

Professional Staff Recruiting/Hiring

Recruiting

The Board desires the superintendent to develop and maintain a recruitment program designed to attract and hold the best possible professional personnel in the district's schools.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent, with the assistance of other administrators, to determine the personnel needs of the district in general and of each individual school and to locate suitable candidates to recommend to the Board for employment. The search for good teachers and other professional personnel will extend to a wide variety of educational institutions and geographical areas. It will take into consideration the diverse characteristics of the school system and the need for staff members of various backgrounds.

Recruitment procedures will not overlook the talents and potential of individuals already employed in the district's schools. Any present employee of the district may apply for a position for which they are licensed, and/or meet other stated requirements.

Background checks

Prior to hiring any person, in accordance with state law the district must conduct background checks with the Colorado Department of Education and previous employers regarding the applicant's fitness for employment. In all cases where credit information or reports are used in the hiring process, the district must comply with the Fair Credit Reporting Act and applicable state law.

Hiring

Discrimination in the hiring process on the basis of disability, race, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, national origin, religion, ancestry, genetic information, age, or conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth is prohibited.

All candidates will be considered on the basis of their merits, qualifications and the needs of the school district.

All interviewing and selection procedures will ensure that the administrator directly responsible for the work of a staff member has an opportunity to aid in the selection and that, where applicable, the school principal has an opportunity to consent.

Unless otherwise required by law, the final selection for nomination will be made only by the superintendent.

Appointment of candidates

Nominations will be made at meetings of the Board of Education. The vote of a majority of the Board shall be necessary to approve the appointment of teachers,

administrators or any other employee of the school district. If there is a negative vote by the Board, the superintendent must submit a new recommendation to the Board for approval.

Upon the hiring of any employee, information required by federal and state child support laws will be timely forwarded by the district to the appropriate state agency.

Adopted by the Board: prior to 2014

Revised by the Board: January 22, 2014

Revised and recoded by the Board: July 17, 2019

Revised: November 2019 (legal references only), August 12, 2020, November 10, 2021

LEGAL REFS.: 15 U.S.C. 1681 *et seq.* (Fair Credit Reporting Act)
20 U.S.C. 6312 (c)(6) (teacher licensure requirements under Every Student Succeeds Act)
42 U.S.C. 653 (a) (Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act)
28 C.F.R. 50.12 (b) (notification requirements regarding fingerprints)
C.R.S. 2-4-401 (3.4) (definition of gender expression)
C.R.S. 2-4-401 (3.5) (definition of gender identity)
C.R.S. 2-4-401 (13.5) (definition of sexual orientation)
C.R.S. 8-2-126 (limits employers' use of consumer credit information)
C.R.S. 13-80-103.9 (liability for failure to perform an education employment required background check)
C.R.S. 14-14-111.5 (Child Support Enforcement procedures)
C.R.S. 22-2-119 (inquiries prior to hiring)
C.R.S. 22-2-119.3 (6)(d) (name-based criminal history record check – definition)
C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(f) (Board duty to employ personnel)
C.R.S. 22-32-109 (1)(pp) (annual employee notification requirement regarding federal student loan repayment programs and student loan forgiveness programs)
C.R.S. 22-32-109.7 (duty to make inquiries prior to hiring)
C.R.S. 22-32-109.8 (non-licensed personnel – submittal of fingerprints and name-based criminal history record check)
C.R.S. 22-32-126 (principal's role in hiring and assignment)
C.R.S. 22-60.5-114 (3) (State Board can waive some requirements for initial license applicants upon request of school district)
C.R.S. 22-60.5-201 (types of teacher licenses issued)
C.R.S. 22-61-101 (prohibiting discrimination)
C.R.S. 22-61-103 (requirement for teacher's oath or written pledge)
C.R.S. 22-63-201 (licensure required)
C.R.S. 22-63-202 (employment contracts and mutual consent placement)
C.R.S. 22-63-206 (transfers)
C.R.S. 24-5-101 (effect of criminal conviction on employment)
C.R.S. 24-44-301 (3.3) (definition of gender expression)
C.R.S. 24-34-301 (3.5) (definition of gender identity)
C.R.S. 2-4-401 (13.5) (definition of sexual orientation)
C.R.S. 24-34-402 (1) (discriminatory and unfair employment practices)
C.R.S. 24-34-402.3 (discrimination based on pregnancy, childbirth or related conditions; notice of right to be free from such discrimination must be posted "in a conspicuous place" accessible to employees)

C.R.S. 24-72-202 (4.5) (definition of personnel file in open records law)

CROSS REFS.:

Board policies:

EL-11, School Safety
EL-12, Staff Treatment

Administrative policies:

GBA, Open Hiring/Equal Employment Opportunity
GCKAA*, Teacher Displacement

NOTE 1: State law requires public school teachers to take an oath/affirmation or sign a written pledge that states the following: "I solemnly (swear)(affirm)(pledge) that I will uphold the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of Colorado, and I will faithfully perform the duties of the position I am about to enter." C.R.S. 22-61-103 (1). A person authorized to administer oaths in Colorado shall administer the oath or affirmation, or the teacher must sign the pledge. C.R.S. 22-61-103 (2). The Colorado Department of Education has state that a school district's hiring officials must ensure that teachers take the oath orally or in writing at the time of hiring or during the signing of the teacher's contract.

NOTE 2: For purposes of this policy, these terms have the following meanings:

- *"Race" includes hair texture, hair type, or a protective hairstyle that is commonly or historically associated with race. C.R.S. 22-32-110 (1)(k).*
- *"Protective Hairstyle" includes such hairstyles as braids, locs, twists, tight coils or curls, cornrows, bantu knots, afros, and head wraps. Id.*
- *"Sexual Orientation" means an individual's identity, or another individual's perception thereof, in relation to the gender or genders to which the individual is sexually or emotionally attracted and the behavior or social affiliation that may result from the attraction. C.R.S. 2-4-401 (13.5) and C.R.S. 24-34-301 (7).*
- *"Gender Expression" means an individual's way of reflecting and expressing the individual's gender to the outside world, typically demonstrated through appearance, dress, and behavior. C.R.S. 2-4-401 (3.4) and C.R.S. 24-34-301 (3.3).*
- *"Gender Identity" means an individual's innate sense of the individual's own gender, which may or may not correspond with the individual's sex assigned at birth. C.R.S. 2-4-401 (3.5) and C.R.S. 24-34-301 (3.5).*

Professional Staff Recruiting/Hiring

Applications of all regular professional personnel to be employed by the district will be processed according to this procedure. Short-term, temporary or interim appointments may be made directly by the superintendent, subject to the approval of the Board of Education, without following the advertising procedure.

1. Vacancies

All regular vacancies will be advertised by the department of personnel.

2. Applications

All applications will be submitted to the personnel office.

Current employees may apply for supplemental pay positions by submitting a letter outlining their qualifications for the position they are seeking.

All applicants will complete the required district application form.

3. Initial screening and interview

The superintendent or designee will screen applications and may conduct an initial interview with all applicants. The objectives of the screening and initial interview process are to:

- a. Determine if a teacher applicant meets applicable licensure requirements under state and federal law.
- b. Determine the suitability of an applicant for a specific position.
- c. Determine those applicants who are most qualified for the position.
- d. Ensure eligible applicants from the district's priority hiring pool, if applicable, receive first opportunity to interview, as required by law.
- e. Discuss with an applicant any district policies and procedures pertinent to the job and to the employment process.

4. Background checks

Prior to hiring and in accordance with state law, the personnel office must:

- a. Conduct a background check through the Colorado Department of Education (the department) to determine the applicant's fitness for employment.

The department's records must indicate if the applicant has been convicted of, pled *nolo contendere* to, received a deferred sentence, or had their license or authorization denied, annulled, suspended, or revoked for a

felony or misdemeanor crime involving unlawful sexual behavior or an allegation of a sexual act involving a student who is eighteen years of age or older, regardless of whether the student consented to the sexual act, unlawful behavior involving children, or domestic violence. The department must provide any available information to indicate whether the applicant has been dismissed by or resigned from a school district as a result of an allegation of unlawful behavior involving a child, including unlawful sexual behavior or an allegation of a sexual act involving a student who is eighteen years of age or older, regardless of whether the student consented to the sexual act, which was supported by a preponderance of evidence according to information provided to the department by a school district and confirmed by the department in accordance with state law. The department must also provide information regarding whether the applicant's license or certification has ever been denied, suspended, revoked, or annulled in any state, including but not limited to any information gained as a result of an inquiry to a national teacher information clearinghouse.

Information of this type that is learned from a different source must be reported by the district to the department.

The department will not disclose any information reported by a school district unless and until the department confirms that the allegation resulted in the person's name being placed on the state central registry of child protection.

- b. Contact previous employers of the applicant to obtain information or recommendations relevant to the applicant's fitness for employment.

NOTE: If the district employs any non-licensed administrators the following section to be added to this regulation.

5. Fingerprinting non-licensed administrators

- a. All non-licensed applicants selected for employment in an administrative position must submit a complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency, an authorized district or BOCES employee, or any third party approved by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.
- b. Non-licensed applicants selected for employment must also submit a completed form, as required by state law to certify, under penalty of perjury, either that they have never been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor charge, not including any misdemeanor traffic offense, or that they have been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor charge (not including any misdemeanor traffic offense). The form must specify the felony or misdemeanor, the date of conviction and the court entering judgment.
- c. The school district will release the fingerprints to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of conducting a state and national fingerprint-based criminal history record check utilizing the records of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. When the results of the fingerprint-based criminal history record check reveal a record

of arrest with a disposition, the district must require the employee to submit to a name-based criminal history record check. Criminal history record information must be used solely for the purpose requested and cannot be disseminated outside the receiving departments, related agencies, or other authorized entities.

- d. Although an applicant may be conditionally employed prior to receiving the results, they may be terminated if the results are inconsistent with the information provided on the form. In accordance with state law, the employee or applicant must be terminated or disqualified from district employment if the results disclose a conviction for any of the following offenses:
 - (1) felony child abuse, as described in C.R.S. 18-6-401;
 - (2) a crime of violence, as defined in C.R.S. 18-1.3-406 (2);
 - (3) a felony involving unlawful sexual behavior, as defined in C.R.S. 16-22-102 (9);
 - (4) felony domestic violence, as defined in C.R.S. 18-6-800.3;
 - (5) a felony drug offense, as described in C.R.S. 18-18-401 *et seq.*, committed on or after August 25, 2012;
 - (6) felony indecent exposure, as described in C.R.S. 18-7-302;
 - (7) attempt, solicitation or conspiracy to commit any of the offenses described in items 1-6; or
 - (8) an offense committed outside of this state, which if committed in this state would constitute an offense described in items 1-7.

The district must notify the district attorney of inconsistent results for action or possible prosecution.

- e. The school district will charge the applicant a nonrefundable fee of the then current processing rate to cover the direct and indirect costs of fingerprint processing. The applicant may pay the fee over a period of 60 days after employment. The fee will be credited to the fingerprint processing account.

6. Credit reports

The personnel office will not obtain a credit report on an applicant unless the office has first notified the individual in writing, in a document consisting solely of the notice, that the district would like to obtain a credit report and requesting the individual's written authorization to obtain the report. A credit report will only be requested when the applicant submits a written authorization.

The personnel office will not rely on a credit report in denying an application unless the office has first supplied the applicant with a disclosure that includes a copy of the credit report and a summary of the applicant's rights. If an application for employment is denied because of the credit report, the personnel office will give the applicant notice that the action has been taken, as well as:

- a. the name, address and phone number of the credit bureau supplying the report;

- b. a statement that the credit bureau was not involved in the decision to deny the application; and
- c. a notice of the individual's right to dispute the information in the report.

7. Placement interview

- a. Determine whether the applicant can handle the specific assignment.
- b. Determine the best applicant for the position.
- c. Discuss with the candidate any building or departmental regulations pertinent to the job.

8. Selection

In the selection of *secondary teachers*, the principal or designee and department representative will interview the qualified applicants. The decision regarding selection will be made by the principal, considering mutual consent placement provisions in law where applicable.

In the selection of *elementary teachers*, the principal will interview the qualified applicants. The decision regarding selection will be made by the principal, considering mutual consent placement provisions in law where applicable.

In the selection of *athletic coaches*, the principal or designee and director of athletics will interview the qualified applicants, and the decision regarding selection will be made by the principal and the director of athletics. In the selection of assistant athletic coaches, the head coach of that sport will be involved in the interview process.

In the selection of *department chairpersons*, the principal will interview the qualified applicants, and the decision regarding selection will be made by the principal.

If the department representative, director of athletics or head coach, are not available at a time when a selection must be made, the selection will be made by those applicable persons present under the specific direction of the superintendent.

9. Contract or job offer

Only the personnel office is authorized to offer new or supplemental pay contracts and/or jobs to current employees or applicants.

10. Information report to state

In accordance with federal and state law, the personnel office will report the name, address and social security number of every new employee to the Colorado State Directory of New Hires via the online portal at <https://newhire.state.com.us/> or via mail to the Colorado State Directory of New Hires, P.O. Box 2920, Denver, Colorado 80201-2920.

This report, due within 20 days of the date of the hire or on the first payroll after the 20 days have expired, must be submitted even if the employee quits or is terminated before the report is due. Upon termination, the employee's last known address, the fact of the termination, and the name and address of the employee's new employer, if known, must be reported to the applicable court or agency.

Upon receiving a Notice of Wage assignment, the district must remit the designated payment within seven days of withholding the income according to instructions contained in the Notice. Child support withholding takes priority over other legal actions against the same wages.

Approved by the superintendent: prior to 2014
Revised by the superintendent: January 22, 2014
Revised and recoded by the superintendent: July 19, 2019
Revised: November 2019, November 10, 2021

NOTE 1: Regarding the requirement that an applicant submit a completed form certifying his or her criminal history, state law defines "convicted" as: "[A] conviction by a jury or by a court and shall also include the forfeiture of any bail, bond, or other security deposited to secure appearance by a person charged with a felony or misdemeanor, the payment of a fine, a guilty plea accepted by a court, a plea of nolo contendere, and the imposition of a deferred sentence or suspended sentence by the court." C.R.S. 22-32-109.8 (8)(a). Any district form used to certify a nonlicensed applicant's criminal history should reflect this broad definition of "convicted" to ensure that a nonlicensed applicant discloses the legally required information.

NOTE 2: When the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) provides an update to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) regarding those school employees previously subject to a fingerprint-based background check, CDE must provide that update to school districts. Each school district must then cross-check its employee list with the update and take appropriate action if necessary. C.R.S. 22-2-119 (4)(b).

NOTE 3: An employee who is terminated or an applicant who is disqualified from district employment for a felony domestic violence and/or a felony drug offense may reapply for district employment after five years have passed since the date the offense was committed. C.R.S. 22-32-109.8 (6.5)(b). For a felony domestic violence offense, the applicant must also show successful completion of any court-ordered treatment. Other exceptions to this provision allow the district to conduct an assessment to determine if the applicant poses a risk to district students or staff, and also allow the applicant to submit a written request for reconsideration by the district. C.R.S. 22-32-109.8 (6.5)(d). The law includes the specific factors the district must consider. Id.

NOTE 4: Federal law requires school districts to notify individuals fingerprinted that the fingerprints will be used to check the criminal history records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Districts must also notify fingerprinted applicants about the opportunity to challenge the accuracy of the information contained in the FBI identification record and the procedures to obtain a change, correction, or update of an FBI identification record. 28 C.F.R. 50.12 (b). Districts must retain documentation that this notification was provided. For same notification and acknowledgement forms that meet these federal requirements, visit the Colorado Bureau of Investigation's website: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cbi/identification-unit>.

Weld County School District Re-3J, Hudson, Colorado