

## **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 Human Resource staff.

### **2. Applications**

All applications will be submitted to the Human Resource staff.

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 Human Resource staff and complete an application form.

### **3. Initial screening and interview**

The Human Resource staff 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 applicable licensure requirements under state and federal law.
- 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 Human Resource staff 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. **Fingerprinting non-licensed employees**

- a. All non-licensed applicants selected for employment in an administrative position must submit a complete set of fingerprints taken by a qualified law enforcement agency, an authorized district or BOCES employee or any third party approved by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.
- b. Non-licensed applicants selected for employment must also submit a completed form, as required by state law to certify, under penalty of perjury, either that he or she has never been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor charge, not including any misdemeanor traffic offense, or that he or she has been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor charge (not including any misdemeanor traffic offense). The form must specify the felony or misdemeanor, the date of conviction and the court entering judgment.
- c. The school district will release the fingerprints to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation for the purpose of conducting a state and national fingerprint-based criminal history record check utilizing the records of the Colorado Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. When the results of the fingerprint-based criminal history record check reveal a record of arrest without a disposition, the district shall require the employee to submit to a named-based criminal history record check.
- d. Although an applicant may be conditionally employed prior to receiving the results, he or she may be terminated if the results are inconsistent with the information provided on the form. In accordance with state law, the employee or applicant shall be terminated or disqualified from district employment if the results disclose a conviction for any of the following offenses:
  - (1) felony child abuse, as described in C.R.S. 18-6-401;
  - (2) a crime of violence, as defined in C.R.S. 18-1.3-406 (2);
  - (3) a felony involving unlawful sexual behavior, as defined in C.R.S. 16-22-102 (9);

- (4) felony domestic violence, as defined in C.R.S. 18-6-800.3;
- (5) a felony drug offense, as described in C.R.S. 18-18-401 et seq., committed on or after August 25, 2012;
- (6) felony indecent exposure, as described in C.R.S. 18-7-302;
- (7) attempt, solicitation or conspiracy to commit any of the offenses described in items 1-6; or
- (8) an offense committed outside of this state, which if committed in this state would constitute an offense described in items 1-7.

The district will notify the district attorney of inconsistent results for action or possible prosecution.

## **5. Credit reports**

The Human Resource staff 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 Human Resource staff 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 Human Resource staff 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.

## **6. 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.

## **7. 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. The superintendent shall be selected by the Board.

## 8. Contract or job offer

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

## 9. Information report to state

In accordance with federal and state law, the Human Resource staff 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 completed form certifying 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. C.R.S. 22-2-119 (4)(b).

NOTE 3: An employee who is terminated or an applicant who is disqualified from district employment for a felony domestic violence and/or a felony drug offense may reapply for district employment after five years have passed since the date the offense was committed. C.R.S. 22-32-109.8 (6.5)(b). For a felony domestic violence offense, the applicant must also show successful completion of any court-ordered treatment. Other exceptions to this provision allow the district to conduct an assessment to determine if the applicant poses a risk to district students or staff, and also allow the applicant to submit a written request for reconsideration by the district. C.R.S. 22-32-109.8 (6.5)(d). The law includes the specific factors the district must consider.

NOTE 4: Federal law requires school districts to notify individuals fingerprinted that the fingerprints will be used to check the criminal history records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Districts must also notify fingerprinted applicants about the opportunity to challenge the accuracy of the information contained in the FBI identification record and the procedure to obtain a change, correction or update of an FBI identification record. 28 C.F.R. 50.12 (b). Districts must retain documentation that this notification was provided. For sample notification and acknowledgement forms that meet these federal requirements, visit the Colorado Bureau of Investigation's website: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cbi/identification-unit>.