

ARTICLE X

EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT, SUPPORT AND EVALUATION

1.0 Purpose: The purposes of these procedures are to encourage a career long growth model of educator development and support, evaluate employee performance, provide assistance and remediation to employees whose performance is less than satisfactory, and continue to improve the quality of educational services provided by employees.

2.0 Evaluator: In support of the evaluation process, the employee's immediate administrator shall be responsible for the evaluation of the employee and assisting the employee in improving performance when necessary. The administrator may delegate these functions to another administrator, and upon the request of an employee, the administrator may assign to an evaluator at the school site who holds the same credential. If unable to accommodate the request, the evaluator may consult with an administrator who holds a credential or certification within the subject and/or content area of the employee being evaluated, but shall retain ultimate responsibility. As to evaluation of site-based support service personnel, there shall be consultation between the site administrator and the employee's technical supervisor, if any, prior to either one issuing the annual evaluation.

2.1 Peer Observation: Nothing in the article shall preclude UTLA bargaining unit members from voluntarily observing other members and/or providing feedback to the person being observed. Peer observations shall not be used to supplement or supplant administrative observations for the purposes of formal evaluations.

3.0 Frequency: Evaluations shall be made at least once each academic year for probationary or qualifying employees, and at least once every other year for permanent employees. In the case of permanent employees who are deemed "highly qualified" under 20 U.S.C. Section 7801, and have been employed by the District for at least 10 years, the period between evaluations may, in the joint discretion of the evaluator and the employee, be extended beyond the two-year period so that the evaluation may be made once in a three, four, or five-year period, subject to the following limitations:

- a. Any such arrangement for an evaluation beyond the two-year cycle requires the joint consent of the evaluator and employee; such consent is entirely discretionary and individualized, and may be withdrawn by either party at any time.

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b. However, (i) the withdrawing party shall provide written notice to the other party to that effect, identifying the reason(s) or cause(s) for the withdrawal, and (ii) the notice of withdrawal should be given before the end of the school year preceding the next intended evaluation, and shall not be given later than the date that the newly reinstated evaluation procedures are to be commenced.

c. Because the Education Code (Section 44664) makes these evaluation-frequency decisions entirely discretionary and individualized, any decision to grant, deny or withdraw consent shall not be subject to the grievance procedures of this Agreement. However, claimed violations of the notice provisions of paragraph b. above are subject to grievance procedures.

d. In recognition of the increased time and effort that improvements to the evaluation system entail for both site administrators and teachers, the District immediately will be authorizing extensions of the period of time between evaluations for most employees with ten or more years of experience, from every second year to every third, fourth or possibly fifth year, pursuant to agreement between the administrator and employee, as provided above.

3.1 Notification to Employee:

a. An employee who is to be evaluated during a given academic year shall be so notified by site administration, if not by the end of the previous academic year then by the Fall norm day of the evaluation year or the last workday of the 5th week of school, whichever is earlier. In the case of employees first reporting to work at a school within the ten-day period preceding the above Fall notice date, or later, the notice is to be given within ten workdays of the employee reporting to work at the school.

b. Employees newly assigned to a school later than the last workday of the eighth week of the Fall term shall not be subject to evaluation that year, except in situations where the employee does not have permanent status or has received a below-standard evaluation in the previous academic year.

4.0 Establishment of Objectives:

a. By the last workday of the eighth week of the academic year, the evaluator and employee shall work cooperatively to establish the employee's objectives for the year. The establishment of objectives shall be accomplished through one or more Initial Planning Conferences to discuss Initial Planning Sheets, proposed objectives and related strategies.

b. For employees newly assigned to the school after the notice period of Section 3.1 but before the last workday of the 8th week of the academic year, the evaluator and employee shall work cooperatively to

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establish the employee's objectives for the year no later than the last workday of the twelfth week of the academic year.

4.1 Individual performance objectives and overall performance expectations shall relate to, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

a. Standards of expected student progress and achievement for the grade level and areas of study based on District, special program and local school determinations; and appropriate instructional objectives and strategy-planning methods, instructional materials, and methods of assessing student progress and achievement;

b. Expected employee competence, including but not limited to knowledge of subject matter, adherence to curricular objectives, use of effective teaching and supervision techniques, effective use of time, maintenance of appropriate professional relationships and communications with students, parents, and other staff members, and compliance with District and school rules, policies, and standards;

c. The performance of those duties and responsibilities, including supervisory and advisory duties, to be performed pursuant to Article IX, Hours; and

d. The management of classroom climate and learning environment, with mutual respect and proper sensitivity to such issues as race, gender identity, ethnicity, identified disabilities, and socioeconomic differences.

e. Performance focus elements to be included in individual objectives shall be limited to seven for each employee, all of which are to be drawn from 15 District-designated annual focus elements. Of the seven, three (3) will be designated by the District, an additional three (3) will be selected by the employee, and one (1) will be cooperatively selected by the employee and evaluator; and

f. For non-teaching employees such as counselors, psychologists, PSA Counselors and other support service personnel, performance objectives shall be comparable to the above, but are to be related to the duties of their particular classification.

4.2 If the employee and evaluator are unable to reach agreement upon the content of the objectives, and the employee is dissatisfied with the evaluator's determination, the employee may appeal the matter to the next higher administrative level for resolution. An employee who remains dissatisfied may note on the objectives form that the objectives were not the product of mutual agreement. In such cases the employee's required signature indicates only receipt and acknowledgment of the objectives which will be used for evaluation purposes.

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4.3 During the school year, if performance problems develop or if constraints are identified which will affect the evaluatee's progress toward meeting the established objectives, the objectives may be modified. Either the employee or the evaluator may initiate discussion toward such a modification. If the employee and evaluator are unable to reach agreement upon the modification and the employee is dissatisfied with the evaluator's determination, the employee may appeal the matter to the next higher administrative level as set forth in the preceding paragraph.

5.0 Observations, Records, and Assistance:

a. Employees being evaluated shall receive one (1) Formal Observation during the academic year, no later than the last workday of the sixth week of the second semester. The Formal Observation shall be followed by a post-observation conference between the evaluator and employee to discuss the employee's performance toward meeting the individual objectives established pursuant to Sections 4.0 and 4.1 of this Article. The post-observation conference shall occur no later than ten (10) workdays after the formal observation.

b. The ratings for a Formal Observation shall be "Effective Practice", "Developing Practice", and "Ineffective Practice".

c. Employees being evaluated shall receive one (1) Growth Plan visit during the academic year. Performance during Growth Plan visits shall not be rated.

d. If problems are identified during a Formal Observation, Growth Plan Visit, or any other type of observation, the evaluator shall meet with the employee, make specific written recommendations for improvement, and offer appropriate counseling and assistance. Within four workdays of a post-observation conference, post-growth plan visit conference, or other types of conferences in which problems are identified, a copy of records relating to observations, conferences and assistance offered or given, shall be provided to the employee for the employee's information, guidance, and as a warning to improve performance.

e. Provisional and Probationary employees, and any employees whose evaluation cycle has been scheduled as the result of receiving an overall final evaluation of Below Standard for the previous year, are encouraged to pursue additional voluntary Formal Observations and Growth Plan Visits and related guidance and assistance to encourage development opportunities as needed.

f. While the entire evaluation cycle is an inherently collaborative and reflective process, the written "reflection" elements of the evaluation cycle are to be considered voluntary and optional for the employee.

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6.0 Final Evaluation Report: Not less than 30 calendar days before the last regularly scheduled school day of the employee's scheduled work year in which the evaluation takes place, the evaluator shall prepare and issue the Final Evaluation Report in which the employee's overall performance and progress toward objectives is evaluated. The ratings for a Final Evaluation shall be "Exceeds Standards", "Meets Standards", and "Below Standard". Prior to the end of the school year the evaluator shall hold a Final Evaluation Conference with the employee to discuss the content of the Final Evaluation Report. When a Final Evaluation Report is marked "Below Standard," the evaluator shall specifically describe in writing the area(s) of below standard performance, together with recommendations for improvement, and the assistance given and to be given. To the extent possible, any written description for areas of below standard performance and recommendations for improvement included in the Final Evaluation Report (e.g. employee attendance) should be consistent with the written concerns and recommendations previously provided to the employee in accordance with section 5.0 (d) above. Comments on attendance shall only address absences that exceed the annual credit of absence hours in accordance with Article XII, Section 12.3, and/or when there is a pattern and/or misuse of absences that raise suspicion of abuse of leave provisions, and/or, in the event the employee's absences do not exceed the annual credit of absence hours in accordance with Article XII, Section 12.3, such absences, over the evaluated period of time, result in work performance concerns.

6.1 The employee's required signature on the form does not necessarily indicate agreement with its contents, and the employee may attach a written response to each copy of the form within ten working days from date received. Such a written response becomes a permanent part of the record. The employee may also appeal the matter to the next higher administrative level.

6.2 The employee shall be given a copy of the Final Evaluation Report at the conference. A copy shall be placed in the employee's personnel file, and a copy retained by the school or office. Evaluation forms shall not be considered a public record.

6.3 Grievances: Evaluations are not subject to the grievance procedures of Article V, except when the final overall evaluation is "Below Standard." However, if the overall evaluation is "Exceeds Standards" or "Meets Standards" but there is a significant disparity between that rating and the negative comments on the form, the evaluation shall be subject to the grievance procedure on the same basis as it would have been had the overall rating been Below Standard. Expedited arbitration procedures will be utilized when the threshold issue of "significant disparity" is submitted to a preliminary hearing for determination as to whether the case is subject to the grievance procedure (see Article V, Sections 13.0 and 15.0).

6.4 The final overall evaluation rating of "Meets Standards" shall not be treated as the equivalent of "Below Standard" for purposes of accountability as described in other parts of this article or other parts of this Agreement. Additionally, an overall rating of "Meets Standards" shall not be used as grounds for discipline or as grounds to disadvantage the employee for purposes of "skipping" criteria in a reduction in force.

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7.0 Inadequate Service by Substitutes: The site administrator may, for cause, issue to a day-to-day substitute employee a notice of inadequate service (ISR). The site administrator shall include a summary of the incident(s) that led to the issuance of the ISR. Such a notice shall, absent compelling circumstances, be issued within ten working days after the date(s) of service, with a copy to the employee (either in person or by certified mail to the employee's address of record). Prior to issuance of such a notice, the site administrator shall make a reasonable effort to contact and confer with the substitute regarding the allegations, and of the substitute's right to a meeting with representation. Upon employee request, a meeting will be held to discuss the matter. The employee may be accompanied by a UTLA representative or a person of the employee's choice, as long as that person is not a representative of another employee organization. The timeliness of the employee's request for a meeting, or the non-availability of the employee or representative shall not delay issuance of the Inadequate Service Report beyond the ten working days period set forth above. In addition to the grievance procedure, the employee may attach a written response to the report within ten working days from date received. The written response becomes a permanent part of the record.

8.0 Evaluation of Substitutes: Substitutes who are continuously assigned to the same location for an extended period (more than 20 consecutive working days) shall be evaluated not less than once each semester by the site administrator at the end of the assignment. Such evaluations do not involve the establishment of specific objectives as in the case of regular teachers, but are to rate preparation, skills, competence, personal qualities, and overall performance, together with recommendations for improving services. Observations, records, and assistance as provided in Section 5.0 shall be applicable.

8.1 Any substitute who receives more than one performance evaluation of less than satisfactory service within the last two years of District service shall not be granted a probationary contract. Any substitute who receives one performance evaluation of less than satisfactory service within the last two years of District service shall be reevaluated by the present immediate administrator for the purpose of determining eligibility for a probationary contract. Any such substitute who receives a less than satisfactory reevaluation shall not be granted a probationary contract.

8.2 Evaluation of Limited Term Personnel: Limited term personnel, such as non-tenured adult Education teachers, are subject to evaluation at any time; however, a teacher shall have the right to be evaluated upon request at the end of the assignment. If the administrator initiates such an evaluation, the observation, records and assistance provisions of Section 5.0 apply.

8.3 Examination References: Those examination references which are deemed by the District as being open and non-confidential are not subject to the grievance procedure, except in circumstances where the examination reference is based upon the same period of time as a previous evaluation but is significantly different from that evaluation. In such cases, if

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there is not a reasonable explanation for the difference, the reference may be ordered stricken.

8.4 Evaluation Request Upon Separation of Employment: If either the administrator or employee wishes to process an evaluation at the time of the employee's separation from employment. It shall be done and a copy furnished the employee at his or her address of record. This evaluation process shall be completed prior to the date of separation if the employee has given notice of intended separation at least two weeks prior to the effective date.

8.5 Evaluation of Itinerant Employees: An Evaluation Work Group comprised of three (3) UTLA appointees and three (3) District appointees shall be established to improve the evaluation process for itinerant employees. The Work Group shall meet quarterly and shall provide recommendations to their respective bargaining teams.

9.0 Peer Assistance and Review – General Provisions:

a. The Peer Assistance and Review ("PAR") Program is a State-wide program designed by the State of California to provide assistance and guidance to both new and experienced classroom teachers in order to improve their instructional skills. It is intended that the District's PAR Program is to be carried out consistent with the statutory mandates of the PAR Program, and that any provisions of this Article in conflict with that statute (as amended from time to time) are to be deemed conformed to it. It is understood that this Article will not repeat all provisions of the governing statute and will instead focus upon selected aspects of the program. Nothing in the PAR Program is intended in any way to limit the authority of the District to develop additional evaluation and assessment guidelines or criteria concerning teacher performance consistent with State law.

b. The PAR Program is funded by the State of California, and it is not expected or required that the District either directly or indirectly utilize general fund resources for this program. In the event that the State changes the funding mechanism (e.g., by "block granting" the program with others, rather than directly reducing the funding level), the parties will immediately reopen this Article to discuss the impact of the change and the District's response.

c. The PAR Program is intended to supplement and support the Evaluation procedures of Article X, but in no case to replace or supplant those procedures. In no event shall the provision of the services provided by the PAR program, or the completion or outcome of such services, be regarded as an entitlement for any employee, or as a precondition for any evaluation, disciplinary action, non-reelection, contract non-renewal, or statutory termination of employment.

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d. The employee recipients of PAR services are referred to throughout this Article as "Participating Teachers," and the providers of PAR services are generally referred to as "Consulting Teachers."

e. Subject to applicable law, the PAR Program within the District is governed by the PAR Panel, whose composition, authority and duties are described in sections 6.0 and 7.0 below. All Consulting Teachers' selections, service assignments, revisions and renewals are at the discretion of the PAR Panel. Because of the significant role played by teachers and UTLA in the PAR process, no disputes or claims relating to the decisions or actions of the PAR Panel or of Consulting Teachers shall be subject to the grievance and arbitration provisions of this Agreement.

10.0 PAR Program Description: There are three service components of the PAR program:

a. Component One provides review, assistance and guidance to permanent teachers who have received either an overall below-standard Stull evaluation or a Notice of Unsatisfactory Service, in either case as a result of below-standard teaching skills. (If such an evaluation or notice has resulted in a grievance which has not been resolved by the commencement of services for the following school year, the teacher shall nonetheless be required to enter the PAR Program at that time.) Full participation by the Participating Teacher is a mandatory duty, to the extent that such services are made available. Component One services are the first priority for the PAR Program.

b. Component Two provides assistance and guidance to non-permanent teachers, with particular emphasis upon the District's instructional priorities and related teaching skills. Component Two services are the second priority for the PAR Program, with teachers assigned to schools of greatest need (based upon the State's Accountability Index rankings) to be served first.

c. Component Three is a voluntary program designed to provide assistance to non-permanent and/or permanent teachers who have been positively evaluated, but who wish to avail themselves of such services in order to improve their professional practices. Component Three services are the third priority for the PAR Program, with teachers assigned to schools of greatest need (based upon the State's Accountability Index rankings) to be served first. The assignment of such services will be directed by the PAR Coordinator.

11.0 PAR Program Support:

a. Subject to the funding and priorities described above, the level of support provided to Participating Teachers shall be:

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(1) For Component One, up to 240 hours of 1:1 assistance and review by a Consulting Teacher for each Participating Teacher

(2) For Component Two, up to 120 hours of 1:1 assistance and review by a Consulting Teacher for each Participating Teacher, based upon individual assessments made by the Consulting Teacher.

(3) For Component Three, the support services, including but not limited to staff development training opportunities, would be as determined by the PAR Panel.

b. There shall be three pools of Consulting Teachers as follows:

(1) First are retired employees who apply and meet the qualifications described in section 4.0 below, and are selected as Consulting Teachers. They will be assigned on an hourly basis (X Basis) for up to a maximum of 480 hours annually, and will be paid at their regular hourly rate.

(2) Second are active full time teachers who apply and meet the qualifications described below, and are selected as full time Consulting Teachers by the PAR Panel. They will be assigned a schedule of C Basis or longer, as determined by the Joint Panel, and will also receive an annual stipend of \$4,300 for A Basis, adjusted proportionately to correspond to any shorter assigned annual basis.

(3) Third are active full time regular teachers who apply and meet the qualifications described below, and are selected as hourly service providers by the PAR Panel as a supplemental assignment outside of their regular full time assignment. They will be assigned on an hourly basis (X Basis), paid at their regular hourly rate, and directed by the PAR Coordinator. Also, National Board Certified teachers may be utilized as part of this same pool, as part of their 92-hour obligation, subject to whatever NBC assignment procedures are in effect at the time.

12.0 PAR Consulting Teacher Qualifications and Selection Criteria:

a. Consulting Teacher applicants must possess a clear California credential, and must have completed eight years of full-time District service with a satisfactory performance record (in terms of evaluations and service notices) covering the most recent five years.

b. Current employee applicants must have permanent status, must have been a full time classroom teacher for at least three of the preceding five years, and retired employees must have had full time

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classroom teacher experience within the three year period preceding application (this last qualification is not required for a retired employee to continue their Consulting Teacher status once appointed).

c. Applicants must be computer literate and have an active email address, and be willing to perform their Consulting Teacher duties at any site in the District as assigned.

d. Applicants must also submit, with their letter of application and resume, a letter of reference from a site administrator and a Chapter Chair (in both cases referring to individuals who are closely familiar with the applicant's work), and also one additional letter of reference from any source selected by the applicant. The PAR Panel may also require all applicants to attend a pre-application orientation session.

e. Applicants will also be expected to demonstrate their success in the classroom, including exemplary teaching experience and implementation of the California Standards for the Teaching Profession; familiarity and facility with various instructional strategies and techniques; knowledge of current educational research on learning theories, classroom management and change processes; experience with the planning, preparation and successful implementation of a standards-based instructional and promotional practices and program; knowledge of content and curriculum for the appropriate subject and grade levels; exemplary knowledge and evidence of creativity and initiative with respect to curriculum, materials and methods; comprehensive knowledge of disciplinary strategies and classroom management; and knowledge of support resources and their use to enhance academic achievement and rigor.

f. Other qualifications include effective interpersonal skills and successful experience working cooperatively with staff, parents/guardians, and community; effective communication skills (oral and written); leadership experience with professional development, including effective demonstration and presentation of skills; strong personal characteristics, including creativity, personal initiative, tact, the ability to handle confidential matters, good judgment and discretion; ability to assess situations and problems, and skill in providing appropriate suggestions and assistance to others; and knowledge of, and ability to coordinate and use available support resources.

g. Other desirable qualifications include, but are not limited to, (a) knowledge of California Content Standards and Frameworks and related instructional and promotional practices, (b) holder of CLAD/BCLAD credential or equivalent, and (c) experience with students with diverse needs, including familiarity with the current Chanda Smith Consent Decree.

13.0 PAR Consulting Teacher Duties and Responsibilities:

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- a. Works cooperatively with the PAR Panel and the PAR Coordinator. Establishes lines of communication and a cooperative working relationship with the Participating Teacher and the responsible Principal. The mutual goal of the Consulting Teacher, Participating Teacher and Principal is to improve the performance of each Participating Teacher.
- b. Establishes confidentiality understandings, signs the confidentiality agreement, and maintains appropriate confidentiality at all times.
- c. Schedules and conducts initial assessments for Participating Teachers. This includes review and familiarity with the performance evaluations of the Participating Teacher.
- d. Jointly with the Participating Teacher, establishes the individualized PAR performance goals and objectives and supporting activities for the Participating Teacher, all of which are to be based on the California Standards for the Teaching Profession, and aligned both with student learning and with the performance objectives in the Participating Teacher's regular evaluation process. (The Principal or designee continues, while the teacher participates in the PAR Program, to be responsible for the teacher's regular evaluation, including evaluations for any employee who received an unsatisfactory evaluation in the previous year, and related observation and reporting activities.) The PAR performance goals for the Participating Teacher shall be in writing, in a user-friendly format. The supporting activities of PAR and the Participating Teacher are to be set forth in a written plan and calendar for assistance.
- e. Meets on a regular basis with the Participating Teacher, and conducts classroom visitations and observations. Maintains a log documenting such activities, and keeps a record of the assistance provided.
- f. Assists the Participating Teacher in accessing appropriate Staff Development activities, and also maintains the Consulting Teacher's own ongoing professional development.
- g. Prepares a series of periodic reports to the PAR Panel on the intervention process and progress of each assigned Participating Teacher, including forwarding to the PAR Panel the names of any Participating Teacher who was not able to demonstrate satisfactory improvement.
- h. Consulting Teacher services are not, and shall not be treated as, either management or supervisory functions. Consulting Teachers shall have the same protection from liability, and the same rights to defense, as other school employees (see Education Code 44503 (c)).

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14.0 PAR Panel Qualifications and Selection:

a. The PAR Panel shall be comprised of nine members, five of whom are appointed by UTLA and four of whom are appointed by the District. The appointing parties shall establish their own criteria for such appointments, but they must have had satisfactory evaluations and service for at least the previous five years and there should be some attempt at balance between elementary and secondary experience.

b. The Panel requires a quorum of seven to determine its required reports to the Board of Education pursuant to Section 15.0 h. Other quorum rules shall be as determined by the Panel. All Panel members shall strive to make Panel decisions by consensus whenever possible, but if that is not possible then the decision will be made by majority vote among those present.

c. Employee members of the Panel shall receive an annual stipend of \$4,300, subject to reduction by the Panel in the event of funding shortages.

d. Panel members shall have the same protections from liability, and same rights to defense, as other school employees (see Education Code 44503 (c).)

15.0 PAR Panel Duties and Responsibilities:

a. Establishes guidelines for the operation of the Panel itself, including selection of the Chair.

b. Maintain appropriate confidentiality as to all Panel business, and sign the confidentiality agreement.

c. Determines the PAR coordinator's duties and qualifications, and selects the coordinator.

d. Selects, assigns, reassigns, reviews, evaluates, and renews or releases the Consulting Teachers, consistent with applicable rules and guidelines. Also coordinates the professional development of the Consulting Teachers.

e. The Panel and the PAR coordinator shall work collaboratively with one another, with the Consulting Teachers, and with the Participating Teacher's administrators.

f. Administers the funds provided for implementation of the PAR Program. No more than 5% of the funds may be expended for administration expenses.

g. Reviews the reports and documentation submitted by the Consulting Teachers.

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h. Makes recommendations to the Board of Education regarding the ability of each Participating Teacher to demonstrate satisfactory improvement, and regarding the retention of Participating Teachers in the PAR Program.

i. Participates in the Panel's own ongoing training.

j. Annually evaluates the effectiveness and impact of the PAR Program.