

PROFESSIONAL STAFF COMPENSATION

The Nixa Public Schools needs highly qualified employees to accomplish its education mission and must offer competitive compensation to attract and maintain experienced professional staff in the district. The Board directs the superintendent or designee to annually research regional and statewide trends in employee compensation and consult with district employees to prepare competitive salary schedules and salary recommendations for the Board to consider, within the constraints of the district's finances. Only the Board has the authority to increase an employee's regular compensation or grant employees an extra-duty position or stipend.

As required by law, teachers will be paid in accordance with a salary schedule adopted by the Board of Education. All full-time teachers will be paid at least the minimum teacher's salary as required in state law. Noncertificated professional staff and certificated staff members other than teachers will be compensated in accordance with a Board-approved salary schedule or will receive the amount of compensation approved by the Board for particular positions or particular employees.

All Professional Staff Salary Schedules

The Board is required to adopt salary schedules for the compensation of teachers and may use a salary schedule to compensate administrative and noncertificated professional staff. When creating a salary schedule, the Board may recognize characteristics beneficial to the district, such as certification in high-need areas, in addition to traditional factors, such as experience and education.

The following rules apply to all district salary schedules unless determined otherwise by the Board:

1. The Board will make every effort to adopt salary schedules prior to the statutory deadline for issuing teacher and administrator contracts, but salary schedules and other compensation must be determined along with the district budget no later than June 30. Any salary schedule adopted by the Board will remain in effect and continue to operate until Board action is taken to change or eliminate the salary schedule.
2. The Board may freeze the operation of the salary schedule when warranted by the financial condition of the district or other relevant reasons, as determined by the Board. Once a salary schedule is frozen, employees will not advance on the salary schedule until a vote is taken by the Board authorizing movement on the salary schedule.
3. An employee may not advance more than one step vertically per year on the salary schedule unless such movement is allowed by the rules adopted by the Board and is uniformly applicable to that particular salary schedule or is otherwise approved by the Board.

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4. An employee cannot progress on the salary schedule after entering into a contract for a school year unless such movement is specifically authorized in the contract.
5. In order for a teacher to move on the hours column of the salary schedule at the bachelor's level, the hours must be courses in an accepted program in a field of study that will lead to a master's degree. A program of study must be on file in the superintendent's office. Once a master's degree has been earned teachers will be allowed to move on the "hours" column for graduate level courses or workshops related to education approved by the superintendent or designee. In order to advance on the salary schedule for completion of additional college graduate hours, professional staff must receive approval by the administration prior to enrolling in the course. Teachers in the district with national certification will receive an additional \$1,000 in their annual salary for the life of the National Board Certification.
6. Experienced teachers new to the district will be allowed year for a year on the Bachelors columns of the salary schedule, Step 10 is the highest BS entry level. On the Masters column, experience teachers new to the district will be allowed a year for a year for the first nine years, then one year for two years up to step twelve, Step 12 is the highest MD entry level. The district will recognize similar, previous experience of an employee when placing that employee on the salary schedule. The Board delegates to the superintendent or designee the authority to set guidelines on which previous experiences qualify. In addition, the district may recognize military service or work experience that the district considers beneficial to the position. It is the employee's responsibility to fully apprise the district of his or her relevant background when first being employed in the position. Once the employee is initially placed on the salary schedule, the district is under no obligation to review the placement.

Compensation for Extra Duties

Additional duties, such as supervising activities, may be assigned to professional staff without additional compensation. In some situations and with Board approval, an employee may be provided extra-duty compensation or a stipend to compensate the employee for performing additional duties. In those situations, the amount of compensation will be determined by the Board and may be set by adopting an extra-duty salary schedule or approving a specific amount for the position.

Employee Responsibility

Employees are responsible for verifying that their salary schedule placement, compensation rate and paychecks are accurate. An employee is required to notify the district within 30 days of receiving an inaccurate payment, and failure to do so could lead to discipline, forfeiture of amounts owed or deductions for excess pay received, as allowed by law.

Compensation Disbursement

In general, professional staff will be paid in equal installments over 12 months, even if the employee's regular work schedule is less than 12 months. However, payment for extra duties that are seasonal or limited to a specific timeframe may be paid in the month the work was performed.

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Note: The reader is encouraged to check the index located at the beginning of this section for other pertinent policies and to review administrative procedures and/or forms for related information.

Adopted: 10/08/1998

Revised: 01/12/2017

Cross Refs: AC, Prohibition against Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation
DLB, Salary Deductions
HA, Negotiations with Employee Representatives

Legal Refs: §§ 163.172, 168.101, .110 (2), RSMo.
Equal Pay Act, 29 U.S.C. § 206(d)

Nixa Public Schools, Nixa, Missouri