# **Educational Support Personnel**

# 5:290 Employment Termination and Suspensions

## Resignation

An employee is requested to provide two weeks' notice of a resignation. A resignation notice cannot be revoked once given.

## Retirement

Please refer to the current Contractual Agreement between P.A.E.C. Governing Board - SEJA #803 and Teachers and Program Assistants, P.A.E.C. Council Local 571 IFT-AFT.

#### For employees not covered by this Agreement or if not addressed in this Agreement:

An employee planning to retire should notify his or her supervisor by December 1 of his or her retirement year.

#### Non-RIF Dismissal

Please refer to the current Contractual Agreement between P.A.E.C. Governing Board - SEJA #803 and Teachers and Program Assistants, P.A.E.C. Council Local 571 IFT-AFT.

### For employees not covered by this Agreement or if not addressed in this Agreement:

The Cooperative may terminate an at-will employee at any time for any or no reason, but not for a reason prohibited by State or federal law.

Employees who are employed under a contract for a fixed term may be dismissed: (1) at the end of the school year or at the end of their respective contract, or (2) mid-year or mid-contract provided appropriate due process procedures are provided.

The Executive Director is responsible for making dismissal recommendations to the Governing Board consistent with the Board's goal of having a highly qualified, high performing staff. This includes recommending a non-licensed employee for immediate dismissal for willful or negligent failure to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by 325 ILCS 5/.

### Reduction in Force and Recall

Please refer to the current Contractual Agreement between P.A.E.C. Governing Board - SEJA #803 and Teachers and Program Assistants, P.A.E.C. Council Local 571 IFT-AFT.

### For employees not covered by this Agreement or if not addressed in this Agreement:

The Board may, as necessary or prudent, decide to decrease the number of educational support personnel or to discontinue some particular type of educational support service and, as a result of that action, dismiss or reduce the hours of one or more educational support employees. When making decisions concerning reduction in force and recall, the Board will follow Sections 10-22.34c (outsourcing non-instructional services) and 10-23.5 (procedures) of the School Code, to the extent they are applicable and not superseded by legislation or an applicable collective bargaining agreement.

#### Final Paycheck

A terminating employee's final paycheck will be adjusted for any unused, earned vacation credit. Employees are paid for all earned vacation. Terminating employees will receive their final pay on the next regular payday following the date of termination, except that an employee dismissed due to a reduction in force shall receive his or her final paycheck on or before the next regular pay date following the last day of employment.

#### Suspension

The Board or Executive Director or designee upon receipt of a recommendation from the IL Dept. Children and Family Services (DCFS) that the Cooperative remove an employee from his or her position when he or she is the subject of a pending DCFS investigation that relates to his or her employment with the Cooperative, the Board or Executive Director or designee, in consultation with the Board Attorney, will determine whether to:

- 1. Let the employee remain in his or her position pending the outcome of the investigation; or
- 2. Remove the employee as recommended, proceeding with:
  - a. A suspension with pay; or
  - b. A suspension without pay.

If an educational support employee is suspended with pay, either voluntarily or involuntarily, pending the outcome of a criminal investigation or prosecution, and the employee is later dismissed as a result of his or her criminal conviction, the employee must repay to the Cooperative all compensation and the value of all benefits received by him or her during the suspension. The Executive Director will notify the employee of this requirement when the employee is suspended.

#### LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-22.34c and 5/10-23.5

5 ILCS 430 et seq., State Officials and Employees Ethics Act.

325 ILCS 5/7.4(c-10), Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

820 ILCS 105/4a, Minimum Wage Law.

CROSS REF.: 5:90 (Abused and Neglected Child Reporting), 5:120 (Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest), 5:240 (Suspension), 5:270 (Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment)

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REVIEWED: August 21, 2024

Proviso Area for Exceptional Children (P.A.E.C.)