]

B. Allowances and Benefits

Allowances and benefits are granted certificated personnel who qualify. Details regarding the allowances and benefits are provided in the citation(s) listed following each item by category as follows:

<u>Allowance or Benefit</u>	<u>Education Code Section</u>
1. Administrative Budget	F11-152
2. Graduate Study	
a. Doctoral Degree	
(1) Employee Expense	F19-120
(2) Doctoral Degree Denominational Expense	F19-116
b. School Attendance of Certificated Personnel	A25-108
	E10-152
3. Retirement for Retired Personnel	F11-146
4. Service Credit	E10-180
5. School Attendance of Certificated Personnel	A25-108
	E10-152
6. Termination Settlement	E10-192
7. Vacations and Holidays	E10-164

E10-152 Continuing Education of Certificated Personnel [Revised 5/2019; 4/2020; 12/2024]

Certificated administrative and instructional personnel in the union may be authorized to attend a college or university with financial assistance based on the following provisions.

A. Attendance at La Sierra University and Pacific Union College

E10-152 Continuing Education of Certificated Personnel (Cont'd)

1. General Provisions

Full time certificated administrative and instructional personnel employed in the union may take up to a maximum of 12 quarter hours, during an academic year, July 1-June 30 under the subsidized tuition program if authorized to attend La Sierra University or Pacific Union College.

- a. Personnel who wish to enroll in courses and/or programs under the subsidized tuition plan must submit the tuition authorization form obtained from the principal and/or local conference office of education and receive authorization from the local superintendent of schools in the local conference where the person is employed.
- b. Personnel must have a valid signed contract for the following school year as a prerequisite for authorization to enroll in courses and/or programs in a summer session.
- c. Authorized Early Childhood Education professionals may enroll in courses that meet credential requirements based on the following provisions.
 - (1) A local conference office of education is granted a specific number of units per year that can be allocated to full-time Early Childhood Education professionals for completion of credential requirements.
 - (2) The total hours granted to a local conference office of education is based on the allocation of one quarter hour per year for each Early Childhood Education professional. An Early Childhood Education professional may not be allocated more than 12 quarter hours during an academic year of the total hours available to the local conference office of education.

2. Special Provisions for Attendance at La Sierra University

The following special provisions apply to attendance at La Sierra University under the subsidized tuition plan.

- a. Authorized personnel attending La Sierra University may enroll in courses which meet certification requirements and graduate programs offered by the School of Education.
- b. Admission to degree programs is achieved only by formal application. Those interested in a graduate degree should apply for admission into a degree program during the first summer of attendance.
- c. In special circumstances, after consultation with the union office of education, the superintendent of schools or designee, may authorize enrollment in courses and/or degree programs in the Divinity School, School of Business, and/or College of Arts and Sciences.
- d. The following courses and/or programs are not covered by the subsidized tuition plan at La Sierra University.

E10-152

Continuing Education of Certificated Personnel (Cont'd)

- (1) Courses and/or programs to complete a baccalaureate degree. (Early Childhood Education professionals who are completing the credential requirements based on A.2.c. are exempted from this provision.)
- (2) Courses taken to complete the requirements for the Ed.S. degree. This does not include the 9 quarter hours that are needed for renewal of the Professional Certificate or the courses needed for the Principal endorsement.
- (3) Courses leading to the Ed.D. and/or Ph.D. degree.

B. Attendance at Seventh-day Adventist Colleges Outside of the Union

As a general rule, education personnel are expected to attend either La Sierra University or Pacific Union College. However, exceptions may be authorized when:

1. The necessary courses or programs are not available at either La Sierra University or Pacific Union College.
2. A person newly employed in the union is currently enrolled in a degree program at a college/university in the union where formerly employed and a transfer would entail hardship or loss of credit.

C. Attendance at Non-Seventh-day Adventist Institutions

Education personnel who are authorized to attend non-Seventh-day Adventist institutions, if the necessary courses or programs are not available at La Sierra University or Pacific Union College, may receive reimbursement for mileage or the lowest air fare, whichever is less, plus tuition and fees. No additional salary is granted for attendance at summer school.

An employee who elects to enroll in courses or programs at non-Seventh-day Adventist institutions for reasons of convenience or choice is not to receive assistance on tuition or fees.

D. Authorization for School Attendance

Education personnel who plan to attend La Sierra University or Pacific Union College with the exception of financial assistance on expenses must have written authorization prior to registering for courses or programs.

The authorization is as follows:

Attendance at La Sierra University or Pacific Union College

The school attendance authorization form is to be completed prior to registration at either La Sierra University or Pacific Union College. This form is available from the principal or the local conference office of education. The form is to be returned to the local conference office of education.

E. Financial Assistance at La Sierra University and Pacific Union College

1. Subsidized Tuition

Subsidized tuition for courses, including workshops and seminars are covered by the annual appropriation from the union.

E10-152 Continuing Education of Certificated Personnel (Cont'd)

2. Mileage

A mileage allowance may be granted for one round-trip by the most direct route to either La Sierra University or Pacific Union College based on the current mileage rate. This is to be paid by the employing organization [with the exception of Hawaii].

E10-156 Remuneration – Part-time Certificated Personnel [Revised 12/2024]

A. Salary

The salary is determined annually by the employer after consideration of the following:

1. The appropriate salary-step placement as determined by the certificate held at the time of issuance of the contract, the years of experience and the job assignment. [See Section F11-104, "Relationship of Certification and Assignment to Remuneration".]
2. Ratio of the employment to full-time employment.
3. The employment plan. [See Section E10-132.]

If employed for the full school year the prorated salary is based on the 10-month assignment employment plan. If employed for a portion of the school year the prorated salary is based on the 12-month assignment employment plan.

4. The applicable cost-of-living remuneration factor as voted by the local conference executive committee. [See Section F10-104.]

B. Allowances and Benefits

Part-time employees will be provided allowances and benefits as defined by the local conference.

E10-160 Remuneration – Substitute Teacher [Revised 04/2010]

Remuneration for a substitute teacher is to be based on the following:

A. One Through Twenty Days in the Same School

Remuneration only is based on the rate adopted by the local conference board of education.

B. Twenty-one or More Consecutive Days in the Same School

Remuneration and allowances or benefits for which the employee qualifies is to be based on:

1. Employment on the 10-month assignment employment plan. [See Section E10-132.]
2. Full-time or part-time employment.
 - a. Full-time employment. [See Section F11-108.]
 - b. Part-time employment. [See Section E10-156.]
3. The remuneration differential between the rate for the first twenty days and the remuneration based on "A" and "B" may be based on local conference board of education policy.

E10-164 Vacations and Paid Holidays – Full-time Certificated Personnel

A. Twelve-month Assignment Plan

1. Annual Vacation

- a. An annual vacation entitlement for full-time administrative and certificated employees shall be provided. The entitlement is accrued and calculated on the following basis:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Vacation entitlement per year of full-time service</u>
During first 4-year period	2 weeks
During next 5-year period	3 weeks*
After 9 years	4 weeks*

*Employees are eligible to begin accruing vacation at the 3 and 4 weeks after completing 4 and 9 years of service or in harmony with mandated government requirements.

- b. The vacation entitlement is based on the fiscal year, July 1-June 30. For full-time certificated personnel employed for less than 12 months during the fiscal year the entitlement is accrued on a prorated basis.
- c. Christmas recess taken as vacation time shall be counted as one week of the total annual earned vacation.
- d. Vacation time should generally be taken in the year of accrual. A formal accounting system must be in place. The maximum accrual is up to 150 percent of vacation entitlement including current year accruals.
- e. Vacation may be used at such time or times when requested by the employee, approved by the principal or local superintendent of schools and authorized by the appropriate authority.
- f. Vacation must be used during the Family and Medical Leave of Absence according to local conference policy.
- g. When a full-time certificated employee is transferred from one denominational organization to another, transfers from 12-month to 10-month employment, or discontinues denominational employment, accrued vacation time of up to 150 percent of vacation entitlement including current year accruals, shall be paid in cash by the former employer to the employee at the time of transfer or discontinuance of employment. The accrued amount will be equal to the amount the employee would receive while taking vacation entitlement before the transfer or discontinuance of employment begins.

2. Paid Holidays

Paid holidays and office closings are at individual employer's discretion and are generally influenced by the respective organization's needs, climatic conditions, as well as national and local laws.

B. Ten-month Assignment Plan

1. Annual Vacation

The annual paid vacation for personnel on the 10-month assignment plan is included within the annual employment contract irrespective of years of service.

2. Paid holidays are included within the annual employment contract.

E10-168 Vacations and Paid Holidays – Part-time Certificated Personnel [Revised 12/2024]

A. Twelve-month Assignment Plan

1. Annual Vacation

Annual vacation is accrued on a pro rata basis and calculated based on the following:

a. The years of service

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Vacation entitlement per year of full-time service</u>	<u>Vacation entitlement accrued per 38-hour week</u>
During first 4-year period	2 weeks	1.4575 hrs.
During next 5-year period	3 weeks*	2.1863 hrs.
After 9 years	4 weeks*	2.9151 hrs.

*Employees are eligible to begin accruing vacation at the 3 and 4 week rates after completing 4 and 9 years of service or in harmony with mandated government requirements.

b. Relationship of the assignment to full-time employment

c. Number of months employed during the fiscal year July 1 - June 30.

Example: An employee with 4 years of service employed for 60 percent for 10 months from August 15 - June 15.

$3/5$ (the working assignment) x 10 months (the assignment period of 10/12 of the fiscal year) x 10 days (vacation if employed full time) = 5 days paid vacation.

2. Paid Holidays

Paid holidays that occur on a regularly scheduled working day are granted in the amount the employee would earn if on duty.

B. Ten-month Assignment Plan

1. Annual Vacation

The annual paid vacation for part-time personnel on the 10-month assignment plan is included within the annual employment contract irrespective of years of service.

2. Paid holidays are included within the annual employment contract.

E10-172 Reduction in Force (RIF) [Revised 4/2015; 12/2017; 12/2018; 12/2021; 12/2024]

When it is necessary to implement a reduction in force (RIF) because of financial reasons the following criteria shall be used:

A. Consideration of the program offered by the school.

B. The personnel remaining at the school must have the personal and professional qualifications necessary to function in the restructured position(s).

E10-172 Reduction in Force (RIF) (Cont'd)

- C. Consideration of the employment status and the qualifications of the employees in each category in "D". This shall precede any decision regarding which employees shall be affected by the RIF.
- D. Subject to the criteria in "B", each category of employees listed below shall be considered for RIF before moving to the next category:
 - 1. Non-Exempt Classified
 - 2. Salaried Classified
 - 3. Non-Regular Status, Part-time
 - 4. Non-Regular Status, Full-time
 - 5. Regular Status, with consideration of
 - a. Certification and appropriate endorsements
 - b. Total years of service to the school, local conference and the Church
- E. In unusual circumstances one or more of the above criteria may be waived if prior approval has been obtained from the local conference office of education.
- F. In the event of a change in financial circumstances after the Reduction in Force has been voted, the personal and professional qualifications of the impacted employee/s will be considered for any open positions.
- G. Employees subject to a Reduction in Force are not eligible for the Hearing and Appeal Process.
- H. Term status employees may be considered for reduction in force provided that the employee is fully compensated through the completion of the term.

E10-176 North American Division Retirement Plan [Revised 12/2024]

The following describes the retirement plans currently available for employees of participating employers.

A. Defined Benefit Plan

The NAD Retirement Plan is a traditional defined benefit plan which provides a flow of funds until the death of the retiree and eligible spouse ceased to function for purposes of earning service credit on December 31, 1999, except for specific exceptions as detailed in the *Retirement Plan of the NAD and Auxiliary Benefits Z 05 through Z 50*. Service credit earned prior to that date will be "frozen" until the employee becomes eligible for retirement benefits under the terms of the plan.

Education personnel who were denominationally employed prior to January 1, 2000, are eligible to earn service credit for retirement on the defined benefit plan based on the provisions of the *Retirement Plan of the NAD and Auxiliary Benefits* section Z 15 05, "Criteria for Recognizing Service". Retirement benefits earned prior to January 1, 2000, in the defined benefit plan cannot be combined with benefits earned after December 31, 1999, in the defined contribution plan except for vesting and health care purposes.

[See Section E10-180 for details about service credit and benefits in the defined benefit plan.]

E10-176 North American Division Retirement Plan (Cont'd)

B. Defined Contribution Plan

Effective January 1, 2000, the Adventist Retirement Plan, a defined contribution plan has been made available for employees of participating employers. The defined contribution plan accumulates a lump sum which can be converted to an annuity, cashed out or invested at the option of the retiree at the time of retirement eligibility. Retirement benefits earned prior to January 1, 2000, in the defined benefit plan cannot be combined with benefits earned after December 31, 1999, in the defined contribution plan except for vesting and health care purposes.

Details about the defined contribution plan may be obtained from the local conference office of education.

C. Procedures and Policies

The employee shall submit the proper application form(s) to the local conference Office of Secretariat. For a complete listing of retirement policies see *Retirement Plan of the NAD and Auxiliary Benefits*.

E10-180 Service Credit for North American Division Defined Benefit Retirement Plan
[Revised 12/2024]

The defined benefit plan ceased to function for purposes of earning service credit on December 31, 1999, except for specific exceptions as detailed in the *Retirement Plan of the NAD and Auxiliary Benefits Z 05 through Z 50*. Service credit earned prior to that date will be “frozen” until the employee becomes eligible for retirement benefits under the terms of the plan.

Education personnel who were denominationally employed prior to January 1, 2000, earned service credit for retirement on the defined benefit plan based on the provisions of the *Retirement Plan of the NAD and Auxiliary Benefits* section Z 15 05, “Criteria for Recognizing Service”.

A qualified employee who applied for the Career Completion Option by December 31, 1999, could earn up to a maximum of five additional years of service credit or a total of 40 years of service credit, whichever is less, under the frozen plan.

Retirement benefits earned prior to January 1, 2000, in the defined benefit plan cannot be combined with benefits earned after December 31, 1999, in the defined contribution plan except for vesting and healthcare purposes.

A “safety net” is provided to assist those who may be disadvantaged by the “freeze” in the defined benefit plan. For those eligible to retire the Plan will calculate the monthly benefit of the frozen single life annuity, plus an estimate of what the employer-contributed account balance in the new plan would be if invested in the plan designated “default” strategy, converted to a single life annuity. This “combined annuity” will then be compared with what the single life annuity would have been had the plan not been frozen. If the “combined annuity” is less than the “no-freeze annuity”, the Plan will top-up the single life annuity by the amount of the shortfall. This Transitional Enhancement is designed to protect employees from possible reductions in the single life annuity benefits. It is not designed to replace the elimination spouse allowance for post-freeze service.

An employee who does not have enough service credit in the frozen defined benefit plan at the time of the freeze can count up to ten post-freeze years towards meeting minimal qualifying vesting thresholds under the pre-freeze plan up to December 31, 2014. The employee does not earn additional benefit service credit. Post-freeze service is considered only for purposes of reaching certain service thresholds. The qualifying thresholds that can be reached by post-freeze service include:

E10-180 Service Credit for North American Division Defined Benefit Retirement Plan (Cont'd)

	<u>Requirements</u>
1. Monthly Benefits	10 years
2. Spouse Allowance	20 years
3. No Penalty Early Retirement	40 years
4. Surviving Spouse Benefits	10-15 years
5. Death Benefit	10 years
6. Early Retirement Health care	40 years

Service credit for retirement under the defined benefit plan was earned as follows:

A. Twelve-month Employment Plan

One year of service credit is credited to an employee for each calendar year in which there was remuneration for at least 1,950 hours or for at least 11.5 months on a full-time salaried basis for participating employers.

After January 1, 1981, an employee who works less than full-time during a calendar year shall be eligible for proportionate credit based on the provisions of the *Retirement Plan of the NAD and Auxiliary Benefits*, Section Z 15 05 (4).

B. Ten-month Employment Plan

A full-time education employee who has the option to be off duty during the summer period shall be considered employed from July 1 to December 31 if serving for the full first semester of a school year and shall be considered employed from January 1 to June 30 if serving the full second semester of a school year. A teacher who is employed at least half-time shall also be eligible for proportionate service credit during the periods listed above. [See *Retirement Plan of the NAD and Auxiliary Benefits*, Z 15 15 (1).]

C. Personnel Employed by a Local School

An education employee whose payroll costs are funded by a local school or church is eligible to earn denominational service credit if the conditions stated below are met. The only benefits that the conferences provide such employees are service credit and Worker's Compensation insurance. [See *NAD Working Policy Y 47 05 and Retirement Plan of the NAD and Auxiliary Benefits Z 15 35*.]

Service credit shall be granted to an employee of a church or elementary schools provided:

1. The employee is remunerated for at least 1,000 hours during a calendar year.
2. The local conference has the employee on its payroll, and the remuneration is at least the federal minimum wage but does not exceed the denominational remuneration scale. Employees paid their remuneration directly by the church or school are not eligible to participate in either the frozen defined benefit plan or the defined contribution retirement.

E10-184 Service Records [Revised 12/2024]

The local conference Office of Secretariat or human resource services director is responsible for the service records of all education employees. Each employee shall be given a copy of the service record at any time at the employee's request by the last employing organization each time the employee transfers from one denominational organization to another, and at the time the employee discontinues denominational service.

E10-188 Suspension or Revocation of a Certificate [Revised 11/2012; 5/2013; 11/2015; 10/2018; 5/2019; 11/2022; 11/2023; 12/2024]

- A. The certificates subject to suspension or revocation are: Conditional, Basic, Standard, Professional, Administrator, and Designated Subjects/Services.
- B. A certificate will automatically be revoked for any of the following:
 - 1. Any admission of guilt pertaining to sexual abuse, or of the following sexual misconduct.
 - a. Actual or attempted sexual contact with a minor or with any person where there exists a relationship with inequality of power.
 - b. Actual or attempted rape or sexual contact by force, threat, or intimidation.
 - c. Criminal behavior of a sexual nature.
 - d. Possession, manufacture, distribution or access with intent to view child pornography.
 - 2. Any criminal conviction or plea of guilty, nolo contendere (no contest), or its equivalent for crimes of violence, sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, or possession, manufacture, distribution or access with intent to view child pornography.
- C. A certificate will automatically be suspended upon filing of criminal charges of any of the following:
 - 1. Sexual contact with a minor.
 - 2. Behaviors of a sexual nature.
 - 3. Crimes of violence.
 - 4. Possession, manufacture, distribution or access with intent to view child pornography.
- D. Suspension or Revocation of a Certificate
 - 1. The certificate may be suspended or revoked for any of the following:
 - a. Moral or personal conduct not in accordance with the principles of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
 - b. Conviction of a crime that is a felony or involves moral turpitude.
 - c. Persistence in advocating, practicing, or teaching beliefs, and/or philosophy contrary to the basic tenets, standards, and doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
 - d. The use of alcohol, tobacco, controlled substances without a prescription, or the misuse of drugs.
 - e. A condition of health detrimental to the welfare of students.
 - f. The willful failure to report an instance of child abuse or neglect.
 - g. Insubordination as evidenced by persistent violation of, or refusal to cooperate with policies and assignments.
 - h. Membership in an organization advocating the overthrow of the government by force or subversion.
 - i. When a contract has been prematurely terminated without the employer's consent.
 - j. When an employee resigns and fails to repay money owed to employer such as but not necessarily limited to the following: advanced salary, unamortized graduate study assistance, unamortized moving, housing loans.
 - k. Acting in a manner that seriously jeopardizes the health and safety of students or staff failing to act in a manner that ensure the health and safety of students.

E10-188 Suspension or Revocation of a Certificate (Cont'd)

2. Procedure

- a. The local conference office of education and the union office of education will collaborate to determine whether a request should be made for revocation or suspension of a certificate.
- b. The request will be considered by the local conference board of education. If affirmed, supporting documents will be sent to the union office of education.
- c. The union Vice President for Education shall give notice to a certificate holder of the proposed action to suspend or revoke the certificate including the right to a hearing by the union Certification Review Committee.
- d. The union Certification Review Committee shall conduct a hearing if such is requested by the certificate holder and shall act on the recommendation of the local conference board of education.
- e. The union board of education shall have the final decision regarding suspension or revocation.

3. Request for Reinstatement

The certificate holder may submit a request for reinstatement to the union Certification Review Committee after 90 days have elapsed following the decision regarding suspension or revocation.

E10-192 Termination Settlement [Revised 11/2008; 11/2011; 5/2013; 5/2014; 12/2024]

In order to provide transition funds for an involuntarily terminated full-time employee leaving denominational service, a termination settlement may be provided under the terms of this policy. The settlement is not an earned employee benefit automatically provided in every case of employment termination.

A. Eligible Recipient

A termination settlement may be granted to an involuntarily terminated employee who has worked in denominational employment for at least two years regardless of age. A resignation as a result of being counseled to resign by the employer is considered an involuntary termination for the purposes of this policy. Eligibility shall be determined according to the following criteria.

1. Closure or Reduction

An employee involuntarily terminated due to closure of a denominational facility or staff reductions due to financial exigency or enrollment.

2. Lack of Performance

An employee who is terminated for failing to adequately perform the functions of the job.

3. Medical Condition

An employee who is unable to continue employment because of a medical condition but it not eligible for disability benefits under the Employee Disability Income Plan. [*NAD Working Policy Y 33.*]

E10-192 Termination Settlement (Cont'd)

4. Term Status

A term status employee who is not offered a subsequent contract.

B. Ineligible Recipient

1. Part-time Employees

2. Involuntary Termination

An employee terminated for violation of organizational policies and/or practices regarding misconduct, or for criminal behavior.

3. Resignation

An employee who voluntarily resigns from employment.

4. Continued Denominational Employment

An employee who at the time of execution of the separation agreement [See *NAD Working Policy Y 36 30*] has declined a full-time denominational position consistent with the employee's training, compensation, and experience.

C. Service Record

A termination settlement shall be recorded on the terminated employee's service record. Such settlement, however, shall not increase service credit, nor shall it cancel any part of the employee's service credit.

D. Settlement

1. Payment

A termination settlement shall be paid by the terminating employer to the eligible employee in either a lump sum payment or in series of payments at the discretion of the terminating employer.

2. Calculation

The settlement shall be 25 percent of current monthly wages multiplied by total number of years of denominational service credit up to a maximum of twenty years. Current monthly wages shall include wages and cost of living adjustments but shall not include area travel or any other allowances.

3. Independent Transfers

In the case of the termination of an employee who has been voted an independent transfer, the settlement shall be calculated only on years of service earned as a church employee within the territory of the NAD or as a regularly appointed interdivision employee from the NAD.

E. Other Benefits

Unpaid accrued benefits, such as vacation or sick leave, if any, shall have no effect on the calculation of this settlement. If an employee has received a previous termination settlement under the terms of *NAD Working Policy Y 36*, any subsequent termination settlement shall be calculated based on years of service credit earned since the date of the previous termination settlement.

E10-192 Termination Settlement (Cont'd)

F. Health Care Benefits

Health care benefits in most situations cease with the effective date of termination. [See *NAD Working Policy Y 22.*] However, the terminating employer may provide continued emergency hospitalization and medical benefits to the terminated employee and dependents participating in the health care assistance plan, provided that such assistance shall be granted only in case of illness or accident. Non-emergency medical, dental and optical care is specifically excluded. This assistance may continue (1) as required by applicable law, or (2) for up to two months from the date of termination, or (3) until the terminated employee obtains health care assistance cover, whichever occurs first.

Terminated employees shall promptly notify the terminating employer when obtaining health care assistance coverage while eligible for assistance under this policy.

G. Release

As a condition of receiving a termination settlement, terminated employees are required to execute the separation agreement of their terminating employer, which shall include, without limitation, a waiver and release of any and all claims against their terminating employer, related organizations, and the officers, agents and employees of the terminating employer. The terminating employer shall issue the separation agreement to the terminated employee as soon as reasonably practicable following cessation of employment.

Terminated employees will have 21 days from receipt of the separation agreement to sign and return it to the terminating employer, unless a longer time period for consideration and signature is required by applicable law. If the separation agreement is not signed and returned to the terminating employer within the applicable time period, the termination settlement may well be forfeited. (A model separation agreement and release for terminating employees is available on the website of the NAD.)

H. Variances

Properly constituted governing or administrative bodies of denominational employers may authorize a termination settlement at variance with the provisions of this policy in order to comply with state or local laws.

EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL REGULAR STATUS EMPLOYMENT | E11

E11-104 General Policies [Revised 11/2023]

The general policies, Sections E10-108 to E10-192, are applicable to employees on Regular Status Employment.

E11-108 Definition of Regular Status Employment [Revised 11/2012]

A status indicating intent of continuous full-time employment in the schools within a conference granted to an employee who meets the following criteria:

- A. A minimum of three years of full-time denominational employment in a position which requires a certificate.
- B. A valid denominational Standard or Professional Certificate.
- C. Competency evidenced by formal evaluations while on Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment conducted by the principal and/or conference office of education personnel.
- D. Regular status may be granted to a school counselor who holds a Designated Subjects/Services Certificate with a four-year degree and appropriate training.
- E. Provisional Status may be extended for a reasonable period of time at the discretion of the local conference board of education.

E11-112 Granting Regular Status

The local conference board of education is responsible for granting Regular Status Employment. The local conference board of education acts on the recommendation of the local superintendent of schools. The local superintendent of schools shall consider the recommendation of the local school board when such a recommendation has been voted.

E11-116 Evaluation

The evaluation of an employee on Regular Status shall be based on the procedures adopted by the local conference board of education and shall include the following:

- A. A minimum of one summative evaluation every other year.
- B. The evaluation report shall include data from formal classroom observations conducted by the principal and/or the superintendent of schools/designee.

E11-120 Status Change [Revised 3/2012]

The employment status of an employee on Regular Status may be changed when in the best interest of the employee, the students, and/or the school as follows:

- Term Status. [See Section E11-124.]
- Transfer. [See Section E11-128.]
- Resignation. [See Section E11-132.]
- Administrative Leave. [See Section E11-136.]
- Termination. [See Section E11-140.]
- Retirement. [See Section E11-148.]
- Probation Restriction. [See Section E11-152.]
- Non-Regular Status Provisional Employment. [See Section E11-154.]

E11-124 Term Status Employment

An employee on Regular Status who is elected to an administrative position is employed on Term Status in the new position based on the provisions of Section E16-116.

E11-128 Transfer of Employee on Regular Status Employment [Revised 12/2024; 7/2025]

A. Voluntary Transfer

1. Definition.

A change initiated by an employee who requests transfer to another position or school, or accepts a position within the same or to a different local conference or union.

2. An employee who transfers to a different local conference may be changed to Non-Regular Provisional Status at the discretion of the new employer.

B. Administrative Transfer

1. Definition

A change initiated by the employer at any time during or at the close of the contract year that results in a change to a teaching or non-teaching position within the school or in another school within the same conference.

2. Employer's Right to Transfer

The employer shall have the right to transfer an employee when in the best interest of the students, the staff, the school, or the employee.

3. Procedure for Implementing an Administrative Transfer

- a. The local conference office of education is to determine whether an administrative transfer to another school is feasible or in counsel with the principal whether a transfer within the school is feasible.
- b. The superintendent of schools/designee or principal shall give written notice to the employee of the intent to implement an administrative transfer and of the right of the employee to meet with the board of education to object if requested by the employee in writing.

E11-128 Transfer of Employee on Regular Status Employment (Cont'd)

- c. The local conference board of education shall meet with the employee to consider the employee's objection if such is requested in writing by the employee.
- d. After considering the employee's objection, if any, the local conference board of education shall take action on the recommendation regarding the administrative transfer.
- e. The superintendent of schools shall notify the principal or school board and the employee in writing of the local conference board of education action.

E11-132 Resignation of Employee on Regular Status Employment

A. Definition

Voluntary discontinuance of employment during or at the close of the contract year by the employee.

B. Procedure

- 1. The employee shall submit written notice of resignation to the superintendent of schools/designee.
- 2. The superintendent of schools/designee shall inform the school board of the resignation.
- 3. The local conference board of education shall record the resignation in the official minutes of the board.
- 4. The employee shall repay any money owed to the employer such as but not limited to the following: advanced salary, unamortized graduate study assistance, unamortized moving expenses, and any other expenses.

E11-136 Administrative Leave of Employee on Regular Status Employment
[Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 12/2018; 12/2024]

A. Definition

The immediate temporary removal from duties for a reasonable period of time.

B. Salary and Benefits During the Administrative Leave

Salary and benefits shall continue during the administrative leave. When an administrative leave continues beyond three months because of, but not, limited to, a criminal investigation and/or prosecution, salary may be discontinued at the discretion of the local conference board of education. Benefits shall continue during the administrative leave.

C. Procedure

- 1. The superintendent of schools/designee or principal shall give written notice, including the reason to the employee.
- 2. The superintendent of schools/designee or principal shall make reasonable effort to complete any investigation as soon as possible.
- 3. An administrative leave beyond three working days shall require the approval of the superintendent of schools/designee.

D. The administrative leave shall continue until:

- 1. The employee is reinstated to active status; or,
- 2. The employee resigns; or,
- 3. The employment is discontinued by termination.

E11-140

Termination of Employee on Regular Status Employment [Revised 11/2010; 11/2012; 5/2013; 11/2015; 4/2016; 12/2017; 4/2018; 12/2024; 4/2025]

A. Definition

The discontinuance of employment for stated cause during or at the close of the contract year.

B. Reasons for Termination

1. The reasons affecting an employee's fitness to teach or administer and retention of a teaching certificate include but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Moral or personal conduct not in accordance with the principles of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including but not limited to reasons for discipline of employees in *NAD Working Policy* E90.
 - b. Conviction of a crime that is a felony or involves moral turpitude.
 - c. Persistence in advocating, practicing, or teaching beliefs, and/or philosophy contrary to the basic tenets, standards, and doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
 - d. The use of alcohol, tobacco, controlled substances without a prescription, or the misuse of drugs.
 - e. Insubordination as evidenced by persistent violation of, or refusal to cooperate with policies and assignments.
 - f. Membership in an organization advocating the overthrow of the government by force or subversion.
 - g. Acting in a manner that seriously jeopardizes the health and safety of students or staff failing to act in a manner that ensures the health and safety of students.
2. An employee on Regular Status may be terminated for any one of the following reasons:
 - a. Reduction in Force. [See Section E10-172.]
 - b. Failure to correct or overcome an identified problem area during the probationary period.
 - c. Recurrence of a failure to correct or overcome an identified problem after a previous probationary status change.
 - d. Refusal to accept an administrative transfer.

C. Eligibility Settlement

Refer to Section E10-192 "Termination Settlement" for the eligibility settlement for termination.

D. Procedure

1. The superintendent of schools/designee shall give written notice to the employee of the proposed termination action including the reasons and of the right to a hearing, if requested in writing by the employee.
2. The hearing shall be conducted, if such is requested in writing by the employee, based on the provisions of Section E17-104, "Hearing and Appeal Processes for Eligible Employees". The superintendent of schools/designee shall be present at the hearing.
3. The hearing body shall submit a recommendation to the local conference board of education. The superintendent of schools/designee shall be present when the recommendation is voted.

E11-140 Termination of Employee on Regular Status Employment (Cont'd)

4. The superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the employee of the decision of the hearing body and the right of appeal to the local conference board of education based on the provisions of Section E17-104, "Hearing and Appeal Processes for Eligible Employees".
5. The local conference board of education shall conduct an appeal if such is requested in writing by the employee.
6. Following the appeal, if conducted, the local conference board of education shall take action on the recommendation regarding termination. The local conference board of education will also consider the recommendation of suspension or revocation of the teaching certificate.
7. The superintendent of schools shall communicate the decision of the local conference board of education in writing to the employee, the principal and/or the local school board. If the employee is terminated the notice shall include the reason(s) for termination, the effective date of the termination and the date for discontinuance of salary. The superintendent of schools shall communicate to the union Certification Review Committee any recommendation for suspension or revocation of the teaching certificate.

E. Hearing and Appeal Processes

A person on Regular Status who is subject to termination or has been terminated under the provisions of this section is eligible for and agrees to accept the hearing and appeal processes as recourse for grievance regarding termination. [See Section E17-104, "Hearing and Appeal Processes for Eligible Employees".]

E11-148 Retirement of Employee on Regular Status Employment [Revised 12/2024]

[See Section E10-176.]

E11-152 Probation Restriction of Employee on Regular Status Employment [Revised 11/2011]

A. Definition

A restriction placed on the employment status of an employee on Regular Status at any time during the contract year, limited to a reasonable period of time for the employee to overcome an identified problem area based on a plan for rehabilitation developed by the principal and/or superintendent of schools/designee.

B. Reasons for Probation Restriction

1. Unsatisfactory professional competency as determined by evaluation.
2. Unsatisfactory and/or adverse personal conduct or influence.

C. Procedure

1. The superintendent of schools/designee shall give written notice to the employee of the proposed probation restriction including the reasons and of the right to a hearing, if requested in writing by the employee.
2. The hearing shall be conducted, if such is requested in writing by the employee, based on the provisions of Section E17-104, "Hearing and Appeal Processes for Eligible Employees". The superintendent of schools/designee shall be present at the hearing.
3. The hearing body shall submit a recommendation to the local conference board of education. The superintendent of schools/designee shall be present when the recommendation is voted.

E11-152

Probation Restriction of Employee on Regular Status Employment (Cont'd)

4. The superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the employee of the decision of the hearing body and the right of appeal to the local conference board of education based on the provisions of Section E17-104, "Hearing and Appeal Processes for Eligible Employees".
5. The local conference board of education shall conduct an appeal if such is requested in writing by the employee.
6. Following the appeal, if conducted, the local conference board of education shall take action on the recommendation regarding the probation restriction.
7. The superintendent of schools shall communicate the decision of the local conference board of education in writing to the employee, the principal and/or the local school board.

D. Plan for Rehabilitation

The principal and/or the superintendent of schools/designee shall develop a professional growth or counseling plan for rehabilitation of the employee as follows:

1. The employee shall receive a copy of the plan for rehabilitation.
2. The plan shall be implemented as soon as reasonable/feasible after the local conference board of education ratification of the probation restriction.

E. Evaluation

The evaluation of a Regular Status employee on probation restriction shall be based on the procedures adopted by the local conference board of education which shall include the following:

1. Provide regular feedback to the employee regarding performance relative to the terms of probation. This feedback shall occur at least twice during the probationary period and be based on formal and informal observations.
2. A written summary of each feedback conference shall be prepared.
3. An evaluation conference based on the written evaluation stipulated in 1. and 2. A copy of the written evaluation shall be given to the employee and superintendent of schools.
4. Copies of each written evaluation are to be given to the employee and the superintendent of schools and placed in the employee's personnel file.

F. Completion of the Probationary Period

At the completion of the probationary period the employee's status shall be changed to one of the following:

1. Returned to Regular Status without probation.
2. Transferred.
3. Terminated.

G. Procedure for Removal from Probation Restriction

1. The superintendent of schools/designee shall recommend the change in status (See "F") based on the results of the evaluation to the local conference board of education.
2. The local conference board of education shall take action regarding the recommendation on status change. If the decision is for administrative transfer or termination, the employee is eligible for the hearing and appeal processes during the procedure for administrative transfer or termination.

E11-152 Probation Restriction of Employee on Regular Status Employment (Cont'd)

3. The superintendent of schools shall communicate the decision of the local conference board of education in writing to the employee, the principal and/or the local school board. The notice shall include the effective date for the administrative transfer or termination.

H. Hearing and Appeal Processes

A person on Regular Status who is subject to a probation restriction under the provisions of this section is eligible for and agrees to accept the hearing and appeal processes as recourse for grievance regarding the probation restriction. [See Section E17-104, "Hearing and Appeal Processes for Eligible Employees".]

E11-154 Lapse in a Standard or Professional Certificate [New Policy 11/2010]

An employee on Regular Status who does not renew the Standard or Professional Certificate may be returned to Non-Regular Status Provisional Employment.

E11-156 Leaves for Employee on Regular Status Employment

A full-time employee on Regular Status may be granted a leave for a reasonable period of time. Any leave for an extended period of time requires prior approval in writing by the school board and/or local conference office of education. A leave may be granted for the following based on the provisions of local conference policy:

- A. Bereavement.
- B. Family and Medical.
- C. Illness.
- D. Jury Duty.
- E. Leave of Absence.
- F. Military Duty.
- G. Personal.

EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL NON-REGULAR STATUS, PROVISIONAL EMPLOYMENT | E12

E12-104 General Policies [Revised 11/2023]

The general policies, Sections E10-108 to E10-192, are applicable to employees on Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment.

E12-108 Definition of Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment [Revised 11/2013]

Provisional Employment is that period of time during which a certificated full-time employee is to demonstrate professional competency. The status is voted annually by the local conference board of education based on the following provisions:

A. Mandatory for the Following

1. A person who has completed less than three years of full-time service in a position that requires a certificate. The status may be extended for a reasonable period of time at the discretion of the local conference board of education, or;
2. A person who holds a Conditional Certificate, or;
3. A person who holds a Designated Subjects/Services Certificate.

B. Optional for the Following

1. A person who has achieved Regular Status in a local conference within the union prior to transfer to the present conference.
2. A person with more than three years of full-time service employed for the first time in the union and who holds a valid Standard or Professional Certificate.
3. A person who re-enters teaching in the union after a leave of more than one year and who holds a valid Standard or Professional Certificate.

E12-112 Evaluation [Revised 12/2024]

Competency evidenced by professional evaluation is a condition of continued employment. The evaluation process shall be based on the policies adopted by the local conference board of education and shall consist of the following:

A. Required

A minimum of one written evaluation during the first semester of each year based on supervisory visits by the principal and/or the superintendent of schools/designee.

B. Recommended

1. A minimum of two formal classroom observations should be conducted, one each semester. A feedback conference and written evaluation should be conducted and a written evaluation given.

E12-112 Evaluation (Cont'd)

2. At least one summative evaluation should be conducted to include an evaluation conference and a summative document.

A copy of each written evaluation shall be given to the employee and the superintendent of schools/designee.

E12-116 Status Change [Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 4/2016; 12/2024]

The employment status of an employee on Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment may be changed when in the best interest of the employee, the students, and/or the school as follows:

- Term Status. [See Section E11-124.]
- Regular Status. [See Sections E11-108 and E11-112.]
- Transfer. [See Section E12-124.]
- Resignation. [See Section E12-128.]
- Administrative Leave. [See Section E12-132.]
- Completion of Contract. [See Section E12-136.]
- Termination. [See Section E12-140.]
- Retirement. [See Section E12-148.]

E12-124 Transfer of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment [Revised 4/2018]

A. Voluntary Transfer

Definition

A change initiated by an employee who requests transfer to another position or school, or accepts an official call within the same or to a different conference or union.

B. Administrative Transfer

1. Definition

A change initiated by the employer at any time during or at the close of the contract year that results in a change to a teaching or non-teaching position within the school or in another school.

2. Employer's Right to Transfer

The employer shall have the right to transfer an employee when in the best interest of the students, the staff, the local school, or the employee.

3. Procedure for Implementing an Administrative Transfer

- a. The local conference office of education is to determine whether an administrative transfer is feasible to another school or in counsel with the principal whether a transfer is feasible within the local school.
- b. The superintendent of schools/designee or principal shall give written notice to the employee of the intent to implement an administrative transfer.

- E12-128 Resignation of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment
- A. Definition
- Voluntary discontinuance of employment during or at the close of the contract year by the employee.
- B. Procedure
1. The employee shall submit written notice of resignation to the superintendent of schools/designee or principal.
 2. The superintendent of schools/designee or principal shall inform the local school board of the resignation.
 3. The local conference board of education shall record the resignation in the official minutes of the board.
 4. The employee shall repay any money owed to the employer such as but not limited to the following: advanced salary, unamortized moving expenses, and any other expenses.
- E12-132 Administrative Leave of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment
[Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 4/2018]
- A. Definition
- The immediate temporary removal from duties for a reasonable period of time.
- B. Salary During the Administrative Leave
- Salary shall continue during the administrative leave. When an administrative leave continues beyond three months because of, but not, limited to a criminal investigation and/or prosecution, salary may be discontinued at the discretion of the local conference board of education.
- C. Procedure
1. The superintendent of schools/designee or principal shall give written notice, including the reason to the employee.
 2. The superintendent of schools/designee or principal shall make reasonable effort to complete any investigation as soon as possible.
 3. An administrative leave beyond three working days shall require the approval of the superintendent of schools/designee.
- D. The administrative leave shall continue until:
1. the employee is reinstated to active status; or,
 2. the employee resigns; or,
 3. the employment is discontinued by termination.
- E12-136 Completion of Contract of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment
[Revised 4/2016; 11/2023]
- A. Definition
- The completion of a contract of employment without the offer of a subsequent contract of employment.

E12-136 Completion of Contract of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment (Cont'd)

B. Procedure

1. To offer an employee a subsequent contract, the local conference office of education in consultation with the local school board shall submit a recommendation to the local conference board of education. The superintendent of schools/designee shall be present when any recommendation is voted.
2. The superintendent of schools shall make reasonable effort to communicate the acknowledgment of the completion of contract in writing to the employee, the principal and/or the local school board on or before May 1 if a subsequent contract is not to be offered.

E12-140 Termination of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment
[Revised 11/2012; 5/2013; 11/2015; 4/2016; 12/2017; 4/2018; 12/2024; 4/2025]

A. Definition

The discontinuance of employment for stated cause during or at the close of the contract year.

B. Reasons for Termination

1. The reasons affecting an employee's fitness to teach or administer and retention of a teaching certificate include but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Moral or personal conduct not in accordance with the principles of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including but not limited to reasons for discipline of employees in *NAD Working Policy* E90.
 - b. Conviction of a crime that is a felony or involves moral turpitude.
 - c. Persistence in advocating, practicing, or teaching beliefs, and/or philosophy contrary to the basic tenets, standards, and doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
 - d. The use of alcohol, tobacco, controlled substances without a prescription, or the misuse of drugs.
 - e. Insubordination as evidenced by persistent violation of, or refusal to cooperate with policies and assignments.
 - f. Membership in an organization advocating the overthrow of the government by force or subversion.
 - g. Acting in a manner that seriously jeopardizes the health and safety of students or staff failing to act in a manner that ensures the health and safety of students.
2. An employee on Non-Regular Status may be terminated for any one of the following reasons:
 - a. Reduction in Force. [See Section E10-172.]
 - b. Failure to correct or overcome an identified problem area.
 - c. Refusal to accept an administrative transfer.

C. Eligibility Settlement

Refer to Section E10-192 "Termination Settlement" for the eligibility settlement for termination.

E12-140 Termination of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment (Cont'd)

D. Procedure

1. The superintendent of schools/designee shall give written notice to the employee of the proposed termination action including the reasons.
2. The superintendent of schools shall communicate the decision of the local conference board of education in writing to the employee, the principal and/or the local school board. If the employee is terminated the notice shall include the reason(s) for termination, the effective date of the termination and the date for discontinuance of salary. The superintendent of schools shall communicate to the union Certification Review Committee any recommendation for suspension or revocation of the teaching certificate.

E12-148 Retirement of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment
[Revised 12/2024]

[See Section E10-176.]

E12-152 Leaves for Employee on Non-Regular Status, Provisional Employment

An employee on Provisional Employment may be granted a leave for a reasonable period of time. Any leave for an extended period of time requires prior approval in writing by the local school board and/or the local conference office of education. A leave may be granted for the following based on the provisions of local conference policy:

- A. Bereavement.
- B. Family and Medical.
- C. Illness.
- D. Jury Duty.
- E. Leave of Absence .
- F. Military Duty.
- G. Personal.

EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL NON-REGULAR STATUS, PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT | E14

E14-104 General Policies [Revised 11/2023]

The general policies, Sections E10-108 to E10-144, E10-156, E10-168 to E10-188, are applicable to employees on Non-Regular Status, Part-time Employment.

E14-108 Definition of Non-Regular Status, Part-time Employment [Revised 4/2016; 12/2024]

Non-Regular Status, Part-time Employment is less than full-time employment for a portion of or a full school year as an “at-will” employee and is subject to discontinuance of employment with or without cause on two-week notice.

E14-112 Employment Plan

The prorated assignment and the length of the period of employment is determined by mutual agreement between the employer and the employee. [See Section E10-124.]

E14-116 Evaluation

The superintendent of schools/designee or principal shall follow the policy adopted by the local conference board of education for evaluation of employees on Non-Regular Status, Part-Time Employment.

E14-120 Status Change [Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 4/2016; 11/2023; 12/2024]

The employment status of an employee on Non-Regular Status, Part-time Employment may be changed when in the best interest of the employee, the students, and/or the total school as follows:

- Term Status. [See Section E11-124.]
- Non-Regular Status Provisional Employment. [See Section E11-154.]
- Resignation. [See Section E14-124.]
- Administrative Leave. [See Section E14-128.]
- Completion of Contract. [See Section E14-132.]
- Termination. [See Section E14-134.]
- Retirement. [See Section E14-136.]

E14-124 Resignation of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Part-time Employment

A. Definition

Voluntary discontinuance of employment by the employee during or at the close of the contract year.

E14-124 Resignation of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Part-time Employment (Cont'd)

B. Procedure

1. The employee shall submit written notice of resignation to the principal or superintendent of schools/designee or principal.
2. The superintendent of schools/designee or principal shall inform the local school board of the resignation.
3. The local conference board of education shall record the resignation in the official minutes of the board.
4. The employee shall repay any money owed to the employer such as but not limited to the following: advanced salary, unamortized graduate study assistance, unamortized moving expenses, and any other expenses.

E14-128 Administrative Leave of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Part-time Employment
[Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 12/2018]

A. Definition

The immediate temporary removal from duties for a reasonable period of time.

B. Salary During the Administrative Leave

Salary shall continue during the administrative leave. When an administrative leave continues beyond three months because of, but not, limited to a criminal investigation and/or prosecution, salary may be discontinued at the discretion of the local conference board of education.

C. Procedure

1. The superintendent of schools/designee or principal shall give written notice, including the reason to the employee.
2. The superintendent of schools/designee or principal shall make reasonable effort to complete any investigation as soon as possible.
3. An administrative leave beyond three working days shall require the approval of the superintendent of schools/designee.

D. The administrative leave shall continue until:

1. the employee is reinstated to active status; or,
2. the employee resigns; or,
3. the employment is discontinued by termination.

E14-132 Completion of Contract of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Part-time Employment
[Revised 4/2016; 11/2023]

A. Definition

The completion of a contract of employment without the offer of a subsequent contract of employment.

B. Procedure

To offer an employee a subsequent contract, the local conference office of education in consultation with the local school board shall submit a recommendation to the local conference board of education. The superintendent of schools/designee shall be present when any recommendation is voted.

E14-134 Termination of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Part-time Employment
[New Policy 11/2023]

A. Definition

The discontinuance of employment with or without cause on-two week notice during or at the close of the contract year.

B. Procedure

1. The local school board, or at the discretion of the local conference office of education a sub-committee of the local conference board of education in lieu of the local school board, shall take an action regarding termination. The superintendent of schools/designee shall be present when the recommendation is voted.
2. The principal, in consultation with the superintendent of schools/designee shall give written notice to the employee of the action to terminate. The notice shall include the effective date(s) for discontinuance of employment and discontinuance of salary and any benefits.

E14-136 Retirement of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Part-time Employment [Revised 12/2024]
[See Section E10-176.]

E14-140 Leaves for Employee on Non-Regular Status, Part-time Employment

An employee on Non-Regular Status, Part-time Employment may be granted a leave for a reasonable period of time. Any leave for an extended period of time requires prior approval in writing by the local school board and/or local conference office of education. A leave may be granted for the following based on the provisions of local conference policy:

- A. Bereavement.
- B. Family and Medical.
- C. Illness.
- D. Jury Duty.
- E. Leave of Absence.
- F. Military Duty.
- G. Personal.

EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL NON-REGULAR STATUS, POST-RETIREMENT EMPLOYMENT | E15

E15-104 General Policies [Revised 11/2023]

The general policies, Sections E10-108 to E10-144, E10-172, E10-188, are applicable to employees on Non-Regular Status, Post-Retirement Employment.

E15-108 Definition of Post-Retirement Employment [Revised 3/2012; 4/2016]

Post-Retirement Employment status is part-time employment of a person receiving denominational retirement benefits. A person on this status is an “at-will” employee who and is subject to discontinuance of employment with or without cause on two-week notice.

E15-112 Remuneration [Revised 12/2024]

When a person on denominational retirement benefits and/or Social Security is employed on Non-Regular Status, Post-Retirement Employment, the employing organization should consult the *NAD Working Policy* and the *Retirement Plan of the NAD and Auxiliary Benefits* for approved length of service and remuneration restrictions.

E15-116 Vacations and Paid Holidays

The paid vacation and holidays may be negotiated as a part of the employment contract. However, the vacations and paid holidays may not exceed what the employee would otherwise be eligible for on Regular Status Employment.

E15-124 Status Change [Revised 3/2012; 4/2016; 11/2023]

The employment status of an employee on Non-Regular Status, Post-Retirement Employment may be changed when in the best interest of the employee, the students, and/or the total school as follows:

- Resignation. [See Section E15-128.]
- Administrative Leave. [See Section E15-132.]
- Completion of Contract. [See Section E15-136.]
- Termination. [See Section E15-138.]

E15-128 Resignation of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Post-Retirement Employment

A. Definition

Voluntary discontinuance of employment during or at the close of the contract year.

B. Procedure

1. The employee shall submit written notice of resignation to the superintendent of schools/designee or principal.

- E15-128 Resignation of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Post-Retirement Employment (Cont'd)
2. The superintendent of schools/designee or principal shall inform the local school board of the resignation.
 3. The local conference board of education shall record the resignation in the official minutes of the board.
 4. The employee shall repay any money owed to the employer such as but not limited to the following: advanced salary, unamortized moving expenses, or any other expenses.
- E15-132 Administrative Leave of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Post-Retirement Employment
[Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 12/2018]
- A. Definition
- The immediate temporary removal from duties for a reasonable period of time.
- B. Salary During the Administrative Leave
- Salary shall continue during the administrative leave. When an administrative leave continues beyond three months because of, but not, limited to a criminal investigation and/or prosecution, salary may be discontinued at the discretion of the local conference board of education.
- C. Procedure
1. The superintendent of schools/designee or principal shall give written notice, including the reason to the employee.
 2. The superintendent of schools/designee or principal shall make reasonable efforts to complete any investigation as soon as possible.
 3. An administrative leave beyond three working days shall require the approval of the superintendent of schools/designee.
- D. The administrative leave shall continue until:
1. the employee is reinstated to active status; or,
 2. the employee resigns; or,
 3. the employment is discontinued by termination.
- E15-136 Completion of Contract of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Post-Retirement Employment
[Revised 4/2016; 11/2023]
- A. Definition
- The completion of a contract of employment without the offer of a subsequent contract of employment.
- B. Procedure
- To offer an employee a subsequent contract, the local conference office of education in consultation with the local school board shall submit a recommendation to the local conference board of education. The superintendent of schools/designee shall be present when any recommendation is voted.

E15-138 Termination of Employee on Non-Regular Status, Post-Retirement Employment
[New Policy 11/2023]

A. Definition

The discontinuance of employment with or without cause on-two week notice during or at the close of the contract year.

B. Procedure

1. The local school board, or at the discretion of the local conference office of education a sub-committee of the local conference board of education in lieu of the local school board, shall take an action regarding termination. The superintendent of schools/designee shall be present when the recommendation is voted.
2. The principal, in consultation with the superintendent of schools/designee shall give written notice to the employee of the action to terminate. The notice shall include the effective date(s) for discontinuance of employment and discontinuance of salary and any benefits.

E15-140 Leaves for Employee on Non-Regular Status, Post-Retirement Employment

An employee on Non-Regular Status, Post-Retirement Employment may be granted a leave for a reasonable period of time. Any leave for an extended period of time requires prior approval in writing by the local school board and/or local conference office of education. A leave may be granted for the following based on the provisions of local conference policy:

- A. Bereavement.
- B. Family and Medical.
- C. Illness.
- D. Jury Duty.
- E. Military Duty.
- F. Personal.

EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL TERM STATUS EMPLOYMENT | E16

E16-104 General Policies [Revised 11/2023]

The general policies, Sections E10-108 to E10-192, are applicable to administrators on Term Status Employment.

E16-108 Definition of Term Status Employment

That status for administrators who are employed for a specified term not to exceed three years.

E16-112 Employment with Term Status [Revised 11/2012; 4/2017]

A person who is employed in one of the following administrative positions may be placed on Term Status Employment:

- A. Principal.
- B. Vice-Principal.

The following administrative positions may be placed on Term Status Employment:

- A. Teaching Principal-Head Teacher.
- B. Vice-Principal for Finance, Business Manager.
- C. Assistant Business Manager.
- D. Residence Hall Dean.
- E. Director of Development/Marketing/Recruitment.
- F. Registrar.

E16-116 Relationship of Regular Status Classification to Term Status Employment [Revised 12/2021; 12/2024]

The following identifies the relationship of Regular Status classification to Term Status Employment.

An employee does not hold Regular Status for the administrative position but retains the status if:

- it was obtained prior to Term Status Employment; and,
- the employee secures employment as an instructional employee within the same local conference at the close of Term Status Employment.

Note: A term status employee who is not offered a subsequent contract may be eligible for a termination settlement [See Section E10-192.A.4.]

E16-120 Evaluation

An employee on Term Status Employment is to be evaluated once a term.

The principal is to be evaluated by the superintendent of schools or designee. Other school administrators are evaluated by the principal or superintendent of schools/designee.

Competency evidenced by professional evaluation is a condition of continued Term Employment and shall consist of a minimum of one written evaluation per term by the superintendent of schools/designee or principal.

E16-124 Status Change [Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 11/2023]

The employment status of an employee on Term Status Employment may be changed when in the best interest of the administrator, the students, and/or the total school as follows:

- Regular Status. [See Section E11-124.]
- Non-Regular Status Provisional Employment. [See Section E11-154.]
- Reassignment. [See Section E16-128.]
- Resignation. [See Section E16-132.]
- Administrative Leave. [See Section E16-136.]
- Termination. [See Section E16-140.]
- Completion of Contract. [See Section E16-144.]
- Retirement. [See Section E16-148.]

E16-128 Reassignment of a Term Status Employee [Revised 12/2017; 12/2024]

A. Definition

A change in employment status initiated by the Term Status employee or the employer at any time during the term of employment which results in reassignment from an administrative position to another position in the local school or another school in the local conference.

B. Employment Status

A reassignment to a position that requires a certificate reinstates the employment status achieved prior to Term Status employment.

C. Salary

The salary (excluding the administrative budget) is unaffected for the remainder of the term if the administrator qualifies for or has achieved Regular Status.

D. Reasons for Reassignment

Reassignment may be initiated for reasons such as, but not limited to, the following:

1. Failure to fulfill the responsibilities in the job description as detailed in the *Education Code*.
2. Unsatisfactory performance in the current position as determined by the local conference board of education in consultation with the local school board.
3. Conflicting personal relationships.
4. Failure to complete the requirements for the Administrator Certificate, where applicable.
5. Reduction in Force [See Section E10-172.]

E16-128 Reassignment of a Term Status Employee (Cont'd)

E. Procedure for Affecting the Reassignment of Term Status Employee

1. The superintendent of schools/designee shall give written notice to the employee of the proposed reassignment including the reasons and of the right to a hearing, if requested in writing by the employee.
2. The hearing shall be conducted, if such is requested in writing by the employee, based on the provisions of Section E17-104, "Hearing and Appeal Processes for Eligible Employees". The superintendent of schools/designee shall be present at the hearing.
3. The hearing body shall submit a recommendation to the local conference board of education regarding the reassignment. The superintendent of schools/designee shall be present when the recommendation is voted.
4. The superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the employee of the decision of the hearing body and the right of appeal to the local conference board of education based on the provisions of Section E17-104, "Hearing and Appeal Processes for Eligible Employees".
5. The local conference board of education shall conduct an appeal if such is requested in writing by the employee.
6. Following the appeal, if conducted, the local conference board of education shall take action on the recommendation regarding reassignment.
7. The superintendent of schools shall communicate the decision of the local conference board of education in writing to the employee, the principal and/or the local school board. If the employee is reassigned the notice shall include the effective date of the reassignment.

F. Hearing and Appeal Processes

An employee on Term Status Employment who is subject to reassignment or has been reassigned under the provisions of this section is eligible for and agrees to accept the hearing and appeal processes as recourse for grievance regarding reassignment. [See Section E17-104, "Hearing and Appeal Processes for Eligible Employees".]

E16-132 Resignation of a Term Status Employee [Revised 12/2024]

A. Definition

Voluntary discontinuance of employment during or at the close of the term by the employee.

B. Procedure

1. The employee shall submit written notice of resignation to the superintendent of schools/designee or principal, whichever is the immediate supervisor.
2. The employee shall repay any money owed to the employer such as but not limited to the following: advanced salary, unamortized graduate study assistance, unamortized moving expenses, and any other expenses.

E16-136 Administrative Leave of a Term Status Employee [Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 12/2018; 12/2024]

A. Definition

The immediate temporary removal from duties for a reasonable period of time.

B. Salary During the Administrative Leave

Salary shall continue during the administrative leave. When an administrative leave continues beyond three months because of, but not, limited to a criminal investigation and/or prosecution, salary may be discontinued at the discretion of the local conference board of education.

C. Procedure

1. The superintendent of schools/designee in counsel with the immediate supervisor shall give written notice of the administrative leave to the administrator including the reasons.
2. The superintendent of schools/designee shall make reasonable efforts to complete any investigation as soon as possible.
3. An administrative leave beyond three working days shall require the written approval of the superintendent of schools/designee.

D. The administrative leave shall continue until:

1. the employee is reinstated to active status; or,
2. the employee resigns; or,
3. the employment is discontinued by termination; or,
4. the completion of the contract.

E16-140 Termination of a Term Status Employee [Revised 11/2012; 5/2013; 11/2015; 4/2016; 12/2017; 12/2024; 4/2025]

A. Definition

The discontinuance of employment for stated cause during or at the end of the term.

B. Reasons for Termination

The reasons affecting a term status employee's fitness to administer and/or teach and retention of a teaching certificate include but are not limited to:

1. Moral or personal conduct not in accordance with the principles of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including but not limited to reasons for discipline of employees in *NAD Working Policy E90*.
2. Conviction of a crime that is a felony or involves moral turpitude.
3. Persistence in advocating, practicing, or teaching beliefs and/or philosophy contrary to the basic tenets, standards, and doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
4. The use of alcohol, tobacco, controlled substances without a prescription, or the misuse of drugs.
5. Insubordination as evidenced by persistent violation of, or refusal to cooperate with policies and assignments.
6. Membership in an organization advocating the overthrow of the government by force or subversion.
7. Misappropriation of school assets.
8. Acting in a manner that seriously jeopardizes the health and safety of students or staff failing to act in a manner that ensures the health and safety of students.

E16-140 Termination of a Term Status Employee (Cont'd)

C. Procedure

1. The superintendent of schools/designee shall give written notice to the employee of the proposed termination including the reasons and of the right to a hearing, if requested in writing by the employee.
2. The hearing shall be conducted, if such is requested in writing by the employee, based on the provisions of Section E17-104, "Hearing and Appeal Processes for Eligible Employees". The superintendent of schools/designee shall be present at the hearing.
3. The hearing body shall submit a recommendation to the local conference board of education. The superintendent of schools/designee shall be present when the recommendation is voted.
4. The superintendent of schools shall give written notice to the employee of the decision of the hearing body and the right of appeal to the local conference board of education based on the provisions of Section E17-104, "Hearing and Appeal Processes for Eligible Employees".
5. The local conference board of education shall conduct an appeal if such is requested in writing by the employee.
6. Following the appeal, if conducted, the local conference board of education shall take action on the recommendation regarding termination. The local conference board of education will also consider the recommendation of suspension or revocation of the teaching certificate.
7. The superintendent of schools shall communicate the decision of the local conference board of education in writing to the employee, the principal and/or the local school board. If the employee is terminated the notice shall include the reason(s) for termination, the effective date of the termination and the date for discontinuance of salary. The superintendent of schools shall communicate to the union Certification Review Committee any recommendation for suspension or revocation of the teaching certificate.

D. Hearing and Appeal Processes

An employee on Term Status Employment who is subject to termination or has been terminated under the provisions of this section is eligible for and agrees to accept the hearing and appeal processes as recourse for grievance regarding termination. [See Section E17-104, "Hearing and Appeal Processes for Eligible Employees".]

E16-144 Completion of Contract of a Term Status Employee [Revised 11/2011; 4/2016; 11/2023]

A. Definition

The completion of a specified term of employment without the offer of a subsequent term or contract of employment.

B. Procedure

1. To offer an employee a subsequent contract, the local conference office of education in consultation with the local school board shall submit a recommendation to the local conference board of education. The superintendent of schools/designee shall be present when the recommendation is voted.
2. The superintendent of schools shall make reasonable effort to communicate the acknowledgment of the completion of contract in writing to the employee, the principal and/or the local school board on or before May 1 if a subsequent contract is not to be offered.

E16-148 Retirement of a Term Status Employee [Revised 12/2024]

[See Section E10-176.]

E16-152 Leaves for a Term Status Employee

A full-time Term Status employee may be granted a leave for a reasonable period of time. Any leave for an extended period of time requires prior approval in writing by the local school board and/or local conference office of education. A leave may be granted for the following based on the provisions of local conference policy:

- A. Bereavement.
- B. Family and Medical.
- C. Illness.
- D. Jury Duty.
- E. Leave of Absence.
- F. Military Duty.
- G. Personal.
- H. Sabbatical.

EMPLOYMENT OF CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL HEARING AND APPEAL PROCESSES FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES | E17

E17-104 Hearing and Appeal Processes [Revised 11/2011; 11/2012; 12/2024]

- A. Either the school board or the local conference office of education may make a recommendation on employment status change to the local conference board of education
1. If a recommendation for status change is being considered, an eligible employee must be given the option to attend a hearing.
 2. The hearing with the personnel committee or school board must be held as soon as reasonably possible, but not less than five (5) working days from the time of notification.
 3. The superintendent of schools/designee must be present and chair the hearing.
 4. If the employee chooses not to attend the hearing the superintendent of schools/designee should be notified in writing.

B. General Provisions of the Hearing and Appeal Processes

The following general provisions apply to the hearing and appeal processes:

1. Notice to the Employee

Prior to a hearing or appeal the employee is to be given a written notice that will provide the following:

- a. The time and place of the hearing or appeal.
- b. The employment status change being considered (in the case of a hearing) or recommended (in the case of an appeal) and the factual basis for the status change.
- c. The employee's right of access to relevant records prior to the hearing or appeal.
- d. The employee's right to present relevant evidence at the hearing or appeal.
- e. The employee's right to have another person present, other than an attorney.
- f. Assurance that participation in the hearing or appeal process will not be used against the employee in any employment decision.

2. Employee's Access to Evidence

The employee shall have access to the relevant records and evidence prior to the hearing or appeal and the right to make copies of these records and evidence. The employee shall not have the right to records of other employees or the private files of the administrator.

E17-104 Hearing and Appeal Processes (Cont'd)

3. Reprisals

If the employee has requested and/or participates in a hearing or appeal process, that cannot be used as a basis for any employment decision or action regarding the employee.

C. The Hearing

1. Purpose of the Hearing

The hearing is a process that assists the employing organization in making fair and equitable employment decisions. It is intended to provide opportunity for the employee to hear the concerns regarding performance and the proposed actions to be taken, and an opportunity to present a case.

2. A hearing may be conducted by:

- a. The local school board or personnel committee if voted by the board; or
- b. At the discretion of the local conference office of education by a sub-committee of the local conference board of education in lieu of the local school board or personnel committee.

3. The employee has a right to be present at a hearing to:

- a. Hear the concerns.
- b. Hear the facts supporting the concerns.
- c. Ask questions.
- d. Present a case.
- e. Present other relevant information.

4. The employee may have another person present, other than an attorney.

5. The body granting the hearing may set reasonable limits on the length of the employee's presentation and other procedures of the hearing.

D. The Appeal

1. Purpose of the Appeal

The purpose of the appeal is not to hear new evidence but to assist the local conference board of education in ensuring that the recommendation from the hearing was made as a result of a process that was fair and equitable and that the evidence provided a reasonable basis for the decisions.

2. An appeal request from an employee must be presented in writing.

3. The appeal is to be conducted by the local conference board of education.

4. The employee has a right to be present at the appeal to present information to support the claim that:

- a. the process was not fair; and/or,
- b. there was a lack of evidence to support a reasonable basis for the decision.

E17-104 Hearing and Appeal Processes (Cont'd)

5. The employee may have another person present other than an attorney.
6. The local conference board of education may set reasonable limits on the length of the employee's presentation and other procedures of the appeal.

E. Disposition of the Appeal

The superintendent of schools shall communicate the decision of the local conference board of education to the employee.

F. Failure to Appear

An employee is expected to attend the requested hearing or appeal on the date scheduled in the notice to the employee described in Section E17-104.C.1. If an employee states an inability to attend the hearing or appeal for medical reasons, the following procedures shall apply:

1. The local conference office of education may require sufficient certification from the employee's physician that the employee is unable to attend an employment hearing or appeal. The certification should, at a minimum, set forth:
 - a. The date on which the employee's medical condition commenced;
 - b. The probable duration of the condition; and,
 - c. The appropriate medical facts within the knowledge of the health care provider regarding the condition and an explanation as to why these medical facts prevent the employee's participation in the hearing or appeal.
2. The local conference office of education may require the employee to submit to a medical evaluation by a physician of the local conference's own choosing, and at its own expense, for the purpose of obtaining a second medical opinion regarding whether the employee is medically unable to attend the hearing or appeal.
 - a. The physician shall not be regularly employed or utilized by the local conference unless the employee is located in an area where health care is extremely limited.
 - b. The second medical opinion shall be subject only to the condition that the examination may not include a diagnostic test or procedure that is painful, protracted, or intrusive. The drawing of blood or the taking of a urine sample shall be permitted provided it is reasonably necessary for the determination of medical facts needed to form the basis of an opinion that the employee is medically unable to attend the hearing or appeal.
 - c. The second opinion shall specify, when solicited by the local conference, what reasonable accommodations could be made in the hearing or appeal process that would allow the participation of the employee.
3. If the second medical opinion differs from the employee's original assertion or certification that the employee is medically unable to attend the hearing or appeal, the local conference may, at its own expense, require that the employee submit to another medical evaluation for the purpose of obtaining the opinion of a third health care provider designed or approved jointly by the employer and the employee. This third opinion shall be binding.

E17-104 Hearing and Appeal Processes (Cont'd)

4. The employer may require the employee to obtain subsequent re-certifications on a reasonable basis.
5. It is not beneficial to the school, the local conference, or the employee to delay the resolution of employment disputes. Thus, when a medical opinion sets for that an employee will be medically unable to attend an employment hearing or appeal within 60 days, the local conference may conduct the hearing or appeal and require the attendance of a representative of the employee. This representative may not be an attorney. The employee or representative will be given a 30-day notice of the hearing or appeal in order to properly prepare. If the employee fails or refuses to designate a representative, the proposed status change may be acted upon without the hearing or appeal.

EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL GENERAL POLICIES | E18

E18-104 Employment Policies – Classified Personnel [Revised 11/2023]

The policies related to the employment of classified personnel are in Sections E18-104 to E21-148.

The policies are organized as follows:

E18-108 to E18-148 – General policies that are applicable to salaried classified and non-exempt classified personnel

E19-104 to E20-104 – Specific policies applicable to salaried classified personnel

E21-104 to E21-148 – Specific policies applicable to non-exempt classified personnel

E18-108 Employer [Revised 11/2012]

The local conference board of education derives its authority from the local conference executive committee, and is the employing organization referred to hereinafter as the employer. The local conference board of education has an inherent legal obligation in the employment, changes in employment status, termination of education personnel.

To ensure the effective and orderly operation of the schools within the local conference, the local conference board of education consults with and delegates selected functions to local school boards. However, the local conference board of education may take action on its own initiative or may take action that supersedes a recommendation from or action of a local school board.

Inasmuch as the local conference executive committee remains legally bound by actions of local school boards, it is incumbent that there be close cooperation between the local school boards and the local conference board of education in the operation of schools and in the application of employment policies for school personnel.

Classified personnel are recommended for employment, assignment, transfer, or termination to the personnel committee of the local school board by the principal in counsel with the superintendent of schools/designee and the local school board chair.

The employment, assignment, suspension or termination of classified personnel shall be by action of the local school board using the procedures stated for the specific employment status. Discipline, counseling and supervision of personnel is the responsibility of the principal and/or superintendent of schools/designee.

E18-112 Employment Agreement for Salaried Classified Employees [Revised 12/2024]

The school shall use the written agreement form adopted by the local conference office of education in hiring salaried classified employees.

Any changes made in the employment agreement and/or failure on the part of the prospective employee to return the contract by the specified time, will void the offer.

E18-112 Employment Agreement for Salaried Classified Employees (Cont'd)

The employment agreement shall include but not necessarily be limited to the following:

- A. Names of the parties to the agreement.
- B. Initial assignment and/or duties to be performed.
- C. Beginning date of employment.
- D. Salary or wages to be paid to the employee.
- E. Hours to be worked and/or proportion of full-time.
- F. A statement that the employee willingly agrees to comply with the policies and standards of the local conference, the union, and the Seventh-day Adventist Church which are in effect and/or may be altered during employment.
- G. A summary of the allowances and benefits that are granted when the employee qualifies.
- H. Provision for signatures and dates for the signature and date signed for the agent of the local school board and the employee.
- I. The deadline the signed agreement is to be returned.

E18-116 Conditions of Employment [Revised 11/2013; 11/2015; 4/2016; 11/2016; 4/2018; 5/2019; 12/2024]

A. Church Membership

Employees shall be members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing and as such shall provide a positive Christian role model and demonstrate a concern for the spiritual and moral development of students so that the unique philosophy of Seventh-day Adventist education is reflected throughout the total school program.

B. Tithe Paying

Faithful tithing is a condition for initial and continued employment, and transfer to another school, local conference or other denominational organization. [See *NAD Working Policy E 80 20.*]

C. Conflicting Activities

An employee shall not engage in any business or activity, either denominational or extra-denominational which has the effect of diminishing the employee's influence and/or infringing on the time and efficiency of the work to which the employee is assigned.

D. Fitness for Duty

1. After a conditional offer of employment, an employee shall provide the employer with a completed physical examination form signed by a physician of the employer's choice. The form shall verify that the employee is capable of performing the job functions.
 - a. If a disability is identified which interferes with performance of a job function, the employer shall determine if the job function is essential.
 - b. If the job function is essential, the employer shall determine if a reasonable accommodation can be made.
 - c. If an essential job function cannot be performed and accommodation is not reasonably possible, the offer of employment may be revoked.
 - d. The examination referred to in I. above shall be conducted, and the written proof shall be filed, every four years after initial employment or as requested by the employer.

E18-116 Conditions of Employment (Cont'd)

2. A prospective employee shall provide written proof of a TB risk assessment or TB skin test signed by a health care provider, conducted within 60 days preceding the date of employment. The superintendent of schools/designee may require additional testing as required by the state law where employed.
3. Employee health records will be kept in accordance with Section A26-124.
4. Any employee taking prescribed or over-the-counter medications will be responsible for consulting the prescribing physician and/or pharmacist to ascertain whether the medication may interfere with safe performance of the employee's job. If the use of a medication could compromise the safety of the employee, fellow employees, students or others, it is the employee's responsibility to use appropriate personal procedures (e.g., use sick leave, request change of duty, notify administrator) to avoid unsafe practices.

E. Employment Eligibility Verification, Form I-9

A classified employee who is given a conditional offer of employment must complete an I-9 Form, "Employment Eligibility Verification", U. S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service within 72 hours. The form shall be maintained at the payroll center.

F. Criminal Record Summary

To the extent required by law, state and federal criminal record summaries must be obtained for employer review on or before the first day of employment for any employee who will have contact with minor students. This includes any person hired to work in a private school on a regular paid full-time or regular paid part-time basis who will have contact with minors.

To satisfy this requirement, employees must cooperate with the employing local conference by submitting fingerprints and applications to appropriate state and federal agencies so that the employing local conference can obtain such reports from the agency, or from the employee in jurisdictions where such reports cannot be obtained directly by the employer from the agency. Furthermore, employee must cooperate in updating such criminal record summaries at the discretion of the employing local conference.

G. Statement of Knowledge of Duty to Report Child Abuse

A classified employee is to sign a statement on the form provided by the employer acknowledging the duty to report cases of child abuse and will comply with the provisions of state law. This requires that any employee who is a child care custodian who has knowledge of or observes a child known or reasonably suspected of having been the victim of child abuse is to report the known or suspected instance of child abuse to a child protective agency immediately or as soon as practically possible by telephone and to prepare and send a written report within the time required of receiving the information concerning the incident.

E18-118 Dealing with Offenders in Financial Matters [New Policy 11/2013]

When a volunteer, employee or agent of a Seventh-day Adventist organization performs an act in violation of the laws of the country and of the financial trust or responsibility reposed in him/her, discipline shall be administered and the employing organization will report all violations to appropriate law enforcement officials. [See *NAD Working Policy S 04 48.*] Available insurance coverage may be jeopardized by failing to report such matters to law enforcement.

E18-120 Nondiscrimination Exception – Employment [Revised 4/2025]

For Seventh-day Adventist the free exercise of religion includes the right to operate educational institutions that are distinctively Seventh-day Adventist. To establish and maintain the mission of Adventist educational institutions requires that they be staffed only by those individuals who are in complete harmony with the beliefs and practices of the Church. Therefore, in the employment of personnel for its educational institutions one of the occupational qualifications for any position is that the individual must be a Seventh-day Adventist member, in regular standing, committed to the mission and ministry of the Church.

Inasmuch as the personal life and the professional identity of an individual are inseparable, all employees are expected to conform to the standards of conduct that are in harmony with Seventh-day Adventist principles.

To fulfill the mission of Seventh-day Adventist education employing entities shall exercise the right to employ only those who have freely chosen to be members, in regular standing, of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Except for this employment exemption provided by law, denominational employers shall practice, provide equal employment opportunities to all on the basis of qualifications without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, physical handicap, age, height, weight, marital status, or prior military service.

E18-124 Employment Status of Classified Personnel

The employment status of a classified employee will be in one of the following categories:

A. Salaried Classified. [See Sections E19-104 to E20-104.]

This category is for full-time salaried employees exempt from overtime under the FLSA and applicable state laws.

B. Non-Exempt Classified. [See Sections E21-104 to E21-148.]

This category is for non-exempt employees employed either full-time or part-time, and eligible for overtime under the FLSA and applicable state laws.

E18-128 North American Division Retirement Plan

The following describes the retirement plans currently available for employees of participating employers.

A. Defined Benefit Plan

The NAD Retirement Plan is a traditional defined benefit plan which provides a flow of funds until the death of the retiree and eligible spouse ceased to function for purposes of earning service credit on December 31, 1999, except for specific exceptions as detailed in the *Retirement Plan of the NAD and Auxiliary Benefits*, Z 05 through Z 50. Service credit earned prior to that date will be “frozen” until the employee becomes eligible for retirement benefits under the terms of the plan.

Education personnel who were denominationally employed prior to January 1, 2000, are eligible to earn service credit for retirement on the defined benefit plan based on the provisions of the *Retirement Plan of the NAD and Auxiliary Benefits*, section Z 15 05, “Criteria for Recognizing Service”. Retirement benefits earned prior to January 1, 2000, in the defined benefit plan cannot be combined with benefits earned after December 31, 1999, in the defined contribution plan except for vesting and health care purposes.

[See Section E10-180 for details about service credit and benefits in the defined benefit plan.]

E18-128 North American Division Retirement Plan (Cont'd)

B. Defined Contribution Plan

Effective January 1, 2000, the Adventist Retirement Plan, a defined contribution plan has been made available for employees of participating employers. The defined contribution plan accumulates a lump sum which can be converted to an annuity, cashed out or invested at the option of the retiree at the time of retirement eligibility. Retirement benefits earned prior to January 1, 2000, in the defined benefit plan cannot be combined with benefits earned after December 31, 1999, in the defined contribution plan except for vesting and health care purposes.

Details about the defined contribution plan may be obtained from the local conference office of education.

E18-132 Service Records for Classified Personnel [Revised 12/2024]

The local conference Office of Secretariat or human resource services director is responsible for the service records of all education personnel. Each employee shall be given a copy of the service record at any time at the employee's request by the last employing organization each time the employee transfers from one denominational organization to another, and at the time the employee discontinues denominational service.

E18-136 Service Credit for North American Division Defined Benefit Retirement Plan
[Revised 12/2024]

The defined benefit plan ceased to function for purposes of earning service credit on December 31, 1999, except for specific exceptions as detailed in the *Retirement Plan of the NAD and Auxiliary Benefits*, Z 05 through Z 50. Service credit earned prior to that date will be "frozen" until the employee becomes eligible for retirement benefits under the terms of the plan.

Education personnel who were denominationally employed prior to January 1, 2000, earned service credit for retirement on the defined benefit plan based on the provisions of the *Retirement Plan of the NAD and Auxiliary Benefits*, section Z 15 05, "Criteria for Recognizing Service".

A qualified employee who applied for the Career Completion Option by December 31, 1999, could earn up to a maximum of five additional years of service credit or a total of 40 years of service credit, whichever is less, under the frozen plan.

Retirement benefits earned prior to January 1, 2000, in the defined benefit plan cannot be combined with benefits earned after December 31, 1999, in the defined contribution plan except for vesting and healthcare purposes.

A "safety net" is provided to assist those who may be disadvantaged by the "freeze" in the defined benefit plan. For those eligible to retire the Plan will calculate the monthly benefit of the frozen single life annuity, plus an estimate of what the employer-contributed account balance in the new plan would be if invested in the plan designated "default" strategy, converted to a single life annuity. This "combined annuity" will then be compared with what the single life annuity would have been had the plan not been frozen. If the "combined annuity" is less than the "no-freeze annuity", the Plan will top-up the single life annuity by the amount of the shortfall. This Transitional Enhancement is designed to protect employees from possible reductions in the single life annuity benefits. It is not designed to replace the elimination spouse allowance for post-freeze service.

An employee who does not have enough service credit in the frozen defined benefit plan at the time of the freeze can count up to ten post-freeze years towards meeting minimal qualifying vesting thresholds under the pre-freeze plan up to December 31, 2014. The employee does not earn additional benefit service credit. Post-freeze service is considered only for purposes of reaching certain service thresholds. The qualifying thresholds that can be reached by post-freeze service include:

E18-136

Service Credit for North American Division Defined Benefit Retirement Plan (Cont'd)

	<u>Requirements</u>
1. Monthly Benefits	10 years
2. Spouse Allowance	20 years
3. No Penalty Early Retirement	40 years
4. Surviving Spouse Benefits	10-15 years
5. Death Benefit	10 years
6. Early Retirement Healthcare	40 years

Service credit for retirement under the defined benefit plan was earned as follows:

A. Twelve-month Employment Plan

One year of service credit is credited to an employee for each calendar year in which there was remuneration for at least 1,950 hours or for at least 11.5 months on a full-time salaried basis for participating employers.

After January 1, 1981, an employee who works less than full-time during a calendar year shall be eligible for proportionate credit based on the provisions of the *Retirement Plan of the NAD and Auxiliary Benefits*, Section Z 15 05 (4).

B. Ten-month Employment Plan

A full-time education employee who has the option to be off duty during the summer period shall be considered employed from July 1 to December 31 if serving the full first semester of a school year and shall be considered employed from January 1 to June 30 if serving the full second semester of a school year. A teacher who is employed at least half time shall also be eligible for proportionate service credit during the periods listed above. [See *Retirement Plan of the NAD and Auxiliary Benefits*, Section Z 15 15 (1).]

C. Personnel Employed by a Local School

An education employee whose payroll costs are funded by a local school or church is eligible to earn denominational service credit if the conditions stated below are met. The only benefits that the conferences provide such employees are service credit and Worker's Compensation insurance. [*NAD Working Policy Y 47 and Retirement Plan of the NAD and Auxiliary Benefits Z 15 35.*]

Service credit shall be granted to an employee of a church or elementary school provided the employee is remunerated for at least 1,000 hours during a calendar year.

E18-140

Termination Settlement [Revised 11/2008; 5/2013; 5/2014; 12/2024]

In order to provide transition funds for an involuntarily terminated full-time classified employee, a termination settlement may be provided under the terms of this policy. The settlement is not an earned employee benefit automatically provided in every case of employment termination.

A. Eligible Recipient

A termination settlement may be granted to an involuntarily terminated employee who has worked in denominational employment for at least two years regardless of age. A resignation as a result of being counseled to resign by the employer is considered an involuntary termination for the purposes of this policy. Eligibility shall be determined according to the following criteria.

E18-140 Termination Settlement (Cont'd)

1. Closure or Reduction

An employee involuntarily terminated due to closure of a denominational facility or staff reductions due to financial exigency or enrollment.

2. Lack of Performance

An employee who is terminated for failing to adequately perform the functions of the job.

3. Medical Condition

An employee who is unable to continue employment because of a medical condition but it not eligible for disability benefits under the Employee Disability Income Plan. [*NAD Working Policy* Y 33.]

B. Ineligible Recipient

1. Part-time Employees

2. Involuntary Termination

An employee terminated for violation of organizational policies and/or practices regarding misconduct, or for criminal behavior.

3. Resignation

An employee who voluntarily resigns from employment.

4. Continued Denominational Employment

An employee who at the time of execution of the separation agreement [See *NAD Working Policy* Y 36 60] has declined a full-time denominational position consistent with the employee's training, compensation, and experience.

C. Service Record

A termination settlement shall be recorded on the terminated employee's service record. Such settlement, however, shall not increase service credit, nor shall it cancel any part of the employee's service credit.

D. Settlement

1. Payment

A termination settlement shall be paid by the terminating employer to the eligible employee in either a lump sum payment or in series of payments at the discretion of the terminating employer.

2. Calculation

The settlement shall be 25 percent of current monthly wages multiplied by total number of years of denominational service credit up to a maximum of twenty years. Current monthly wages shall include wages and cost of living adjustments, but shall not include area travel or any other allowances

E18-140 Termination Settlement (Cont'd)

3. Independent Transfers

In the case of the termination of an employee who has been voted an independent transfer, the settlement shall be calculated only on years of service earned as a church employee within the territory of the NAD or as a regularly appointed interdivision employee from the NAD.

E. Other Benefits

Unpaid accrued benefits, such as vacation or sick leave, shall have no effect on the calculation of this settlement. If an employee has received a previous termination settlement under the terms of *NAD Working Policy Y 36*, any subsequent termination settlement shall be calculated based on years of service credit earned since the date of the previous termination settlement.

F. Health Care Benefits

Health care benefits in most situations cease with the effective date of termination. [See *NAD Working Policy Y 22*.] However, the terminating employer may provide continued emergency hospitalization and medical benefits to the terminated employee and dependents participating in the health care assistance plan, provided that such assistance shall be granted only in case of illness or accident. Non-emergency medical, dental and optical care is specifically excluded. This assistance may continue (1) as required by applicable law, or (2) for up to two months from the date of termination, or (3) until the terminated employee obtains health care assistance cover, whichever occurs first. Terminated employees shall promptly notify the terminating employer when obtaining health care assistance coverage while eligible for assistance under this policy.

G. Release

As a condition of receiving a termination settlement, terminated employees are required to execute the separation agreement of their terminating employer, which shall include, without limitation, a waiver and release of any and all claims against their terminating employer, related organizations, and the officers, agents and employees of the terminating employer. The terminating employer shall issue the separation agreement to the terminated employee as soon as reasonably practicable following cessation of employment.

Terminated employees will have 21 days from receipt of the separation agreement to sign and return it to the terminating employer, unless a longer time period for consideration and signature is required by applicable law. If the separation agreement is not signed and returned to the terminating employer within the applicable time period, the termination settlement may well be forfeited. (A model separation agreement and release for terminating employees is available on the website of the NAD.)

H. Variances

Properly constituted governing or administrative bodies of denominational employers may authorize a termination settlement at variance with the provisions of this policy in order to comply with state or local laws.

E18-144 Harassment Policy [Revised 11/2012; 11/2013; 11/2014]

The following harassment policy applies to all classified personnel in the union.

A. Working Environment

The union recognizes its responsibility to all employees to maintain a working environment free from harassment. It endeavors to achieve this environment through educating employees that harassment violates the law and will not be tolerated. The union also endeavors to prevent harassment by publishing this policy, by developing appropriate sanctions for misconduct, and by informing all employees of their right to complain of harassment.

B. Personal Conduct

Education employees are to exemplify the Christ-like life. Engaging in behavior that is harmful to self or others, or that casts a shadow on their dedication to the Christian way of life should be avoided. Personal attire, posters, banners, bumper stickers, tags, flags, and other symbols whose message, historically or currently, is, or could reasonably be construed to be, one of prejudice, discrimination, or that is inflammatory, may not be displayed anywhere on the premises or while representing the employer in any capacity.

Employees should respect and uplift one another. Employees should never be placed in a position of embarrassment, harassment, ridicule, belittlement or disrespect. Nor should they be targeted because of gender, race, color, national origin, age or disability or any other classification under state or local law, that does not conflict with the tenets of the church. To do so would be a violation of God's law and civil laws protecting human rights and governing workplace conduct.

C. Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is a form of harassment and involves unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors or other verbal, written or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

1. Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; or
2. Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting an individual; or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

D. Improper Conduct

Improper conduct by the employer, co-workers and, in some instances, non-employees, can be spoken, written, physical and/or distributed through electronic means. It can include but is not limited to:

1. Any subtle or other pressure or request for sexual favors or activity, including any suggestion that an applicant's or employee's giving in to or rejecting sexual advances will have an effect on that person's employment or terms of employment;
2. Unwelcome sexual flirtation or propositions;
3. Unnecessary or inappropriate touching of a sexual or abusive nature (e.g., patting, pinching, hugging, repeated brushing against another person's body, etc.);

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Harassment Policy (Cont'd)

4. Displays, whether worn on the person, displayed in offices or on personal vehicles parked in parking lots used by the organization of sexually suggestive pictures, drawings, cartoons or objects or other erotica;
5. Threats or demands for sexual favors;
6. Unwelcome or derogatory statements related to gender, race, color, national origin, age or disability (for example, kidding, teasing, degrading jokes or offensive comments or tricks);
7. Demeaning or degrading comments about an individual's appearance;
8. Denying an employee the opportunity to participate in training or education on account of gender, race, color, national origin, age or disability;
9. Limiting opportunities for promotion, transfer or advancement on account of gender, race, color, national origin, age or disability; or
10. Requiring a protected employee to perform more difficult tasks or less desirable work assignments in order to force retirement or resignation from employment.

E. Reporting Incidents

An employee who believes that harassment has occurred should immediately take the following steps:

1. Make it clear that such conduct is offensive and should be stopped immediately; and,
2. Report the incident to the immediate supervisor, principal, associate superintendent or superintendent of schools. The initial report should be followed by a written statement describing the incident and identifying potential witnesses.

F. Third Party Reports

Employees who are aware of incidents of potential workplace harassment toward others are to report such incidents to the immediate supervisory, principal, associate superintendent or superintendent of schools.

G. Investigation

A complaint of harassment shall be promptly handled and maintained in confidence to the extent possible.

H. Discipline

A violation of this policy may result in discipline, up to and including termination from employment, based on the provisions of the *Education Code*.

I. Prohibition of Retaliation

The union prohibits retaliation against an employee who complains of harassment.

J. False Allegations of Harassment

While individuals are urged to report alleged harassment, unfounded allegations against another employee or volunteer can irreparably harm a reputation and limit the ability to fulfill duties and responsibilities. Employees who bring malicious, spiteful, or false allegations of harassment may be subject to the disciplinary standards policies in the union *Education Code*.

[NAD Working Policy E 84]

E18-146 Employment of Sexual Offenders (Employment and Productivity) [New Policy 11/2008]

A. Employment

In hiring all categories of denominational employees great diligence should be exercised to secure persons who are members of the Church and who exert a positive influence in up-building the work along spiritual lines.

B. Productivity

Care is to be exercised in making assignments to conference and institutional employees so as to fully utilize their capabilities. The effectiveness of all employees is to be reviewed periodically. Where employees are found to be ineffective, counsel should be given them and if necessary, they should be given other lines of work or be advised to seek employment outside of the denomination.

C. Employment of Sexual Offenders

The Seventh-day Adventist Church desires to make its work and worship environments a safe place at all times. To achieve this goal, no denominational employing organization shall knowingly employ an employee where any of the following exists:

1. Any admission of guilt pertaining to sexual abuse, or sexual misconduct (See *NAD Working Policy E 87 15*, paragraph 20)—Sexual Misconduct—Improper sexual behavior including any of the following:
 - a. Actual or attempted sexual contact with a minor or with any person where there exists a relationship with inequality of power;
 - b. Actual or attempted rape or sexual contact by force, threat, or intimidation;
 - c. Criminal behavior of a sexual nature.
 - d. Possession, manufacture, distribution or access with intent to view child pornography.
2. Any criminal conviction or plea of guilty, *nolo contendere* (no contest), or its equivalent for sexual abuse, or sexual misconduct.
3. Any civil judicial determination of liability, injunctive relief, non-monetary relief, punitive or exemplary damages, or factual finding, settlement for compromise of a civil suit or any finding by the employer's Sexual Ethics Committee or similar body in lieu of filing suite in favor of the claimant resulting from allegations of sexual abuse, or sexual misconduct.

As part of the employment due process, Designated Officers, or their designees, from denominational employing organizations shall make inquiry to officers, or their designees, of institutions or organizations currently employing, or having employed, individuals they are considering for employment. Designated Officers, or their designees, responding to inquiries about current or former employees of their organizations shall make every effort to assure that accurate information is being communicated.

[*NAD Working Policy E 81*]

E18-148 Sexual Misconduct Policy and Guidelines [Revised 11/2014; 5/2019]

Classified employees are bound by the following sexual misconduct policy and guidelines for education personnel in the union.

A. Purpose of Policy and Guidelines

It is the policy of the union to eliminate sexual misconduct through prevention, appropriate investigation of complaints, civil reporting and corrective action where appropriate. Each local conference office of education and local school is responsible for implementing policies and procedures to prevent sexual misconduct and to investigate and to take corrective action in response to complaints.

B. Definition of Sexual Misconduct

Sexual misconduct as used in this policy refers to sexually oriented behavior by an adult, volunteer or employee toward a student. It includes but is not limited to, sexual advances; requests for sexual activity; inappropriate touching of a sexual, offensive or abusive nature; sexual comments, suggestions or threats; or conduct which has the purpose or effect of sexually stimulating the adult or student. Sexual misconduct can be spoken, written, physical and/or committed through electronic means.

C. Prevention of Sexual Misconduct

Local conferences and/or schools should attempt to prevent sexual misconduct by:

1. Careful screening of adults before employment begins. This should generally include a completed application, reference checks and a state and federal criminal record check subject to applicable law. State and federal criminal record summaries should be obtained by the employer on or before the first day of employment. In jurisdictions where a state department of justice does not allow for dissemination of federal criminal record summaries, the employee should be directed to obtain such a criminal record summary from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and provide it to the employer on or before the first day of employment. In cases where the state department of justice does not provide automatic updates to the employer of new arrests and convictions, or where the state department of justice does not provide federal criminal record summaries, the employer should enroll with a third-party vendor that will provide periodic criminal record updates during the year. The North American Division, approved provider may provide such services.
2. Periodic training for all adults who have a contact with students regarding sexual misconduct and child abuse reporting requirements.
3. Periodic training for students which emphasizes identification of and protection from sexual misconduct and reporting procedures of suspected incidents to an adult.

D. Obligation to Report Instances of Suspected Sexual Misconduct or Child Abuse

All instances of suspected sexual misconduct or child abuse must be reported to the appropriate school administrator and child protection agency as specified by state laws. Persons who are mandated by law to report suspected child abuse are protected from retaliation and civil or criminal liability under applicable state laws.

E. Procedure for Reporting Suspected Instances of Sexual Misconduct or Child Abuse

The following reporting procedures should be followed:

E18-148 Sexual Misconduct Policy and Guidelines (Cont'd)

1. An employee who has knowledge of or observes a child who is known or reasonably suspected of being the victim of sexual misconduct or child abuse shall report the known or suspected incident to a child protective agency as soon as practically possible by telephone. Child abuse includes sexual abuse, physical abuse and neglect. A written report should be sent within the specified time required by state law. The employee should consult with the administrator at the time of reporting.
2. If volunteers or other adults have reasonable suspicion of sexual misconduct or child abuse it should be promptly reported to child protective services and a school administrator.
3. The superintendent of schools or designee should be notified of the suspected incident as soon as practically possible if the suspected abuser is an employee or volunteer.
4. If the suspected incident involves an employee or volunteer that person may be suspended from duty during the investigation by the child protection agency at the discretion of the superintendent of schools in consultation with the principal.
5. All suspected incidents of sexual misconduct or child abuse should be maintained in confidence apart from required notification to child protective services and school administrators. The information should only be shared with others on a need-to-know basis.

F. Investigation of Suspected Instances of Sexual Misconduct or Child Abuse

The superintendent of schools and the school administrator should cooperate with civil authorities in any investigation of suspected sexual misconduct or child abuse. The superintendent of schools or school administrator may need to conduct an independent investigation of suspected sexual misconduct or child abuse for employment purposes. This investigation should be conducted in a thorough and confidential manner and should be documented. Employment action should be taken in compliance with the procedures set forth in the *Education Code*. Employees may be suspended from duty with pay during the investigation.

EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL SALARIED CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL | E19

E19-104 General Provisions for Salaried Classified Personnel [Revised 11/2023]

The general provisions, Sections E18-104 to E18-148, are applicable to Salaried Classified Personnel.

E19-108 Definition of Salaried Classified Employment Status

A salaried classified employee is employed and meets the overtime exemption criteria of the Fair Labor Standards Act 29 U.S.C. 213 (a) (1) and the state requirements and is employed in a management or supervisory position as industrial manager or service department head.

Federal and state laws and regulations favor designating a classified employee as eligible for overtime. A classified employee should only be placed on exempt status and compensated as salaried after the following have been completed:

- A. A job description has been adopted for the position.
- B. The job description is reviewed by a specialist designated by the employing organization to make a determination that the position qualifies for classification as salaried classified under applicable wage laws.
- C. Approval in writing is given by the superintendent of schools to grant status as salaried classified to an employee.
- D. The actual duties performed by the employee are the duties contained in the job description.

Notes: Improperly classifying an employee as salaried classified can result in payment of past overtime and substantial penalties.

[See Section A21-104 for information on the availability of federal and state regulations.]

E19-112 Employment Plan for Salaried Classified Employees

A salaried classified employee is one who meets eligibility requirements and whose employment agreement stipulates full-time salary for either:

- A. The school year, or
- B. The full 12 months from July 1 - June 30.

E19-116 Remuneration for Full-time Salaried Classified Employees [Revised 4/2025]

Remuneration for a full-time salaried classified employee consists of salary and allowances or benefits for which the employee qualifies.

E19-116 Remuneration for Full-time Salaried Classified Employees (Cont'd)

A. Salary

Salary for a full-time salaried classified employee is based on the salary step-placement schedule adopted by the union and is determined annually by the employing organization after consideration of the following factors:

1. Occupational preparation.
2. Total years of experience. [See Section F11-128.]
3. The cost-of-living remuneration factor as designated by the local conference executive committee. [See Section F10-108.]

B. Allowances and Benefits

In addition to the annual salary certain allowances and benefits are granted when the salaried classified employee qualifies. Details regarding eligibility requirements for the allowances and benefits are provided in the section listed following each item.

<u>Allowance or Benefit</u>	<u>Education Code Section</u>
1. Administrative Budget	F12-104
2. Leaves	E19-124
3. Retirement Plan, NAD	E18-128
4. Service Credit	E18-136
5. Termination Settlement	E18-140
6. Vacations and Holidays	E19-120

E19-120 Vacation and Paid Holidays – Full-time Salaried Classified Employees [Revised 5/2013]

A. Annual Vacation

An annual vacation entitlement for full-time salaried classified employees shall be provided. The entitlement is accrued and calculated on the following basis:

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Vacation entitlement per year of full-time service</u>
During first 4-year period	2 weeks
During next 5-year period	3 weeks
After 9 years	4 weeks

1. The vacation entitlement is based on the fiscal year, July 1 - June 30. For full-time salaried classified personnel employed for less than 12 months during the fiscal year the entitlement is accrued on a prorated basis.
2. A normal work week differing from the 38 hours will require a recalculation of the entitlement accrual rate.
3. Employees are eligible to begin accruing vacation at the three and four week rates after completing four and nine years of service or in harmony with mandated government requirements.
4. Employees who become exempt denominational employees after several years of experience in a work outside of denominational employment that professionally advanced their ability to more effectively perform their work for the Church may be granted one year of credit toward vacation accrual for each two years of such prior service.

E19-120 Vacation and Paid Holidays – Full-time Salaried Classified Employees (Cont'd)

5. Vacation time should generally be taken in the year of accrual. A formal accounting system must be in place. The maximum accrual is up to 150 percent of vacation entitlement including current year accruals.
6. Vacation time may be used at such time or times when requested by the employee, approved by the principal or superintendent of schools and authorized by the appropriate authority.
7. Vacation must be used during the Family and Medical Leave of Absence according to local conference policy.
8. When a full-time salaried classified employee is transferred from one denomination organization to another, or discontinues denominational employment, accrued vacation time of up to 150 percent of vacation entitlement including current year accruals, shall be paid in cash by the former employer to the employee at the time of transfer or discontinuance of employment. The accrued amount will be equal to the amount the employee would receive while taking vacation entitlement before the transfer or discontinuance of employment begins.
9. Employees not covered under a formalized tracking system, two weeks of vacation is equal to 10 work days, three weeks to 15 work days, etc. and vacation time must be taken in full day increments, not partial days, unless allowed under local state laws.

B. Paid Holidays

Paid holidays and office closings are at individual employer's discretion and are generally influenced by the respective organization's needs, climatic conditions, as well as national and local laws.

E19-124 Leaves for Full-time Salaried Classified Employees

A full-time salaried classified employee may be granted a leave for a reasonable period of time. Any leave for an extended period of time requires prior approval in writing by the local school board and/or local conference office of education. A leave may be granted for the following based on provisions of local conference policy:

- A. Bereavement.
- B. Family and Medical.
- C. Illness.
- D. Jury Duty.
- E. Leave of Absence.
- F. Military Duty.
- G. Personal.

E19-128 Status Change [Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 4/2016; 11/2023; 12/2024]

The following categories represent the changes in status for which a salaried classified employee is eligible:

- A. Completion of Contract. [See Section E19-130.]
- B. Resignation. [See Section E19-132.]
- C. Administrative Leave. [See Section E19-136.]
- D. Termination. [See Section E19-140.]
- E. Retirement. [See Section E18-128.]
- F. Post-retirement Employment. [See Section E19-148.]

E19-130 Completion of Contract of Salaried Classified Employee [New Policy 11/2023]

A. Definition

The completion of a contract of employment without the offer of a subsequent contract of employment.

B. Procedure

To offer an employee a subsequent contract, the local school board shall take such an action. The superintendent of schools/designee shall be present when any recommendation is voted.

E19-132 Resignation of a Salaried Classified Employee

A. Definition

The voluntary termination of employment initiated by an employee with or without the consent of the employer.

B. Procedure

1. The employee is requested to submit written notice of the intent to resign to the principal.
2. The employee is to repay any money owed to the employer or reimburse the employer for any unamortized allowance(s) that have been granted before release from the employment agreement is given.

E19-136 Administrative Leave of a Salaried Classified Employee [Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 12/2018]

A. Definition

The immediate temporary removal from duties for a reasonable period of time.

B. Salary During the Administrative Leave

Salary shall continue during the administrative leave. When an administrative leave continues beyond three months because of, but not, limited to a criminal investigation and/or prosecution, salary may be discontinued at the discretion of the local conference board of education.

C. Procedure

1. The principal or local school board chair shall notify the superintendent of schools of the proposed administrative leave of a salaried classified employee.
2. The superintendent of schools/designee or principal shall give written notice, including the reason to the employee.
3. The superintendent of schools/designee or principal shall make reasonable effort to complete any investigation as soon as possible.
4. An administrative leave beyond three working days shall require the approval of the superintendent of schools/designee.

D. The administrative leave continues until:

1. The employee is reinstated to active status; or,
2. The employee resigns; or,
3. The employment is discontinued by termination.

E19-136 Administrative Leave of a Salaried Classified Employee (Cont'd)

E. Hearing and Appeal Processes

If the administrative leave results in the termination the employee is eligible for and agrees to accept the hearing and appeal processes during the procedure for termination. [See Section E20-104, "Hearing and Appeal Processes for Eligible Employees".]

E19-140 Termination of a Salaried Classified Employee [Revised 11/2015; 4/2016; 12/2017; 10/2018; 12/2024; 4/2025]

A. Definition

Termination is the discontinuance of employment for stated cause by the employer.

B. Reasons for Termination

The reasons for termination may include, but are not limited, to the following:

1. Reduction in Force [See Section E10-172.]
2. Employee's inability to fulfill required responsibilities because of physical, mental, or emotional disability after the employer has made reasonable accommodation of the employee or accommodation by the employing institution constitutes an undue hardship.
3. Employee's failure to satisfactorily perform as determined by the administration.
4. Moral or personal conduct not in accordance with the principles of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, including but not limited to reasons for discipline of employees in *NAD Working Policy E90*.
5. Committing, aiding, advocating, pleading guilty or being convicted of any crime that is a felony, or any crime involving moral turpitude, either a misdemeanor or felony.
6. Persistence in advocating, practicing, and teaching beliefs or philosophy contrary to the basic tenets, standards, and doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.
7. The use of alcohol, tobacco, controlled substances without a prescription, or the misuse of drugs.
8. Insubordination – violation of, or refusal to comply with policies or perform work assignments.
9. Membership in any organization advocating the overthrow of the government by force or subversion.
10. Acting in a manner that seriously jeopardizes the health and safety of students or staff failing to act in a manner that ensures the health and safety of students.

C. Procedure

1. The principal should generally follow progressive discipline procedures prior to a proposed action to discontinue the employment of a salaried classified employee.
2. The principal shall notify the superintendent of schools of the proposed action to terminate a salaried classified employee.
3. The superintendent of schools/designee or principal shall give written notice to the employee of the proposed termination including the reasons and of the employee's right to a hearing and/or appeal upon written request from the employee.

E19-140 Termination of a Salaried Classified Employee (Cont'd)

4. A hearing and/or appeal shall be conducted, if requested by the employee following the procedures in Section E20-104, "Hearing and Appeal Processes for Eligible Employees". The superintendent of schools shall be present at the hearing or appeal and when an action on the recommendation for termination is voted.
5. The superintendent of schools/designee or principal shall communicate the decision of the local school board in writing to the employee. If the decision is for termination, the notice shall indicate the reason(s) for the termination, effective date of termination and the date for discontinuance of salary.

D. Hearing and Appeal Processes

A salaried classified employee who is subject to termination or has been terminated under the provisions of this section is eligible for and agrees to accept the hearing and appeal processes as recourse for grievance regarding termination. [See Section E20-104, "Hearing and Appeal Processes for Eligible Employees".]

E19-144 Retirement of a Salaried Classified Employee [Revised 12/2024]

[See Section E18-128.]

E19-148 Post-Retirement Employment of a Salaried Classified Employee

A. Definition

That status which results when a person on denominational retirement benefits is employed full-time or part-time.

B. Remuneration

Remuneration for a salaried classified employee on Post-Retirement Employment status is based on the provisions of Section F11-146.

C. Termination

A salaried classified employee on Post-Retirement Employment is an "at-will" employee and can be terminated without notice or cause.

EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL HEARING AND APPEAL PROCESSES FOR ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES | E20

E20-104 Hearing and Appeal Processes [Revised 3/2012; 11/2011; 11/2012; 12/2024]

- A. Either the school board or the local conference office of education may make a recommendation on employment status change to the local conference board of education
1. If a recommendation for status change is being considered, an eligible employee must be given the option to attend a hearing.
 2. The hearing with the personnel committee or school board must be held as soon as reasonably possible, but not less than five (5) working days from the time of notification.
 3. The superintendent of schools/designee must be present and chair the hearing.
 4. If the employee chooses not to attend the hearing the superintendent of schools/designee should be notified in writing.

B. General Provisions of the Hearing and Appeal Processes

The following general provisions apply to the hearing and appeal processes:

1. Notice to the Employee

Prior to a hearing or appeal the employee is to be given a written notice that will provide the following:

- a. The time and place of the hearing or appeal.
- b. The employment status change being considered (in the case of a hearing) or recommended (in the case of an appeal) and the factual basis for the status change.
- c. The employee's right of access to relevant records prior to the hearing or appeal.
- d. The employee's right to present relevant evidence at the hearing or appeal.
- e. The employee's right to have another person present, other than an attorney.
- f. Assurance that participation in the hearing or appeal process will not be used against the employee in any employment decision.

2. Employee's Access to Evidence

The employee shall have access to the relevant records and evidence prior to the hearing or appeal and the right to make copies of these records and evidence. The employee shall not have the right to records of other employees or the private files of the administrator.

E20-104 Hearing and Appeal Processes (Cont'd)

3. Reprisals

If the employee has requested and/or participates in a hearing or appeal process, that cannot be used as a basis for any employment decision or action regarding the employee.

C. The Hearing

1. Purpose of the Hearing

The hearing is a process that assists the employing organization in making fair and equitable employment decisions. It is intended to provide opportunity for the employee to hear the concerns regarding performance and the proposed actions to be taken, and an opportunity to present a case.

2. A hearing may be conducted by:

- a. The local school board or personnel committee if voted by the board; or
- b. At the discretion of the local conference office of education by a sub-committee of the local conference board of education in lieu of the local school board or personnel committee.

3. The employee has a right to be present at a hearing to:

- a. Hear the concerns.
- b. Hear the facts supporting the concerns.
- c. Ask questions.
- d. Present a case.
- e. Present other relevant information.

4. The employee may have another person present, other than an attorney.

5. The body granting the hearing may set reasonable limits on the length of the employee's presentation and other procedures of the hearing.

D. The Appeal

1. Purpose of the Appeal

The purpose of the appeal is not to hear new evidence but to assist the local conference board of education in ensuring that the recommendation from the hearing was made as a result of a process that was fair and equitable and that the evidence provided a reasonable basis for the decisions.

2. An appeal request from an employee must be presented in writing.

3. The appeal is to be conducted by the local conference board of education.

4. The employee has a right to be present at the appeal to present information to support the claim that:

- a. the process was not fair; and/or,
- b. there was a lack of evidence to support a reasonable basis for the decision.

E20-104 Hearing and Appeal Processes (Cont'd)

5. The employee may have another person present other than an attorney.
6. The local conference board of education may set reasonable limits on the length of the employee's presentation and other procedures of the appeal.

E. Disposition of the Appeal

The superintendent of schools shall communicate the decision of the local conference board of education to the employee.

F. Failure to Appear

An employee is expected to attend the hearing or appeal on the date scheduled in the notice to the employee described in Section E20-104.C.1. If an employee states an inability to attend the hearing or appeal for medical reasons, the following procedures shall apply:

1. The local conference office of education may require sufficient certification from the employee's physician that the employee is unable to attend an employment hearing or appeal. The certification should, at a minimum, set forth:
 - a. The date on which the employee's medical condition commenced;
 - b. The probable duration of the condition; and,
 - c. The appropriate medical facts within the knowledge of the health care provider regarding the condition and an explanation as to why these medical facts prevent the employee's participation in the hearing or appeal.
2. The local conference office of education may require the employee to submit to a medical evaluation by a physician of the local conference's own choosing, and at its own expense, for the purpose of obtaining a second medical opinion regarding whether the employee is medically unable to attend the hearing or appeal.
 - a. The physician shall not be regularly employed or utilized by the local conference unless the employee is located in an area where health care is extremely limited.
 - b. The second medical opinion shall be subject only to the condition that the examination may not include a diagnostic test or procedure that is painful, protracted, or intrusive. The drawing of blood or the taking of a urine sample shall be permitted provided it is reasonably necessary for the determination of medical facts needed to form the basis of an opinion that the employee is medically unable to attend the hearing or appeal.
 - c. The second opinion shall specify, when solicited by the local conference, what reasonable accommodations could be made in the hearing or appeal process that would allow the participation of the employee.
3. If the second medical opinion differs from the employee's original assertion or certification that the employee is medically unable to attend the hearing or appeal, the local conference may, at its own expense, require that the employee submit to another medical evaluation for the purpose of obtaining the opinion of a third health care provider designed or approved jointly by the employer and the employee. This third opinion shall be binding.

E20-104 Hearing and Appeal Processes (Cont'd)

4. The employer may require the employee to obtain subsequent re-certifications on a reasonable basis.

5. It is not beneficial to the school, the local conference, or the employee to delay the resolution of employment disputes. Thus, when a medical opinion sets for that an employee will be medically unable to attend an employment hearing or appeal within 60 days, the local conference may conduct the hearing or appeal and require the attendance of a representative of the employee. This representative may not be an attorney. The employee or representative will be given a 30-day notice of the hearing or appeal in order to properly prepare. If the employee fails or refuses to designate a representative, the proposed status change may be acted upon without the hearing or appeal.

EMPLOYMENT OF CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL NON-EXEMPT CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL | E21

E21-104 General Provisions for Non-Exempt Classified Personnel [Revised 11/2023]

The general provisions, Sections E18-104 to E18-148, are applicable to Non-Exempt Classified Personnel.

E21-108 Definition of Non-Exempt Classified Employment Status [Revised 4/2016]

A non-exempt classified employee is an “at-will” employee who is employed in a position that does not require a certificate, is paid an hourly rate and is eligible for overtime under Fair Labor Standards Act and applicable state laws. “At-will” means that either the employer or employee can terminate the employment with or without requirement of cause or advance notice. [See Section A22-104.]

This includes positions such as, but not necessarily limited to those listed in Section F12-112. [See Sections A22-108 and A22-112.]

E21-112 Employment Plan for Non-Exempt Classified Employees

A non-exempt classified employee is employed on one of the following plans.

A. Full-time employment

A full-time non-exempt classified employee is one who is regularly scheduled for a minimum of 38 hours per week.

B. Part-time Employment

A part-time non-exempt classified employee is one who is regularly scheduled less than 38 hours per week.

To be eligible for prorated benefits, an employee must work a minimum of 20 hours per week.

E21-116 Remuneration for Non-Exempt Classified Employees [Revised 4/2025]

Remuneration for a non-exempt classified employee consists of the wages and allowances or benefits for which the employee qualifies.

A. Wages

The wages for a non-exempt classified employee are based on the hourly wage-step placement adopted by the union. [See Section F12-112.] The wage-step placement is to be determined annually after consideration of the following factors:

1. The job classification.
2. The years of experience.

E21-116 Remuneration for Non-Exempt Classified Employees (Cont'd)

3. The wage rate determined by either (a) or (b): [See Section F12-112.]
 - a. The wage rates for the classification based on the 12-month rate.
 - b. The prevailing community rate for a comparable position unless the community rate exceeds the maximum on the wage scale.
4. The number of working hours per week.
5. Overtime eligibility.

B. Authorization for Overtime

An employee is to receive authorization from the immediate supervisor for any work beyond the 40 hours during any work week or 8 hours in one day.

C. Allowances and Benefits

In addition to the wages certain allowances and benefits are granted when a non-exempt employee qualifies. Details regarding allowances and eligibility requirements are provided in the citation listed following each item.

1. Full-time Employment

<u>Allowance or Benefit</u>	<i>Education Code Section</i>
a. Leaves	E21-124
b. Service Credit	E18-136
c. Retirement Plan NAD	E18-128
d. Termination Settlement	E18-140
e. Vacations and Paid Holidays	E21-120

2. Part-time employment

<u>Allowance or Benefit</u>	<i>Education Code Section</i>
a. Service credit if employed more than 1,000 hours per year	E18-136
b. Leaves based on prorated hours of employment	E21-124
c. Holidays based on the prorated hours when the holiday falls within the normal working time	E21-120
d. Vacation time based on prorated hours of employment	E21-120

E21-120

Vacation and Paid Holidays [Revised 5/2013; 11/2014]

A. An annual vacation entitlement for non-exempt classified employees shall be provided. The entitlement is accrued and calculated on the following basis:

1. Full-time employee

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Vacation entitlement per year of full-time service</u>	<u>Vacation entitlement accrued per 38-hour week</u>
During first 4-year period	2 weeks	1.4575 hrs.
During next 5-year period	3 weeks	2.1863 hrs.
After 9 years	4 weeks	2.9151 hrs.

- a. Example: An employee with 12 years of service receives 2.1863 hours vacation for each 38-hour week, times the number of weeks worked.
- b. For the purpose of facilitating vacation records, the vacation is to be based on a fiscal year (July 1 to June 30). Vacation time accrues on a prorated basis for a period less than a full year.
- c. Vacation time should generally be taken in the year of accrual. A formal accounting system must be in place. The maximum accrual is up to 150 percent of vacation entitlement including current year accruals.
- d. Vacation may be used at such time or times when requested by the employee, approved by the principal or superintendent of schools and authorized by the appropriate authority.
- e. Vacation must be used during the Family and Medical Leave of Absence according to local conference policy.
- f. When an employee is transferred from one denominational organization to another, or discontinues denominational employment, accrued vacation time of up to 150 percent of vacation entitlement including current year accruals, shall be paid in cash by the former employer to the employee at the time of transfer or discontinuance of employment. The accrued amount will be equal to the amount the employee would receive while taking vacation entitlement before the transfer or discontinuance of employment begins.
- g. Individuals who become exempt denominational employees after several years of experience in work outside of a denominational employment that professionally advanced their ability to more effectively perform their work for the Church may be granted one year of credit toward vacation accrual for each two years of such prior service.

2. Part-time Employee

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Vacation entitlement accrued per year 38-hour week</u>	<u>Vacation entitlement accrued per each hour worked</u>
During first 4-year period	1.4575 hrs.	.038355 hrs
During next 5-year period	2.1863 hrs.	.057534 hrs
After 9 years	2.9151 hrs.	.076713 hrs

Example:

An employee with eight years of service who works 18 hours per week for 40 weeks. 18 hours per week x 40 is a total of 720 hours x .057534 (the accrual for each hour worked) = 41.42 or 41 1/2 hours of vacation for that year.

E21-120 Vacation and Paid Holidays (Cont'd)

B. Paid Holidays are Granted to Non-Exempt Classified Personnel

1. Full-time Employees

Paid holidays and office closings are at individual employer's discretion and are generally influenced by the respective organization's needs, climatic conditions, as well as national and local laws.

2. Part-time Employees

Paid holidays may be granted at the discretion of the conference office of education if a holiday falls on a regularly scheduled working day for the part-time employee. The amount granted is to be the amount the employee would earn if on duty.

E21-124 Leaves for Non-Exempt Classified Employees

A non-exempt classified employee may be granted a leave for a reasonable period of time. Any leave for an extended period of time requires prior approval in writing by the local school board and/or local conference office of education. A leave may be granted for the following based on the provisions of local conference policy:

- A. Bereavement.
- B. Family and Medical.
- C. Illness.
- D. Jury Duty.
- E. Military Duty.
- F. Personal.

E21-128 Status Change [Revised 3/2012]

The following categories represent the changes in status possible for a non-exempt classified employee:

- A. Resignation. [See Section E21-132.]
- B. Administrative Leave. [See Section E21-136.]
- C. Termination. [See Section E21-140.]
- D. Retirement. [See Section E21-144.]
- E. Post-retirement Employment. [See Section E21-148.]

E21-132 Resignation of a Non-Exempt Classified Employee

A. Definition

The voluntary termination of "at-will" employment initiated by an employee without requirement of cause.

B. Procedures

- 1. The employee is requested to submit written notice of the intent to resign to the principal.
- 2. The employee is to repay money owed to the employer such as but not limited to unamortized moving and other expenses before release from the employment agreement is given or reimburse the employer for any unamortized allowance(s).

- E21-136 Administrative Leave of a Non-Exempt Classified Employee [Revised 3/2012; 11/2012; 5/2014; 12/2018]
- A. Definition
The immediate temporary removal from duties for a reasonable period of time.
 - B. Remuneration During the Administrative Leave
Pay and benefits may be discontinued at any time during the leave at the discretion of the local conference office of education.
 - C. Procedures
 1. The principal or local school board chair shall notify the superintendent of schools of the proposed administrative leave of a non-exempt classified employee.
 2. The principal or superintendent of schools/designee shall give written notice, including the reason to the employee.
 3. The principal or superintendent of schools/designee shall make reasonable effort to complete any investigation as soon as possible.
 4. An administrative leave beyond three working days shall require the approval of the superintendent of schools/designee.
 - D. The administrative leave continues until:
 1. The employee is reinstated to active status, with or without disciplinary action; or,
 2. The employee resigns; or,
 3. The employment is discontinued by termination.
- E21-140 Termination of a Non-Exempt Classified Employee [Revised 4/2016; 10/2018]
- A. Definition
The discontinuance of employment with or without cause, and with or without notice by the employer.
 - B. Procedure
The principal in consultation with the superintendent of schools or designee, will follow the locally voted procedure for termination of non-exempt classified employees.
- E21-144 Retirement of a Non-Exempt Classified Employee [Revised 12/2024]
[See Section E18-128.]
- E21-148 Post-Retirement Employment of a Non-Exempt Classified Employee
- A. Definition
That status which results when a person on denominational retirement benefits is employed either full-time or part-time.
 - B. Remuneration
Remuneration for a non-exempt classified employee on Post-Retirement Employment status is based on the provisions of Section F11-146.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF REMUNERATION

F10-104	Basis for Remuneration – Education Personnel [Revised 4/2025]
F10-108	Annual Remuneration Factors
F10-112	Local School Employees [New Policy 5/2013; Revised 4/2015]

REMUNERATION FOR CERTIFICATED ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL

F11-104	Relationship of Certification and Assignment to Remuneration [Revised 4/2025]
F11-108	Remuneration for Full-time Certificated Personnel [Revised 4/2025]
F11-112	Special Financial Provisions of 10-Month Assignment Employment Plan [Revised 4/2010; 4/2016; 11/2016; 12/2021]
F11-124	Salary-Step Placement Schedule – Elementary and Secondary Certificated Instructional Personnel [Revised 11/2010; 4/2025]
F11-128	Salary-Step Placement Schedule – Elementary and Secondary Certificated Administrative Personnel and Salaried Classified Administrative Personnel [Revised 4/2010; 4/2025]
F11-136	Remuneration for Other Full-time Certificated Administrative Personnel Employed With Term Status [Revised 11/2012; 4/2025]
F11-144	Remuneration for Substitute Teachers [Revised 4/2010]
F11-146	Remuneration for Retired Personnel [Revised 11/2009; 4/2025]
F11-148	Allowances and Benefits
F11-152	Administrative Budget [Revised 5/2013]

REMUNERATION FOR CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

F12-104	Remuneration for Full-time Salaried Classified Administrative Personnel [Revised 4/2025]
F12-108	Remuneration for Non-Exempt Classified Personnel
F12-112	Wage-Step Placement Schedule – Non-Exempt Classified and Instructional Aides

ALLOWANCES FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

F19-104	School Attendance of Certificated Personnel
F19-108	College/University Sponsored Tours [Revised 4/2025]
F19-116	Doctoral Degree at Denominational Expense
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F20-108	Local Conference Subsidy to Education TK-12 [Revised 11/2016]

SCHOOL PLANT AND FACILITIES

F21-104	Building Financial Policies [Revised 11/2009; 4/2025]
F21-108	Remodeling Buildings
F21-112	Use of Denominational Facilities by Other Organizations [Revised 4/2015; 4/2025]

GENERAL FINANCIAL POLICIES

F22-104	Financial Reports [Revised 5/2014]
F22-108	Tuition Rates for Non-Constituent and Non-Seventh-day Adventist Students
F22-112	Settlement of Student Accounts
F22-144	Depreciation Expense
F22-148	Inventory of Equipment
F22-156	Dealing with Offenders in Financial Matters [Revised 11/2013]
F22-160	Financial Consequences of Litigation [New Policy 11/2008; Revised 4/2025]
F22-204	Core Policies for Policy Compliance Testing. [New Policy 5/2014; Revised 4/2015; 11/2015; 4/2017; 10/2018; 5/2022; 4/2024; 4/2025]
F22-208	Financial Audits with General Conference Auditing Services [New Policy 5/2014; Revised 4/2017]
F22-210	Financial Audits with External Auditing Services Other than General Conference Auditing Services [New Policy 11/2016]
F22-212	Audit Committee [New Number and Revised 5/2014]
F22-216	Working Capital [New Number and Revised 5/2014; 5/2022; 4/2025]
F22-218	Definitions [New Policy 5/2022]

INSURANCE

F23-104	Automobile Insurance [Revised 3/2012; 4/2017; 4/2025]
F23-108	Transportation of Students
F23-136	Student Accident Insurance
F23-140	Interdivision Student Trip Insurance

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF REMUNERATION | F10

F10-104 Basis for Remuneration – Education Personnel [Revised 4/2025]

A. Philosophy

To provide a basis for the remuneration of various classes of employees, a denominational remuneration scale has been adopted. The philosophy of this remuneration scale is predicated upon the fact that a spirit of sacrifice and dedication should mark God's workers irrespective of the position hold or the department represented. The work of the church, including every denominational organization, is a mission to which lives are dedicated rather than a business or commercial venture. The church remuneration scale does not always compensate its dedicated employees in monetary units commensurate with talents, accomplishments, and contributions, but does provide employees with a modest living income, which gives recognition of responsibilities borne, preparation undertaken, professional attainment, previous experience, and years of service. In addition to basic remuneration, the church has also made provision for various types of allowances.

B. Certificated Administrative and Instructional Personnel

NAD Remuneration Scale

The annual salary for the 12-month working assignment is based on the NAD Remuneration Scale as adopted at the NAD year-end meetings and the union executive committee and the local conference executive committee. The annual salary for the 10-month working assignment is computed at 95 percent of the annual 12-month salary.

C. Classified Personnel

The salary or wages for classified personnel is based on the 12-month salary rate.

Remuneration for classified personnel is based on employment classification as follows:

1. Salaried Classified Personnel. [See Section F12-104.]
2. Non-Exempt Classified Personnel. [See Section F12-108.]

F10-108 Annual Remuneration Factors

The cost-of-living remuneration factors for a local conference are voted by the local conference executive committee and may vary from those voted by the union executive committee. Each local conference office of education is to implement the cost-of-living remuneration factors voted by the local conference executive committee.

F10-112 Local School Employees [New Policy 5/2013; Revised 4/2015]

Conferences have locally funded school personnel on payroll with costs funded by the local school. These employees are eligible to earn denominational service credit and to participate in all benefits for which they are eligible.

REMUNERATION FOR CERTIFICATED ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL | F11

F11-104 Relationship of Certification and Assignment to Remuneration [Revised 4/2025]

The relationship of certification and assignment to remuneration is indicated by the following:

A. Salary-step Placement

Remuneration of certificated administrative and instructional personnel is based on the certificate held at the time of employment or issuance of contract, the years of experience, and the job assignment.

The following identifies the applicable salary-step placement schedule for certificated administrative and instructional personnel.

1. Certificated Administrative Personnel

The Salary-Step Placement Schedule – Elementary and Secondary Certificated Administrative Personnel and Salaried Classified Administrative Personnel [Section F11-128] applies to full-time certificated administrative personnel. Details regarding remuneration for specific administrative personnel are contained in the following sections.

- a. Vice-Principal for Finance, Business Manager or Assistant Business Manager. [Section F11-136.]
- b. Administrative Vice-Principal – assigned administrative responsibilities for at least two-thirds time. [Section F11-136.]
- c. Registrar. [Section F11-136.]
- d. Residence Hall Dean. [Section F11-136.]
- e. Director of Development/Marketing/Recruitment. [Section F11-136.]

2. Certificated Instructional Personnel

The Salary-Step Placement Schedule – Elementary and Secondary Certificated Instructional Personnel [Section F11-124] applies to elementary and secondary certificated instructional personnel and to administrative personnel who are assigned administrative responsibilities less than two-thirds time. Details regarding remuneration are contained in the following sections.

- a. Classroom instructional personnel. [Section F11-108.]
- b. Administrative Vice-Principal assigned administrative responsibilities for less than two-thirds time. [Section F11-108.]
- c. Campus Pastor/Chaplain. [Section F11-136.]

F11-108 Remuneration for Certificated Personnel [Revised 4/2025]

Remuneration for a certificated employee consists of salary and the allowances or benefits for which the employee qualifies. [See Section F11-104 for a listing of certificated personnel.]

A. Salary

Salary for certificated employees, is based on the salary scale adopted by the union executive committee and is determined annually by the employing organization after consideration of the following factors.

1. Salary-step placement as determined by the certificate held at the time of issuance of the contract and the years of experience in a position that requires a certificate. [See Section F11-124 and F11-128 for a listing of the salary-step placement schedule for administrative, elementary and secondary instructional personnel and F11-136 for the campus chaplain.]
2. The assignment employment plan, either 10-month or 12-month. [See Section E10-132 for a description of the employment plans. See Section F11-112 for the special financial provisions for certificated instructional personnel on the 10-month assignment employment plan.]
3. The cost-of-living remuneration factor as designated by the local conference executive committee.
4. For part-time certificated personnel the salary will be based on the ratio of the employment to full-time employment.

B. Allowances and Benefits

In addition to the annual salary certain allowances and benefits are granted when the employee qualifies. [See Sections E10-148, E10-156 and F11-148.]

C. Administrative Budget

An administrative budget will be granted in addition to the salary based on the type of school and the number of students enrolled. [See Section F11-152 for details regarding the administrative budget.]

F11-112 Special Financial Provisions of 10-Month Assignment Employment Plan [Revised 4/2010; 4/2016; 11/2016; 12/2021]

The special financial provisions apply to certificated instructional personnel employed on the 10-month assignment employment plan.

- A. The annual salary for certificated instructional personnel on the 10-month assignment employment plan is based on 95 percent of the annual 12-month salary. The 10-month annual salary is paid over the 12-months of the contract year.
- B. Certificated instructional personnel who are employed after the July 1 employment date and before the designated "report to work" date are to receive the full 10-month annual salary. A teacher employed after the designated "report to work" date is to receive salary based on the number of days employed, using a minimum of 195 days to determine a per day pay rate at the appropriate salary-step placement. [See also Section F11-132.B.]
- C. Additional salary is not granted for attendance at summer school. [See Sections F19-104 to F19-120 for details regarding advanced study.]

F11-112 Special Financial Provisions of 10-Month Assignment Employment Plan (Cont'd)

- D. Certificated personnel on the 10-month assignment employment plan may be employed for special projects or assignments during that portion of the year which is not included in the 10-month working assignment. Personnel who are requested by the employing organization to work during the summer, up to a maximum of five weeks, will be paid according to local conference policy.

F11-124 Salary-Step Placement Schedule – Elementary and Secondary Certificated Instructional Personnel [Revised 11/2010; 4/2025]

Degree	Certificate	Year of Experience and Percentage Factor					
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th or More
None	None (a)	67%	67%	67%	67%	67%	67%
None	Designated Subject	68%	69%	70%	71%	72%	73%
Bachelors	None (a)	72%	72%	72%	72%	72%	72%
Bachelors	Conditional (a)	77%	79%(d)	79%	79%	79%	79%
Bachelors	Designated Subject	77%	80%	83%	86%	89%	93%
Bachelors	Basic (a)(b)	83%	85%	87%			
Bachelors	Standard (a)(b)				89%	92%	95%
5th Yr or 60 qtr. hrs.	None (a)	74%	74%	74%	74%	74%	74%
5th Yr or 60 qtr. hrs.	Conditional (a)(c)	77%	79%(d)	79%	79%	79%	79%
5th Yr or 60 qtr. hrs.	Designated Subject	78%	81%	84%	87%	90%	93%
5th Yr or 60 qtr. hrs.	Basic (a)(b)	83%	85%	87%			
5th Yr or 60 qtr. hrs.	Standard (a)(b)				89%	92%	95%
5th Yr or 60 qtr. hrs.	Professional (a)(b)				95%	97%	102%
Masters	None (a)	74%	74%	74%	74%	74%	74%
Masters	Conditional (a)(c)	77%	79%(d)	79%	79%	79%	79%
Masters	Designated Subjects	83%	86%	89%	92%	95%	99%
Masters	Basic (a)(b)	84%	86%	88%			
Masters	Standard (a)(b)				90%	93%	95%
Masters	Professional (a)(b)				96%	98%	102%
EdS, PhD, EdD	None (a)	74%	74%	74%	74%	74%	74%
EdS, PhD, EdD	Conditional (a)(c)	77%	79%(d)	79%	79%	79%	79%
EdS, PhD, EdD	Designated Subject	83%	86%	89%	92%	95%	99%
EdS, PhD, EdD	Basic (a)(b)	85%	87%	89%			
EdS, PhD, EdD	Standard (a)(b)				91%	93%	95%
EdS, PhD, EdD	Professional (a)(b)				96%	98%	102%

Notes:

- a. (1) A non-degreed person employed for the first time in a certificated position [See Sections F11-108 and F11-124] will be placed at 67 percent on the salary-step placement and will remain at that level until the requirements for a certificate are met.

F11-124

Salary-Step Placement Schedule – Elementary and Secondary Certificated Instructional Personnel (Cont'd)

- (2) A degreed person employed for the first time in a certificated position [See Sections F11-108 and F11-124] who does not hold a valid certificate at the time of employment or issuance of a contract will be placed at 72 percent or 74 percent based on the educator's salary level until the stipulations of "b.(1)" or "b.(2)" are met. [See Note "c" for exception.]
 - (3) Currently employed certificated personnel will receive the salary-step placement based on the certificate held at the time of issuance of a contract or employment. If the certificate is allowed to expire on August 31 the salary will be based on the provisions of either "b.(1)" or "b.(2)".
 - (4) A pastor who transfers to the teaching ministry from the pulpit ministry will receive salary-step placement based on the years of service in the ministry and the degree held. The annual salary increment will be granted if a minimum of nine quarter hours is completed each year which fulfill the requirements for the Basic Teaching Certificate. Three years (four summers) will be granted for completion of the requirements for a certificate.
- b. (1) Certificates issued by November 1
- If the requirements for the initial issuance or renewal of a certificate are completed and documentation received in the union office of education by November 1, the teacher will be placed on the appropriate step, and the resultant salary step change will be retroactive to July 1.
- (2) Certificates issued after November 1
- If the requirements for the initial issuance or renewal of a certificate are not completed and/or documentation is not received in the union office of education by November 1, the salary will be reduced according to the salary scale. No retroactive adjustment will be made for the period of time between November 1 and the date the certificate is presented to the employing organization. Delay which is not the fault of the teacher will not result in a loss of salary.
- c. The salary for a degreed teacher (with a valid state credential) who is employed in a Seventh-day Adventist school for the first time or is employed following a leave of absence and does not meet the requirements for a Basic, Standard or Professional Certificate will be subject to the following guidelines.
- (1) Placement on the salary scale will be determined by the degree held and the number of years of teaching experience, non-denominational or denomination years, if all requirements have been completed for a Basic, Standard or Professional Certificate except "Requirements" 2.1.2 and 2.1.3 on pages 10 and 11 of *PK-12 Educators' Certification Manual for North American Division*.
 - (2) Three years (four summers) will be granted for completion of the specific requirements cited in (1).

F11-128

Salary-Step Placement Schedule – Elementary and Secondary Certificated Administrative Personnel and Salaried Classified Administrative Personnel [Revised 4/2010; 4/2025]

Position/ Degree	Certificate	Year of Experience and Percentage Factor					
		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th or More
I. Principal	None or Conditional	77%	79%	79%	79%	79%	79%
	Standard				91%	93%	95%
	Professional				97%	99%	102%*
	Administrator				98%	100%	102%*
II. Other Certificated Administrators							
No Degree	Designated Subjects	68%	69%	70%	71%	72%	73%
Bachelors	None or Conditional	77%	79%	79%	79%	79%	79%
Bachelors	Designated Subjects	77%	80%	83%	86%	89%	93%
Bachelors	Basic	83%	85%	87%			
Bachelors	Standard				89%	92%	95%
5th Year or 60 Qtr. Hours	None or Conditional	78%	80%	80%	80%	80%	80%
	Designated Subjects	78%	81%	84%	87%	90%	93%
	Basic	83%	85%	87%			
	Standard				89%	92%	95%
	Professional				95%	97%	102%*
Masters	None or Conditional	77%	79%	79%	79%	79%	79%
	Designated Subjects	83%	86%	89%	92%	95%	99%
	Basic	84%	86%	88%			
	Standard				90%	93%	95%
	Professional				96%	98%	102%*
	Administrator				97%	99%	102%*
EdS, PhD, EdD	None or Conditional	77%	79%	79%	79%	79%	79%
	Designated Subjects				92%	95%	99%
	Basic	85%	87%	89%			
	Standard				91%	93%	95%
	Professional				97%	99%	102%*
	Administrator				98%	100%	102%*
III. Salaried Classified and non- certificated Administrators/ Managers		68-80%	70-84%	72-88%	74-92%	77-96%	80-99%
	Professional Certificate/ Preparation/ Ordination				96%	98%	102%

* Equivalent certification for the job where employed.

F11-136 Remuneration for Other Full-time Certificated Administrative Personnel Employed With Term Status [Revised 11/2012; 4/2025]

A. Definition

A full-time certificated administrator other than the principal is one who meets the following criteria:

1. Is employed full-time with Term Status Employment and is assigned administrative responsibilities for at least two-thirds time by the school board or local conference board of education in one of the following positions:

- a. Administrative Vice-Principal. [For administrative Vice-Principal assigned administrative responsibilities for less than two-thirds time see Section F11-104.A.2.]
- b. Vice-Principal for Finance, Business Manager or Assistant Business Manager. [See Section A19-108.]
- c. Registrar.
- d. Residence Hall Dean.
- e. Director of Development/Marketing/Recruitment.

A Director of Development/Marketing/Recruitment may be employed on Term Status as Certificated Administrative [See Section F11-136.A.1.] or Salaried Classified Administrative.

- f. Campus Pastor.

A campus pastor is one who has been so designated by the school board and/or the local conference executive committee as a church pastor and/or associate and serves the campus as a spiritual counselor for at least half the time.

B. The remuneration for a certificated full-time administrator consists of salary, administrative budget, and allowances and benefits.

1. Salary

The salary may be based on the following:

- a. The certificate held at the time of issuance of the contract. [See Section F11-128 for the Salary-step Placement Schedule-Elementary and Secondary Administrative Personnel.]
- b. The assignment employment plan, either 10-month or 12-month. [See Section E10-132 for a description of the employment plans.]
- c. The cost-of-living remuneration factors as designated by the local conference executive committee.

2. Administrative Budget

An administrative budget will be granted in addition to the salary based on a percentage of the principal's budget. [See Section F11-152 for details regarding the administrative budget.]

F11-136 Remuneration for Other Full-time Certificated Administrative Personnel Employed With Term Status (Cont'd)

3. Allowances and Benefits

An administrator is eligible for the allowances/benefits for which the administrator qualifies. [See Section F11-148 for a listing of allowances and benefits.]

F11-144 Remuneration for Substitute Teachers [Revised 4/2010]

Remuneration for a substitute teacher is to be based on the following:

A. One through twenty days in the same school

Remuneration only is based on the rate adopted by the local conference board of education.

B. Twenty-one or more consecutive days in the same school

Remuneration and allowances or benefits for which the employee qualifies is to be based on:

1. Employment on the 10-month assignment employment plan. [See Section E10-132.]
2. Full-time employment. [See Section F11-108.]
3. The remuneration differential between the rate for the first twenty-days and the remuneration based on "A" and "B" may be based on local conference board of education policy.

F11-146 Remuneration for Retired Personnel [Revised 11/2009; 4/2025]

The following provisions shall apply for remuneration of retired personnel.

A. Retired Participants in the Adventist Retirement Plan

Retired participants in the Seventh-day Adventist Retirement Plan of the NAD may be employed on a 75 percent basis (salary and work assignment) by a denominational employer without the loss of retirement benefits. Employment by a denominational employer on a full-time basis renders the participant ineligible to receive benefits from the Adventist Retirement Plan. Benefits may be reinstated when the employee ceases full-time employment again.

B. Maximum Remuneration

The remuneration of a person receiving retirement benefits from the Adventist Retirement Plan and/or Social Security shall be based on the following provisions.

1. The total remuneration, including denominational retirement benefits and/or Social Security, shall not exceed the annual ceiling on earnings imposed by Social Security.
2. Mileage and other travel expenses may be reimbursed.
3. No additional service credit is granted for such service.

F11-148 Allowances and Benefits

- A. Certificated Administrative and Instructional Personnel
 - 1. Full-time personnel. [Section E10-148.B.]
 - 2. Part-time personnel. [Section E10-156.B.]
- B. Classified Personnel
 - 1. Salaried Classified personnel. [Section E19-116.B.]
 - 2. Non-Exempt Classified personnel. [Section E21-116.C.]

F11-152 Administrative Budget [Revised 5/2013]

An administrative budget that includes area travel and the additional automobile insurance assistance is granted to administrators who qualify.

- A. The following administrators qualify for the administrative budget.

1.	Administrator	<u>Basis of Budget</u>
	Principal	See "F" this section.
	Supervising Principal-Full-time	See "F" this section.
	Teaching Principal/Head Teacher	See "F" this section.
2.	The school board will determine the budget within the range for each of these categories.	
	Administrative Vice-Principal	25-75% of principal's budget.
	Other Administrative Personnel	Up to 50% of principal's budget.
	Vice-Principal for Finance, Business Manager Assistant Business Manager:	50-75% of principal's budget.
	Industrial manager:	
	Major Industry	When voted by the local board.
	Minor Industry	
- B. Basis for the Administrative Budget

The administrative budget is based on the number of miles authorized for the type of school and the number of students enrolled and calculated using the current mileage rate adopted by the union and/or the local conference executive committee.

The proposed administrative budget for the ensuing year is to be determined at the time the tentative budget for the following school year is developed and is to be based on the enrollment reported on the opening report submitted at the beginning of the school year. The budget is to be adjusted on October 1 to reflect the actual enrollment reported for the current school year.

F11-152 Administrative Budget (Cont'd)

The “Step-Placement Schedule-Administrative Budget” identifies the minimum and maximum reimbursable mileage for each category based on the type of school and the number of students. The local school board or local conference board of education is to determine the number of miles within this range that are to be the basis for setting the principal's administrative budget. The administrative budgets for other administrators are based on a percentage of the principal's budget.

C. Administrative Budget and Use of Personal Automobile

When an administrative budget is provided for a certificated or classified administrative employee the employee's personal automobile is to generally and consistently be used for school business travel within the administrator's territory. The local conference board of education is to designate the flat travel area of the administrator.

D. Administrators Who Do Not Receive an Administrative Budget

Administrative school personnel not receiving an administrative budget will be reimbursed on an actual mileage basis for authorized travel when using a personal automobile.

E. Administrative Budget is Taxable Income

The administrative budget is to be included as part of the annual taxable income to comply with Internal Revenue Service regulations.

F. Step-Placement Schedule – Administrative Budget

Number of Students	Type of School and Mileage Range			
	Boarding Academy	Day Academy	Junior Academy	Elementary
	Mileage Range	Mileage Range	Mileage Range	Mileage Range
Above 275	1525-2000	1275-1750	975-1750	975-1600
251-275	1450-1925	1200-1675	875-1675	725-1525
226-250	1350-1850	1125-1600	875-1600	725-1450
201-225	1275-1750	1050-1525	800-1525	650-1350
176-200	1200-1675	975-1450	725-1450	650-1200
151-175	1125-1600	875-1350	650-1350	550-1200
126-150	1050-1525	800-1275	550-1275	550-1125
101-125		725-1200	475-1125	475-975
81-100		650-1125	400-975	400-800
61-80		550-1050	325-800	325-650
46-60		475-975	250-650	250-550
31-45		400-875	175-550	175-475
1-30		325-800	75-475	75-400

REMUNERATION FOR CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL | F12

F12-104 Remuneration for Full-time Salaried Classified Administrative Personnel [Revised 4/2025]

A. Salary

Remuneration for a full-time salaried classified employee consists of salary and allowances or benefits for which the employee qualifies. [See Section E19-116 for details regarding remuneration.]

A full-time employee assigned administrative responsibilities in one of the following positions will receive remuneration based on Section F11-128.

Positions such as, but not limited to:

Vice-Principal for Finance/Business Manager/
Assistant Business Manager*
Plant/Facilities Services
Food Service Director
Development Director/Marketing/Recruitment*
Information Technology Director

*A Vice-Principal for Finance/Business Manager/Assistant Business Manager and a Development Director/Marketing/Recruitment may be employed on Term Status Certificated Administrative or Salaried Classified Administrative.

B. Placement within the range is based on occupational preparation and training, scope of responsibility, skills and performance. An industrial manager's and industrial business manager's salary may be based on a board approved profit plan.

C. Administrative Budget

An administrative budget may be granted in addition to the salary to: Vice-Principal for Finance/Business Manager/Assistant Business Manager, and Industrial Manager. [See Section F11-152 for details regarding the administrative budget.]

D. Allowances and Benefits

Administrative and instructional support personnel are eligible for the allowances and benefits upon qualification. The listing of allowances and benefits is provided in Section E19-116.B. Details regarding each allowance are provided as noted.

F12-108 Remuneration for Non-Exempt Classified Personnel

A non-exempt classified employee is an "at-will" employee and is employed in a position that does not require a certificate and is paid an hourly rate. This category includes positions such as but not necessarily limited to those listed in Section F12-112. [See also Sections A22-108 and A22-112.]

Remuneration for a non-exempt classified employee consists of the wages and allowances or benefits for which the employee qualifies. [See Section E21-116 for details regarding remuneration.]

F12-112 Wage-Step Placement Schedule – Non-exempt Classified and Instructional Aides

A. Wage-step Placement Schedule

The following wage-step placement schedule applies to non-exempt classified employees and para-professionals who serve as instructional aides not required to have a teaching certificate and are paid on an hourly rate. Step increases may be determined by performance evaluation and approved by the local school board. [See Notes 1-8.] See Section E21-116 for details regarding remuneration of non-exempt classified employees.

PLACEMENT SCHEDULE NON-EXEMPT CLASSIFIED AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL						
Classification of Employee	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6
Accountants Accountant [Note 8a]	77%	80%	83%	86%	88%	91%
Accountant-Junior [Note 8b]	68%	71%	73%	76%	78%	81%
Accounting Clerk, Senior [Note 8c]	57%	61%	65%	69%	73%	77%
Accounting Clerk [Note 8d]	56%	59%	63%	67%	71%	76%
Information Technology Services Support Specialist	77%	80%	83%	86%	88%	91%
Bus Driver	49%	53%	57%	61%	65%	69%
Custodian Regular	49%	53%	57%	61%	65%	69%
Supervisor	56%	59%	63%	67%	71%	76%
Instructional Aides [Note 5]	45%	48%	51%	54%	56%	59%
Food Service Employee Regular	45%	48%	51%	54%	56%	59%
Supervisor	52%	55%	57%	60%	63%	65%
Grounds Regular	49%	53%	57%	61%	65%	69%
Supervisor	55%	59%	63%	67%	71%	75%
Industrial Employee	55%	59%	63%	67%	71%	75%
Maintenance Regular	49%	53%	57%	61%	65%	69%
Journeyman Level	60%	64%	68%	72%	75%	80%
Night Watchman	49%	53%	57%	61%	65%	69%
Secretary Regular	56%	59%	63%	67%	71%	76%
Administrative	58%	62%	66%	70%	74%	78%
Receptionist	52%	55%	59%	63%	67%	72%
Clerk Typist	45%	49%	53%	57%	61%	65%
Registrar	74%	77%	80%	83%	86%	89%
Librarian	74%	77%	80%	83%	86%	89%

F12-112 Wage-Step Placement Schedule – Non-Exempt Classified and Instructional Aides (Cont'd)

B. Notes:

1. Refer to the cost-of-living remuneration factor adopted by the local conference executive committee to determine the hourly rate and monthly or annual remuneration for the applicable percentage on the accompanying Placement Schedule. The hourly rate is based on the 12-month salary scale.
2. The maximum rate for each step may be applied only to a competent, experienced employee. In the application of these rates, an administrator is advised not to exceed community hourly wage rates. The local conference board of education may grant authorization to a school to exceed the published rate when the community rate is higher for that category of employees and documentation is submitted on the community rate.
3. All hourly computations are based on 164.66 hours per month.
4. The allowances and benefits granted to non-exempt classified and related instructional personnel are listed in Section E21-116.
5. The instructional aides include such persons who serve as attendance clerks, library assistant, teacher aide, registrar clerk.
6. A person certificated as a librarian, and employed in this capacity, may be paid on the teacher's salary scale at the appropriate level according to years of experience and certificate held.
7. A person employed as a registrar with appropriate experience and teaching certificate may be paid on the teacher's salary scale if the position requires the person to serve in a bona fide administrative capacity.
8. The categories of accountants listed below are sufficiently varied as to permit governing boards to exercise judgment as to the abilities of the employee and the requirements of the position. It is not anticipated that an organization will have employees filling all categories or any specific category. Some organizations may not require anyone on the accountant level if the assistant treasurer or assistant business manager is also caring for this responsibility.
 - a. Accountant – An accountant is one who applies principles of accounting to install and/or maintain operation of the total accounting system. The accountant is knowledgeable as to the reasons for, and the effect of, various accounting procedures. Typically, this individual will have a BA/BS degree in accounting or business management, or a CPA.
 - b. Junior Accountant – A junior accountant is one who has elementary knowledge of accounting principles and is able to apply it to limited areas of accounting procedures. This individual will normally have an AA degree in business or accounting, or a minimum of 25 semester hours in accounting and/or business management.
 - c. Senior Accounting Clerk – Performs similar duties as an accounting clerk, but typically with minimal accounting or bookkeeping preparation such as an academy bookkeeping course or one semester in beginning accounting at the college/university level and/or five years of experience in similar work.
 - d. Accounting Clerk – An accounting clerk is one who performs a variety of routine calculating, posting and typing duties to accomplish the accounting function. Typically, this person's education background in the area is limited to on-the-job training.

ALLOWANCES FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH | F19

F19-104 School Attendance of Certificated Personnel

[See Sections A25-108 and E10-152.]

F19-108 College/University Sponsored Tours [Revised 4/2025]

A teacher may participate in college/university sponsored tours for credit or for professional growth credit for renewal of the certificate. Tour costs of an employee on the 10-month salary plan are the responsibility of the employee.

F19-116 Doctoral Degree at Denominational Expense

Generally, graduate study beyond the master's degree is the responsibility of the employee. The preferred method of graduate study is the doctoral cohort offered by La Sierra University with financial support from the local and union conferences.

However, recognizing the possibility of an exceptional circumstance, employees wishing to pursue a doctoral degree outside the cohort must make individual arrangements with the employing organization consistent with the guidelines of the NAD graduate study assistance policy. [NAD Working Policy FEA 37.] Generally, expenses are shared between the employee, school, employing organization and the union office of education. A written agreement must be signed by all interested parties prior to commencement of a program of study with denominational financial support.

F19-120 Doctoral Degree at Employee Expense

An employee who has earned a doctoral degree at personal expense, or who has secured the doctoral degree with partial denomination support, may be reimbursed for personal expenses up to the prescribed limits as follows:

A. Written Agreement

A written agreement must be signed by all interested parties outlining the details of the actual expenses, amount of assistance, payment schedule, and amortization prior to payments.

B. Financial Limits

Full reimbursement will be equal to 70 percent of the annual remuneration factor as voted annually by the Church. The remuneration factor in effect at the time of the agreement will apply over the full period of the reimbursement. Any assistance which an institution may provide a teacher for doctoral studies will reduce on an actual basis the amount of doctoral reimbursement which would otherwise be provided.

F19-120 Doctoral Degree at Employee Expense (Cont'd)

C. Amortization

A maximum of five years of full-time service will amortize full reimbursement. A prorated scale will establish amortization time for less than full reimbursement. Employment of a prospective teacher between the conferral of the doctorate and employment by the school will normally reduce the total amount granted by the school for doctoral reimbursement.

F19-124 Intern Teaching Program

[See Section A25-112.]

COMPUTATION OF SUBSIDIES | F20

F20-104 Funding Education TK-12

Each conference shall develop a plan for the distribution of TK-12 subsidy funds provided by the local conference, union and NAD.

F20-108 Local Conference Subsidy to Education TK-12 [Revised 11/2016]

The local conference subsidy toward the costs of operating an elementary school (including kindergarten/transitional kindergarten), a junior academy, and/or a senior shall be determined by the local conference board of education.

SCHOOL PLANT AND FACILITIES | F21

F21-104 Building Financial Policies [Revised 11/2009; 4/2025]

Written approval of the local conference executive committee, the union and NAD, as needed, shall be obtained prior to contracting for construction or major alteration of any school building. The construction, reconstruction, enlargement, or improvement of properties shall be done within *NAD Working Policy* S 14 15 and S 14 20.

F21-108 Remodeling Buildings

A remodeling project on a school campus is defined as work done that alters a building or buildings.

When a school needs to remodel the following applies:

- A. All projects and plans must receive approval from the local school board.
- B. In building where asbestos is present the local office of education must be notified to be sure all safety guidelines are met before any surfaces are disturbed.
- C. Any project changing the footprint of buildings or requiring funding/loans from institutions outside of the school must receive approval from the appropriate department within the local conference office. Depending on the size of the project local conference committee approval may be required.
- D. Follow local conference policy for building procedures.

F21-112 Use of Denominational Facilities by Other Organizations [Revised 4/2015; 4/2025]

If denominational facilities are leased, rented, or lent to nondenominational organizations, the user shall be required to provide a certificate evidencing general liability insurance with an additional insured endorsement naming the corporate entity holding the title to the facility as an additional named insured. \$5,000,000 limits of general liability insurance is recommended with no less than \$1,000,000 limits required. In addition, the nondenominational organization shall sign an agreement holding the denominational owner harmless from any liability resulting from use of the facility. Insurance shall be from an insurer rated A Class or better from A M. Coverage shall remain in force for the duration of the usage.

GENERAL FINANCIAL POLICIES | F22

[See *NAD Working Policy S 19 05*]

F22-104 Financial Reports [Revised 5/2014]

In order that controlling boards, executive committees, and responsible officers may be kept fully informed concerning the operations under their control, monthly financial statements should be furnished to the members of the responsible boards and committees and to the officers of the next higher organization. Financial statements of institutions shall be furnished also to the officers of the higher organizations concerned.

A. Distribution

1. At least nine of the twelve monthly financial reports must be provided to the organization's administrative officers.
2. At least four of the twelve monthly financial reports, reasonably spaced through the year, must be provided to the controlling board, executive committee, and officers of the next higher organization.
3. In the case of relatively inactive organizations, quarterly financial reports are required (instead of monthly).

B. Analysis

Monthly financial reports showing the actual operating expenses and budgetary provision to date shall be prepared and studied by the organization's administrative officers. Controlling boards and executive committees should compare these statements with the approved budget and be prepared to act with the officers in increasing income and/or decreasing expenditures as may be necessary.

C. Presentation to Committees

When presenting financial reports in the accounting format generally accepted by the church, the treasurer/chief financial officer should use appropriate visual aids and explain all technical terms used to make sure the report is understandable to members with limited accounting background. Financial reports are to be comparative and include the following:

1. Statement of Financial Position,
2. Statement of Financial Activities,
3. Statement of Cash Flows,
4. Footnote disclosures which are an integral part of the report,
5. Other supplemental information, such as schedules showing further details of assets, liabilities, income, expenditures, and certain percentages or ratios; and,
6. If the financial report has been audited, the auditor's opinion should accompany the report.

F22-104 Financial Reports (Cont'd)

D. Presentation to Constituency Sessions

Reports to the constituency sessions of organizations shall include audited comparative financial statements as indicated in C. above, showing each of the years in the reporting period. If it is not possible to have audited comparative financial statements prepared for the sessions' reporting period, each year's financial statement, with the accompanying auditor's report, shall be presented separately. Any financial reports presented at constituency sessions that are not accompanied by an opinion from the auditor should clearly indicate that it is non-audited information.

E. Accounting Manuals Authority

Financial reports shall be prepared in accordance with applicable denominational accounting manuals prepared by the General Conference Treasury. All organizations shall adhere to the appropriate current denominational accounting manual as follows: Seventh-day Adventist Accounting Manual (Effective January 1, 2012).

1. When country-specific accounting standards require a financial reporting framework that differs from the denomination's accounting manual, those country-specific standards take precedence and organizations are not required to maintain multiple sets of accounting records to accommodate both country-specific standards and the account manual.
2. Entities are expected to comply with all relevant laws and regulations that require reporting of financial information to government agencies, which may be required to be in formats other than that used for general-use financial reporting. It is understood that such government-mandated reporting is in addition to the required general-use financial reporting to the organization's controlling board or executive committee.
3. Any other exceptions to application of the accounting manual shall be approved by General Conference Treasury.

F22-108 Tuition Rates for Non-Constituent and Non-Seventh-day Adventist Students

Non-Seventh-day Adventist and/or non-constituent pupils in secondary schools, junior academies, or elementary schools may be charged an additional amount of tuition as determined by the local conference board of education.

F22-112 Settlement of Student Accounts

Past due student accounts are to be paid, or satisfactory arrangements made before beginning a new school term. A student owing an account in one school shall not be accepted in another school until the account is paid or satisfactory arrangements made with the former school.

When an administrator becomes aware that a student has an outstanding account in a former school, after the student has been enrolled, the student will not be allowed to continue until satisfactory arrangements are made with the former school.

F22-144 Depreciation Expense

All denominational organizations are to include depreciation expense on buildings, land improvements, and equipment for which the organization is the legal owner in the annual financial statements.

Funded depreciation is to be used for the erection of new buildings and meeting replacement expenses, such as renewing of roofs, re-plastering, re-flooring of rooms; and for meeting the expense of replacement of furniture and equipment.

F22-148 Inventory of Equipment

All schools shall maintain an up-to-date equipment inventory which shall be kept in a fireproof vault or file.

F22-156 Dealing with Offenders in Financial Matters [Revised 11/2013]

When a volunteer, employee or agent of a Seventh-day Adventist organization performs an act in violation of the laws of the country and of the financial trust of responsibility reposed in him/her, discipline shall be administered and the employing organization will report all violations to appropriate law enforcement officials. [See *NAD Working Policy S 04 48.*] Available insurance coverage may be jeopardized by failing to report such matters to law enforcement.

F22-160 Financial Consequences of Litigation [New Policy 11/2008; Revised 4/2025]

When a church entity is named as a party in litigation for a matter in which it was not directly involved, the church entity directly involved in the matter leading to the litigation shall reimburse the sum of all damages, judgment or settlement of any legal action, court costs, legal fees, and fees uninvolved, named party. This includes insured costs when the requirements of *NAD Working Policy S 60 05 (3)* are not followed.

Unless there are extenuating circumstances that cause reasonable delay in notifying the party actually involved in the suit, the responsible entity(ies) involved shall be notified of any such pending litigation at the commencement of the litigation and shall be permitted to take part in or control the defense of the action to the extent of such entity's anticipated liability. If, as a result of this policy or for any other reason, it is anticipated that the North American Division or General Conference will be requested to fund any portion of the litigation costs or damages awarded, then the Division or General Conference shall be notified at the commencement of the case and the Office of General Counsel shall be responsible for administering. [*NAD Working Policy BA 35*]

**THE POLICIES IN THIS SECTION ARE PRIMARILY FOR SCHOOLS
AUDITED BY GENERAL CONFERENCE AUDITING SERVICES.**

F22-204 Core Policies for Policy Compliance Testing [*NAD Working Policy S 90*]
[New Policy 5/2014; Revised 4/2015; 11/2015; 4/2017; 10/2018; 5/2022; 4/2024;
4/2025]

The General Conference Executive Committee has identified core policies to be tested during the financial audit or review engagement for each denominational organization. In identifying these core policies, a materiality threshold was defined for each core policy, which determines the level of reporting for any noted noncompliance; and a related assertion statement was developed for each core policy, which together shall be signed and submitted by the principal officers of each denominational organization before the commencement of the audit engagement.

Summary of Policy		Materiality ^(c)	Assertion ^(d)
GENERAL			
1.	Policies on financial control:		
	A. Financial reports provided on a regular basis: Administration – minimum of nine (9) per year and Committee – minimum of four (4) per year. (<i>NADWP S 19 05</i>)	100% compliance.	Management has prepared and studied nine of the twelve monthly financial statements and provided at least four statements throughout the year to the organization's governing body who compared them with the annual budget.
	B. Budget plan approved by committee. (<i>NADWP S 09 10</i>)	Approved = Yes/No	Management has prepared an annual budget which was approved by the controlling committee.
	C. If, at the close of the financial year, the organization recorded an operating loss, recovery must be provided for in subsequent budgets, if available working capital and available liquid assets are less than the six-month and three-month minimums, respectively, recommended by policy. (<i>NADWP S 09 20</i>)	Provided – Yes/No Available working capital and available liquid assets allowed to drop to 4 months and 2 months respectively.	When available working capital and available liquid assets were less than the recommended amounts, management included a recovery plan when preparing the ensuing years' budgets.
	D. Local church, school and other local church organization financial records should be reviewed at least biennially. (<i>NADWP SA 05 27</i>)	At least 95% of the local organizations were reviewed during the past 2 years.	All local church, school and other local church organization financial records have been reviewed within the past 2 years by competent individuals employed by the conference. The employee who reviews these records has provided a written report to the conference committee regarding local church reviews including the date and place of each review. A copy of the re-port was filed with the Office of Adventist Risk Management.

Summary of Policy		Materiality ^(c)	Assertion ^(d)
2.	Audit Committee appointed by controlling committee composed of a minimum of 3 members, typically from the controlling committee, who are not employees. (NADWP S 34 05)	Appropriate Composition and submission of report to controlling committee = Yes/No	The controlling committee has appointed an audit committee composed of at least 3 members typically from the controlling committee who are not employees of the organization being audited And they have submitted a report to the controlling committee.
3.	Funds borrowed from church members. (NADWP S 45 05)	Other than the Trust Services Program and Union Revolving Fund Plan, was borrowing from members more than 5% of liquid assets?	The organization has not solicited loans from any church members, except through denominationally recognized channels such as Trust Services and revolving funds.
4.	All board members and employees designated by policy should sign statements of acceptance of the Conflict of Interest Policy. (NADWP E 85 10 and 20)	All = 90% of individuals (must include 100% of officers plus any others specially specified by organization's board)	The chief administrator has received a statement of acceptance and compliance with the policy on Conflict of Interest from each of the individuals designated by policy.
5.	Available working capital and available liquid assets shall be at least the six-month and three-month minimums, respectively, recommended by policy. (NADWP S 24 10)	Available working capital and available liquid asset amounts are recommendations only, therefore, would never be in the Policy Compliance Report.	The Organization has the recommended amounts of available working capital and available liquid assets.
6.	Contributions to denominational Retirement Plan(s) should comply with applicable Division policy. (NADWP Z 10 25, Y 46 05, and Y 46 19 and Adventist Retirement Plan legal plan document Article IV.)	Compliance = 100% of required contributions in period when due.	The organization has made all required contributions to the applicable retirement plans in accordance with the <i>NAD Working Policy</i> and the Adventist Retirement Plan legal plan document Article IV.
7.	The provisions of insurance coverage should be in harmony with the <i>NAD Working Policy</i> (NADWP S 60 05 and 10)	All = at least 95% of the properties covered, and at least the minimum levels of liability coverage.	The organization has purchased property, liability, and other applicable insurance coverage that is in harmony with <i>NADWP S 60 05 and 10</i> .
8.	Formation of new legal corporations must be approved by the respective Division or GC committee. (NADWP BA 25 10)	Approved = Yes/No	The organization obtained approval from the respective higher organization to form a new legal corporation.

Summary of Policy	Materiality ^(c)	Assertion ^(d)
SECURITIES & INVESTMENTS		
Academies with more than \$5,000,000 in investments must comply with NADWP S 85 20 as outlined below.		
Academies with less than \$5,000,000 in investments may participate in the Pacific Union Conference Income Fund also known as PUCIF. NADWP S 85 outlines the requirements for investing and this policy will simplify the process.		
<p>A. Approval must be voted by the academy board or appropriate controlling body to invest in the PUCIF.</p> <p>B. Because an asset allocation is in place for the PUCIF, a standard Investment Policy Statement will be provided indicating that the investments would following the investment policy of the PUCIF.</p>		
9.	Investments (in all Funds, for the type of entity) should comply with policy.	
	A. Intermediate and long-term investments should not exceed 2.5% of the outstanding ownership of any entity which is invested in (NADWP S 85 20)	Less than 2.8% of the outstanding ownership of any one issuer. The organization does not own more than 2.5% of the total equity of any other entity.
	B. Controlling committee shall not allow more than 5% of the assets under its management, based on market value, to be invested in the securities of any one issuer, other than government debt. (NADWP S 85 20)	Less than 5.5% of the total assets under management. Other than government debt, the organization has not invested more than 5% of its total assets in the securities of any one issuer.
	C. Controlling committee shall not allow more than 15% of assets under management, based on market value, to be invested in any one industry. (NADWP S 85 20)	Less than 16.5% of assets under management invested in one industry. The organization has not invested more than 15% of assets under management in any one industry.
	D. Asset pools must be large enough to justify management costs paid for the retention of external managers or the purchase of individual securities. (NADWP S 85 20)	Asset pools greater than US\$5,000,000 = Yes/No The investment committee has evaluated available options with a view to minimizing management costs.
	E. Controlling committee shall complete an asset allocation study, approve an investment policy statement, and based on these divide all assets for investment into three classes. (NADWP S 82 20 and S 85 30)	Compliance = Yes/No The controlling committee has completed an asset allocation study, approved an investment policy statement, and based on these divided all assets for investment into 3 classes.
	F. All short-term securities purchased must have adequate market liquidity and must be rated A-1, P-1 or equivalent except those issued by a sovereign government. (NADWP S 85 35)	All = 95% of all short-term securities. The organization's investments in short-term securities have adequate market liquidity and do not represent a significant exposure relative to the organization's short-term portfolio and are rated A-1, P-1 or equivalent.

Summary of Policy		Materiality ^(c)	Assertion ^(d)
	G. Investment of intermediate-term Funds must be rated "investment grade" or better by Standard and Poor's (BBB-or higher) and Moody's (Baa3 or higher). Securities have an average life of less than forty-eight months. (NADWP S 85 40)	All = 95% of all intermediate-term securities including Special temporary employee loans.	The organization has invested in intermediate-term funds that are rated 'investment grade' or better by Standard and Poor's (BBB- or higher) or Moody's (Baa3 or higher) or one of their subsidiaries. Securities have average life of less than forty-eight months.
	H. Investments in long-term funds include approved equity investments listed on recognized exchanges and also must meet all the provisions provided in S 85 35 and S 85 40. Intra-denominational loans must be adequately secured. (NADWP S 85 45)	All = 95% of total long-term funds.	The organization has invested in approved equities listed on recognized exchanges. For intra-denominational loans, the organization has obtained a "no objection" from the controlling committee of the parent organization. Mortgages are adequately secured and syndicated real estate mortgages have been limited to 80% of the fair market value of the collateral.
	I. Investments in other vehicles ("special consideration securities") requires appropriate approval. (NADWP S 85 50)	Approval = Yes/No	The organization has obtained appropriate approval before investing in securities in the "special consideration" category.
NOTES RECEIVABLE			
10.	A. All new home/automobile loans to employees have been approved by the appropriate committee. (NADWP Y 21 10)	Approval = Yes/No; Appropriate committee = Real Estate: controlling committee Automobile: Sub-committee.	New loans issued to employees during the year of audit have been approved by the appropriate committee.
	B. Home and automobile loans to employees have been secured as required by the <i>NAD Working Policy</i> . (NADWP Y 21 15)	100% of officers; 95% of non-officers.	The organization has obtained security from employees for new home and automobile loans issued.
	C. Loans to employees are being repaid through payroll deductions within the timeframe established by the <i>NAD Working Policy</i> . (NADWP Y 21 20)	100% of loans are being repaid through payroll deductions; 100% of loans from employees who have been terminated, transferred, retired, or vacated the property have been collected.	The organization collects notes receivable from employees through payroll deductions. Loans from employees who have been terminated, transferred, retired, or vacated the property for which the loan was issued have been collected in full.
	D. Interest rates on loans receivable from employees are charged at the going rate, not to exceed 15%. (NADWP Y 21 30)	100% of officers and 95% non-officers have interest rates comparable to the going rate.	The organization charges interest on notes receivable from employees at the going rate, not to exceed 15%.

Summary of Policy		Materiality ^(c)	Assertion ^(d)
SPLIT-INTEREST AGREEMENTS			
11.	Local conferences/missions/fields considering gift annuities in excess of \$500,000 or non-cash annuities, should counsel with the union prior to writing agreements. (NADWP S 40 10)	All = 95% of the value of cash and non-cash gift annuities.	The organization counseled with the Union prior to accepting and administering gift annuities in excess of \$500,000 or non-cash annuities. All gift annuities have been accepted and administered in accordance with local laws.
12.	Annuity rates should be in accordance with policy. (NADWP S 40 10, #2)	All = 95% of annuities are in accordance with GC/Division provided rate schedules.	The organization has adhered to applicable GC/Division provided rate schedules for gift annuity agreements.
13.	All trust agreements should be authorized by board or appropriate committee, written upon competent local legal counsel, and the denomination will benefit substantially from the trust agreements. (NADWP S 40 05 and 15)	All = 95% of agreements and the related monetary amounts were authorized, written upon counsel, and benefited the denomination. Yes/No	Trust agreements were all authorized by the board or an appropriate subcommittee, were written upon competent local legal counsel, and substantially benefited denominational organizations.
14.	Each organization should record in the legal corporation minutes the maturity of all deferred gift instruments and the distribution made to beneficiaries. (NADWP S 40 25)	All = 95% of agreements and related monetary amounts. Yes/No	The organization has recorded the maturities of all deferred giving instruments and the distributions made to beneficiaries in the legal corporation's minutes.
15.	No denominational employee, serving as administrator, trustee or executor of wills should receive any fees for his/her personal benefit. (NADWP S 40 30)	Fees received for personal benefit? Yes/No	No denominational employee, acting as administrator, trustee or executor of wills has received any fees for his/her personal benefit for rendering this service.
DEBT, OTHER LIABILITIES & CONTINGENCIES			
16.	Accounting for gift annuities should comply with policy and be in harmony with GAAP. (NADWP S 40 10)	All = at least 95% of gift annuities and related monetary amounts are accounted for in accordance with GAAP.	The organization has accounted for all gift annuities in accordance with GAAP.
17.	As far as possible, financial activities should be conducted without the use of borrowing. When borrowing is used, it must comply with the policy which includes the following limitations:		
	A. Enlargement of facilities done without incurring indebtedness except as provided for by policy and when properly authorized. (NADWP S 14 10)	All = At least 95% of costs for enlargement of facilities without debt, except as provided by policy and properly authorized.	Management approved the enlargement of facilities with funding provided out of organization's own funds or with debt that is in accordance with policy and properly authorized.

Summary of Policy		Materiality ^(c)	Assertion ^(d)
	B. Denominational organizations shall not borrow money for reinvestment or to lend to individuals. (NADWP S 14 05 #2)	Borrowed money to reinvest? Yes/No	The organization did not borrow any money for reinvestment or to lend to individuals.
	C. No organization shall borrow money to re-lend except through a denominational revolving fund. (NADWP S 14 05 #3)	Borrowed money to re-lend? Yes/No	The organization did not borrow money to re-lend except through the denominational revolving fund.
REVENUE			
18.	A. Proper tithe percentages should be remitted by the divisions to the GC. (NADWP V 10 05 3)	All = at least 100% of the division's appropriate tithe percentages to the GC on behalf of the world field.	The division has remitted all required tithe percentages to the GC.(Note: this applies only to the audit of the North American Division.)
	B. Proper tithe percentages should be remitted by the churches/conferences/unions. (NADWP V 10 05 2)	All = at least 100% of the organization's appropriate tithe percentages were passed on to the higher organization.	The organization has remitted all required tithe percentages to the next higher organization.
19.	Tithe funds should be used only for their intended purposes. (NADWP V 15 15)	All = 100% of all tithe funds used.	The organization used all tithe funds in accordance with policy.
20.	Capital expenditures for land, buildings, and other facilities should not be funded out of tithe, except the purchases of evangelistic equipment and conference/mission office equipment. (NADWP V 15 25) (See exceptions in V 15 05)	Approved = Yes/No	Except for the purchase of evangelistic and conference/mission office equipment (or other exceptions allowed in V 15), the organization did not use tithe funds to finance capital expenditure activities.
21.	Mission offerings should be passed on to the General Conference and should be distributed appropriately per policy. (NADWP T 05 20)	All = 100% of GC-designated world mission funds.	All world mission funds recognized as General Conference funds have been received, recorded and appropriately distributed in accordance with policy.
PAYROLL			
22.	For all employees:		
	A. Pay rate should be within applicable range in remuneration scale. (NADWP Y 05 and 08)	All = 100% of all employees ^(e) .	Employees have been remunerated in accordance with applicable ranges in remuneration scale.
	B. Service record should be maintained, updated, and signed. (NADWP E 70 20)	All = 90% of all employees.	The organization has maintained and updated service records in computerized format. A responsible official has signed the official copy of the computerized form.
23.	Vacations, holidays, and sick-time practices should comply with policy. (NADWP E 75 and 82)	All = 100% of officers, 90% of non-officer employees.	The organization has complied with the policies on vacation, holiday, and sick time for each employee.

Summary of Policy		Materiality ^(c)	Assertion ^(d)
24.	Employee reimbursements for auto use, per diem, and other travel related expenses should comply with policy. (NADWP Y 29 and Appendix – Travel Expenses and Per Diem Guidelines)	All = 100% of officers, 90% of non-officer employees.	The organization paid auto allowance, per diem, and other travel related expenses in accordance with policy.
25.	Health care assistance should comply with policy. (NADWP Y 22)	All = 100% of officers, 90% of non-officer employees.	The organization provided health care assistance to employees and their other eligible dependents in accordance with policy.
26.	Scholarship grants to dependents of employees should comply with policy. (NADWP Y 24)	All = 100% of officers, 90% of non-officer employees.	The organization provided tuition assistance to the dependents of eligible employees in accordance with policy.
27.	All termination settlements paid to discontinued employees should be computed properly, recorded on their service record, and a signed release of liability should be obtained. (NADWP Y 36)	All = 100% of sample tested, complied with policy.	For all termination settlements paid to discontinued employees the organization has calculated the proper amount, recorded the amount on the service record and obtained a signed release of liability.
28.	Annual review of compensation, allowances, and benefits (NADWP S34 10)	All = 100% of employees, except for student employees at educational institutions.	Compensation Review Committee has reviewed the compensation, allowances, and benefits paid, and reported to the controlling board of executive committee.
29.	Employing organizations and institutions shall conduct pre-employment background checks after securing a signed release for all new employees joining their organization or institution in accordance with federal, state, provincial, and local laws or statutes.	All = 100% of new employees.	The organization has conducted pre-employment background checks for all new employees.

Notes:

- (a) These policies relate to the North America Division *Working Policy*. This list of core policies is based on and includes the core policies of the General Conference found in the General Conference *Working Policy S 90*.
- (b) Auditors are to test for compliance with these core policies on every engagement. If auditors become aware of non-compliance with other policies that appear to be significant or pervasive in their district or territory, they will report such non-compliance in general terms in communications with either the Division or the General Conference, but not in communications with the audit client.
- (c) Materiality is to be used by the auditor to determine how to communicate noted non-compliance. If the non-compliance exceeds the materiality, it will be noted in the Policy Compliance Report. If non-compliance is below the materiality, it will be noted in the Audit Communication Letter.
- (d) The assertions should be provided by management to the auditor at the same time as the Audit Engagement Letter is submitted.
- (e) Except transitional employees, if approved by administrative committee or Human Resources committee.
- (f) Where an issue is being studied by General Conference Treasury which may result in a change to any of the core policies or the associated materiality thresholds for reporting, the General Conference Administrative Committee may grant a variance to the application of these policies not to exceed one year.

F22-208 Financial Audits with General Conference Auditing Services [New Policy 5/2014;
Revised 4/2017]

Each organization shall prepare its financial statements to be audited annually or receive some other level of service as approved by the General Conference Executive Committee.

A. Preparation for Annual Audit

The audit process is more efficient when an organization prepares well in advance. In preparing for an audit, the organization shall do the following:

1. Complete the recording of financial transactions and prepare the corresponding statements of financial position, financial activities, cash flows, and relevant footnote disclosures no later than 90 days after the end of the organization's financial year. The financial statements are to be prepared based on the *Seventh-day Adventist Accounting Manual*.
2. The principal officers of the organization shall sign an engagement letter with the auditor which enumerates the mutual expectations and responsibilities, the scope and timing of the work to be performed, and the associated fees.
3. The organization should provide the supporting material requested by the auditor in electronic form, wherever possible.
4. The principal officers, as required by *NAD Working Policy S 90*, shall furnish in writing to the auditor a set of assertions regarding the organization's compliance with denominational core policies.

B. Participation on the Annual Audit

The audit process is a collaborative effort on the part of the auditor and management of the organization. Management shall make the appropriate arrangements to be available during the course of the engagement and be responsive to requests made by the auditor. If at the close of scheduled audit procedures, management has not provided all the information requested by the auditor, the auditor shall inform management of the audit status and request a written engagement extension letter. At the close of the engagement, an exit interview will be conducted. The auditor shall supply a draft of the audit report for management to review before it is finalized. Since the financial statements are the responsibility of the organization, it is important for them to be reviewed and understood.

C. Presentation of Audit Reports

Within 60 days of the close of the audit engagement, when all outstanding issues have been resolved, the auditor will provide to management of the organization and the chair of the Audit Committee the audit report which includes an opinion on the financial statements, a report on compliance with the core policies of the denomination, and an audit communication letter which includes any significant deficiencies identified in internal controls. Upon receipt of this report, the management of an organization shall do the following:

1. Provide to the Audit Committee a copy of the audit report along with their response to any findings within 60 days of receiving the report from the auditor.
2. Provide to the auditor a copy of their response to any findings they have shared with the Audit Committee.

F22-210 Financial Audits with External Auditing Services Other than General Conference Auditing Services [New Policy 11/2016]

Schools who choose to use an external auditing firm (other than General Conference Auditing Services) must follow the standards and guidelines as voted by the NAD Executive Committee.

Before engaging the services of an external auditing firm, schools must follow the authorization process established by the local conference, to include but not be limited to, local conference office of education, local conference treasury and union treasury. [See *NAD Working Policy Guidelines* Section.]

F22-212 Audit Committee [Renumbered and Revised 5/2014]

The controlling board or executive committee of each organization shall establish a subcommittee known as the Audit Committee to meet at least annually and discharge the functions as outlined in the charter (terms of reference) provided to promote transparency and full disclosure on audit matters. These meetings may be held in person or via conference call where such facilities are available and if considered appropriate.

A. Composition

The Audit Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members who are typically members of the controlling board or executive committee, and are known to possess the following characteristics:

1. Independent

Not employed by the organization being audited or reviewed and, if possible, not denominationally employed. The member should not have any existing financial, family, or personal ties to the management of the organization.

2. Competent

Has proven knowledge in financial matters, including the ability to read and understand financial statements. At a minimum, one of the members should be considered a financial expert who understands the financial reporting framework in their country, is able to apply that framework to accounting matters, has experience in preparing and analyzing financial statements, understands internal controls, and understands the function of the Audit Committee.

3. Confident

Not afraid to ask relevant and probing questions.

B. Charter (Terms of Reference)

The following represents the expected responsibilities of the Audit Committee to be fulfilled each year. This charter should represent a working document that guides in managing the agenda of the committee.

1. Recommended to the controlling board or executive committee the selection of the auditor in those approved special circumstances when General Conference Auditing Service is not involved.
2. Agree upon the fees and scope of the audit engagement.
3. Maintain a direct and open line of communication with the auditor.

F22-212 Audit Committee (Cont'd)

4. Receive and discuss with the auditor the audited financial statement, audit communication letter, and response from management.
5. Develop and review with management adequate internal controls.
6. Develop and review procedures for the receipt and resolution of confidential complaints regarding any unethical business practice.
7. Discuss with management their assertions made regarding compliance with core denominational working policies related to financial matters.
8. Identify, evaluate, and response to any potential business and fraud risks.
9. Understand emerging trends in accounting standards and their impact on financial reporting for the organization.
10. Review any serious difficulties encountered during the course of the audit.
11. Provide oversight for the conflict of interest policy and address risks associated with any conflicts identified.
12. Present a report to the controlling board or executive committee at its next scheduled meeting regarding the results of the audit engagement, operational effectiveness of internal control, compliance with core policies, and potential business risks. This report should be accompanied by recommendations for the controlling board or executive committee to consider.
13. Hold an executive session where members of the management team, who may be attending as invitees, have been excused.

C. Invitation to Auditor

The auditor shall be invited to attend the Audit Committee meeting at which the audit reports and audit communication letter are studied, and the controlling board or executive committee meeting at which the Audit Committee makes its recommendations, if any. Under circumstances where legal requirements permit and conferencing facilities are deemed satisfactory to the client and the auditor, the auditor may choose to attend, via teleconference or videoconference, the meetings mentioned above. Although it would be normal and expected for the auditor to attend the Audit Committee in person or via other conference facilities, attendance by the auditor at such meetings is not mandatory.

D. Representative from Higher Organizations

If there are official representatives from the higher organization present when the Audit Committee is being convened, they would be considered invitees with voice but no vote.

E. Copy of Recommendations

A copy of the recommendations of the Audit Committee, as approved by the controlling board or executive committee, shall be sent to the auditor and to appropriate officers of higher organizations.

F22-216 Working Capital [Renumbered and Revised 5/2014; 5/2022; 4/2025]

Economic downturns and financial emergencies are part of the routine cycle of organizational life. Church organizations would do well in being prepared for such downturns and emergencies by ensuring resources are in place to prevent or minimize any disruption to its mission. Being prepared would include having sufficient resources to cover operational expenses and appropriations to subsidiary or related organizations for a predetermined period of time. Each organization should be mindful to build up reasonable reserves of working capital in preparation for unfavorable financial times. It would be prudent for an organization to hold a significant portion of its available working capital in liquid assets. [*NAD Working Policy S 24 14*]

F22-218

Definitions [New Policy 5/2022]

- A. Working Capital – The amount of current assets in excess of current liabilities (current assets minus current liabilities).
- B. Current Assets Held for Donor Restrictions – The current asset necessary to comply with the restrictions stipulated by donors or other organizations (restricted net assets minus those specifically related to identifiable noncurrent assets).
 - 1. Donor restricted donations still in hand (e.g., assets restricted to an evangelism project).
 - 2. Restrictions placed on funds by grants from other organizations (e.g., Global Mission grants).
- C. Available Working Capital – The working capital remaining after removing current assets held for donor restrictions (working capital minus current assets held for donor restrictions).
- D. Recommended Minimum Available Working Capital – The minimum available working capital that an organization should maintain in normal economic and financial conditions.
- E. Operating Expenses – Operating expenses include all expenses of the organization except cost of goods sold, appropriations, depreciation, and capital expenditures.
- F. Net Outgoing Appropriations – The excess of outgoing operating appropriations over incoming operating appropriations. (Outgoing appropriations minus incoming appropriations. If incoming exceed outgoing, net outgoing operating appropriations is zero.)
- G. Core Expenses – Operating expenses plus net outgoing appropriations.
- H. Available Working Capital in Months – This is the number of months that the available working capital could support a predetermined period of core expenses. This policy is recommending a minimum of six months.
- I. Available Liquid Assets – The liquid assets remaining after removing current liabilities and current assets held for donor restrictions (liquid assets minus current liabilities and current assets held for donor restrictions).
- J. Recommended Minimum Available Liquid Assets – The minimum available liquid assets that an organization should maintain in normal economic and financial conditions.
- K. Available Liquid Assets in Months – This is the number of months that the available liquid assets could support a predetermined period of core expenses. This policy is recommending a minimum of three months.

INSURANCE | F23

F23-104 Automobile Insurance [Revised 3/2012; 4/2017; 4/2025]

Automobile insurance for employee-owned and institution-owned vehicles is required as follows:

A. Employee-owned Vehicles

An education employee is required to carry Bodily Injury Liability and Property Damage Liability insurance on all owned vehicles. [See *NAD Working Policy Y 29 15* and *Y 29 20* for minimum coverage limits.]

B. Institution-owned Vehicles

1. Commercial Auto – Liability protection shall be secured on all owned, hired and non-owned vehicles (.e.g. automobiles, motorcycles, ATV's, vans, buses) used on behalf of the employing organization, with adequate limits of bodily injury and property-damage liability. All vehicles owned by each organization shall be included in one policy, with an automatic fleet endorsement or equivalent attached. All vehicles shall be registered in the legal corporate name of the governing denominational entity and included on the policy. This includes academies and local entities. Vehicles shall be used only for official activities of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and shall not be loaned, leased, or rented to individuals or nondenominational organizations.

2. Driver Record/Qualifications – All drivers of denominationally owned vehicles shall be properly licensed and comply with all Federal, state and/or laws for the class of vehicle being operated. The recommended minimum age for drivers shall be twenty-one (21) years. A minimum allowable age of nineteen (19) may be granted with the approval of the organization's officers. The driving record (Motor Vehicle Record) of all regular drivers shall be obtained from state records and reviewed on a regular basis. Drivers shall have an acceptable driving record during the previous three years with not more than two traffic citations and no at-fault accidents while driving any vehicle. When a driver does not meet the above driving standard, they shall not be assigned to or retained for a driving position.

3. Vans

a. In the interest of safety, denominational organizations shall not purchase, lease, rent, or use pre-2013 fifteen-passenger vans or modified fifteen-passenger vans for sponsored activities under any circumstances. Alternatives to fifteen-passenger vans include: minivans and SUVs, mini-school buses, and fifteen-passenger buses with dual rear wheels.

F23-104 Automobile Insurance (Cont'd)

- b. Organizations should be aware of the relevant jurisdictional requirements, such as for Commercial Driving License (CDL) designation, seat belt laws, or prohibition for use to transport school children, which may apply to them, and should follow all legal and jurisdictional requirements.

[*NAD Working Policy S 60 31*]

F23-108 Transportation of Students

[See Section A24-132.]

F23-136 Student Accident Insurance

Each elementary school, junior academy and secondary school is to participate in the master student accident insurance plan approved by the local conference board of education.

Information about the approved student accident insurance will be supplied by the local conference superintendent of schools. Any deviation from the approved plan must be recommended by the local conference board of education and voted by the local conference executive committee.

F23-140 Interdivision Student Trip Insurance

When planning interdivision student trips for education or short-term mission work, careful planning shall include appropriate insurance to cover the planned activities.

Adventist Risk Management, Inc. (ARM) provides accidental death and dismemberment, basic medical, personal effects, emergency evacuation/repatriation, and trip cancellation insurance while traveling away from the country of residence. Contact ARM for the "AIU Short Term Travel Application". This coverage is for travel and does not cover high risk, physical hazards such as: construction work, organized competitive sports, mountain climbing, hang gliding, etc.

To cover construction work, access the "Volunteer Labor Coverage Application" from ARM.

Applications are available on the ARM website: www.adventistrisk.org.

Glossary

AAA – An acronym for the North American Division Commission on Accreditation. This commission acts on behalf of the Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities, Inc. for school accreditation within the North American Division.

Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities, Inc. – The denominational accrediting authority for all educational institutions and programs operated in the name of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

ARM – Adventist Risk Management, Inc. The insurance carrier for many educational institutions.

Division – The North American Division. An administrative unit of the Seventh-day Adventist Church responsible for operations within Bermuda, Canada, and the United States of America.

Education Code – The Pacific Union Conference *Education Code*. This document provides the framework for the TK-12 educational operations within the Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Education Council – A twice-yearly meeting of local school administrators, local conference educators, representatives of higher education, and union office of education personnel. This meeting is held for professional growth, policy development, and spiritual growth. Policies voted by this group are referred to the Union Executive Committee for final action.

Ellen G. White – Also known as EGW, she was one of the founders of the Seventh-day Adventist church. She wrote widely on devotional and practical topics including education.

Employer – The local conference. TK-12 education personnel are employed by the local conference, through the office of the superintendent of schools.

Evaluation Criteria for Seventh-day Adventist Schools – The protocols used by schools for accreditation activities.

Focus on Learning WASC/SDA – The accreditation protocol used by schools seeking regional accreditation through Western Association of Schools and Colleges. This is required for TK-12 and secondary schools.

GC – General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. This is the highest governing body of the Seventh-day Adventist Church worldwide with headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland.

GCAS – General Conference Auditing Services. Its responsibility is to audit, or arrange for the audits of, all organizations world-wide that are affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist denomination.

J2E – *Journey to Excellence*. This document, adopted in 2002, provides a model for Adventist TK-12 education including a philosophy, goals, essential core elements, and preferred practices for school improvement.

Local Conference – The administrative unit within the Pacific Union Conference responsible for the operation of TK-12 schools. This unit is the employing organization for TK-12 education employees in local schools within the Pacific Union Conference.

NAD – The North American Division. This administrative unit of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is responsible for the operations of the church within Bermuda, Canada, and the United States of America.

NAD Working Policy – This document provides the authoritative voice of the Seventh-day Adventist church in North America and contains the accumulated policies adopted by the General Conference.

Glossary

NAD Commission on Accreditation – This commission acts on all matters of accreditation for the Accrediting Association of Seventh-day Adventist Schools, Colleges, and Universities, Inc. within the North American Division.

Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists – The administrative unit responsible for the operations of the Seventh-day Adventist Church within the territory of Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah.

PUCIF – Pacific Union Conference Income Fund. Academies with less than \$5,000,000 in investments may participate in the Pacific Union Conference Income Fund.

School Board – The operating board of local schools within the Pacific Union Conference. This board operates within the policies of the *Education Code* and the local conference office of education.

Union – Refers to the Pacific Union Conference.

Union Executive Committee – The highest administrative authority within the Pacific Union Conference. This committee makes final decisions on educational policies referred by the Education Council.

Union Office of Education – The administrative unit within the Pacific Union Conference responsible for TK-12 education.

WASC – Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Through the *Focus on Learning*, this organization accredits public and private TK-12 schools in California, Hawaii, and the international schools in the South Pacific.

A

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