



# Keystone Learning Service Center

## Teacher/Paraprofessional Personnel Policies And Procedures Handbook

August 2011

Keystone does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Keystone Executive Director, 500 E. Sunflower Blvd., Ozawie, KS 66070. Phone: 785-876-2214 / Fax: 785-876-2629.

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## **MISSION**

Forging educational partnerships through innovation and leadership to provide quality services that produce independent learners.

## **VISION**

We deliver high-quality, innovative services using affordable, technology rich, and time responsive methods. We are leaders with respect to all educational issues. We are unified across all Keystone programs and divisions. We maximize service and reduce costs. Through relentless commitment to excellence, Keystone is trusted throughout the region to deliver the best possible educational products and services.

## **VALUES**

- Demonstrating respect for students and families
- Improving student lives through education
- Developing trust relationships based upon professionalism, collaboration and respect
- Recruiting highly qualified staff and providing ongoing professional development
- Providing efficient and centrally located facilities for current and future programs

## **INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY**

The Atchison/Jefferson Education Cooperative was formed July 1, 1976 by the following school districts: Valley Falls, U.S.D. #338; Jefferson County North, U.S.D. #339; Jefferson West, U.S.D. #340; Oskaloosa, U.S.D. #341; McLouth, U.S.D. #342, Perry Unified, U.S.D. #343; and Atchison County Community, U.S.D. #377. The purpose of this organization was to provide special education services for the cooperating districts. On January 1, 1989, the organization became the Northeast Kansas Education Service Center. NEKESC adopted the name Keystone Learning Services (hereon in this document to be referred to as Keystone) in 2008 to reflect the expanded programs that Keystone has committed to provide.

Keystone is funded through local assessments and state and federal funding. It is governed by a Board of Directors (hereon in this document to be referred to as the Board) made up of one board member from each of the seven districts. The superintendents of the cooperating districts serve as advisors to the Board and the Administrators of Keystone.

## **POLICIES**

All employees of Keystone shall follow all applicable board policies, rules and regulations.

Keystone Policies can be found on the website at [www.keystonelearning.org](http://www.keystonelearning.org) under the Personnel tab.

### **DISCRIMINATION (Board Policy GAAB)**

Any incident of discrimination in any form shall promptly be reported to an employee's immediate supervisor, the building principal or Keystone compliance coordinator (Executive Director) for investigation and corrective action by the building or service center compliance officer.

### **RACIAL HARASSMENT (GAACA)**

The Board is committed to providing a positive and productive working and learning environment, free from discrimination, including harassment on the basis of race, color or national origin. Racial harassment will not be tolerated.

Employees who believe they have been subjected to racial harassment should discuss the problem with their immediate supervisor. If an employee's immediate supervisor is the alleged harasser, the employee should discuss the problem with the building principal or Keystone's compliance coordinator (Executive Director). Employees who do not believe the matter is appropriately resolved through this meeting may file a formal complaint under Keystone's discrimination complaint procedure.

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT (GAAC)**

The Board is committed to providing a positive and productive working and learning environment, free from discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment. Sexual harassment will not be tolerated by Keystone. Sexual harassment of employees or students of the service center by board members, administrators, certificated and support personnel, students, vendors, and any others having business or other contact with Keystone employees is strictly prohibited.

Sexual harassment is unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Kansas Acts Against Discrimination. All forms of sexual harassment are prohibited at school, on school property, and at all school-sponsored activities,

programs or events. Sexual harassment against individuals associated with the school is prohibited, whether or not the harassment occurs on school grounds.

It shall be a violation of this policy for any student, employee or third party (visitor, vendor, etc.) to sexually harass any student, employee, or other individual associated with the school. It shall further be a violation for any employee to discourage a student or another employee from filing a complaint, or to fail to investigate or refer for investigation, any complaint lodged under the provisions of this policy. Violation of this policy by any employee shall result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

Sexual harassment shall include, but not be limited to, unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal 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; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

Sexual harassment may result from verbal or physical conduct or written or graphic material. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to: verbal harassment or abuse; pressure for sexual activity; repeated remarks to a person, with sexual or demeaning implication; unwelcome touching; or suggesting or demanding sexual involvement accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning an employee's job status.

Keystone encourages all victims of sexual harassment and persons with knowledge of such harassment to report the harassment immediately. Complaints of sexual harassment will be promptly investigated and resolved.

Employees who believe they have been subjected to sexual harassment should discuss the problem with their immediate supervisor. If an employee's immediate supervisor is the alleged harasser, the employee should discuss the problem with the building principal or a Keystone administrator.

Employees who do not believe the matter is appropriately resolved through this meeting may file a formal complaint under the service center's discrimination complaint procedure. Complaint should be in written format. (See KN)

Complaints received will be investigated to determine whether, under the totality of the circumstances, the alleged behavior constitutes sexual harassment under the definition outlined above. Unacceptable conduct may or may not constitute sexual harassment, depending on the nature of the conduct and its severity,

persuasiveness and persistence. Behaviors which are unacceptable but do not constitute harassment may also result in employee discipline.

Any employee who witnesses an act of sexual harassment or receives a complaint of harassment from another employee or a student shall report the complaint to the building principal/Executive Director. Employees who fail to report complaints or incidents of sexual harassment to appropriate school officials may face disciplinary action.

Initiation of a complaint of sexual harassment in good faith will not adversely affect the job security or status of an employee, nor will it affect his or her compensation. Any act of retaliation against any person who has filed a complaint or testified, assisted, or participated in an investigation of a sexual harassment complaint is prohibited. Any person who retaliates is subject to immediate disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

To the extent possible, confidentiality will be maintained throughout the investigation of a complaint. The desire for confidentiality must be balanced with the service center's obligation to conduct a thorough investigation, to take appropriate corrective action or to provide due process to the accused.

False or malicious complaints of sexual harassment may result in corrective or disciplinary action against the complainant.

A summary of this policy and related materials shall be posted in each service center facility. The policy shall also be published in student, parent and employee handbooks as directed by the service center compliance coordinator. Notification of the policy shall be included in the school newsletter or published in the local newspaper annually.

## **WORKERS COMPENSATION (GAOE)**

**In case of an on-the job injury, the employee must notify all supervisors and contact Human Resources for proper workers' compensation forms.**

Whenever an employee is absent from work and is receiving workers compensation benefits due to a work-related injury or is receiving district paid disability insurance, the employee may use available paid sick leave to supplement the workers compensation or service center paid disability insurance payments. In the event that the employee has been intentionally injured by a student, the employee will be allowed up to five days of leave per incident with no deduction in leave days, provided a doctor's statement verifies that the employee was unable to work due to the injury. This will be in accordance with service

center policy GAOE. Workers compensation benefits and FMLA benefits provided in a board approved plan shall run concurrently if both are applicable.

In no event shall the employee be entitled to a combination of workers compensation benefits, service center paid disability insurance, and salary in excess of his/her full salary. Available paid leave must be used for this purpose until 1) available paid leave benefits are exhausted; 2) the employee returns to work; or 3) employment is terminated. Leave shall be deducted on a prorata amount equal to the percentage of salary paid by the service center.

## **WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROCEDURES**

1. Upon employment by Keystone, the employee will read the following and sign a copy of the "Workers' Compensation Procedures Agreement" to be placed in their personnel file.
2. The Human Resources shall maintain a set of procedures to be followed by building principals, building managers and supervisors when employees become involved in work-related accidents.
3. Failure to follow safety procedures may result in denial of claim(s). These procedures will specify that:
  - All accidents must be reported to the injured person's special education supervisor and Keystone Human Resources immediately. If medical attention is needed the employee will see the designated health care physician. If the employee opts to see his/her own family physician, treatment will be considered unauthorized and a maximum of \$500 will be paid.
4. Building principals and building managers shall report all work-related injuries of employees assigned to their building within twenty-four hours to Human Resources by using an "Employer's Report of Accident Form." Employees are not allowed to complete the employer's form.
5. All immediate supervisors must complete a "Supervisor's Incident Report" form before the end of the shift during which the accident, illness or other incident occurred/reported. It must accompany the state "Employer's Report of Accident Form". These forms need to be sent to Keystone Human Resources Department.
6. If an incident involved vehicular damage but no employee injury, the police report will be sufficient. Police reports are required for all vehicular incidents unless otherwise designated by police department.
7. Human Resources shall assist the immediate supervisor and the injured employee in the development of an action plan, which outlines corrective actions, to be taken by the employee and/or supervisor to prevent the causative factors associated with the accident from reoccurring.
8. If it is proved that the injury to the employee results from the employee's

deliberate intention to cause such injury, or from the employee's willful failure to use a guard or protection against accident required pursuant to any statute and provided for the employee, or a reasonable and proper guard and protection voluntarily furnished the employee by the employer, or substantially from the employee's intoxication, any compensation in respect to that injury shall be disallowed.

9. The employer shall not be liable under the Workers' Compensation Act where the injury, disability or death was substantially caused by the employee's use of drugs, chemicals or any other compounds or substances, including but not limited to, any form or type of narcotic drugs, marijuana, stimulants, depressants or hallucinogens, except such drugs or medications which are available to the public without a prescription from a physician and which are used for the treatment of an illness, or which were obtained and used by the employee pursuant to and in accordance with such a prescription.
10. Building principals or Keystone Human Resource Department shall advise medical care providers that an injured employee is covered by Workers' Compensation and medical bills should be submitted to Human Resources.
11. If an eyewitness was present, the supervisor will ask him/her to fill out the "Report by Eyewitness." The reports are to be turned in to Keystone Human Resource. Human Resources will then fill out the "Employer's Report of Accident."

**KEYSTONE LEARNING SERVICES**  
**500 E. Sunflower Blvd.**  
**Ozawkie, KS 66070**

Workers' Compensation Procedures Agreement

I have read the Workers' Compensation policy and understand the procedure to follow in the event of a work-related accident.

\_\_\_\_\_

Employee

\_\_\_\_\_

Witness

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

## **DRUG FREE WORKPLACE (GAOA, GAOA-R)**

Maintaining a drug free work place is important in establishing an appropriate learning environment for the students of the service center. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, sale dispensing, possession of or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in Keystone.

As a condition of employment in Keystone, employees shall abide by the terms of this policy.

1. Employees shall not unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess or use controlled substances in the workplace.
2. Any employee who is arrested/convicted under a criminal drug statute for a violation occurring at the workplace must notify the Director of the arrest/conviction within five days after the arrest/conviction.
3. Within 30 days after the notice of arrest/conviction is received, Keystone will take appropriate action with the employee. Such action may include the initiation of termination proceedings, suspension, placement on probationary status, or other disciplinary action.
4. Alternatively, or in addition to any action short of termination, the employee may be required to participate satisfactorily in an approved drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program as a condition of continued employment. The employee shall bear the cost of participation in such program.
5. This policy is available on the Keystone website or a copy may be requested from the Keystone Office. This policy is intended to implement the requirements of the federal regulations promulgated under the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988, 34 CFR Part 85, Subpart F. It is not intended to supplant or otherwise diminish disciplinary personnel actions which may be taken under existing Board policies or the negotiated agreement.

## **CHILD ABUSE (GAAD)**

Any Keystone employee who has reason to know or suspect a child has been injured as a result of physical, mental or emotional abuse or neglect or sexual abuse, shall promptly report the matter to the local Social Rehabilitation Services (SRS) office or to the local law enforcement agency if the SRS office is not open.

Unless otherwise specified, Keystone employees will follow those policies adopted at each local district level and Keystone.

These policies will follow the guidelines established by the State of Kansas for reporting child abuse.

Procedures for Keystone staff making reports of abuse or neglect are as follows:

1. Notify the immediate supervisor and/or building principal prior to making the report, if possible, or as soon as possible after making the report.
2. The mandated report to SRS or law enforcement is verbal.
3. If the staff member believes a verbal report should be made, s/he must do so even if the supervisor disagrees.
4. A short written record of the report will be kept on file.

## **STAFF-STUDENT RELATIONS (GAF)**

Staff members shall maintain professional relationships with students, which are conducive to an effective educational environment. Staff members shall not submit students to sexual harassment or racial harassment. Staff members shall not have any interaction of a sexual nature with any student at any time regardless of the student's age or status or consent.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

#### **Personnel Files**

Personnel files required by Keystone shall be confidential and in the custody of the records custodian and/or the Executive Director. Employees have the right to inspect their files upon proper notice to Human Resources under the supervision of an appropriate supervisor.

Before the first salary payment, all employees will be expected to have the following items on file in the Keystone central office (Human Resources):

1. Loyalty oath;
2. Current teaching certificate or license if applicable;
3. Keystone Application for Employment and references;
4. Within three days of hire, Keystone must have an I-9 verification of citizenship form plus two proofs of identification completed; (i.e. valid driver's license, or another picture id, and a social security card);
5. Verification of TB test upon initial employment and completed Health Certificate;
6. KPERs enrollment;
7. College transcripts, if applicable (official copies);
8. W-2 form;
9. K-4 form;

10. Proper forms for additional salary withholding annuities, other insurance and any other payroll deductions which are approved by the Board and the employee.

- Certificate or license and transcripts must be on file before the first paycheck can be issued.
- Current name, address, marital status (for emergency contact, benefits and tax withholding purposes only) and telephone numbers (including cell numbers) must also be on file. If an employee has an unlisted number, he/she should list it privately with Human Resources at Keystone.
- An official college transcript (no duplicate copies will be accepted) and/or an office inservice transcript must be given to Human Resources on or before **September 1** in order to advance on the salary schedule. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS MADE.**

**NOTE:** All certified staff must hold certification or licensure in the area and at the teaching level, or be eligible for a waiver of these requirements by the State of Kansas. State funding is contingent upon meeting these requirements.

In the event that a teacher allows his/her license to expire the teacher will receive substitute wages from the date of expiration until the date a new license is issued. Once the new license is issued, wages lost during the time of the lapsed license will be retroactively paid.

Each licensed employee has a professional responsibility to maintain appropriate licensure. To assist teachers with this responsibility, strong support will continue through the administrative team and support staff at Keystone. We notify teachers of impending expiration dates and visit with teachers who seem to be slow in initiating licensure renewal.

Employees are expected to complete all paperwork before the first day of employment.

The Board will avoid employing anyone who is the father, mother, brother, sister, spouse, son, daughter, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law of a direct supervisor, unless extenuating circumstances are present (ex. Staff shortages, availability of qualified employees, etc.)

## **Duty and Work Assignments**

Employees are assigned duty and work assignments (both temporary and regular) as dictated by the needs of Keystone and the students we serve. Employees may be involuntarily transferred or reassigned without prior notice at the discretion of the Director of Special Education or his/her designee. It is the employer's responsibility (and privilege) to control the work of its employees.

## **Transfers**

Employees have the right to request a transfer. Keystone reserves the right to approve or disapprove transfer requests based on the educational and operational needs of Keystone. Transfers typically occur before the school year begins to prevent disruption of the classroom.

Any employee wishing to transfer shall make said request in writing to Human Resource indicating the position and school/department to which he/she wishes to be transferred.

## **Reasonable Assurance**

Kansas Employment Security Law prohibits employees who work for an educational institution from receiving unemployment benefits during regularly scheduled breaks of employment. These scheduled breaks would include scheduled time off for summer, spring, and winter. Any employee who has the reasonable assumption of continuing in the same or similar employment following any or all of these scheduled breaks would be ineligible for unemployment benefits. This includes employees of certified, classified and substitute status, so as long as the employee is paid directly by the Keystone and not be contracted services.

## **PAYROLL AND BUSINESS OFFICE**

### **Paperwork Submission Deadline**

All business office and payroll paperwork is due in the Keystone Central office on the first day the media mail runs each month, in the Keystone office no later than the fifth day of the month.

At the end of the school year, all purchase requisitions and vouchers must be submitted by June 5<sup>th</sup> to be taken out of the current year's budget. Failure to do so, may result in vouchers not being reimbursed or supplies not being ordered.

## Payroll

1. Keystone's payday is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Employees will be paid by check or direct deposit on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.
2. Employees will be paid in compliance with State statute 12-105b, which states that employees will be paid the month after hours are worked.
3. Yearly salary for certified staff will be paid in twelve equal payments. Teachers may choose to receive July, and August checks at one time or they may receive two checks, one per month, for the July and August payment. The Keystone Business Office (Payroll Clerk) must be notified by April 1<sup>st</sup> if the employee is electing lump sum or non lump sum payment.
4. Paychecks are not released in advance for any reason.
5. Employees have the option of having checks deposited directly. Arrangements for direct deposit may be made with the payroll department at the Keystone office. If an employee is planning on picking up his/her paycheck they need to call Keystone before 3:00 pm otherwise paycheck will be mailed.
6. If an employee is planning to let another person pick up his/her paycheck, they need to call by 3:00 pm. employee must complete a **Paycheck Authorization Form**. The authorized person must bring it into the Keystone office in order for the check to be released. No checks will be released to a person other than the employee, or person listed on the Paycheck Authorization Form. Employee or person listed on the Paycheck Authorization Form must show a valid identification card with a picture to pick up a paycheck from the Keystone office.

## Benefits

**Life Insurance can be purchased through the 125 Plan as an after tax employee paid product.**

If staff resigns/terminates prior to completing current contract, all benefits will cease at the end of the resignation/termination month.

## **Leave**

### **Military Leave**

Both federal and state laws grant employees the right to leave from employment for military service. The rights of returning members of the uniformed services, including the National Guard or Reserve, are defined in the Uniformed Service Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), 38 U.S.C 4301 *et seq.*, and K.S.A. 73-213 *et seq.*

### **Leave Without Pay**

There is no such leave as Leave Without Pay except for FMLA. Staff (certified and classified) who have used all of their leave and are not on FMLA may be dismissed by the Board.

### **Leave With Pay**

Administrators may place staff members (certified and classified) on leave with pay during an investigation or for a disciplinary action.

### **Work Related Injury Leave**

In the event that an employee has been intentionally injured by a student, the employee will be allowed up to five days of leave per incident with no deduction in leave days, provided a doctor's statement verifies that the teacher was unable to work due to the injury. This will be in accordance with service center policy GAOE.

### **Jury Duty and Other Court Appearances**

Employees are expected to fulfill their obligation as a citizen in serving jury duty when selected. Employees should notify their building principal(s) and Keystone administrator and submit a copy of your summons to Keystone Human Resources as soon as possible so that a substitute may be secured if needed. Any compensation, except expenses, shall revert to Keystone. No deductions of personal leave, or loss of pay, shall be made for judicial leave, unless the teacher is a complainant against Keystone or any of the seven school districts, or if they are serving in their own defense or personal civil matters.

## Family and Medical Leave

Family and medical leave, as required by federal law, shall be granted for a period of not more than 12 weeks during a 12-month period. (For purposes of this policy, a 12-month period shall be defined as a fiscal year beginning on July 1 and ending the following June 30.) Spouses employed by the Keystone may only take an aggregate of 12 weeks of leave for a birth or adoption of a child or to care for a child with a serious health condition. Leave is available because of:

1. the birth of a son or daughter of the employee and to care for the son or daughter;
2. the placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption or foster care;
3. the need to care for a spouse, son, daughter or parent of the employee because of a serious health condition; or
4. a serious health condition of the employee that prevents the employee from performing the job functions.

(Leave for reason 1 or 2 must be taken within 12 months of birth or placement.)

The leave shall normally be unpaid leave. However, if the employee has any paid vacation, personal, sick or disability leave that is available for use shall be used first and counted toward the annual family and medical leave. The Executive Director will notify the employee prior to or during the leave period that the leave has been designated as paid or FMLA leave.

The employee is eligible for family and medical leave upon completion of 12 months of service with Keystone and at least 1250 hours of service during the preceding year.

During the period of approved family and medical leave the Keystone will continue to pay the employer portion of the employees benefits and the employees is responsible for sending in money for their regular monthly contribution. The Board may terminate group health coverage if the employee payment is not received within 30 days of the due date.

If the employee does not qualify for FMLA through our agency the Board does not continue to pay his/her portion of the benefits and the employee is responsible for sending money in for all current benefits selection until she/he return to their current position.

When leave is foreseeable, the employee shall give to the Executive Director a written notice 30 days in advance. If leave is not foreseeable, notice will be given as soon as practicable.

Upon the employee providing notice of need for leave, Keystone will notify the employee of:

- a. the reasons that leave will count as family and medical leave,
- b. any requirements for medical certification,
- c. employer requirement of substituting paid leave.
- d. requirements for premium payments for health benefits and employee responsibility for repayment if employer pays employee share,
- e. any fitness-for-duty certification required by the employer.

Family leave (reasons 1 and 2) may not be used intermittently or on a part-time basis without prior approval of the Executive Director.

The Executive Director may require an instructional employee to continue leave until the end of a semester if the leave begins more than five (5) weeks before the end of a semester, lasts more than three (3) weeks and the return would occur during the last three (3) weeks of the semester.

If the leave is for a reason other than the employee's serious health condition, the Executive Director may require an instructional employee to continue leave until the end of a semester, if:

1. the leave begins in the last five (5) weeks of a semester, will last more than two (2) weeks and the return to work would occur in the last two (2) weeks of a semester, or
2. the leave begins in the last three (3) weeks of a semester, and lasts more than five (5) days.

## **Attendance and Punctuality**

It is the procedure of Keystone to require employees to report to work punctually and to work all scheduled hours. Excessive tardiness and poor attendance disrupts workflow and will not be tolerated.

1. Supervisors should provide starting, ending, meal/break times.
2. Supervisors will record the absences and tardiness, or early departures.
3. All employees are expected to be regular in attendance and to be at their assigned location through the duty day.
4. The immediate supervisor will review frequent absences.
5. Absences which are too frequent, absences which are without leave, and absences which extend beyond the established limits for a given reason are subject to review and appropriate action by supervisor (Plan of Action and Dismissal).

## Solicitations- Selling Items

All solicitations of and by staff members while in the work setting are prohibited.

## Purchase Card

Purchase Card can be made available to staff pending Board approved training and special education administrator's approval.

## Monthly Expense Voucher

**Completing the Form.** Itinerant staff who travel to other buildings on Keystone business will be reimbursed at the current state rate. Staff seeking reimbursement must report their mileage on the monthly "Expense Voucher".

Travel Code "A" (Service to special education student) should be listed in the column marked "Reason" for the following:

- Staff travel directly related to providing special education and related services to exceptional children.

Travel Code "B" (Other) should be used for the following:

- Inservice, workshops or other professional meetings; transportation of media center materials and supplies; etc.

Staff who does not have codes completed may have their forms returned which may cause a month delay in reimbursement. Please mark A or B.

## **Mileage Reimbursement Guidelines.**

- Activities outside of the Keystone area will be reimbursed in the following manner:

Employees may claim mileage from home and back with prior administrative approval. Mileage reimbursement for conferences must be claimed on the "Conference Expense Voucher" **not** on the monthly "Expense Voucher" form.

*Example 1: An employee lives in Topeka and drives from home to an all-day workshop in Lawrence. Mileage may be claimed from the employee's home to Lawrence and back.*

- Activities *within the Keystone* area will be reimbursed in the following manner:

Employees may not claim mileage from home to their first work location of the day or from work to home at the end of the day. Travel to the central office or another school during the workday is reimbursable.

*Example 1: An employee assigned to Valley Falls and Oskaloosa may claim mileage between these two buildings during the day, but may not claim mileage from home to school or school to home.*

*Example 2: An employee lives in Atchison and drives to a Keystone workshop in Lecompton. No mileage will be reimbursed.*

Travel for after school meetings will be reimbursed from the employee's school to the meeting location and then back to the employee's school or home (whichever is closer).

*Example 1: A employee living and teaching in Oskaloosa attends an after-school inservice in Lecompton. The employee may claim mileage from Oskaloosa to Lecompton and back to Oskaloosa.*

*Example 2: An employee living in Oskaloosa and teaching in Effingham attends an after-school inservice in Lecompton. The employee may claim mileage from Effingham to Lecompton and from Lecompton back to the employee's home in Oskaloosa.*

- Itinerant staff must determine a "home school" or "base" and this must be constant throughout the school year. The above reimbursement guidelines will then apply.

**Where/When to Send the Reimbursement Form.** Send completed Mileage/Expense vouchers to the Keystone office ATTN: Accounts Payable. Vouchers must be turned in on the first day the media route runs of each month or payment may be delayed until the following month by no later than the fifth. Vouchers for the current school year must be turned in by June 5<sup>th</sup>; failure to do so may result in non-reimbursement of expenditures.

## **STAFF BEHAVIOR (Certified / Non-Certified)**

### **Confidentiality**

1. Confidentiality refers to the protection of personally identifiable information at all stages, including the collection, use and maintenance of education records.
2. Confidentiality applies to both written records **and** oral information.
3. Violations of confidentiality, which violate the privacy rights of students or personnel, could result in disciplinary actions being taken against the employee, including termination.
4. If you must talk to someone else, talk to your supervisor or someone who has shared access to the individual or information to be shared.
  - a. Paraeducators may share confidential student information only with their supervising special education and general education teacher; principal; and Keystone administration.
  - b. If a family member of the student or friend of the student inquires as to the student's status, progress or problems, the paraeducator must direct the person without further comment to the licensed special education provider.
  - c. Confidential information, whether perceived to be positive or negative, must never be shared by a para to individuals other than those identified above.

### **Reports**

Upon request, all personnel of Keystone shall submit to the Director of Special Education any information required for the preparation of annual reports required by the State Department of Education and any other information that is needed by either federal or state sources. These reports are to be filed promptly and accurately.

### **Personnel Problems**

If problems concerning Keystone personnel arise, they should be referred immediately and in a professional manner to the immediate Keystone supervisor. Even if the problem is resolved at this level, the special education administrator or Executive Director should be notified.

## **Personal Contact with Keystone Board of Directors**

Personnel should not approach Board members directly with individual problems without having first spoken with the special education administrators, and the Executive Director. Personnel may be referred to the Board. Personnel may also ask to be placed on the agenda of the regular monthly Board meeting to express their concerns.

## **Building Responsibilities**

1. Keystone personnel will be under direct daily supervision of their building principals. Teachers should be aware of all local school district policies governing the building in which they are working and perform their duties accordingly.
2. Staff are to follow the dress codes of each building in which they work. Itinerant teachers must dress appropriately for all buildings in which they serve students.
3. Keystone staff are encouraged to work closely with building principals concerning scheduling, planning time, supervision of students and extra-curricular activities. Itinerant staff that serve more than one district are not expected to take on extra-curricular supervision but staff that work in one school district are encouraged to take their turn in helping supervise local district school functions.
4. Paraeducators are encouraged to work closely with their supervising teacher concerning scheduling, planning time, supervision of students and extra-curricular activities. Itinerant staff that serve more than one district are not expected to take on extra-curricular supervision.
5. Reading personal books, newspapers, playing newspaper/books (crossword puzzles, Sudoku) during time in the special education or regular education classroom is not allowed by certified and classified staff. Personal activities should only be conducted during lunch/break time in the lounge.

## **Telephone / Computer / Equipment Usage**

Use of cellular phones for conversations or text messaging/twittering is prohibited unless used during lunch or breaks. Personal telephone calls should not be conducted during the duty day unless it is an emergency or during breaks.

Using school district computer/equipment (copier, fax machine, printers, cameras, smartboard, etc.) is strictly prohibited for personal usage. Using computers to access personal accounts, e-mails, facebook, writing personal information or searching the internet is not allowed. (All employees may use the

computer for communication from Keystone-including electronic direct deposit slips).

During school/business hours district and Keystone IT staff monitors activity conducted on computers. Inappropriate usage of computers and equipment can result in disciplinary action or dismissal.

### **Disciplinary Action for Misconduct**

Employees may be disciplined for misconduct by reprimand, suspension, disciplinary supervision or dismissal. Examples (not all-inclusive) of misconduct are:

- Illegal or Serious Misconduct (such as reporting and/or being on duty under the influence of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs; threatening, intimidating, coercing, abusive or vulgar language; interfering with the performance of other employees, customers or vendors; dishonest or improper conduct on the job; actions which are disruptive to the operation of the school; unauthorized use of Keystone or District(s) equipment)
- Insubordination (such as breaking of Keystone rules, regulations, or policies; willful disobedience of a direct order from a supervisor)
- Poor attendance (such as excessive, unexplained, or unexcused absenteeism; frequent tardiness; or failure to notify supervisor)
- Unsatisfactory work performance (such as failure to progress in job proficiency; incompetence; inappropriate dress/hygiene)

In cases involving serious misconduct, such as a major breach of policy or violation of law, the procedures contained below, may be disregarded. Administration should suspend the employee immediately and, if appropriate, recommend termination of the employee. Employees suspended from work will not receive or accrue any employee benefits during the suspension, unless administration grants an exception.

At any investigatory interview conducted for the purpose of determining the facts involved in any suspected violation of Keystone rules and regulations, the following procedure should apply: prior to the interview, the employee who is suspected of violating Keystone rules and regulations should be told in general terms what the interview is about.

## **Types of Disciplinary Action**

1. Oral Reprimands. This is the most frequently used and mildest form of discipline. It is a warning, which at the same time, tries to get at the root of the problem and overcome the source of difficulty. When the supervisor gives an oral reprimand, he/she makes a brief note of it for his/her own future reference and guidance.
2. Written Reprimands. An offense, which in the opinion of the supervisor, justifies a written reprimand containing a brief description of the unsatisfactory conduct of the employee. It may include a written warning and suggest actions to be taken. A copy shall be provided to the employee prior to being included in his/her personnel file. The employee may respond in writing with five (5) workdays and such written response shall be included and made part of his/her personnel file.

## **Civil Actions and Administrative Complaints**

Any Keystone employee served with formal legal process and a complaint from a federal or state court or civil rights enforcement agency (including the Kansas Human Rights Commission, the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education) shall immediately advise Keystone Executive Director. The filing of litigation or a complaint with an administrative enforcement agency shall suspend any further processing by Keystone of any internal complaint made regarding same subject matter. Upon receipt of any final order by a court administrative enforcement agency, any internal complaint pending Keystone regarding the same subject matter shall be dismissed.

## **STUDENT SERVICES**

### **Health Services for Students**

The Nurse Practices Act of 1989 requires that nursing services, such as dispensing medication, catheterization, or tube feeding, can be performed only by a licensed medical professional or a person to whom the task has been delegated. When such services are needed by students with disabilities during the school day, school nurses from the respective county health departments will provide training for Keystone staff and delegate the task. Required documentation will be maintained by the nurse and the staff performing the delegated task.

## **Children and Youth with Disabilities in Local Correctional Facilities**

Federal and state regulations require local school districts to provide FAPE (special education and related services) to students with disabilities/exceptionalities, even if they are in a detention or correctional facility. The local district where the correctional facility is located is responsible for the provision of these services.

1. When local school personnel have knowledge of a student with an exceptionality being placed in a local correctional facility, they must contact a Keystone special education administrator immediately.
2. The Keystone administrative team will make all necessary arrangements for providing FAPE.
3. The Keystone Director of Special Education will make yearly contacts with the Jefferson County Attorney and the Jefferson County Sheriff to share information regarding the obligations of the school and to discuss the most efficient method for providing the services.
4. Local school personnel should also contact a Keystone special education administrator if they have knowledge of a student with an exceptionality being placed in a correctional facility outside the Keystone service area. In this case, the Keystone administrator will contact the appropriate person in the district where the student is detained to assure that FAPE is provided there.

## **PARA SUPERVISION**

All teachers supervising paraeducators should be familiar with policies and procedures specific to paraeducators.

It is the supervising teacher's responsibility and privilege to professionally supervise paraeducators. Communication is vital in providing effective and efficient services to students.

The Board will avoid employing anyone who is the father, mother, brother, sister, spouse, son, daughter, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law of a direct supervisor, unless extenuating circumstances are present (ex. Staff shortages, availability of qualified employees, etc.)

## **Voluntary Resignation**

Paraeducators who are absent from work for three consecutive days without being excused or giving proper notice may be considered as having voluntarily quit. This determination will be made by Keystone Administration and as such, licensed personnel should contact Keystone Administration for consideration.

## **Time Cards**

Teacher supervisors are expected to review and sign paraeducator's time cards.

1. Keystone paraeducators must report each day's arrival and departures plus all absences on monthly timesheets. If timecards are incomplete they will be returned, which may delay payment.
2. Time cards are due the 1<sup>st</sup> day the media mail runs of each month and must be in Keystone's office by the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the month.
3. Time cards must be signed by both employee and supervisor.
4. Time cards must be left at work and in a place where they may be located by the supervisor if para is absent on the date time cards must be submitted for payroll.

Paraprofessional assigned to work with students in certain circumstances may apply for IDH pay at a rate of up to an additional \$.75 an hour. In order to receive this pay, the supervising teacher must complete Intensive Duty Hours (IDH) Pay Request form and receive prior approval.

To apply for IDH pay for paras please complete appropriate form and send to special education administrator by the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the month so para can be paid. IDH pay is based on the need of the student and not the assignment.

Circumstances that may qualify for this pay include:

- Assignment to work with students requiring intensive assistance with self-care at the middle or high school level
- Assignments in alternative setting (such as a behavioral classroom)
- Assignment to work with a student with unique physical needs or behavioral needs in which physical danger is consistently present

Only those assignments with the most intense level of services will be approved. Typical assistance in the restroom (i.e. wiping or diapering) for elementary age students will not be approved. Likewise, paraeducators working with students with behavioral concerns including verbal aggression and noncompliant behavior will not be approved. IDH pay for paraeducators assigned to support student(s) with aggressive behaviors will only be approved when a consistent pattern of physical aggression directed at the paraeducator has been established. The

approval progress may require observation of student behaviors and/or additional documentation such as behavioral data sheets.

Each case will be individually considered for approval by the administrative team. The time allowed for the IDH pay should be directly tied to the need that qualifies for the IDH pay. For example, if intense physical assistance in the restroom were required for a student who otherwise functions with typical support for the day, the IDH pay would only be for the time spent performing restroom duties with the student. It should also be noted that changes to schedules or student needs may result in a change in the approval of IDH for any paraeducator who previously received such pay. IDH pay is contingent upon specific student assignments and scheduling; therefore, IDH pay is NOT guaranteed for an entire school year, or year to year. It is the responsibility of the supervising teacher to inform administration of changes and monitor the IDH time reported on time cards.

## **KPERS**

All classified employees of Keystone who work at least 17.5 hours a week/ 630 hour annually in a covered position, as defined in the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS) Manual, are automatically members of KPERS. Four percent prior to July 2009, thereafter rate will be at six percent of the employee's salary is deposited each month in a personal account for that employee. After five (5) years the employee is vested in KPERS and eligible for benefits upon retirement. If the employee leaves Keystone and does not work elsewhere for a KPERS employer, he/she may request a r of his/her KPERS contributions. For more information, see the KPERS Manual or talk to Keystone's appointed KPERS Representative.

See the negotiated agreement for information pertaining to Keystone retirement benefits, including eligibility, sick leave reimbursement, and fringe benefits.

## Vaccination Decline Form

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Employee ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that due to my occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials I may be at risk of acquiring hepatitis B viral (HBV) infection. I have been given the opportunity to be vaccinated with hepatitis B vaccine, at no charge to myself.

However, I decline the hepatitis B vaccination at this time. I understand that by declining this vaccine, I continue to be at risk of acquiring hepatitis B, a serious disease.

If, in the future, I continue to have occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials and I want to be vaccinated with the hepatitis B vaccine, I can receive the vaccination series, at no charge to me, at that time.

Employee's name \_\_\_\_\_

Employee's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Hepatitis B Vaccine Decline Statement (Previously Vaccinated)**

I understand that due to my occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials that I may be at risk of acquiring hepatitis B virus infection. I have been given the opportunity to be vaccinated with the hepatitis B vaccine at no charge to me. I decline the hepatitis B vaccine at this time because I received the complete hepatitis B vaccine series in the past.

Employee's name \_\_\_\_\_

Employee's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Bureau/Office \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_