ARTICLE X

EVALUATION AND DISCIPLINE

1.0 **Purpose:** The purposes of these procedures are to evaluate employee performance, provide assistance and remediation to employees whose performance is less than satisfactory, impose discipline where appropriate and continue to improve the quality of educational services provided by employees.

2.0 **Evaluator:** The employee's immediate administrator shall be responsible for evaluating the employee and assisting the employee in improving performance when necessary. The administrator may delegate these functions, but shall retain ultimate responsibility. Any bargaining unit employee, including but not limited to a department chairperson, who objects to being required to evaluate another employee, shall not be required to do so, but may be required to participate in classroom visitations, guidance and assistance. As to evaluation of site-based support service personnel excluding library media teachers, there shall be consultation between the site administrator and the employee’s technical supervisor, if any, prior to either one issuing the annual evaluation.

3.0 **Frequency:** Evaluations shall be made at least once each academic year for probationary or qualifying employees, and at least once every other year for permanent employees. In the case of permanent employees who are deemed “highly qualified” under 20 U.S.C. Section 7801, and have been employed by the District for at least 10 years, the period between evaluations may, in the joint discretion of the evaluator and the employee, be extended beyond the two-year period so that the evaluation may be made once in a three, four, or five-year period, subject to the following limitations:

a. Any such arrangement for an evaluation beyond the two-year cycle requires the joint consent of the evaluator and employee; such consent is entirely discretionary and individualized, and may be withdrawn by either party at any time.

b. However, (i) the withdrawing party shall provide written notice to the other party to that effect, identifying the reason(s) or cause(s) for the withdrawal, and (ii) the notice of withdrawal should be given before the end of the school year preceding the next intended evaluation, and shall not be given later than the date that the newly reinstated evaluation procedures are to be commenced.

c. Because the Education Code (Section 44664) makes these evaluation-frequency decisions entirely discretionary and individualized, any decision to grant, deny or withdraw consent shall not be subject to the grievance procedures of this Agreement. However, claimed violations of the notice provisions of paragraph b. above are subject to grievance procedures.
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4.0 Establishment of Objectives: Soon after commencement of the academic year the evaluator and employee shall work cooperatively to establish the employee's objectives for the year. This shall be accomplished through one or more planning conferences to discuss proposed objectives.

4.1 Individual performance objectives shall relate to, but not necessarily be limited to, the following:

a. Standards of expected student progress and achievement for the grade level and areas of study based on District, special program and local school determinations; and appropriate instructional objectives and strategy-planning methods, instructional materials, and methods of assessing student progress and achievement;

b. Expected employee competence, including but not limited to knowledge of subject matter, adherence to curricular objectives, use of effective teaching and supervision techniques, effective use of time maintenance of appropriate professional relationships and communications with students, parents, and other staff members, and compliance with District and school rules, policies, and standards;

c. The performance of those duties and responsibilities, including supervisory and advisory duties, to be performed pursuant to Article IX, Hours; and

d. The maintenance of proper student control and suitable learning environment, with mutual respect and proper sensitivity to such issues as race, sex, ethnicity, the handicapped, and socioeconomic differences.

For non-teaching employees such as counselors, psychologists, SAAS Counselors and other service personnel, performance objectives shall be comparable to the above, but are to be related to the duties of their particular classification.

4.2 If the employee and evaluator are unable to reach agreement upon the content of the objectives, and the employee is dissatisfied with the evaluator's determination, the employee may appeal the matter to the next higher administrative level for resolution. An employee who remains dissatisfied may note on the objectives form that the objectives were not the product of mutual agreement. In such cases the employee's required signature indicates only receipt and acknowledgment of the objectives which will be used for evaluation purposes.

4.3 During the school year, if performance problems develop or if constraints are identified which will affect the evaluatee's progress toward meeting the established objectives, the objectives may be modified. Either the employee or the evaluator may initiate discussion toward such a modification. If
the employee and evaluator are unable to reach agreement upon the modification and the employee is dissatisfied with the evaluator's determination, the employee may appeal the matter to the next higher administrative level as set forth in the preceding paragraph.

5.0 Observations, Records, and Assistance: Observations should be followed by conferences to discuss the employee's performance. If problems are identified, the evaluator shall make specific written recommendations for improvement, and offer appropriate counseling and assistance. Within four working days of the conference, a copy of written records relating to observations, advisory conferences and assistance offered or given shall be given to the employee for the employee's information, guidance, and as a warning to improve performance.

6.0 Final Evaluation Report: Not less than 30 calendar days before the last regularly scheduled school day of the employee's scheduled work year in which the evaluation takes place, the evaluator shall prepare and issue the Final Evaluation Report in which the employee's overall performance and progress toward objectives is evaluated. Prior to the end of the school year the evaluator shall hold a conference with the employee to discuss its contents. When a Final Evaluation Report is marked "Below Standard Performance," the evaluator shall specifically describe in writing the area of below standard performance, together with recommendations for improvement, and the assistance given and to be given.

6.1 The employee's required signature on the form does not necessarily indicate agreement with its contents, and the employee may attach a written response to each copy of the form within ten working days from date received. Such a written response becomes a permanent part of the record. The employee may also appeal the matter to the next higher administrative level.

6.2 The employee shall be given a copy of the Final Evaluation Report at the conference. A copy shall be placed in the employee's personnel file, and a copy retained by the school or office. Evaluation forms shall not be considered a public record.

6.3 Grievances: Evaluations are not subject to the grievance procedures of Article V, except when the final overall evaluation is "Below Standard." However, if the overall evaluation is "Meets Standards" but there is a significant disparity between that rating and the negative comments on the form, the evaluation shall be subject to the grievance procedure on the same basis as it would have been had the overall rating been Below Standard. Expedited arbitration procedures will be utilized when the threshold issue of "significant disparity" is submitted to a preliminary hearing for determination as to whether the case is subject to the grievance procedure (see Article V, Sections 13.0 and 15.0).
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7.0 Inadequate Service by Substitutes: The site administrator may, for cause, issue to a day-to-day substitute employee a notice of inadequate service. Such a notice shall, absent compelling circumstances, be issued within ten working days after the date(s) of service, with a copy to the employee (either in person or by certified mail to the employee’s address of record). Prior to issuance of such a notice, the site administrator shall make a reasonable effort to contact and confer with the substitute regarding the allegations. In addition to the grievance procedure, the employee may attach a written response to the report within ten working days from date received. The written response becomes a permanent part of the record.

8.0 Evaluation of Substitutes: Substitutes who are continuously assigned to the same location for an extended period (more than 20 consecutive working days) shall be evaluated not less than once each semester by the site administrator at the end of the assignment. Such evaluations do not involve the establishment of specific objectives as in the case of regular teachers, but are to rate preparation, skills, competence, personal qualities, and overall performance, together with recommendations for improving services. Observations, records, and assistance as provided in Section 5.0 shall be applicable.

8.1 Any substitute who receives more than one performance evaluation of less than satisfactory service within the last two years of District service shall not be granted a probationary contract. Any substitute who receives one performance evaluation of less than satisfactory service within the last two years of District service shall be reevaluated by the present immediate administrator for the purpose of determining eligibility for a probationary contract. Any such substitute who receives a less than satisfactory reevaluation shall not be granted a probationary contract.

8.2 Evaluation of Limited Term Personnel: Limited term personnel, such as non-tenured adult Education teachers, are subject to evaluation at any time; however, a teacher shall have the right to be evaluated upon request at the end of the assignment. If the administrator initiates such an evaluation, the observation, records and assistance provisions of Section 5.0 apply.

8.3 Examination References: Those examination references which are deemed by the District as being open and non-confidential are not subject to the grievance procedure, except in circumstances where the examination reference is based upon the same period of time as a previous evaluation but is significantly different from that evaluation. In such cases, if there is not a reasonable explanation for the difference, the reference may be ordered stricken.

8.4 Evaluation Request Upon Separation of Employment: If either the administrator or employee wishes to process an evaluation at the time of the employee’s separation from employment. It shall be done and a copy
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furnished the employee at his address of record. This evaluation process shall be completed prior to the date of separation if the employee has given notice of intended separation at least two weeks prior to the effective date.

9.0 Access and Response to Critical Material in Personnel Files: When the District receives a letter or other written material which contains allegations critical of an employee's performance or character, or which charges commission of an unlawful or immoral act, the following conditions shall apply:

a. If the document came from a member of the public, the matter shall first be investigated. Except in compelling circumstances, the employee shall be furnished a copy within 30 days of the District's receipt of the document. The document shall not be either placed in the personnel file or retained by the District unless it is reasonably determined that the allegations have some substance or plausibility. In any event, if the document is either retained and/or placed in the employee's personnel file, the employee shall be given a reasonable opportunity to attach a reply.

b. If the document came from within District personnel, the investigation required by paragraph a. may not be necessary or appropriate, but the remainder of the protections required by paragraph a, including the notice to the employee, shall be applicable.

9.1 Exempt from disclosure to the employee are documents which (1) are references obtained from outside the District or prior to employment, (2) were prepared by identifiable examination committee members as part of the examination procedure, or (3) were obtained in connection with a promotional examination.

10.0 Pre-disciplinary Matters: Pre-disciplinary actions such as warnings, conference memos and reprimands are not subject to the grievance procedures except when such documents are placed in the employee's official downtown file, or used as part of a formal disciplinary action (U-Notice or suspension), or overall Below-Standard Evaluation. In the event of a later formal disciplinary action, the document if challenged should not be deemed valid or established unless and until so proven under the normal "for cause" standard.

10.1 Employees shall be permitted to "live down" or "work off" a pre-disciplinary document by the passage of a period of four years without a recurrence of the same or similar conduct (unless a shorter period is agreed to by the parties). After achieving that passage of time, if the document is retained by the administrator (as may be required by law), it should be kept in a separate "expired" file and not become a basis, in whole or part, for a subsequent formal disciplinary action.
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11.0 Notices of Unsatisfactory Service or Act, and Suspension

a. Employees may be disciplined for cause. Such discipline may include Notices of Unsatisfactory Service or Act and/or suspension from duties without pay for up to fifteen working days, as authorized by Senate Bill 813. When any suspension without pay is imposed, the salary effects of that suspension shall not be implemented until the suspension has become final as provided in this section. Also, for a suspension of more than three days, the fourth and succeeding days of suspension shall not be implemented until the suspension has become final as provided in this section. If the discipline is based upon incompetence, the observation, records and assistance provisions of Section 5.0 apply.

b. The concept of "progressive discipline," and the prohibition of disparate treatment by an administrator, are to be generally applicable, but with the understanding that circumstances may make progressive discipline unnecessary, and that reasonable diversity and local practices are to be expected.

c. A Notice of Unsatisfactory Service or Act and/or suspension shall not be issued if it is based in whole or part on an event which occurred more than a reasonable period of time prior to the date that the Notice of Unsatisfactory Service or Act and/or suspension was issued.

d. When imposing discipline or when giving reprimands, warnings or criticism, confidentiality and privacy appropriate to the professional relationship shall be maintained.

e. When an administrator has a conference with an employee where it is evident at the time the meeting is convened that the employee is the focus of a possible disciplinary action, the employee shall be notified of the purpose of the meeting, before the meeting takes place, and that it is the employee's right to be accompanied and represented by a UTLA representative or by any other person so long as that person is not a representative of another employee organization. Non-availability of the representative for more than a reasonable time shall not delay the conference. However, this right shall not extend to routine conferences or to any conferences conducted under the evaluation procedures of this Article except for a final conference involving an overall "Below Standard" rating.

f. Prior to the imposition of a Notice of Unsatisfactory Service or Act and/or a suspension or termination, the administrator shall notify the employee (1) that such action is about to be taken; (2) that a meeting will be held to discuss the matter; and (3) that the employee may be accompanied by a UTLA representative or a person of the employee's choice, as long as that person is not a representative of another employee organization. Non-availability of the employee or representative for more
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than a reasonable time shall not delay the disciplinary action. At the close of or subsequent to the above meeting, the administrator shall announce to the employee (and representative, if any) the discipline to be imposed and immediately confirm it in writing on the appropriate District form. The above meeting may, in emergency situations requiring immediate suspension, be held as soon as possible after the suspension has begun.

g. The recipient of such notice of disciplinary action shall be permitted to file a written statement in response to the Notice, which shall be attached to all copies of the Notice retained by the District.

h. Notices of Unsatisfactory Service or Act are grievable under Article V. However, if the discipline imposed includes a suspension without pay, and if the employee wishes to obtain review of the decision, a notice of appeal to the office of the Cluster Administrator/Division Head shall be delivered within three days (as defined in Article V, Section 6.0) of receipt of the form. Within three days after receipt of the employee's notice of appeal, the Region or Division Superintendent (or designee) shall hold an appeal meeting to discuss the matter, and shall by the end of the day following, announce a decision. The announcement shall be in person or by telephone, with an immediate confirming letter sent to the employee and representative, if any. Within two days after the above administrative appeal decision is announced, UTLA must, if it determines that the matter is to be appealed to arbitration, notify the District in writing of its intention. UTLA and the District shall select an arbitrator, and the dispute will then be calendared for expedited arbitration pursuant to Article V, Section 15.0. If at any of the above steps the employee or UTLA does not appeal as provided above, the discipline shall be considered final.

i. After the District has taken formal disciplinary action against an employee, and upon request of the Union representing the employee, the District shall furnish the Union with a copy of any written statements taken of students relating to the matter. The District shall not be permitted to have a student witness testify at an arbitration hearing unless the Union has been provided a reasonable opportunity to interview the witness at a time reasonably prior to the date of the hearing. The District shall give UTLA written notice of its intention to call the witness, and assist in making arrangements for the interview so that the interview can take place in coordination with (not necessarily jointly with) the District interview. If the interview is not done jointly, the Union's interview shall be in the presence of a non-involved person acceptable to both the Union and District, who would be authorized to control or terminate the interview in the event of improper conduct of the interviewer. The third person would not be expected to testify except as to issues relating to the improper conduct of the interviewer.
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j. Any of the disciplinary measures referred to in "a" above may be imposed independently of the evaluation procedures of Sections 3.0 through 8.2 of this Article, and independently of statutory suspension/dismissal proceedings. Such discipline shall not be regarded as a pre-condition for a statutory suspension/dismissal proceeding. If a statutory suspension or dismissal proceeding is filed based in whole or part upon the service or conduct which gave rise to the disciplinary proceeding under this Section, then any grievance arising under this Section not yet taken to arbitration, shall be deferred pending resolution of the statutory proceedings.

12.0 Accountability for Individual Bargaining Unit Member Quality

a. In order to ensure that employees are focused on their central mission of performing satisfactorily in the area of teaching methods, instruction and delivery of other services, employees who receive a Notice of Unsatisfactory Service or “below standard” evaluations shall be deemed ineligible for service or entitlement to the following:

1. Voluntary bargain unit member-initiated transfers including employee-initiated transfers for employees time reported from central or regional locations and Early Education Centers.
2. Mentor Service (See also Article XXVI, Section 4.0)
3. Coordinator, dean or department chair positions
4. Summer session and/or intersession
5. Permissive leaves
6. Exchange of track assignments or exchange days
7. Auxiliary periods and other auxiliary services involving extra-pay for extra work, but excluding coaching and activity assignments

13.0 Suspension or Reassignment Due to Mental Incompetence:
The District shall, in cases of employee incompetence caused by mental illness, follow the appropriate statutory procedures. Disputes concerning such matters are not subject to the grievance procedures of Article V.

14.0 Arrest Procedures: Whenever an employee is to be arrested at the school site, the site administrator shall request the police to conduct the arrest at a time and place least visible to the students and staff.

15.0 Procedures Relating to Alleged Child Abuse: When a charge of child abuse is made against an employee and results in the filing of an official Suspected Child Abuse Report, the following procedures are applicable:

a. As soon as the employee is notified of the charge, the alleged victim of the abuse shall be removed from the accused employee's
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class and reassigned to the same type of class, if available, pending completion of the resulting investigation(s).

b. Exceptions to the above may be made at the official request of the city, County, or state law enforcement agency responsible for the matter or with the approval of the principal, the employee, and the parent/guardian.