

[Note: The provisions of this policy substantially reflect legal requirements.]

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that qualified teachers are employed by the school district and to fulfill its duty to ascertain the licensure status of its teachers. A school board that employs a teacher who does not hold a valid teaching license or permit places itself at risk for a reduction in state aid. This policy does not negate a teacher's duty and responsibility to maintain a current and valid teaching license.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. A qualified teacher is one holding a valid license to perform the particular service for which the teacher is employed by the school district.
- B. No person shall be a qualified teacher until the school district verifies through the Minnesota education licensing system available on the Minnesota Department of Education website that the person is a qualified teacher consistent with state law.
- C. The school district has a duty to ascertain the licensure status of its teachers and ensure that the school district's teacher license files are up to date. The school district shall establish a procedure for annually reviewing its teacher license files to verify that every teacher's license is current and appropriate to the particular service for which the teacher is employed by the school district.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule for the annual review of teacher licenses.
- B. If it is discovered that a teacher's license has expired, the superintendent or designee will immediately investigate the circumstances surrounding the lack of license and will take appropriate action. The teacher shall be advised that the teacher's failure to have the license reinstated will constitute gross insubordination, inefficiency and willful neglect of duty which are grounds for immediate discharge from employment.
- D. The duty and responsibility of maintaining a current and valid teaching license appropriate to the teaching assignment as required by this policy shall remain with the teacher. A teacher's failure to comply with this policy may be grounds for the teacher's immediate discharge from employment.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 122A.16 (Highly Qualified Teacher Defined)
Minn. Stat. § 122A.22 (District Verification of Teacher Licenses)

Minn. Stat. § 122A.40, Subd. 13 (Employment; Contracts; Termination – Immediate Discharge)

Minn. Stat. § 127A.42 (Reduction of Aid for Violation of Law)

Vettleson v. Special Sch. Dist. No. 1, 361 N.W.2d 425 (Minn. App. 1985)

Lucio v. School Bd. of Independent Sch. Dist. No. 625, 574 N.W.2d 737 (Minn. App. 1998)

In the Matter of the Proposed Discharge of John R. Statz (Christine D. VerPloeg), June 8, 1992, *affirmed*, 1993 WL 129639 (Minn. App. 1993)

Cross References:

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Independent School District

Waconia, MN