



# **NON-CERTIFIED STAFF HANDBOOK**

As reviewed by the Whitko Board of School Trustees June 17, 2024  
710 N. SR 5 | Larwill, IN 46764 | 260-327-3677 | [www.whitko.org](http://www.whitko.org) | Fax: 260-327-3238



Position(s)	Admin Asst-CO Admin Asst-Trans Deputy Treasurer, HR, Payroll	Grounds Maintenance Mechanic Custodians (FT) Technology Assts (FT)	High Level Sec, CA Treasurers, Admin Assistants, IHT, E Assts, D Asst Nurse	Office Assistants, ESL Assistants, Translator	Instructional Special Ed/ESL Assistants, Laborator, II Monitor Library Clerk, Cafeteria Assts	Asst Cafeteria Managers Cafeteria Assistants Little Cats	Cafeteria Managers Nurse Assistants	Custodians (PT)	Bus Drivers
Days	260	260	188-214	192-194	180	180	184	260	184
Sick (Accumulated)	7 (80)	7 (80)	5 (35)	5 (35)	5 (35)	5 (35)	5 (35)	5 (35)	5 (35)
Personal Days (Accumulated)	2 (3)	2 (3)	2 (3)	2 (3)	2 (3)	2 (3)	2 (3)	2 (3)	2 (3)
Paid Time Off	9	9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9	N/A
Vacation	Paid	Paid	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9	N/A
Bereavement	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Holidays	Paid	Paid	Employees working 190+ days will receive 1 paid holidays as designated	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Paid	N/A
Inclement Weather	N/A	N/A	N/A	Eligible	Eligible	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Group Health Insurance	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	Eligible	Not Eligible	Not Eligible
Group Life Insurance - AD&D	\$75,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	Eligible	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	Not Eligible
LTD Insurance	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	Not Eligible	Not Eligible
Reimbursement Allowance (designated beyond normal expenses)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	CDL Physical
Perf	Eligible (Employer Pays 3%)	Eligible (Employee Pays 3%)	Eligible (Employee Pays 3%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	Eligible (Employee Pays 3%)	N/A	Eligible (Employer Pays 3%)
Retirement	401a	401a	401a	401a	401a	401a	401a	401a	401a
Grandfathered Status: Employees hired into qualifying position prior to 8/13/2013		Employee hired into qualifying position prior to 8/13/2013 would be eligible for Retirement Benefits of 1% x salary x years of experience	Employee hired into qualifying position prior to 8/13/2013 would receive 7 sick days and can accumulate 60 days and would be eligible for Retirement Benefits of 1% x salary x years of experience			Employees hired into qualifying positions prior to 8/13/2013 would receive 7 sick days and be eligible for PERF. Retirement benefits would be 1% x years of experience x salary	Employees hired into qualifying position prior to 8/13/2013 would receive 7 sick days and Retirement Benefits of 1% x salary x years of experience		Employees hired into qualifying position prior to 8/13/2013 would receive Retirement Benefits of \$3000 for 20 years of experience
Reported Days Worked			>184 days are required to report days worked by June 30						

# EXPECTATIONS

Whitko Community Schools expects employees to comply with its policies, procedures and standards.

If an employee's conduct is inconsistent with established policies, procedures and standards, corrective action will be used to address infractions.

Whitko Community Schools is an at-will employer.

Corrective actions are below. Depending on the situation, an employee may be suspended or terminated without a verbal or written warning.

- Verbal warning in written form: may be used as a coaching opportunity to address the violation with the employee and is typically used for an infraction of a less serious nature.
- Written warning: may be used as a corrective opportunity to address a violation with an employee and is typically used for the second occurrence of an infraction of a less serious nature or the first occurrence of a violation of a more serious nature.
- Suspension: Suspension of employment is used but not limited to address a single more serious violation like, insubordination, neglect or lack of fulfilling job duties, but does not warrant immediate termination due to a pending investigation.
- Termination: Termination of employment typically occurs but is not limited to the result of one or more serious infraction(s), job abandonment, insubordination or repetitive occurrences of misconduct.

## **LEAVES**

### **SICK LEAVE**

Sick leave can be used for absences caused by illness or physical disability of the employee or to attend to the illness, quarantine, pregnancy or physical disability of any member of the employee's immediate family (as defined in the teachers' agreement). Any unused days at the end of the year (June 30) may be carried over to the next year up to a limit of 35 or 60 depending on position (see above chart). If the employee uses more than fifteen (15) days to care for immediate family member(s) in one school year, the employee must have the approval of the superintendent.

Sick days used prior to or immediately after a break period will be charged two days for one used. This applies to fall break, winter break and spring break. If a doctor's note is provided to substitute the leave, the employee will only be charged one sick day for sick days taken before or after the fall break, winter break and spring break.

New hires sick leave days for part-time positions (less than 29.50 hours per week) must earn their sick leave days after two months of employment they will receive 1 sick day; after four months employment they will receive one personal day; after eight months of employment they will receive the remaining allocated amount as indicated above. In the event the new hire chooses to leave employment the days are forfeited and cannot be used unless otherwise approved by a Principal, Supervisor, Business Manager and/or Superintendent.

### **BIRTH LEAVE**

Staff members are entitled to two (2) days leave with pay, during designated working days, for the birth of the staff member's child. Such leave shall be taken during the period beginning with the day of the birth of the child and ending fourteen (14) calendar days after the birth of the child.

### **ADOPTION LEAVE**

A staff member is entitled to two (2) paid days, during designated working days, for issues related to the adoption of a child. Documentation regarding the adoption should be sent to the Administration Office.

### **PERSONAL DAYS**

Personal days should be used for personal affairs that cannot be taken care of except on a work day. Use of Personal Days requires approval from the building Administrator or department director and, except for in emergency situations, at least one (1) week notice should be given to allow for substitute coverage or to schedule modifications within the building of employment. Personal days used prior to or immediately after a break period will be charged at two days for one used. This applies to fall break, spring break and winter break.

Any unused days at the end of the year (June 30) will roll over to your sick day balance. New hires' personal days will be prorated in accordance with your hire date.

In the event an employee chooses to leave employment the days are forfeited and cannot be used unless otherwise approved by the Principal, Business Manager and/or Superintendent.

If an employee normally works 5 hours or less per day, and a day is taken, then they will only be paid for the number of hours worked in a normal day.

### **PAID TIME OFF**

Paid Time Off days only apply to the 260 day non-certified employees. Paid Time Off days are used during time periods defined by the Business Manager each school year. The Paid Time Off days must be used during the school year and are not carried forward at the end of the year (June 30). If an employee normally works 5 hours or less per day, and a day is taken, then they will only be paid for the number of hours worked in a normal day. Prior to scheduling, all Paid Time Off days must be approved by the immediate supervisor to ensure proper coverage in their area. All Paid Time Off days must be reflected on the employee's timesheet and in RedRover.

## VACATION PAY

Employees who are eligible for vacation will receive their amount of days on the following basis:

- From date of hire until June 30 up to five (5) vacation days will be granted based on a prorated basis of the amount of the year worked.
- Five (5) days' vacation will be granted to employees completing their first year of continuous service (more than 175 days dating back to July 1).
- Ten (10) days' vacation will be granted to those employees completing their second year of continuous service.
- Twelve (12) days' vacation will be granted to those employees completing their fifth year of continuous service
- Fifteen (15) days' vacation will be granted to those employees completing their 10th year of continuous service.

Vacation days are non-accumulative and must be taken by June 30 of the following year. If an employee normally works 5 hours or less per day, and a day is taken, then they will only be paid for the number of hours worked in a normal day. If an eligible 260 day employee has unused vacation days from the prior year, they will be paid for those days after June 30.

In the event an employee chooses to leave employment vacation days will be prorated to concur with the number of days worked that year.

## BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

Bereavement leave is to be used for the death of a family member. This leave is non-accumulative. Five (5) days will be granted for an immediate family member. Immediate family is defined as mother, father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, step-parent, sister, brother, son, daughter, husband, wife, life partner, grandparent, grandchild, step-child, legal dependent, or any relative with whom the employee resides.

Three (3) days will be granted for the death of any of the following: sister-in-law, brother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, step-parent, step-grandparent, or grandparent-in-law.

One (1) day will be granted for the death of an aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, or first cousin.

Documentation showing relationship should be provided to the HR / Payroll Office in order for the employee to be paid for time off.

The employee must notify the administrator, department director and any other necessary people as well as enter the absence in Red Rover as soon as possible.

## HOLIDAYS

Employees who work 192-plus days in the indicated positions receive paid three holidays, Good Friday, Memorial Day and Labor Day (Marked with an \* below):

Employees who are required to work year round are eligible for the following paid holidays:

New Year's Day	Independence Day	Thanksgiving Friday
Good Friday*	Labor Day*	Day before or after Christmas
Memorial Day*	Thanksgiving Day	Christmas

Employees not on a twelve month contract do not have any paid vacations or paid holidays.

New employees must work one calendar month before qualifying for holiday pay.

## JURY DUTY

The Board will pay an employee who has to serve on jury duty the difference between the per diem court rate paid said employee and the employee's daily wage. The employee serving on jury duty must notify the principal/supervisor when the dates of absence will be, and the employee must furnish the business office with proof of the amount paid by the court.

## **ATTENDANCE**

If an employee is unable to report to work or they will be delayed, they must notify their supervisor or designee as soon as possible before the absence or tardiness. Continual absenteeism, tardiness or failure to document such will be cause for corrective action up to and including termination. If an employee fails to contact their supervisor or designee about an absence, resulting in a no-call, no-show, this will be regarded as job abandonment, insubordination and lack of fulfilling job duties which is grounds for immediate termination. Absences shall be recorded on an employee's timesheet and in Red Rover as a sick day, personal day, vacation day or lost time. "Lost Time" will be entered by a building secretary, HR or the Payroll Clerk along with any need for a substitute.

All absences must be entered in Red Rover regardless of the reason for the absence.

All employees' time sheets must reflect an absence.

An employee must use applicable paid time off, when available, before any "lost time" days will be excused. Typically, lost time for an illness will be an excused absence. Your supervisor may require you to provide documentation of your illness or require you to apply for FMLA, if applicable. Other absences that result in lost time may be excused at your supervisor's discretion, but any combination of lost time due to illness or other reasons may not exceed five (5) days without approval of the Superintendent or Business Manager.

## **FIRST AND LAST TEACHER DAY**

On the First Teacher Day Back and the last Teacher Day of the School Year, non-certified staff are permitted to work up to 4 hours each day. The four hours will be paid at the employee's regular hourly rate of pay. Any hours worked on either Teacher In-Service Day will not count toward the employee's days worked during the school year.

## **NO WORK, NO PAY DAYS**

Employees are required to work their designated number of days. Except for authorized leave days and designated paid holidays the employee is required to be present. The rule is "no work, no pay".

## **PAYMENT OF ASSISTANTS ON INCLEMENT WEATHER DAYS**

The positions indicated in the chart are eligible for the following benefit: if school is delayed two (2) hours or less, or in the case of early dismissal, due to inclement weather or other factors beyond the control of the employee, the employee will be paid for the hours of their normal work day. If school is canceled for the day, the employee will not be paid for the day. Principals may arrange for make-up time to avoid loss of pay, except for employees working as teacher assistants and library clerks.

## **VIRTUAL AND eLEARNING DAYS**

Scheduled eLearning Days: Rgeww eLearning Days are scheduled during the school year.

### **Bus Drivers:**

Contracted Route Drivers will not work eLearning days and they will be paid for eLearning days.

- ISBA attorneys site IC 20-28- 9-15 that implies that bus drivers will be paid. (In future bus driver contracts, we may consider stating that bus drivers will only be paid for those days in which they drive; therefore, eLearning days may not be paid in the future). All corporation bus drivers will be treated equally.

- The employee can make up missed time by making arrangements with the Director of Transportation..

### **Full Year Non-Certified Staff:**

Full Year Non-Certified Staff, to include: Full Year Technology Staff, Administrative Assistant (C.O.), Administrative Assistant of Operations, Deputy Treasurer, Human Resources, Payroll Secretary, Mechanic, Custodians Full Year (full-time or part-time) are expected to work eLearning days if so scheduled. However, they will have the following options for absences on any eLearning days:

- The employee may use a Personal Day.
- The employee may use a Vacation Day.
- The employee can opt not to be paid.
- Sick leave days may not be used for a non-illness related absence on eLearning Days.

**School Year Technology Staff:**

The Director of Technology will advise School Year Technology Staff to either work or not work on eLearning days. School-Year Technology Staff will have the following options for missed income on eLearning days if not worked:

- The employee may use a Personal Day.
- The employee can opt not to be paid.
- Sick Leave days may not be used for a non-illness related absence on eLearning days.

**School Year Secretarial Staff:**

Administrators will advise Secretaries to either work or not work eLearning days. Secretaries will have the following options for missed income on any e-eLearning days:

- The employee may use a Personal Day.
- The employee can opt not to be paid.
- The employee can make up missed time by making arrangements with the administrator.
- The employee may utilize previously unscheduled time in the summer to make up hours.
- Sick Leave days may not be used for a non-illness related absence on eLearning days.

**MHT / Counselors – Non-certified Staff:**

The Director of Special Services will advise Mental Health Therapists and Counselors to either work or not work eLearning days. MHT/Counselors will have the following options for missed income on any e-eLearning days:

- The employee may use a Personal Day.
- The employee can opt not to be paid.
- The employee can make up missed time by making arrangements with the Director of Special Services, (typically utilizing 6 hours at home or in the office and reflecting hours on a timesheet and submitting a log to the Director of Special Services.)
- The employee may utilize previously unscheduled time in the summer to make up hours.
- Sick Leave days may not be used for a non-illness related absence on eLearning days.

**Instructional Assistants:**

Instructional Assistants will not work on eLearning days, unless otherwise directed by Building or Corporation Administration; however, they will have the following options for missed income:

- The employee may use a Personal Day.
- The employee can opt not to be paid.
- The employee can make up missed time by making arrangements with the administrator (not to exceed 29.75 hours per week).
- Sick Leave days may not be used for a non-illness related absence on eLearning days.

**School Year Nursing Staff:**

The Corporation Nurse will advise School Year Nursing Staff to either work or not work on eLearning days. School-Year Nursing Staff will have the following options for missed income on eLearning days if not worked:

- The employee may use a Personal Day.
- The employee can opt not to be paid.
- Sick Leave days may not be used for a non-illness related absence on eLearning days.

**Food Services/Cafeteria:**

Food Service Staff/Cafeteria Staff are not expected to work on an eLearning day, unless otherwise directed by Building or Corporation Administration. Food Services Staff/Cafeteria Staff will have the following options for missed income on e-eLearning days, t-eLearning days will not be made up:

- The employee may use a Personal Day.



- The employee may choose not to be paid.
- The employee may work on a summer school day if this opportunity is available.
- Sick Leave days may not be used for a non-illness related absence on eLearning Days.

## **REPORTING AN ABSENCE**

Whitko has partnered with Red Rover for attendance reporting, as well as for filling substitute positions. Please report ALL absences as soon as possible, unless otherwise instructed by your direct supervisor or Central Office. All absences must be reported in Red Rover, even if a substitute is NOT necessary.

## **DOCULIVERY**

All pay stubs are available and the option to receive your W-2 (but you must opt-in for your W-2) are available online at Doculivery, which is located on our website under a hidden staff tab link: <https://www.whitko.org/staff> there is a User Guide located on the login page for instructions on how to log in, etc.

## **PAY SCHEDULE**

Timesheets are required for all personnel who are not a contracted employee. Timesheets must be submitted within the time schedule. Overtime is paid for any hours over 40 total hours worked in a week and which have been approved by your supervisor. Hours reported on the time sheets must be an accurate record of hours worked. Employees will be paid according to the pay time schedule.

Employees working less than year round, and who are in a PERF qualifying position, will be paid over the calendar year.

## **INSURANCE**

### **GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE**

The positions indicated on the chart are eligible to participate in the Whitko Group Health Insurance plan. The amount of premium paid by the school corporation will be equal to the amount paid for teachers, determined through the collective bargaining process.

### **GROUP LIFE INSURANCE**

The positions indicated on the chart are eligible to participate in the school board approved Group Health Insurance Policy, including Accidental Death & Dismemberment and Long-Term Disability Plan. The employee is charged \$1 for these policies, the corporation will contribute the rest of the expense. Employees must sign enrollment forms to participate. The policy and coverage amounts are indicated on the chart.

### **ACCIDENT REPORTS**

Building principals or their designee are responsible for seeing that accidents, in school buildings or on school grounds, requiring first aid or medical treatment, are reported to the superintendent's office as quickly as possible. Forms for this purpose are provided from the Whitko Administration Office, building offices and the website.

One copy of the report is to be filed in the principal's office and reported in a timely manner to the Superintendent's office in order for the proper reporting procedures. Reports should not be allowed to accumulate.

### **WORKER'S COMPENSATION**

If an employee is injured while on the job, worker's compensation insurance benefits may be applied for by contacting the buildings office or central office for necessary forms and reports. A first report of injury must be filed immediately following the injury to allow the insurance company to cover the medical expenses. All reports must be sent to the Administrative Assistant of the Superintendent.

### **LIABILITY INSURANCE**

The school district carries legal liability insurance for the protection of all employees who may be charged with negligence, misconduct, or other grounds while performing their assigned duties as a Whitko employee.

## **PHONES, DEVICES AND COMPUTERS**

Limit use of phones, devices and computers to professional use during the school day.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

The School Board authorizes the use of social media to promote community involvement and facilitate effective communication with students, parents/guardians, staff (including School Corporation-approved volunteers), and the general public.

Employees and Corporation-approved volunteers are prohibited from posting or engaging in communication that violates State or Federal law, Board policies, or administrative guidelines. If an employee/volunteer's communication interferes with his/her ability to effectively perform his/her job or violates State or Federal law, Board policies, or administrative guidelines, the Corporation may impose disciplinary action and/or refer the matter to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

Employees and Corporation-approved volunteers who access Corporation-approved social media platforms are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous, and professional manner.

Corporation communications that occur through the use of Corporation-approved social media platforms/sites – including staff members' use of social media with school-sponsored activities, and comments, replies, and messages received from the general public – may constitute public records or student records, and all such communications will be maintained (i.e., electronically archived) in accordance with the Board's adopted record retention schedule and all applicable State statutes.

## **WAGE AND SALARY REVIEW**

There shall be an annual review of all salaries. At that time the school board will approve all pay scales and authorize the number of positions in each classification. The authorized work force may be increased by school board action only.

## **STAFF DRESS AND GROOMING**

The School Board believes that professional staff members set an example in dress and grooming for their students to follow. These factors act in a positive manner towards the maintenance of discipline:

- a. Be physically clean, neat, and well groomed;
- b. Dress in a manner consistent with your professional responsibilities;
- c. Dress in a manner that communicates to students a pride in personal appearance;
- d. Dress in a manner that does not cause damage to Corporation property;
- e. Be groomed in such a way that their hair style or dress does not disrupt the educational process or cause a health or safety hazard.

## **REIMBURSABLE ALLOWANCES:**

### **CDL PHYSICAL**

Bus Drivers will be reimbursed for the CDL Physical. The proper documentation such as receipts as proof of physical examination completion must be turned into the Administrative Assistant of Operations or the Deputy Treasurer, to ensure reimbursement. New Bus Drivers will be reimbursed for their CDL Physical after they have completed at least twelve (12) trips with Whitko Community Schools. The reimbursement procedures are the same.

### **PERF**

The positions indicated on the chart are eligible to participate in the Public Employees Retirement Fund (PERF). The Whitko school board has agreed to pay the required employee contribution (3%) for the positions indicated.

### **TAX SHELTERED ANNUITY**

Participation in a tax sheltered annuity is available to any Whitko employee. Information is available in the superintendent's office.

### **SECTION 125**

Participation in Section 125 plans are available to any Whitko employee. All employees are required to meet annually with our Section 125 provider, whether they elect coverage or waive coverage.

### **RETIREMENT BENEFITS**

Retirement benefits are offered to the positions indicated on the chart.

Employees with a minimum of 15 years of experience in a qualifying position within the Whitko Community School Corporation, and who are 50 years old or older, shall be entitled to retirement benefits equal to one percent times the retiring employees' most recent yearly salary times the total number of years worked in the corporation.

Employees may participate in the 401(a) Matching Annuity Plan as approved by the board.

Bus drivers who have driven for 20 years are eligible to receive \$3,000 upon retirement, if they are a grandfathered employee.

### **EMPLOYEES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Each employee, spouse, and dependent are entitled to four (4) counseling sessions each year with the Employee Assistance counselor, and, in addition, may visit the counselor during scheduled building visitations.

### **MASTER POLICIES**

Master policies of all employee insurance plans are on file in the Whitko administration office and are available for examination on request during regular office hours.

### **CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE OFFICER**

The Civil Rights Compliance Officer for Whitko Schools is the Superintendent. Whitko Community School Corporation, 710 North State Road 5 – Suite B, Larwill, Indiana 46764 Phone (260) 327-3677; Fax (260) 327-3238

### **HIPAA OFFICER**

The HIPAA Officer for Whitko Schools is the Superintendent and administrative assistant to the Superintendent.

### **EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER**

No person shall on the basis of gender, race, color, national origin, sex (including transgender status, sexual orientation and gender identity), age, religion, military status, ancestry or disability be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in employment, or recruitment, consideration, or selection. Information requested is used only to determine the applicant's ability to meet job criteria and perform satisfactorily.

### **NOTIFICATION STATEMENT**

It is the policy of the Whitko Community School Corporation not to discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, national origin, sex (including transgender status, sexual orientation and gender identity), age, religion, military status, ancestry or disability, in its programs or employment policies as required by the Indiana Civil Rights Act (I.C. 22-9.1), Title VI and Title VII (Civil Rights Act of 1964), Title IX (Educational Amendments 1972), the Equal Pay Act of 1973, and Section 504 (Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973).

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX may be directed to the Superintendent, Whitko Community School Corporation, 710 N. SR 5- Suite B, Larwill, In – Telephone (260) 327-3677; Inquiries regarding compliance with Section 504 may be directed to the Director of Special Services, Administration Center, 710 N. SR 5- Suite B, Larwill, In – Telephone (260) 327-3677

Any person who believes that s/he has been discriminated against or denied equal opportunity or access to programs or services may file a complaint, which shall be referred to as a grievance, with the superintendent who acts as the corporation's civil rights coordinator.

The individual may also, at any time, contact The OCR National Headquarters: US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington DC 20202-1100. Phone: 800-421-3481; Fax 202-453-6012 or email: [OCR@ed.gov](mailto:OCR@ed.gov)

The regional office address is US. Department of Education, 230 S. Dearborn St., 37th Floor, Chicago IL 60604 Phone 312-730-1560; Fax: 312-730-1576 email: [OCR.Chicago@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Chicago@ed.gov):

## **PROCEDURE**

The person who believes s/he has a valid basis for grievance shall discuss the grievance informally and on a verbal basis with the corporation's civil rights coordinator, who shall in turn investigate the complaint and reply with an answer to the complainant. S/he may initiate formal procedures according to the following steps:

### **STEP 1**

Investigation by the Corporation's Civil Rights Coordinator: A person may initiate a formal investigation by filing a written complaint with the Corporation's Civil Rights Coordinator. The complaint must contain the name and address of the individual or representative filing the complaint, be signed by the complainant or someone authorized to sign for the complainant, and describe the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Civil Rights Coordinator of the nature and date of the alleged violation, and propose a resolution. The complaint must be filed within thirty (30) calendar days of the circumstances or event giving rise to the complaint, unless the time for filing is extended by the Civil Rights Coordinator for good cause. The Civil Rights Coordinator will conduct an impartial investigation of the complaint. As part of the investigation, the Civil Rights Coordinator shall permit the complainant to present witnesses and other evidence in support of his/her complaint. The investigation shall be completed within fifteen (15) business days of the written complaint being filed. The Civil Rights Coordinator will notify the complainant in writing of his/her decision and will maintain the Corporation's files and records relating to the complaint.

### **STEP 2**

If the complainant wishes to appeal the decision of the corporation's civil rights coordinator, s/he may submit a signed statement of appeal to the superintendent of schools within five (5) business days after receipt of the coordinator's response. The superintendent shall meet with all parties involved, formulate a conclusion, and respond in writing to the complainant within ten (10) business days.

### **STEP 3**

If the complainant remains unsatisfied, s/he may appeal through a signed written statement to the school board within five (5) business days of his/her receipt of the superintendent's response in step two. In an attempt to resolve the grievance, the school board shall meet with the concerned parties and their representative within twenty (20) business days of the receipt of such an appeal. A copy of the board's

disposition of the appeal shall be sent to each concerned party within ten (10) business days of this meeting.

#### **STEP 4**

If at this point the grievance has not been satisfactorily settled, further appeal may be made to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, 401 South State, Room 700, Chicago, Illinois, 60605-1202

Inquiries concerning the non-discriminatory policy may also be directed to Director, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Education, Washington, D.C. 20201.

#### **AT-WILL EMPLOYMENT**

This handbook does not create a contract of employment. The employee or the employer may terminate the relationship at any time, for any reason, with or without cause or notice.

NO OTHER BENEFITS ARE AVAILABLE.