

NOTE: While Colorado school districts are not required by law to adopt a regulation on this subject, some content in this sample reflects legal requirements school districts must follow. This sample contains the content/language that CASB believes best meets the intent of the law. However, the district should consult with its own legal counsel to determine appropriate language that meets local circumstances and needs.

Professional Staff Recruiting/Hiring

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

1. Vacancies

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

2. Applications

All applications will be submitted to the personnel office.

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

All applicants will report to the personnel office and complete an application form.

3. Initial screening and interview

The personnel office will screen applications and conduct the initial interview with all applicants. The objectives of the screening and initial interview process are to:

- a. Determine if the applicant meets the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) for designation as a highly qualified teacher.
- b. Determine the suitability of the applicant for the specific position.
- c. Determine those applicants who are most qualified for the position.
- d. Ensure eligible applicants from the district's priority hiring pool receive first opportunity to interview, as required by law.**
- e. Discuss with the applicant any district policies and procedures pertinent to the job and to the employment process.

4. Background checks

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

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

The department's records shall indicate if the applicant has been convicted of, pled *nolo contendere* to, received a deferred sentence, or had his or her license or authorization denied, annulled, suspended or revoked for **a felony or misdemeanor crimes involving unlawful sexual behavior, unlawful behavior involving children or domestic violence**. The department shall provide any available information to indicate whether the **applicant has been dismissed by or resigned from a school district as a result of an allegation of unlawful behavior involving a child, including unlawful sexual behavior which was supported by a preponderance of evidence according to information provided to the department by a school district and confirmed by the department in accordance with state law**. The department shall also provide information regarding whether the applicant's license or certification has ever been denied, suspended, revoked or annulled in any state, including but not limited to any information gained as a result of an inquiry to a national teacher information clearinghouse.

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

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

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

5. **Credit reports**

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

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

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

7. **Placement interview**

To the extent possible, the district shall utilize interview committees led by the supervisor of the person to be employed and comprised of representatives of those groups most likely to be associated with the person to be employed. Prospective superintendents and principals will be interviewed by the Board of Education along with appropriate school and community committees. The purpose of the interviews are to:

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

8. Selection

The superintendent shall consider the recommendations of the interviewing committees and recommend to the Board of Education the candidate deemed most appropriate for the position. If there is a negative vote by the Board, the superintendent shall submit a new recommendation for approval.

9. Contract or job offer

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

10. Information report to state

In accordance with federal and state law, the personnel office will report the name, address and social security number of every new employee to Colorado State Directory of New Hires, P.O. Box 2920, Denver, Colorado 80201-2920.

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

Upon receiving a Notice of Wage assignment, the district shall remit the designated payment within 7 days of withholding the income according to instructions contained in the Notice. Child support withholding takes priority over other legal actions against the same wages.

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NOTE 1: Regarding the requirement that an applicant submit a notarized, completed form about his or her criminal history, state law defines "convicted" as: "[A] conviction by a jury or by a court and shall also include the forfeiture of any bail, bond, or other security deposited to secure appearance by a person charged with a felony or misdemeanor, the payment of a fine, a guilty plea accepted by a court, a plea of

nolo contendere, and the imposition of a deferred sentence or suspended sentence by the court.” C.R.S. 22-32-109.8(8)(a). Any district form used to certify a nonlicensed applicant’s criminal history should reflect this broad definition of “convicted” to ensure that a nonlicensed applicant discloses the legally required information.

NOTE 2: When the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) provides an update to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) regarding those school employees previously subject to a fingerprint-based background check, CDE must provide that update to school districts. Each school district must then cross-check its employee list with the update and take appropriate action if necessary, including parental notification. C.R.S. 22-2-119(4)(b), 1 CCR 301-83.

NOTE 3: A non-licensed employee who is terminated solely due to disqualification from employment for a felony domestic violence and/or a felony drug offense, as required by state law, may reapply for employment after five years have passed since the date the offense was committed. The law does provide exceptions to this provision, stating the district may conduct an assessment to determine if the applicant poses a risk to district students or staff, and also allowing a person who is ineligible for district employment as a result of such a conviction to submit a written request for reconsideration by the district. The law includes the specific factors for reconsideration at the applicant’s request.