

Labor Contract Between

The State of Nebraska

and

The Teachers Bargaining Unit

Represented by

**The State Code Agencies Teachers
Association (SCATA)**

July 1, ~~2023~~ 2025 through June 30, ~~2025~~ 2027

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ARTICLE 1 – PREAMBLE

- 1.1 This AGREEMENT is made and entered at Lincoln, Nebraska, by and between the State of Nebraska (hereinafter referred to as the Employer) and the State Code Agency Teachers' Association (hereinafter referred to as the Association).
- 1.2 This agreement shall constitute the full and complete commitments between the parties and may be altered only through the mutual consent of the parties in writing and signed amendments to this agreement. The parties will receive copies of any changes made pursuant to this provision.
- 1.3 This agreement shall supersede any rules, regulations, or practices of the Employer including merit raises, which shall be contrary to or inconsistent with the terms of this agreement. The provisions of this agreement shall be incorporated into and be considered part of the established policies of each facility.
- 1.4 If any provision of this agreement or any application of this agreement to any teacher or group of teachers shall be found contrary to law or applicable regulation, then such provision or application shall not be deemed valid and subsisting except to the extent permitted by law, but all other provisions or applications of this agreement shall continue in full force and effect.

ARTICLE 2 – RECOGNITION

- 2.1 The State of Nebraska (herein referred to as the Employer) recognizes the State Code Agency Teachers Association (hereinafter referred to as the Association) as the exclusive and sole collective bargaining agent for all teachers other than temporary in agencies defined by CIR Order 691 in 1987.
- 2.2 Teachers shall mean all employees other than temporary who are occupying positions which require a teaching certificate.
- 2.3 SCATA schools under the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) are as follows: Community Corrections Center-Lincoln (CCCL), Community Corrections Center-Omaha (CCCO), Nebraska Correctional Center for Women (NCCW), Omaha Correctional Center (OCC), Reception and Treatment Center (RTC), Tecumseh State Correctional Institution (TSCI), and Work Ethic Camp (WEC).

SCATA schools under the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) are as follows: Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Kearney (YRTC-K), Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Hastings (YRTC-Hastings), Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center-Lincoln (YRTC-Lincoln), and Lincoln Regional Center (LRC)-Morton School and Nebraska Youth Academy (NYA).

ARTICLE 3 – TEACHER RIGHTS

- 3.1 Nothing contained in this agreement shall be construed to deny any teacher, employed by a particular state agency, those rights provided under applicable Nebraska or Federal law. Rights granted to teachers herein shall be deemed to be in addition to those provided above unless said rights are legally modified or amended by this agreement.
- 3.2 No permanent teacher will be disciplined, reprimanded, have compensation reduced or withheld or be deprived of any professional advantage without just cause pursuant to the Classified System Personnel Rules and Regulations, or in accordance with agency policy and procedure governing discipline. Any suspension of a teacher, pending investigation and disposition of the case, shall be with pay. Such action shall be subject to the grievance procedure herein set forth, and said action may be upheld, modified or reversed (including back pay provisions as required) as a result of said grievance.
- 3.3 Neither the Employer or its agents, nor the Association or its agents, will discriminate against any teacher with respect to terms and conditions of employment by reason of their membership in the Association and its affiliates, their participation in collective bargaining, or the institution of a grievance under the terms of this agreement.

ARTICLE 4 – MANGEMENT RIGHTS

- 4.1 It is understood and agreed that the Employer possesses the right to operate and direct the employees of the State and its various agencies to the extent that such rights do not violate its legal authority, and to the extent such rights are not modified by this Contract. These rights include, but are not limited to:
 - 4.1.1 The right to determine, effectuate and implement the State’s budget, mission, goals and objectives.
 - 4.1.2 The right to manage and supervise all operations and functions of the State.
 - 4.1.3 The right to establish, allocate, schedule, assign, modify, change and discontinue Agency operations, work shifts and working hours.
 - 4.1.4 The right to establish, allocate, assign or modify an employee’s duties and responsibilities.
 - 4.1.5 The right to hire, train, assign, and retain employees; suspend, discharge or take other disciplinary action against employees for just cause; and to relieve employees from duties due to lack of work or funds, or the employee’s inability to physically perform his/her assigned duties after the Employer has attempted to accommodate the employee’s disability.
 - 4.1.6 The right to increase, reduce, change, modify and alter the composition and size of the work force.

- 4.1.7 The right to determine and implement policies for the selection, training and assignment of employees.
- 4.1.8 The right to create, establish, change, modify and discontinue any State function, operation or division.
- 4.1.9 The right to establish, implement, modify and change financial policies, accounting procedures, contract for goods and/or services, public relations and procedures and policies for the safety, health and protection of property, personnel or client interests.
- 4.1.10 The right to adopt, modify, change, enforce or discontinue any existing rules, regulations, procedures or policies.
- 4.1.11 The right to determine and enforce employee performance standards.
- 4.1.12 The right to introduce new or improved methods, equipment, technology or facilities.

ARTICLE 5 – ASSOCIATION RIGHTS

- 5.1 Upon receipt of a voluntary written individual authorization order from any of its employees covered by this Contract, on forms provided by the Association, the Employer will deduct from the pay due such employee those dues as required as the employee's membership in the Association.
- 5.2 Such order shall be effective only as to membership dues becoming due after the delivery of such authorization to the payroll office of the employing unit. Deductions shall be made only when the employee has sufficient earnings to cover the deductions for social security, federal taxes, state taxes, retirement, health insurance, and life insurance. Deductions shall be in such exact amount to be withheld and shall begin within the next payroll cycle.
- 5.3 Such dues deductions shall be terminable after written notice to the Employer and the Association. The Employer shall terminate the payroll dues deduction within the next payroll cycle.
- 5.4 Representatives of the Association and its affiliates may, upon approval if their immediate supervisor, be allowed to conduct Association business on school property during non-work time, providing that such business does not cause interruption of the school program or other programs. The Association may be allowed the use of the school buildings for such meetings. Such use shall not be unreasonably denied.
- 5.5 Reasonable space will be made available to the Association on existing bulletin boards customarily used for the posting of general personnel or employment information to the members of the unit.
- 5.6 Material to be placed on the bulletin boards shall be limited to notices of the Association's recreational, educational and social affairs; Association correspondence and documents,

whose content is not libelous, editorial or interfering in nature with institutional policy and procedure, notices of Association elections, appointments and results of Association elections and notices of Association meetings.

- 5.7 All notices other than those listed above shall be presented to the Facility Head or his/her designated representative for approval. Such notices, if approved, shall indicate both posting and removal dates. The Association will be responsible for posting and removal of all Association notices.
- 5.8 The Association shall be allowed reasonable use of school equipment, providing the Association furnishes expendable supplies consumed during such use, and that such use does not cause undue interruption of the school program.
- 5.9 The Association shall be allowed to make reasonable use of the school's communication system provided such use does not cause undue interruption of the school program. Association written communications, i.e., mail, phone, computer, etc., will not be monitored and be treated as private and confidential when marked as such.
- 5.10 SCATA shall have paid leave for the purpose of allowing members to attend bargaining and bargaining caucus.
- 5.11 Upon request, teachers shall be allowed representation at investigatory meetings which have the potential to lead to discipline and pre-disciplinary meetings. However, representation shall not be allowed when the purpose of the meeting is solely to deliver the written notice of allegations. Unless otherwise agreed to, the employees are not entitled to representation at routine supervisory and/or non-disciplinary counseling conferences.

ARTICLE 6 – TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

- 6.1 The term of this contract shall be July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027.
- 6.2 For the purposes of employment, teachers covered by this labor contract, shall be on a probationary period during the first two years (24 months) of employment and may be terminated during the probationary period without cause per Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-845.
- 6.3 DHHS Teachers are responsible to the facility for eight work hours each day between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. DCS teachers are responsible to the facility for eight work hours each day between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. At DCS facilities, working hours may vary in order to meet the needs of the Agency, with the concurrence of the teacher. A full-time teacher employed by DCS shall work forty hours each week. Teachers shall be required to be at the facility for a minimum of seven and one-half hours per day, except at HRC, LRC and DCS facilities, where teachers shall be responsible for being present at the facility for forty work hours each week.
 - 6.3.1 For DHHS teachers, any time that Management requires teachers to work outside of the scheduled 8 hour workday, or any time worked on non-contracted days, time will be compensated in time off or additional pay at the rate of one hour for each

hour worked. DCS teachers can be required to flex their schedule in a work week to prevent the teacher from working more than the teacher's regularly scheduled hours in a work week.

- 6.3.2 Use of compensatory time by DHHS Teachers will be at the time requested by the teacher subject to the approval of the teacher's immediate supervisor. Requests shall not be unreasonably denied.

Use of compensatory time by DCS Teachers will be at the time requested by the teacher subject to the person designated by DCS to approve the teacher's use of compensatory time. DCS Teachers may elect to receive a lump sum payout of the value of the compensatory leave in lieu of taking the leave. Beginning June 1, 2024, the Employer may elect to pay out the value of the compensatory leave in a lump sum.

- 6.3.3 At YRTC system facilities, prior to an increase being made in the time teachers are in contact with students in the classroom, a labor-management committee, consisting of three Union representatives and three Employer representatives, will be convened. The labor-management committee, after discussing the issues involved, will make a recommendation to the Department of Health and Human Services, concerning the increase in classroom student contact time. The Department of Health and Human Services shall give the recommendation serious consideration in making a decision, but shall not be required to implement the recommendation.

- 6.4 Each teacher shall be provided a minimum 30 minute, duty free lunch period, and at DCS facilities, the evening meal period shall be available between 3:45 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- 6.5 The normal workweek for bargaining unit teachers shall be 5 days, Monday through Friday.
- 6.6 The annual employment period shall be 188 days for teachers employed at DHHS system facilities. Within the above contract days at DHHS system facilities, there shall be at least six non-student contact days per year with at least one-half day, at the end of each grading period with no mandatory training during these one-half day, as part of the school calendar.

As appropriate, DHHS teachers may be offered an extended contract at per diem rate for any needed additional work for compliance standards or for any needed additional work or special project.

The annual employment period shall be 222 contract days for full-time teachers employed at CCCL, CCCO, NCCW, OCC, NSP, RTC, TSCI and WEC. Designated full-time teachers at DCS facilities and all full-time teachers at NCYF, shall be employed for 234 contract days. Contract days for DCS full-time teachers shall be eight hours a day unless the teacher's schedule is flexed pursuant to paragraph 6.3.1.

With approval by the designated official, a DCS teacher with 222 contract days or 234 contract days, shall have their leave prorated in proportion to the percentage of an eight-hour day the teacher works.

- 6.7 Teachers employed beyond the basic 185 day annual employment period shall receive salary and leaves as defined elsewhere in this agreement on a prorated basis. All prorated leaves shall be rounded to the nearest day.
- 6.8 Optional extended employment to teach in the summer programs may be offered to teachers employed for the regular school year. Full-time bargaining unit teachers will be compensated at their daily rate of pay determined by the SCATA salary schedule. Part-time bargaining unit teachers will be compensated at a prorated, apportioned rate in relation to their time contracted. This include both planning and lunch breaks. Bargaining unit teachers shall be notified of Management's decision concerning extended summer employment by March 1st of each year. Those bargaining unit teachers not offered summer employment shall be provided the opportunity, upon request, for consultation with the appropriate administrator. Such consultation shall include justification for Management's decision. Such decisions shall not be based on Management's ability to hire non-bargaining unit teachers at a lesser rate.
- 6.9 All bargaining unit teachers shall be provided a minimum of one (1) continuous instructional period per day without students for the purpose of planning and preparation. Teachers, unless at DCS, shall not be required to attend mandatory training during this planning period, more than once per month.
- 6.9.1 The Employer shall provide access to a confidential workspace and storage for documentation when reasonable and facility resources allow.
- 6.10 The Employer acknowledges that a teacher's primary responsibility is to teach per Neb. Revised State Statute 79-101.
- 6.11 Each teacher agrees to be governed by the policies of the Employer, that are not addressed in the negotiated agreement and that the teaching duties to be performed under this contract shall be subject to assignment by their immediate supervisor. Such duties shall not preclude the occasional assignment of non-teaching related duties which involve supervising youth or adults.
- 6.12 Discipline of teachers for just cause will be in accordance with the provisions of the Classified Personnel Rules and Regulations or in accordance with agency policy and procedure governing discipline. Evaluations used to justify termination for just cause shall be only those conducted by individuals who hold the appropriate administrative and supervisory certificate issued by the State.
- 6.13 At least 90 calendar days before the end of the individual contract period, each teacher shall be notified in writing that the Employer is considering non-renewal of his/her

contract, or provided a letter of intent to continue employment. Any teacher offered a letter of intent to continue employment shall respond within 15 working days of receipt of the letter. Failure to respond within the specified fifteen workdays shall constitute rejection of the renewal offer. The Employer shall meet with any teacher notified their contract is not being renewed.

- 6.14 Termination of a teacher's contract for any reason before the end of the contract year, shall result in an adjustment of that amount of compensation being paid which bears the same ratio to the annual salary herein specified as the number of contract days worked bears to the annual employment period.

Whenever it is necessary to adjust the compensation paid to a teacher, after the appropriate compensation for the number of contract days actually worked is computed, the teacher and the Employer shall arrange for the payment of any compensation due to the teacher or the refunding by the teacher of any compensation received in excess of the compensation due for the number of days actually worked.

- 6.15 Deductions from pay for absences from work for which no paid leave is provided shall be at the rate of one divided by the number of school contract days of the annual salary per each day of such absence.

- 6.16 There shall be no penalty for release or resignation by said teacher from their individual contract, providing that said resignation shall not become effective until the close of the contract period unless an earlier release is accepted by the Employer. Resignations for the subsequent contract year shall be accepted up to six weeks prior to the beginning of the new school year and may be accepted by the Employer after May 15th at the Employer's discretion.

- 6.17 The Employer may require a teacher to take a physical examination, tests or other proofs of physical and/or mental fitness when the Employer has reasonable cause to believe that such examinations and/or tests are necessary to determine physical or mental incapacity. The Employer reserves the right to develop and implement alcohol and drug testing programs. The Employer shall schedule and pay for all such required examinations and/or tests. The results of said examinations and/or tests will not be released to any outside agencies or persons without permission of the employee unless required by law or licensure.

- 6.18 The Association and Employer recognize the unique characteristics of the clientele served and in the interest of the students' needs, the Employer shall make a good faith effort to hold academic classes to a practical and effective size.

- 6.19 A good faith effort will be made to secure an outside substitute before a bargaining unit teacher is asked to serve as a substitute. Aids shall not be assigned teaching duties, per state law and regulations.

At DHHS system facilities, teachers shall be compensated at the rate of \$40.00 per class period to give up their planning time to substitute teach a single class. Substitutions shall require approval by the Principal.

Substitute teachers at DCS facilities shall be approved by DCS.

- 6.20 Teachers may use the school facilities during non-scheduled work hours for such teaching/job related purposes which may include grading papers, preparing tests, setting up audiovisual equipment, use of computer, recreational activities (as allowed other staff), etc. Such use of school facilities is not computed as compensable time.
- 6.21 **Part-Time Employees.** Teachers who are employed on a permanent basis at any percentage less than 100%, will be paid and accrue all eligible benefits and conditions of employment as set forth in this agreement prorated to equal their employment percentage.

ARTICLE 7 – GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

- 7.1 **General Purpose.** Teachers may file a grievance when they believe that there has been a misinterpretation or misapplication of the terms of this agreement. The underlying principle of this grievance procedure is to ensure fair and equitable treatment to bargaining unit employees.
- 7.2 **Definition of Grievance:** Any written claim or claims by a bargaining unit teacher or group of teachers that there has been a violation, misinterpretation, or misapplication of the terms of this agreement. The grievance must be signed by at least one aggrieved employee.
- 7.3 **Definition of Grievant:** Bargaining unit teacher or group of teachers making the claim as described in the definition of grievance. Nothing contained herein shall prevent an aggrieved employee from filing a grievance on behalf of a class of similarly situated employees.
- 7.4 Bargaining unit employees will follow all written and oral directives and perform all assigned duties. Compliance with such directives will not in any way prejudice their right to file a grievance within the time limits contained herein, nor shall it affect the ultimate resolution of the grievance.
- 7.5 The parties agree to use every reasonable means at their disposal to assure every employee the unobstructed use of this grievance procedure without fear of reprisal or prejudice to their employment status.
- 7.6 The number of days indicated at each level shall be considered as a maximum, and every reasonable effort shall be made to expedite the grievance. The time limit specified may, however, be extended by mutual written agreement of the grievant and the Employer.
- 7.7 The failure of the grievant to proceed to the first or subsequent steps of this grievance procedure within the time limits specified shall indicate that the grievant has elected not

to file a grievance or has accepted the response previously rendered, and shall not constitute a waiver of any future appeal. The failure of the Employer to respond to the grievance within the time limits specified shall permit the grievant to proceed to the next level of the grievance procedure.

- 7.8 All communications concerning the grievance after being formally submitted, shall be in writing. All documents, communications, and records dealing with the processing of a grievance shall be confidential, and shall be filed separately from the personnel files of the participants, unless said material is ordinarily the content of the personnel file.
- 7.9 No settlement shall be made in any grievance which is in conflict with the provisions of this agreement.
- 7.10 All meetings under this Article shall be conducted in private. All hearings conducted pursuant to this Article shall be open to the public unless the hearing authority rules otherwise after a showing of adequate cause.
- 7.11 A grievant may have a representative present at all levels of the grievance procedure.
- 7.12 The grievant may withdraw their grievance at any level of the procedure.
- 7.13 Level One: All grievances must be initiated within fifteen (15) workdays of the occurrence, or the date when the employee first became aware of the occurrence. The grievant shall reduce the grievance to writing on the approved form and give or send the original to the decision maker or Principal. The decision maker or Principal shall provide a written response to the grievance within five (5) work days after receipt of the grievance. Failure of the decision maker or Principal to respond within five (5) work days shall cause the grievant to proceed to level two of this procedure. Before the decision maker or Principal returns the answer to the grievance at the first step to the employee, he/she shall have the response reviewed by the Chief Executive Officer/Designee of the facility.
- 7.14 Level Two: If a satisfactory resolution of the grievance is not reached in Level One, the grievant may file the grievance with the Agency Director within ten (10) work days of receipt of the response at Level One. The Agency Director/Designee shall hold an informal investigatory meeting within ten (10) work days of receipt of the grievance. The meeting shall include all interested parties and be for the purpose of reviewing the grievance. The Agency Director shall issue a written response to the grievance within ten (10) work days of such meeting.
- 7.15 Level Three: If a satisfactory resolution of the grievance is not reached at Level Two, the grievant may file the grievance in writing with the State Personnel Board within five (5) work days of receipt of the written response at Level Two. The State Personnel Board shall conduct a grievance hearing and shall issue a written response to the grievance. Such written response shall be the final administrative decision unless the aggrieved party wishes to seek court action. The parties to the grievance appeal shall follow the State

Personnel Board Appeal process outlined in Title 273 – Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 14, Section 008.03.

ARTICLE 8 – LEAVES FROM DUTY

- 8.1 Teachers shall be eligible for eleven (11) days of paid sick leave per year, cumulative to 180 days. Earned sick leave that has been accumulated by presently employed teachers prior to the date of this agreement shall be retained by that teacher provided that the accumulation shall not exceed 180 days.
- 8.2 Teachers separating their employment and who are eligible for retirement through a State sponsored retirement system or upon death will receive one-fourth of the accumulated unused sick leave, up to a maximum of 45 days' pay (one-fourth of 180 days).
- 8.3 Teachers are entitled to use sick leave under the following situations:
- a. When unable to perform duties because of sickness, injury, or disability.
 - b. When undergoing medical, surgical, dental, and optical examinations or treatments, which the employee is unable to schedule during other than working hours.
 - c. When presence at work would jeopardize the health of others by exposing them to a contagious disease.
 - d. When the illness, injury, or disability of an immediate family member requires the employee's presence. Immediate family in this case means spouse, children, siblings, or parents and others bearing the same relationship to the teacher's spouse. At the Agency Head and/or his/her Designee's discretion, with input from the immediate supervisor, the definition of immediate family may be expanded to include other individuals with a similar personal relationship to the employee as that of an immediate family member.
 - e. In conjunction with an approved leave under the FMLA.
 - f. For inclement weather, as provided in Article 8.17.
- 8.4 Sick leave shall be taken in at least quarter-hour increments.
- 8.5 Teachers shall obtain written approval from their immediate supervisor in advance when planning to use sick leave for dental appointments, physical exams, etc. In cases of sickness, injury, emergency or any other absence which cannot be approved in advance, the teachers shall advise the immediate supervisor of the circumstances as early as possible.
- 8.6 When a sick leave absence exceeds three (3) consecutive days or when abuse is suspected, employees may be required to submit a substantiating medical certificate.

- 8.7 Teachers who terminate and return to state employment within one (1) year shall retain all accrued sick leave earned prior to termination.
- 8.8 A teacher who is receiving Worker's Compensation for an injury or occupational disease shall have the option of electing to use accumulated unused sick leave to supplement Worker's Compensation up to but not to exceed the regular rate of pay. Teachers electing this option shall earn and be charged sick leave in proportion to the amount of money paid by the State. After all such sick leave has been used, the teacher shall be entitled to compensation authorized by Worker's Compensation.
- 8.10 Up to five (5) contract days of funeral leave shall be granted for each death in the immediate family. Immediate family is defined as spouse, children, parents, grandparents, grandchildren, brothers, sisters or persons bearing the same relationship to the spouse. Step-persons and unborn persons bearing these relationships are included. At the Agency Head and/or his/her Designee's discretion, the definition of immediate family may be expanded to include other individuals with a similar personal relationship to the employee as that of an immediate family member. This leave shall be up to five consecutive contract days contiguous to the day of the funeral.
- 8.10.1 For funerals of persons not in the immediate family the employee may use accrued sick leave as arranged with the appropriate administrator.
- 8.11 **Civil Leave.** Teachers are eligible for paid civil leave in the following situations:
- a. Being called as a juror or being appointed as a clerk or judge on an election or counting board. Fees paid as the result of such duty shall be retained by the teacher in addition to the paid civil leave. Employees will return to work when not actually serving as a juror on a daily basis.
 - b. Being called to perform emergency civilian duty in connection with a natural disaster such as a flood or tornado or in connection with national defense. This shall not be considered the same as leave for military duty in connection with national defense or national disaster.
 - c. Being subpoenaed to appear in court on behalf of the State. In addition to the paid civil leave, the teacher shall receive pay for travel and subsistence. Witness fees paid to the teacher shall be returned to the State. A teacher required to appeal in court on a personal matter shall be granted leave without pay.
 - d. Voting Time: All employees shall be given up to two hours for the purpose of voting provided the employee does not have sufficient time before or after regular duty hours to vote. The two hours authorized for voting does not apply to those employees who, by reasons of their employment, must vote by use of an absentee ballot.
 - e. Blood Donations: With prior supervisory approval of absence from work, employees will be allowed up to one hour of paid time while donating blood at Employer

sanctioned Community Blood Bank collections. With prior supervisory approval of absence from work employees will be allowed to flex work schedules while responding to Community Blood Bank emergency appeals in life threatening circumstances. Replenishment of low blood supplies is not considered to be a life threatening circumstance.

- 8.12 **Professional Leave.** A minimum of two (2) days per each contract year of paid professional leave, shall be granted each teacher for attendance at meetings, conferences or activities which are directly related to the teacher’s academic responsibilities and shall not be cumulative. Additional paid professional leave will be at the discretion of the first level of supervisor outside of the bargaining unit. If a teacher is required to attend a professional activity by the administration, no deduction for professional leave will be made.
- 8.13 Military leave shall be granted in accordance with applicable federal and state laws.
- 8.14 **Leave of Absence.** Teachers may be granted an unpaid leave of absence of up to one year. No benefits shall accrue during such leave. Accumulated sick leave earned prior to such leave shall be retained by the teacher upon return from such leave. At the end of such leave, the teacher shall be reinstated to a same or similar position as vacated. A teacher on such leave, at their discretion, may continue their insurance benefits by paying the full premium for those benefits. Requests for such leave shall be submitted on the proper form to the teacher’s immediate supervisor. Notice of approval or disapproval of such leave request shall be provided the teacher within thirty (30) working days of receipt of the request.
- 8.15 **Personal Leave.** Teachers are entitled to three (3) days of paid personal leave per school year. Teachers may carry over one (1) personal day per year. Use of these days will be at the discretion of the teacher. Application for such leave shall be made at least one (1) week in advance, if possible, to the teacher’s immediate supervisor. Approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. Personal leave may be used in quarter half-hour increments. Teachers who accept a summer school contract shall retain their unused leaves through the life of the summer contract.

Full time summer teachers will receive one (1) additional day of personal leave during the summer contract. The day earned in the summer may be retained through the next school year, but no further. This retention is in addition to the one personal day that teachers may carry over per year.

- 8.15.1 **Balancing of Personal Leave:** It is the responsibility of the head of an employing agency to provide reasonable opportunity for a State employee to use rather than forfeit accumulated Personal leave. If a State employee makes a reasonable written request to use Personal leave before the leave must be forfeited under this section and the employing agency denies the request, the employing agency shall pay the State employee the case equivalent of the amount forfeited Personal leave that was requested and denied. Such

payment shall be made withing thirty days after the requested and denied Personal leave is forfeited under this section.

8.15.2 **Personal Leave Payment:** Employees who leave employment shall be paid for any unused accumulated Personal leave earned, calculated on their based hourly rate. Pay for the unused accumulated Personal leave shall be in a lump sum addition to the employee's last paycheck.

8.16 **Educational Opportunities.** Teachers within the Department of Health and Human Services will be afforded the opportunity to further their education in a reasonable manner which does not interfere with the operation of the school programs, or other facility operations. Reasonable manner can include flex time changes and work schedules to accommodate teachers' attendance at class. Such accommodations/requests are subject to prior supervisory approval.

In situations when the above reasonable accommodations cannot be made to a teacher's work schedule at the Department of Health and Human Services, a teacher may request an educational leave of absence, as long as the teacher is enrolled as a full-time student for credited coursework. Length of the educational leave of absence in that case is based on the length of the semester. Educational leave is based on best interests of the State, and is subject to prior supervisory approval. Employees become eligible for an educational leave of absence upon serving two years with the Department of Health and Human Services from last date of hire.

8.17 **Weather Leave.** Teachers are entitled to leave due to inclement weather as provided in the current Governor's policy pertaining to such leave. In addition, teachers may use up to two (2) days of sick leave per year of the Contract for inclement weather.

8.18 **Non-Contract Days.** At the Department of Health and Human Services where there is year around school, Teachers will be given the opportunity to select use of the 25 non-contract days in the same manner afforded to other Department of Health and Human Services employees requesting vacation leave. At DCS, non-contract days shall be pro-rated for teachers who work less or more than 222 days. DCS teachers will be given the opportunity to select use of the non-contract days in accordance with DCS and facility policies. Use of the non-contract days is subject to prior supervisory approval. Such requests shall not be unreasonably denied. Teachers shall be able to carry over five non-contract days per school year which shall not be cumulative. Year around school is school which is taught continuously around the year except for designated holidays and weekends.

8.19 LRC will hold school year round. Teachers at LRC will work 188 days during the contract year. The school year will be divided into five segments (Sessions 1-5) consisting of 47 school days. Each teacher will be assigned to work four of the five segments. The determination of which segments a teacher will be assigned to work shall be established by State seniority. Management, at its discretion, will include days on

which all teachers will be on leave (for example, Winter break, Spring Break, etc.). These days do not count toward the 188 contract days.

At DCS, Teachers will be on leave on the ~~twelve~~ thirteen statutory holidays and on any day declared as a holiday by the President or the Governor. These days are considered non- contract days.

Teacher Vacation Session Schedule for LRC ~~2025-2026~~ ~~2023-2024~~ Morton School and NYA

| | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---|---|-----------------|
| <u>Session 1</u> | <u>7-2-25</u> | - | - | <u>9-4-25</u> |
| <u>Session 2</u> | <u>9-9-25</u> | - | - | <u>11-10-25</u> |
| <u>Session 3</u> | <u>11-13-25</u> | - | - | <u>1-30-26</u> |
| <u>Session 4</u> | <u>2-4-26</u> | - | - | <u>4-14-26</u> |
| <u>Session 5</u> | <u>4-17-26</u> | - | - | <u>6-19-26</u> |

Teacher Vacation Session Schedule for LRC ~~2026-2027~~ ~~2024-2025~~ Morton School and NYA

| | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------|---|---|-----------------|
| <u>Session 1</u> | <u>7-2-26</u> | - | - | <u>9-4-26</u> |
| <u>Session 2</u> | <u>9-9-26</u> | - | - | <u>11-10-26</u> |
| <u>Session 3</u> | <u>11-13-26</u> | - | - | <u>2-1-27</u> |
| <u>Session 4</u> | <u>2-4-27</u> | - | - | <u>4-14-27</u> |
| <u>Session 5</u> | <u>4-19-27</u> | - | - | <u>6-21-27</u> |

8.19.1 DHHS Calendar: Administration will allow two DHHS SCATA Board members to proofread the school calendar before it is finished and finalized.

8.20 **Catastrophic Illness Donation.** The provisions of this section are non-grievable. Employees may contribute accrued personal leave to benefit another State employee in the same agency suffering from a catastrophic illness. Personal leave shall be donated in no less than four (4) hour increments. The contributing employee must identify the specific amount of time donated and the name of the recipient of the donated personal leave on forms provided by the Employer for this purpose. Personal leave donated and transferred to another State employee pursuant to this provision shall be irrevocably credited to the recipient’s catastrophic leave account.

The recipient cannot use the donated leave until the date the leave is actually donated. The agency shall transfer donated leave to the recipient’s account on an as needed basis. However, the agency shall not transfer more than the equivalent of 10 of the recipient’s workdays of leave into his/her account at any one time if the employee is paid by-weekly; and the agency shall not transfer more than the equivalent of 23 of the recipient’s workdays of leave into his/her account at any one time if the employee is paid monthly.

Catastrophic Leave will be available only to employees who have exhausted their own paid leave through bona fide serious illness or accident. Donating employees must sign an authorization, including specifying the specific employee to be a recipient of the donation. Leave transferred will be converted to a dollar value and then converted to hours based on the recipient's hourly rate, e.g., the leave donor's salary is \$6.00 per hour and the recipient's salary is \$12.00 per hour; thus a donor must transfer twice the amount of hours to achieve full conversion. The agency shall not transfer more donations until this amount is exhausted. All donations remaining in the employee's catastrophic illness account when the employee's employment terminates, or when the employee dies, shall be forfeited, and no payout for these forfeited hours shall be made. No more than the equivalent of 1200 hours of donated leave may be received by an employee during a twelve month period.

Eligibility of Recipient:

1. Must be suffering a serious illness or injury resulting in a prolonged absence of at least thirty work days during the past six months (a normal pregnancy does not qualify for Catastrophic Illness Donation).
2. Must produce satisfactory medical verification.
3. Must have completed original probation.
4. Must have exhausted all earned paid leave time including compensatory time off, sick leave and personal leave.
5. Must not have offered anything of value in exchange for the donation.

Eligibility of Donor Employee:

1. Only four (4) hour increments of personal leave may be donated.
2. Must not have solicited or accepted anything of value in exchange for the donation.
3. Must have remaining to his/her credit at least 4 hours of accrued personal leave, if donating personal leave.

8.21 **Maternity Leave Donation (MLD) Program.** When an expectant mother needs to be away from work due to a birth of a child, she may request MLD. MLD shall be available only to employees who have exhausted their own earned sick leave, in conjunction with an approved Family Medical Leave (FML) under the Family Medical Leave Act and only with approval of the agency head and/or designee.

8.21.1 **Eligibility of Recipient.** Employees shall meet the following criteria before request(s) for donations can be made:

1. Be the expectant mother of a newborn baby
2. FML request has been approved by the agency
3. Have exhausted all earned sick leave
4. Have not offered anything of value in exchange for the donation

8.21.2 **Requesting Maternity Leave Donations.** Employees must submit a written request for MLD to the agency/facility Human Resources office. The request must include substantiating evidence as described in the Family Medical Leave Act. (For your convenience, request forms are available from your agency/facility Human Resources office or the DAS State Personnel website.) The Human Resources staff will be responsible to initiate the process to verify eligibility, seek agency head approval, request donations, apply the conversion formula to donations received, advise the employee of donations received and notify the appropriate payroll personnel of changes to receiving/donating employees' leave balances. Agency heads and/or their designee(s) must approve both the FML and MLD requests before solicitation for donations begin.

8.21.3 **Contributing Maternity Leave Donations.** Employees may contribute accrued personal leave, vacation leave or earned compensatory time to benefit another State employee in the same agency who requests MLD. Personal leave, vacation leave and earned compensatory time shall be donated in no less than 4 hour increments. The contributing employee must identify the specific amount of time donated and the name of the recipient of the donated time on the appropriate forms for that purpose. Personal leave, vacation leave and compensatory time donated and transferred to another State employee pursuant to this provision shall be irrevocably credited to the recipient's MLD account.

Personal leave, vacation leave and compensatory time transferred shall be converted to a dollar value and then converted to hours based on the recipient's hourly rate (e.g., the leave donor's salary is \$12.00 per hour and the recipient's salary is \$24.00 per hour, thus, in this case, twice the amount of hours is needed to achieve full conversion.) No more than an equivalent of 480 hours of MLD may be received by an employee during a twelve-month period. No more hours than required during the approved FML period should be received. (e.g., the employee has 2 weeks of paid sick leave accrued. After the 2 weeks of accrued sick leave is used, the employee can only request 4 weeks of donated leave to fill a 6 week FML request.) The agency shall transfer donated leave to the recipient's account from the donor's accruals in chronological order based on the date the form was received on an as needed basis.

8.21.4 **Eligibility of the Donor.** Before donating personal leave, vacation leave or earned compensatory time, employees shall meet the following criteria:

- a. Only increments of four (4) hours may be donated.
- b. Have not solicited nor accepted anything of value in exchange for the donation.
- c. Have remaining to his/her credit at least 4 hours of accrued personal leave. Earned compensatory time can be donated completely – leaving a zero balance.

8.21.5 **Adoptive Mothers.** Per Neb. Rev. Stat. §48-234, adoptive mothers may be entitled to use the MLD program in certain situations. Adoptive mothers must meet the eligibility requirements as outlined above.

8.21.6 The provisions of this section are non-grievable.

8.22 **Mentorship Leave.** Up to one hour per week of paid leave may be granted to employees upon request for participation in the State of Nebraska Youth Mentoring Program. All provisions of Mentorship Leave are to be in accordance with the State of Nebraska Youth Mentoring Program. Mentorship Leave is not considered as work time for the purposes of calculating overtime.

8.22.1 In order to be eligible for Mentorship Leave, employees must meet the following requirements:

- a) The employee's current performance review is satisfactory and the employee is not currently on a performance improvement plan;
- b) The mentoring program is on the list of approved youth mentoring programs maintained by Mentor Nebraska;
- c) The employee follows agency guidelines in submitting Mentorship Leave requests;
- d) The employee signs the "Accident Waiver and Release of Liability" form.

Employee must provide their supervisor with proof (email, confirmation letter, etc.) that they meet all background checks and additional requirements of the mentoring program they choose or any other documentation requested by their supervisor in relation to Mentorship Leave. Each agency is responsible for verifying the youth mentoring program that the teammate is volunteering for is on the approved mentoring list maintained by and available on the website of Mentor Nebraska.

8.22.2 An agency may deny a request or withdraw approval for Mentorship Leave if the employee's absence is not in the best interest of the State, interferes with agency operations and/or services, or the employee does not meet the eligibility requirements. In addition, employees must obtain the prior approval of their supervisor related to the time and date of the week that Mentorship Leave is to be utilized.

8.22.3 Employees must follow the State of Nebraska's Acceptable Use Policy. Employees are allowed to review the mentoring options on the database using a state computer, however, must do it on lunch or breaks. Any additional use of State Equipment must be in alignment with the State's and his/her agency's acceptable policy.

All participation in volunteer mentoring activities is done on the employee's personal time and should not be considered work time. The "Accident Waiver and Release of Liability Form" must be signed prior to participating in volunteer mentoring activities.

- 8.23 **Injury Leave:** All employees who are disabled as a result of a job-related injury or disease, which is deemed compensable by Worker’s Compensation, may be granted injury leave, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 48-119, not to exceed five of the employee’s normal working shifts for any particular injury. A working shift is counted even if an employee is absent for any portion of their assigned shift. Disabled shall mean unable to perform the essential functions usually encountered in one’s employment due either to an injury/disease or to treatment for an injury/disease.

ARTICLE 9 – REDUCTION IN FORCE

- 9.1 When a reduction in the number of teachers employed or the number of school days contracted per teacher is deemed necessary, the reduction in force shall be in accordance with the provisions of this Article.
- 9.2 The Employer shall attempt to absorb reductions through normal attrition due to retirements and resignations.
- 9.3 Should an involuntary staff reduction be required, the order of reduction shall be based on subject area, and if applicable, required special certifications, and on the basis of State seniority at each facility within the Agency.
- a. The Teachers shall fill any vacant Teacher position that he/she qualified for in the facility.
 - b. If no vacant Teaching position is available, the Teacher shall bump the Teacher with the least State seniority in that facility if the Teacher whose position is being reduced qualifies for the position.
 - c. If no vacancy or bumping option is available to the Teacher at the facility where staff is being reduced, the order of reduction will be to transfer into a vacant position for which he/she qualifies at any agency facility within the same city.
 - d. If no vacant agency Teacher position is available within the city, the order of reduction will be to transfer to a vacant agency Teacher position for which he/she qualifies at any agency location within a 75 mile radius occupied by a Teacher with the least seniority, if the bumping Teacher qualifies for the position.
 - e. If no vacant agency Teacher position is available within the 75 mile radius, the order of reduction will be to bump to a position for which he/she qualifies, at any agency location within a 75 mile radius occupied by a Teacher with the least seniority, if the bumping Teacher qualifies for the position.

State seniority is defined to be the teacher’s adjusted State service date. This adjusted service date is for teachers who left State employment and return to work after a break in service of less than five calendar years. In this situation, teachers shall have their accumulated unpaid sick leave balance reinstated, unless the teacher previously received a payout of sick leave (retirement eligibility).

- 9.4 A teacher whose position is being considered for reduction in force shall be notified in writing of such intent on or before the ninetieth (90th) day prior to the close of the individual teacher contract period.
- 9.5 The teacher may request and shall be granted a hearing as provided in Nebraska statutes.
- 9.6 A teacher whose contract has not been renewed because of reduction in force shall be considered to have been dismissed with honor and shall be provided a letter to that effect.
- 9.7 Any teacher whose contract has not been renewed because of reduction in force shall have recall rights to employment for a period of twenty-four (24) months. Teachers shall be recalled in reverse order of layoff. The teacher with the most seniority by facility shall be recalled first to fill open positions in that facility, provided the teacher meets the required qualifications.
- 9.8 Recall offers shall be in writing and delivered by certified mail and the teacher shall have five (5) workdays after receipt of written notice to accept or reject the recall offer in writing. Failure to respond constitutes rejection of the recall offer. The teacher shall be responsible for maintaining his/her current address and phone number with the agency.
- 9.9 Teachers who are recalled within 24 months, shall, upon reinstatement, retain any employment benefits which had accrued to said teacher prior to their being laid off.
- 9.10 **Furlough.** Federal or State funding shortages may require employees to be placed on furlough. Furlough is defined as a temporary non-duty, non-pay status which occurs when Federal or State appropriations expire and no future funding is allocated and lasts less than 30 days. Affected employees would be released from work until such funding is restored. The Employer agrees to meet with Union officials as soon as information is available regarding possible funding shortages which may result in furloughs and to give affected employees as much advance notice as possible when a furlough is imminent. Employees placed on furlough will be granted liberal use of paid or unpaid leave. In the event that funding is retroactively restored, paid and unpaid leave utilized during times of furlough may be reinstated to the employee's appropriate leave bank. In such cases, employees will be furloughed following the provisions found in Section 9.3.

ARTICLE 10 – EVALUATION

- 10.1 The primary purpose of evaluation of the teaching staff shall be the improvement of instruction.
- 10.2 Observations for evaluation shall be conducted at least twice during each school year for probationary teachers and a cumulative evaluation should be conducted once every three years or at lesser intervals as required by agency policy or regulatory standards for permanent teachers.

- 10.3 An observation shall consist of direct observation of the teacher by the principal or teacher's immediate supervisor in the performance of his or her teaching duties. A conference between the teacher and observer shall follow each observation within seven (7) work days. If deficiencies are noted, the evaluator shall specify in writing the means and methods suggested for overcoming the deficiency. Teachers may respond to the observation by attaching a written response to the observation report.
- 10.4 All monitoring or observation of the work performance of a teacher shall be conducted with the full knowledge of the teacher.
- 10.5 Evaluations of performance shall be based on a review and observations of the teacher's performance over a prolonged time period.
- 10.6 Teachers may respond to their evaluation reports by attaching a written response to the report within fifteen workdays within receipt of the evaluation. The fifteen workdays begin on the date the teacher notice that their electronic signature is required.
- 10.7 Evaluation reports shall be given to all probationary teachers on or before November 1st and not later than 120 days prior to the end of the school year as defined by the school calendar. Evaluation reports shall be given to all permanent teachers not later than March 31 of each school year. All teachers shall have the right to discuss the evaluation report with their supervisor.
- 10.8 Both parties recognize that the complete teacher evaluation procedure is set forth in this Article. However, nothing contained in this Article shall limit the right of the Employer to issue administrative guidelines intended to provide for consistent implementation of the evaluation process.
- 10.9 The format of the evaluation forms shall be developed with input from the teachers.

ARTICLE 11 – PERSONNEL FILE

- 11.1 A Teacher's personnel file shall be subject to Chapter 12 of the Classified System Personnel Rules.
- 11.2 No negative material shall be placed in a teacher's personnel file unless the teacher has been offered an opportunity to review the material. The teacher will be provided a copy of any such material at their request. Teachers shall acknowledge that they have been offered the opportunity to review all negative material by affixing their signature to the copy to be filed. The teacher's signature does not indicate agreement with the contents of the material to be filed. The teacher shall have the right to attach a written response to any such material to be placed in the file.
- 11.3 Although the Employer agrees to protect the confidentiality of personal references, academic credentials, and other similar personnel records, it shall not establish any separate file which is not available for the teacher's inspection under the provisions of this agreement.

ARTICLE 12 – COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

- 12.1 **Insurance and Retirement.** Each teacher shall be entitled to fringe benefits provided by this agreement and by federal regulations provided by Cobra (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985). These shall include but not be limited to the following:
- A. Employer contribution to the Nebraska Teachers’ Retirement System.
 - B. Employer contribution to Social Security.
 - C. Workmen’s Compensation Insurance.
 - D. State of Nebraska Group Life Insurance; a \$20,000 group life insurance policy for each full-time employee. The full cost will be borne solely by the Employer.
 - E. **Health Insurance:** For the duration of this Contract, the monthly Employer contribution toward any group health insurance option offered by the Employer shall be the amount equal to seventy-nine percent (79%) of the total premium cost of the plan, option and coverage chosen by the bargaining unit member, for which the bargaining unit member is eligible.

For purposes of this section, plan and option shall mean one of the choices of levels of medical and other benefits offered by a carrier. Coverage shall mean the rate categories of single, two-party, four-party and family, as offered under any contract entered into for medical benefits.

Eligible State employees and their eligible dependents will be granted access to health and prescription drug benefits in accordance with the State’s group health insurance plan enrollment and coverage guidelines.

The following deductibles, out-of-pocket maximums, coinsurance after deductible provisions, and prescription drug card provisions take effect each July 1.

Total Benefit Maximum – Unlimited

\$1400 Annual deductible per person for the first and second year of this contract – In Network

\$26 Annual deductible per family for the first and second year of this contract – In Network

\$4000 Annual medical out-of-pocket maximum per person – In Network

\$8000 Annual medical out-of-pocket maximum per family – In Network

80% coinsurance for most covered services after deductible – In Network

Co-payment for doctor office visits only, not to exceed \$45.

Co-payment for specialty doctor office visit only, not to exceed \$55.

(The change in the co-payment for doctor office visits shall not change the manner in which ancillary costs are calculated.)

Co-Payment for Urgent Care Center visit, not to exceed \$75.

The plan shall include a three-tier formulary prescription drug card coverage with a:

\$5.00 co-payment per 30 day supply of Tier 1 drugs;

\$40.00 co-payment for a 30 day supply of Tier 2 drugs, for the first and second year of this labor contract; and a

\$60.00 co-payment for a 30 day supply of Tier 3 drugs, for the first and second year of this labor contract.

The annual pharmacy out-of-pocket maximum is \$2250 per individual, for the first and second year of this labor contract.

The annual pharmacy out-of-pocket maximum is \$4500 per family, for the first and second year of this labor contract.

Mail order is available for long-term maintenance drugs for a 90 day supply with a cost of two times the 30 day supply for each level of drugs.

The State reserves the right to add a 4th Tier for specialty drugs not to exceed \$100 for a 30 day supply.

The combination of pharmacy and medical out-of-pocket maximums will not exceed the limits set forth in the Patient Protection and Affordable Case Act.

In addition to the above, the Employer may offer different group health insurance plans. The Employer retains the discretion to arrange health care coverage through a health insurance exchange in accordance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

F. **Dental Insurance:** The Employer agrees to offer group dental insurance to bargaining unit employees and their dependents, at employee cost.

G. **Long-Term Disability Insurance:** The Employer agrees to offer group long-term disability insurance for bargaining unit employees at employee cost.

- H. **Vision:** The Employer agrees to offer group vision insurance to bargaining unit employees and their dependents, at employee cost.
- I. Teachers will be covered on a yearly basis for all insurance benefits.
- J. Participation in the State of Nebraska Deferred Compensation plan.
- K. Insurance benefits will be provided part-time teachers working one-half time or more on a proportional basis to their employment ratio.
- L. Group health, dental, and vision insurance benefits, in addition to the employee assistance program, will be offered to retirees meeting all of the criteria necessary to retire under the primary retirement plan covering his/her State employment. Eligibility to participate in such benefits and programs shall terminate when the former employee becomes eligible to receive Medicare. The entire cost of such insurance and participation in the employee assistance program to be borne by the retiree.

- 12.1.1 Retired military service members who are eligible for TRICARE and are currently employed by the State of Nebraska may elect to receive their health insurance coverage through TRICARE and forego participation in a group insurance plan offered by the Employer pursuant to Article 12.1 (E). Individuals who do so will receive a flat, monthly stipend paid by the Employer.

For those with individual plans, the flat, monthly stipend would be in the amount of five-hundred dollars (\$500.00). For those with family plans the flat, monthly stipend would be in the amount of one-thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). It is the bargaining unit member's responsibility to submit supporting documentation to show eligibility for the payment under this Section.

- 12.2 Teachers covered by this agreement shall be paid on the State of Nebraska bi-weekly payroll system. Payroll deductions and related items shall be provided under that system, and continue until the entire contracted salary has been paid.
- 12.3 Salaries shall be determined by the salary schedule attached as Appendix A to this agreement.
- 12.4 Initial placement on the salary schedule shall be in accordance with each teacher's degree level and years of experience, as of the beginning of each school year.

Teachers shall be credited for up to and including twelve (12) years of successful prior teaching experience when initially placed on the schedule. Maximum step placement shall be Step 13. At the Agency Head and/or his/her Designee's discretion, teachers may be credited for more than twelve (12) years of successful prior teaching experience when initially placed on the schedule, and maximum step placement could exceed Step 13.

A teacher's annual personal contract will state their new level of education; new step and column on the salary schedule; their credit hours earned beyond their column on the salary schedule; and their years of service within their agency.

- 12.5 Teachers shall advance vertically one (1) step on the schedule for the completion of one (1) year of service. Teachers may move no more than three (3) lanes horizontally during the term of this contract.
- 12.6 Teachers shall earn credit for advancing horizontally on the schedule for successful completion of any of the following:
- a. Graduate hours directly related to their teaching assignment.
 - b. Graduate hours taken as a result of a recommendation by their immediate supervisor.
 - c. Any hours toward an additional endorsement related to their teaching assignment.
 - d. Any hours which have received prior written approval by the teacher's immediate supervisor.
- 12.7 To qualify for horizontal advancement on the schedule during each year of this contract, teachers must notify their supervisors by June 1 of their intent to move, with verification of successful completion of the hours by the beginning of the following school year. Grade slips shall be considered acceptable verification.
- 12.8 Tuition Assistance: Teachers enrolled in courses of instruction directly related to their work may be reimbursed a minimum of 75 percent, and up to 100 percent of tuition costs upon approval of the appropriate Administrator. The tuition assistance benefit will begin six (6) months after the teacher's hire date.
- 12.9 **Professional Development at DHHS Facilities.** The Employer will provide professional development that is directly related to serving the needs of a facility's student population. Professional development provided or required by the Employer shall be reimbursed 100% and occur during work time. A teacher may pursue other opportunities for professional development. If the professional development is approved by his/her supervisor, it will be reimbursed 100%, and teachers shall be allowed to use Professional Leave per Article 8.12 of this Labor Contract.

ARTICLE 13 – ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

- 13.1 The provisions of this Agreement shall be applied to all employees in the bargaining unit without discrimination as to protected age, sex, marital status, race, color, creed, national origin, handicap, or political affiliation. Each of the parties hereto recognize their individual responsibilities under this paragraph and agree to fulfill those responsibilities.
- 13.2 In recognition of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), it shall not be considered to be a violation of this contract for the Employer to take such action as is necessary to make reasonable accommodations for the known disability of an employee.

ARTICLE 14 – SAFETY

- 14.1 In the event that a teacher is subject to a physical or sexual assault, or terroristic threat, while within the scope of their employment with the State, the teacher should take the following action:
- a. The teacher should notify their immediate supervisor or their designee, who will in turn notify the appropriate authorities.
 - b. Reporting of the incident will be in writing on the proper form.
 - c. The Employer as may be appropriate will provide legal advice to the teacher concerning their rights and obligations with respect to such assault and shall render all reasonable assistance to the teacher in connection with handling of the incident by law enforcement and judicial officials.
 - d. The teacher shall suffer no loss of wages, leaves or benefits when involved in school related legal proceedings.
 - e. The Employer acknowledges that safety is of prime importance and will take reasonable measures necessary to provide a safe work environment.
- 14.2 Recognizing the intrinsic nature of each job performed in the State, the Employer agrees to provide a safe working environment. The Employer agrees to maintain all state facilities, buildings, grounds, and equipment in accordance with directions of the applicable federal and state agencies. The Employer agrees to comply with Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 48-443. In the event the building or worksite is leased from a county or other third party, it shall be the Employer's responsibility to diligently and timely pursue improvements that will make the worksite safe and healthy.

ARTICLE 15 – DOCUMENT AUTHORIZATION

In witness whereof, the parties hereto have set their hands this ____ day of _____, 2024~~5~~.

FOR THE ASSOCIATION:

FOR THE STATE:

~~Ryan Burkhardt~~, Rex Bavousett, President
and Co-Lead Negotiator
State Code Agency Teachers Association

Jim Pillen, Governor
State of Nebraska

Lisa Irwin, Co-Lead Negotiator
State Code Agency Teachers Association

Dan Birdsall, Chief Negotiator/Administrator
Employee Relations
State of Nebraska

Sean Davis, Administrator
State Personnel
State of Nebraska

APPENDIX A

SCATA SALARY SCHEDULE **2025-2026**

| | BA | BA+9 | BA+18 | BA+27 | BA+36/MA | MA+9 | MA+18 | MA+27 | MA+36 | MA+45/Doctorate |
|---------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Step 1 | 43,056 1 | 44,778 1.04 | 46,500 1.08 | 48,223 1.12 | 49,945 1.16 | 51,667 1.2 | 53,389 1.24 | 55,112 1.28 | 56,834 1.32 | 58,556 1.36 |
| Step 2 | 44,778 1.04 | 46,500 1.08 | 48,223 1.12 | 49,945 1.16 | 51,667 1.2 | 53,389 1.24 | 55,112 1.28 | 56,834 1.32 | 58,556 1.36 | 60,278 1.4 |
| Step 3 | 46,500 1.08 | 48,223 1.12 | 49,945 1.16 | 51,667 1.2 | 53,389 1.24 | 55,112 1.28 | 56,834 1.32 | 58,556 1.36 | 60,278 1.4 | 62,001 1.44 |
| Step 4 | 48,223 1.12 | 49,945 1.16 | 51,667 1.2 | 53,389 1.24 | 55,112 1.28 | 56,834 1.32 | 58,556 1.36 | 60,278 1.4 | 62,001 1.44 | 63,723 1.48 |
| Step 5 | 49,945 1.16 | 51,667 1.2 | 53,389 1.24 | 55,112 1.28 | 56,834 1.32 | 58,556 1.36 | 60,278 1.4 | 62,001 1.44 | 63,723 1.48 | 65,445 1.52 |
| Step 6 | 51,667 1.2 | 53,389 1.24 | 55,112 1.28 | 56,834 1.32 | 58,556 1.36 | 60,278 1.4 | 62,001 1.44 | 63,723 1.48 | 65,445 1.52 | 67,167 1.56 |
| Step 7 | 53,389 1.24 | 55,112 1.28 | 56,834 1.32 | 58,556 1.36 | 60,278 1.4 | 62,001 1.44 | 63,723 1.48 | 65,445 1.52 | 67,167 1.56 | 68,890 1.6 |
| Step 8 | 55,112 1.28 | 56,834 1.32 | 58,556 1.36 | 60,278 1.40 | 62,001 1.44 | 63,723 1.48 | 65,445 1.52 | 67,167 1.56 | 68,890 1.60 | 70,612 1.64 |
| Step 9 | --- | --- | 60,278 1.4 | 62,001 1.44 | 63,723 1.48 | 65,445 1.52 | 67,167 1.56 | 68,890 1.6 | 70,612 1.64 | 72,334 1.68 |
| Step 10 | --- | --- | 62,001 1.44 | 63,723 1.48 | 65,445 1.52 | 67,167 1.56 | 68,890 1.6 | 70,612 1.64 | 72,334 1.68 | 74,056 1.72 |
| Step 11 | --- | --- | --- | 65,445 1.52 | 67,167 1.56 | 68,890 1.6 | 70,612 1.64 | 72,334 1.68 | 74,056 1.72 | 75,779 1.76 |
| Step 12 | --- | --- | --- | 67,167 1.56 | 68,890 1.6 | 70,612 1.64 | 72,334 1.68 | 74,056 1.72 | 75,779 1.76 | 77,501 1.8 |
| Step 13 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 70,612 1.64 | 72,334 1.68 | 74,056 1.72 | 75,779 1.76 | 77,501 1.8 | 79,223 1.84 |
| Step 14 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 72,334 1.68 | 74,056 1.72 | 75,779 1.76 | 77,501 1.8 | 79,223 1.84 | 80,945 1.88 |
| Step 15 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 74,056 1.72 | 75,779 1.76 | 77,501 1.8 | 79,223 1.84 | 80,945 1.88 | 82,668 1.92 |
| Step 16 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 77,501 1.8 | 79,223 1.84 | 80,945 1.88 | 82,668 1.92 | 84,390 1.96 |
| Step 17 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 80,945 1.88 | 82,668 1.92 | 84,390 1.96 | 86,112 2 |
| Step 18 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 86,112 2 | 87,834 2.04 |

SCATA SALARY SCHEDULE **2026-2027**

| | BA | BA+9 | BA+18 | BA+27 | BA+36/MA | MA+9 | MA+18 | MA+27 | MA+36 | MA+45/Doctorate |
|---------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Step 1 | 44,348 1 | 46,122 1.04 | 47,896 1.08 | 49,670 1.12 | 51,444 1.16 | 53,218 1.2 | 54,992 1.24 | 56,765 1.28 | 58,539 1.32 | 60,313 1.36 |
| Step 2 | 46,122 1.04 | 47,896 1.08 | 49,670 1.12 | 51,444 1.16 | 53,218 1.2 | 54,992 1.24 | 56,765 1.28 | 58,539 1.32 | 60,313 1.36 | 62,087 1.4 |
| Step 3 | 47,896 1.08 | 49,670 1.12 | 51,444 1.16 | 53,218 1.2 | 54,992 1.24 | 56,765 1.28 | 58,539 1.32 | 60,313 1.36 | 62,087 1.4 | 63,861 1.44 |
| Step 4 | 49,670 1.12 | 51,444 1.16 | 53,218 1.2 | 54,992 1.24 | 56,765 1.28 | 58,539 1.32 | 60,313 1.36 | 62,087 1.4 | 63,861 1.44 | 65,635 1.48 |
| Step 5 | 51,444 1.16 | 53,218 1.2 | 54,992 1.24 | 56,765 1.28 | 58,539 1.32 | 60,313 1.36 | 62,087 1.4 | 63,861 1.44 | 65,635 1.48 | 67,409 1.52 |
| Step 6 | 53,218 1.2 | 54,992 1.24 | 56,765 1.28 | 58,539 1.32 | 60,313 1.36 | 62,087 1.4 | 63,861 1.44 | 65,635 1.48 | 67,409 1.52 | 69,183 1.56 |
| Step 7 | 54,992 1.24 | 56,765 1.28 | 58,539 1.32 | 60,313 1.36 | 62,087 1.4 | 63,861 1.44 | 65,635 1.48 | 67,409 1.52 | 69,183 1.56 | 70,957 1.6 |
| Step 8 | 56,765 1.28 | 58,539 1.32 | 60,313 1.36 | 62,087 1.40 | 63,861 1.44 | 65,635 1.48 | 67,409 1.52 | 69,183 1.56 | 70,957 1.60 | 72,731 1.64 |
| Step 9 | --- | --- | 62,087 1.4 | 63,861 1.44 | 65,635 1.48 | 67,409 1.52 | 69,183 1.56 | 70,957 1.6 | 72,731 1.64 | 74,505 1.68 |
| Step 10 | --- | --- | 63,861 1.44 | 65,635 1.48 | 67,409 1.52 | 69,183 1.56 | 70,957 1.6 | 72,731 1.64 | 74,505 1.68 | 76,279 1.72 |
| Step 11 | --- | --- | --- | 67,409 1.52 | 69,183 1.56 | 70,957 1.6 | 72,731 1.64 | 74,505 1.68 | 76,279 1.72 | 78,052 1.76 |
| Step 12 | --- | --- | --- | 69,183 1.56 | 70,957 1.6 | 72,731 1.64 | 74,505 1.68 | 76,279 1.72 | 78,052 1.76 | 79,826 1.8 |
| Step 13 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 72,731 1.64 | 74,505 1.68 | 76,279 1.72 | 78,052 1.76 | 79,826 1.8 | 81,600 1.84 |
| Step 14 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 74,505 1.68 | 76,279 1.72 | 78,052 1.76 | 79,826 1.8 | 81,600 1.84 | 83,374 1.88 |
| Step 15 | --- | --- | --- | --- | 76,279 1.72 | 78,052 1.76 | 79,826 1.8 | 81,600 1.84 | 83,374 1.88 | 85,148 1.92 |
| Step 16 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 79,826 1.8 | 81,600 1.84 | 83,374 1.88 | 85,148 1.92 | 86,922 1.96 |
| Step 17 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 83,374 1.88 | 85,148 1.92 | 86,922 1.96 | 88,696 2 |
| Step 18 | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | 88,696 2 | 90,470 2.04 |

