

Belding Area Schools Administrative Handbook



**Belding Area Schools
1975 Orchard Street
Belding, MI 48809**

I. Introduction

The material that follows has been developed to further strengthen the management team concept and to assure a continuation of good communication between the Board and administrative staff.

This handbook outlines the entire understanding relating to the conditions of employment for administrative positions. No verbal or written statements not reflected in this handbook will apply or be recognized.

This handbook is subject to change by the Board of Education from time to time with prior input from the management team.

This handbook is not a labor agreement for purposes of the Public Employment Relations Act.

II. Board - Administration Relationship

The Board and administration enter into this relationship with an understanding of the importance of a team management concept. Such a team includes the Board and all administrative personnel within the Belding Area Schools. The administrators and supervisory personnel shall be involved in developing and achieving the educational goals of the school district, consulted in appropriate policy decisions, and supported in their administrative assignments.

Administrators and supervisory personnel agree that there must be an understanding of the roles of the Board and administration and demonstration of mutual support of these roles. To further assist in the understanding of the respective roles, administrators and supervisory personnel will provide representation at regularly scheduled Board meetings to assist the Superintendent and Board in any way possible. Administrators and supervisors will be available to the Board for special presentations.

Similarly, we believe that the professional status of the administrative staff demands a high level of performance and accountability exceeding that of any other group in the district.

III. Employment Procedures

A. Qualifications

1. Administrators involved in the instructional aspect of the school district operation shall hold at least a Master's Degree and meet all State criteria relative to administrative certification.
2. Applicants must complete a Board of Education employment application form.

3. Previous records and references of applicants will be checked including previous employment and personal references.
4. Successful applicants must provide payroll and withholding information as required.
5. Each new administrator will be placed on a two-year probationary period during which his/her ability to fulfill the requirements of the position will be evaluated.
6. Pending final approval by the Board of Education, the Superintendent has the discretion to offer one, two, or three-year fixed duration contracts to administrators after the completion of the probationary period.
7. Employees will be expected to attend in-service training programs provided for orientation to their employment responsibilities.
8. Employees must meet any requirements established by the law for continued employment.
9. Nothing in this handbook or any individual contract will be construed to convey tenure in any administrative capacity.

B. Medical Information

1. Physical Examination

- a. A physical examination, by a licensed physician, may be required as a condition of employment, or upon return to active duty after an extended absence.
- b. Cost of all pre-employment examinations will be assumed by the candidate.
- c. At such other times as may be deemed necessary by the Board of Education a physical examination may be required at the Board's expense, by a physician selected by the Board

2. Psychiatric Examination

A psychiatric examination may be required by the Board of Education, whenever the Board deems it necessary. The cost of such examinations shall be assumed by the Board of Education.

C. Evaluation Procedure

Administrator's performance shall be evaluated by the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee not less than annually using multiple rating categories that

take into account data on student growth as a significant factor (See Sections 1248 and 1249 of the Revised School Code – All applicable law will be adhered to). The Superintendent or designee will meet to discuss and determine performance standards, and district goals, prior to commencement of the evaluation process. Criteria upon which Administrator shall be evaluated will be communicated to Administrator by the Superintendent or designee prior to the initiation of the evaluation process if there has been any change in the process since the last evaluation.

D. Transfer

Any administrator will be given the opportunity to seek a transfer when an administrative opening occurs within the district. Administrative positions shall be posted for ten (10) school days. Administrators from within the district will be given consideration equal to other applicants for positions for which they qualify.

E. Reassignment

1. Reassignments will be made when the Board and Superintendent deem it necessary to carry on the educational process in the best interest of the district. Opportunity will be provided for administrators involved to discuss their proposed reassignments with the Board and the Superintendent.
2. In cases where the reassignment is to an alternate classification involving different income or number of weeks worked, after the final decision has been made by the Board and the Superintendent, the administrator may implement the due process procedure if he/she so desires.
3. If an administrator is re-assigned to non-administrative duties, service as an administrator, shall count toward seniority in the new assignment to the extent allowed by law and the collective bargaining agreement that controls the new assignment.
4. In the event of a reassignment under Sections D, E, and F, the salary, workdays and benefits will be commensurate with those of the new position.

F. Staff Reduction

Should reduction in administrative staff become necessary, the Superintendent will inform the administrators directly involved in writing and give reasons for such reductions.

G. Voluntary Termination of Contract

The "Administrative Contract of Employment" signed by a member of the team specifies that "this contract may be terminated through mutual consent of the parties involved." An administrator desiring voluntary termination shall meet with the

Superintendent and provide reasons for the request in writing. As much advance notice as possible should be provided to assure a reasonable opportunity to secure a satisfactory replacement.

The Superintendent shall feel free to discuss the voluntary termination of employment with an administrator when it appears to be in the interest of the district and the administrator.

H. Dismissal and Discipline

Dismissal of a team member for performance related purposes should normally be the final action in the process designed to improve an aspect of the Board's operation. The following procedures shall normally be implemented prior to dismissal:

1. Annual administrative appraisals are designed to establish major objectives of the Board for various aspects of the educational enterprise. Personal conferences conducted at that time should signal areas of unsatisfactory performance.
2. Documentation of less than effective and/or inappropriate conduct through warnings or reprimands will be placed in the employee's personnel file.
3. Personal conferences with the administrator shall be conducted by the supervisory administrator and/or the Superintendent.
4. A written description of the reason for dismissal will be submitted to the administrator. When the interests of the district warrant, the administrator may be removed from his/her post, with pay, pending dismissal.

IV. Due Process Procedure

A. Discipline or Discharge

Administrators will not be disciplined or discharged during the term of their individual contract for reasons that are arbitrary or capricious.

Due process provides an appropriate recourse to an administrator who believes that his/her professional rights or employment status have been jeopardized through the action of a superior. An administrator may invoke the due process procedure whenever he/she experiences difficulties leading to:

1. A recommendation of dismissal from his/her assignment.
2. Reassignment of an administrator to a different classification.

3. Disciplinary action.
4. Charges likely to cause damage to his/her professional status.

B. Resolution of Dispute

The administrator concerned may pursue a resolution of the dispute through the following sources:

1. The Superintendent.
2. The Board of Education. (dismissal and non-renewal only)

V. Administrative Work Year

A. Job Responsibilities

1. Specific responsibilities for each classification of administrator are outlined in the "Administrative Information and Job Descriptions" maintained by and available through the Superintendent's Office.
2. Administrators are expected to schedule work for the number of weeks specified in their individual contracts throughout the year to assure the orderly completion of assigned duties. Working weeks will not fall below the number listed by position in Addendum "A". Non-work time for administrative personnel employed for forty-five (45) weeks or more may be distributed throughout the year in such a manner as to avoid conflict with the responsibilities of the assignment and with the prior approval of the Superintendent of Schools.
3. Building principals are expected to schedule work when school is in session and at other times as arranged with the superintendent to fulfill their contracts. Building principals may consider instructional break times (e.g. Christmas and spring break) as non-work times unless required to work by the Superintendent.
4. It is expected that all administrators will attempt to keep the Superintendent's Office informed of their whereabouts during non-work time so that they can be reached when necessary. The Middle School and High School Administrative Staff shall maintain building schedules of non-work time with copies provided to the Superintendent's Office.
5. The Board of Education and Administrative Team recognize that emergency and unforeseen events may occur which would require the immediate attention of the building administrator at times other than during regular school hours.
6. Administrators endorse the concept of "24 hours per day and 365 days-per-year" responsibility to their assignments. Many aspects of the assignment cannot be

completed during a standard workday including P.T.O., athletic events, Board meetings and negotiations; pressing emergency situations may warrant other non-scheduled, non-office hour service.

7. The Board of Education endorses the concept of "compensatory time" which implies that an administrator should not be required to exceed a reasonable total time commitment to his/her individual contract. Utilization of compensatory time must be arranged with, and have the prior approval of, the Superintendent of Schools. If school is closed because of Acts of God, administrators may be required to attend an administrative team meeting at 10 a.m., if deemed necessary by the Superintendent. The Director of Building and Grounds will receive a personal day in place of the snow day if other administrators are not required to work.
8. Whenever emergency circumstances disrupt the normal operation of the instructional program, administrators will be available, upon the request of the Superintendent.

B. Salary Provisions

1. Salary:

Instructional Administrators:

High School Principal	\$95,000
High School Assistant Principal	\$80,000
Middle School Principal	\$85,000
Middle School Assistant Principal	\$75,000
Elementary Principal	\$83,000

Directors:

Director of Facilities	\$67,000
Dean of Students	\$65,000
Director of Instruction and Technology	\$92,000
Direction of Finance	\$67,000

In the event of a vacancy and new hire, the Superintendent and Board may modify the salary provisions to reflect the new administrator's prior experience and/or other qualifications.

Consistent with the provisions of Section 1250 of the Revised School Code, Principals', Assistant Principals', and the Director of Instruction and Technology's job performance and job accomplishments will be significant factors in determining any adjustment to the salary remuneration of the administrator. Any amounts paid under section 1250 of the Revised School Code in a given year will be paid off schedule.

2. Educational Adjustments

Director with less than a Bachelor's Degree	-\$2,000
Second Masters Degree, Specialist Degree, or Doctorate	\$4,000

3. Longevity

An administrator may add \$600 as longevity pay to his/her salary for each year of experience awarded by the District in an administrative capacity, completed on the previous June 30. The longevity pay may reach a maximum of \$3,000 (five years).

C. Separation of Employment

In the event of a separation of employment at a time when an administrator has not earned all the salary paid to the date of separation, the administrator shall be responsible for repayment of the excess salary and benefits costs.

VI. Administrative Benefits

A. Sick Days

Administrators will be granted fifteen (15) sick days per year. Unused sick time may accumulate. With the approval of the Superintendent, sick time may be authorized for the funeral of an administrator's relative. Pay for unused sick time will be in accordance with the BEA Master Agreement.

B. Holidays

All administrators will be granted the following holidays, which are not chargeable against the administrator's non-work time. It is recognized that emergencies may arise that will necessitate the calling of an administrator to his/her assignment at any time, including holidays.

1. Independence Day
2. Labor Day
3. Thanksgiving Day
4. Friday following Thanksgiving Day - provided school is not in session
5. Day preceding Christmas Day - provided school is not in session
6. Christmas Day
7. Day Preceding New Year's Day - provided school is not in session
8. New Year's Day
9. Good Friday - On the day provided school is not in session
10. Memorial Day - On the day officially celebrated

C. Personal Business Leave

1. Three normal working days of paid personal leave will be granted to transact personal business.
2. Arrangements for use of personal leave must be made with the Superintendent 24 hours in advance, except in cases of emergency.
3. The day immediately preceding or immediately following a legal holiday or bona fide vacation period will not be recognized by the Board of Education as a personal business leave day unless specifically approved by the Superintendent of Schools.
4. Personal business leave must not be used as vacation time. Personal business leave is not accumulative.

D. Fringe Benefits

1. Insurance
 - a. The Board shall provide up to full family health and medical insurance within current legislative hard cap restraints. The Board shall provide up to full family dental insurance.
 - b. The Board shall provide up to full family vision insurance.
 - c. The Board shall provide one hundred thousand (\$100,000) in term life insurance for each administrator.
2. Any administrator who chooses not to avail him/herself of some or all of this insurance will receive the legislative single subscriber hard cap amount annually in case under a qualified Section 125 Plan.

Added to this allowance is an allowance for business, tuition/books and conference related expenses. This dollar amount shall be \$3,100. Items purchased with the business expense allowance are considered district property and shall be returned to the district upon any type of cessation of employment.

3. Each employee must provide assurance that he/she is not covered elsewhere by equivalent hospitalization protection provided through their spouse or other employee.
4. The Board shall make payment of insurance premiums for each employee to provide insurance coverage for the full twelve (12) month period provided the employee is actively on payroll including periods when the administrator is on paid leave. Benefit payments will not be made while an administrator is on unpaid leave unless required by the Family Medical Leave Act.

5. Payment of insurance premiums, by the Board of Education, will cease the last day of the month in which separation or termination of employment occurs and when accumulated sick leave has been exhausted unless further payment is required under the Family Medical Leave Act.
6. Cellular phone allowance of \$50.00 per month, per administrator.

E. Vacation

Vacation time for each fifty-two week administrator will be credited for use on July 1. Fifty-two week administrators will be allowed to carry over a maximum of ten (10) vacation days not to exceed 30 cumulative days at the beginning of any given contract year. Unused vacation time will not be compensated.

F. Worker's Compensation

Each administrative employee is covered by worker's compensation as required by law. It is the administrator's responsibility to report any injury or accident which is job-related to the Superintendent of Schools.

G. Jury Duty

Administrators will be permitted time off work with pay when servicing on a jury.

VII. Miscellaneous Provisions

If any provision of this handbook is found contrary to law, then such provision or application shall not be deemed valid and subsisting, except to the extent permitted by law, but all other provisions of the handbook shall continue in full force and effect.

This handbook shall supersede any rules, regulations, or practices of the Board which shall be contrary to or inconsistent with its terms. Any individual contract between the Board and an administrator shall be subject to and consistent with the terms and conditions of this agreement, and an individual contract hereinafter executed shall be expressly made subject to and consistent with the terms of this handbook.

An emergency manager appointed under the Local Government and School District Fiscal Accountability Act has the right to reject, modify, or terminate this handbook as provided in the Local Government and School District Fiscal Accountability Act.

Addendum “A”

Position	Insurance Year Terms Work Year:	Scheduled Work Weeks/Vacation:	Time “Off”:
Director of Instruction and Technology	July 1 – June 30	52 weeks with 4 weeks vacation	
High School Principal	July 1 – June 30	52 weeks with 4 weeks vacation	
High School Assistant Principal	Mid-August – Mid-August	44 weeks	Last two weeks of June, July, first two weeks of August
Middle School Principal	Mid-August – Mid-August	46 weeks	Last week of June, July, first week of August
Middle School Assistant Principal	Mid-August – Mid-August	44 weeks	Last two weeks of June, July, first two weeks of August
Elementary Principal	Mid-August – Mid-August	46 weeks	Last week of June, July, first week of August
Dean of Students	Mid-August – Mid-August	44 weeks	Last two weeks of June, July, first two weeks of August
Director of Finance	July 1 – June 30	52 weeks with 4 weeks vacation	
Director of Facilities	July 1 – June 30	52 weeks with 4 weeks vacation	