

# Classified Employee Handbook

Revised 4/2021



## Mission

*The mission of Renwick USD 267 is to prepare all students to be college and career ready for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

## **Welcome to Renwick USD 267**

This handbook provides answers to most of the questions you may have about Renwick USD 267's benefit programs, as well as the company policies and procedures we abide by – our responsibilities to you and your responsibilities to Renwick USD 267. If anything is unclear, please discuss the matter with your supervisor. You are responsible for reading and understanding the Employee Handbook, and your performance evaluations will reflect your adherence to Renwick USD 267 policies. In addition to clarifying responsibilities, we hope this Employee Handbook also gives you an indication of Renwick USD 267's interest in the welfare of all who work here.

From time to time, the information included in our Employee Handbook may change. Every effort will be made to keep you informed through suitable lines of communication, including postings on the district web site, school bulletin boards and/or notices sent directly to you. The handbook posted on the district web site shall be considered the most current version.

Compensation and personal satisfaction gained from doing a job well are only some of the reasons most people work. Most likely, many other factors count among your reasons for working – pleasant relationships and working conditions, career development and promotion opportunities, and health benefits are just a few. Renwick USD 267 is committed to doing its part to assure you of a satisfying work experience.

No one will be denied opportunities or benefits on the basis of age, sex, color, race, creed, national origin, religious persuasion, marital status, or disability that does not prohibit performance of essential job functions; nor will anyone receive special treatment for those reasons.

## **Notice**

The policies in this handbook are to be considered as guidelines for classified employees only. This handbook and its contents are not, and should not, be construed to constitute a contract between the covered classified employees and the Renwick Board of Education. Renwick USD 267, at its option, may change, delete, suspend or discontinue any part or parts of the policies in this handbook at any time without prior notice. Any such action shall apply to existing as well as future employees. Employees may not accrue eligibility for monetary benefits that they have not earned through actual time spent at work. Employees shall not accrue eligibility for any benefits, rights, or privileges beyond the last day worked. No one other than the Board of Education of Renwick USD 267 may alter or modify any of the policies in the handbook. No statement or promise, verbal or written, by a supervisor or department head may be interpreted as a change in policy nor will it constitute an agreement or commitment with an employee.

Should any provision in this employee handbook be found to be unenforceable and invalid, such finding does not invalidate the entire employee handbook, but only the subject provision.

This handbook will be adopted annually.

# Table of Contents

<b>WELCOME TO RENWICK USD 267 .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>NOTICE .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>YOUR PERSONNEL FILE.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>EMPLOYMENT POLICIES.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>ANNIVERSARY DATE.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>“AT WILL” EMPLOYMENT .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>BACKGROUND CHECKS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>BONDING REQUIREMENT.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>CONFLICT OF INTEREST .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>DISMISSAL .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>DRIVER’S LICENSE &amp; DRIVING RECORD.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>HAZING/INTIMIDATION/BULLYING/MENACING.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>HEALTH EXAMINATIONS .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>JOB DESCRIPTIONS .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>KEYS/FOBS/ID BADGES .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>LOYALTY OATH.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>NEPOTISM .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>PROOF OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND/OR RIGHT TO WORK .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>SECURITY CHECKS .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>SEXUAL HARASSMENT.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>STUDENT PRIVACY RIGHTS.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>WAGE &amp; SALARY POLICIES.....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>DEDUCTIONS FROM PAYCHECK (MANDATORY).....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>OVERTIME PAY .....</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>PAY PERIOD .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>DIRECT DEPOSIT.....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>TIME CARDS/ELECTRONIC TIMEKEEPING/RECORDS .....</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>WAGE ASSIGNMENTS (GARNISHMENTS) .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>PERFORMANCE REVIEWS.....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>PERFORMANCE REVIEWS .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>WORK SCHEDULE .....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>ABSENCE OR LATENESS.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>CLOSURE AFTER STARTING TIME.....</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>EXCESSIVE ABSENTEEISM OR LATENESS.....</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>LEAVE POLICY .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>HOLIDAYS .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>VACATION .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<i>Accumulation Rights.....</i>	<i>21</i>

<i>Payment in Lieu of Vacation</i> .....	21
<b>BEREAVEMENT LEAVE</b> .....	22
<b>SICK/DISCRETIONARY LEAVE</b> .....	22
<i>Sick Leave</i> .....	23
<i>Discretionary Leave</i> .....	23
<i>Carryover</i> .....	23
<b>JURY DUTY</b> .....	23
<b>UNPAID LEAVES OF ABSENCE</b> .....	<b>24</b>
<b>REASONS FOR TAKING LEAVE</b> .....	24
<b>ADVANCE NOTICE</b> .....	24
<b>INTERMITTENT OR REDUCED LEAVE</b> .....	24
<b>INSURANCE PREMIUM PAYMENT DURING LEAVES OF ABSENCE</b> .....	24
<b>FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT</b> .....	25
<i>Basic Leave Entitlement</i> .....	25
<i>Military Family Leave Entitlements</i> .....	25
<i>Benefits and Protections</i> .....	25
<i>Eligibility Requirements</i> .....	26
<i>Definition of Serious Health Condition</i> .....	26
<i>Use of Leave</i> .....	26
<i>Substitution of Paid Leave for Unpaid Leave</i> .....	26
<i>Employer Responsibilities</i> .....	27
<i>Unlawful Acts by Employers</i> .....	27
<i>Enforcement</i> .....	27
<b>NOTICE OF CHIPRA POLICY</b> .....	27
<b>HIPAA NOTICE</b> .....	28
<i>Open Enrollments and Qualifying Events</i> .....	28
<i>Pre-existing Conditions</i> .....	28
<b>COBRA</b> .....	30
<i>Qualifying Events</i> .....	30
<b>RETIREMENT</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>KANSAS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (KPERs)</b> .....	31
<b>VOLUNTARY 403(B) RETIREMENT PLAN</b> .....	31
<b>GOVERNMENT REQUIRED COVERAGE</b> .....	<b>32</b>
<b>WORKERS' COMPENSATION</b> .....	32
<i>Who is covered?</i> .....	32
<i>What is covered?</i> .....	32
<i>When am I covered?</i> .....	32
<i>What Are the Benefits?</i> .....	33
<i>What to do if an Accident Occurs on the Job?</i> .....	33
<i>Average Weekly Wage</i> .....	34
<i>Weekly Benefits</i> .....	34
<i>Medical Benefits</i> .....	34
<i>What If There's a Problem?</i> .....	35
<i>Other Benefits</i> .....	35
<i>Injuries Occurring When an Employee is "Under the Influence"</i> .....	35
<i>Recreational and Social Activities</i> .....	36
<i>Injuries Suffered While Traveling to and from Work</i> .....	36
<i>Horseplay</i> .....	36
<b>UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION</b> .....	36
<b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> .....	36
<b>OTHER POLICIES</b> .....	<b>37</b>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b> .....	37

<b>CONCERNS/COMPLAINTS .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>BENEFIT CONTINUATION PRIVILEGES .....</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>DRESS CODE/PERSONAL APPEARANCE.....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>EXIT INTERVIEWS .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>FACULTY/STAFF MEETINGS .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>PERSONAL PROPERTY .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>RESIGNATION.....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>SEVERANCE PAY .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>SAFETY RULES .....</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>SECURITY .....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>TOBACCO PRODUCTS/ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES.....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>SUBSTANCE ABUSE.....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>TELEPHONE CALLS.....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>VIOLATIONS OF POLICIES .....</b>	<b>41</b>

## Personnel Administration

The task of handling personnel records and the related personnel administration functions at Renwick USD 267 has been assigned to the business office in the District Office (D/O). Questions regarding insurance, wages, and interpretation of policies may be directed to the business office.

### Your Personnel File

Keeping your personnel file up-to-date can be important to you with regard to pay, deductions, benefits and other matters. If you have a change in any of the following items, **please be sure to notify your supervisor and the business office** as soon as possible:

1. Legal name
2. Home address
3. Home telephone number
4. Cell phone number
5. Person to call in case of emergency
6. Number of dependents
7. Marital status
8. Change of beneficiary
9. Driving record or status of driver's license, if you operate any Renwick vehicles
10. Exemptions on your W-4 (federal) and K-4 (state) tax form
11. Email address
12. Change in bank information for direct deposit

Coverage or benefits that you and your family may receive under Renwick USD 267's benefits package could be negatively affected if the information in your personnel file is incorrect. The district shall not be responsible for such negative effect if and when you fail to maintain accurate up-to-date personal information in your personnel file.

Since Renwick USD 267 refers to your personnel file when we need to make decisions in connection with promotions, transfers, layoffs and recalls, it's to your benefit to be sure your personnel file includes information about completion of educational or training courses, outside civic activities, and areas of interest and skills that may not be part of your current position here.

You may view and/or obtain a copy of the information in your personnel file by contacting the business office.

# Employment Policies

## Anniversary Date

For administrative and classified employees the first day you report to work is your anniversary date.

## “At Will” Employment

All classified employees and non-contractual administrative positions with Renwick USD 267 are “**at will**”. This means your employment can be terminated with or without cause, and with or without notice, at any time, at the option of either Renwick USD 267 or yourself, except as otherwise provided by law.

## Background Checks

Renwick USD 267 reserves the right to perform background checks on all new hires. The employee is required to sign a waiver prior to the background check being performed. Failure to sign the waiver could result in rescission of the District’s offer as could an unsatisfactory background review.

## Bonding Requirement

Under certain circumstances, Renwick USD 267 may require that you be bonded. It is your responsibility to assure that you are bondable. Renwick USD 267 will pay the cost of bonding. Should you fail to maintain these qualifications, you will be subject to transfer to another position, if available, or dismissal.

## Confidential Information

Our patrons entrust Renwick USD 267 with important information. The nature of this relationship requires maintenance of confidentiality. In safeguarding the information received, Renwick USD 267 earns the respect and further trust of our patrons.

Your employment with Renwick USD 267 assumes an obligation to maintain confidentiality, even after you leave our employ.

Any violation of confidentiality seriously injures Renwick USD 267’s reputation and effectiveness. Even casual remarks can be misinterpreted and repeated, so develop the personal discipline necessary to maintain confidentiality.

Information learned at school should be handled in a confidential manner and be discussed only with the appropriate school personnel. Violations of this rule, which violate the privacy rights of specific individuals, could result in disciplinary action being taken against the employee, including termination.



## **Conflict of Interest**

District employees are prohibited from engaging in any activity that may be a conflict of interest and/or detracts from the effective performance of their duties. No employee will attempt, during the school day or on school property, to sell or endeavor to influence any student or school employee to buy any product, article, instrument, service or other items which would directly or indirectly benefit the school employee. This includes emails whether originated or forwarded by the employee. No school employee will enter into a contract for financial gain with the district other than a contract for employment unless the contract is awarded on the basis of competitive bidding. If an employee is unsure whether an activity constitutes a conflict of interest he or she should discuss the situation with their supervisor or building administrator.

Any district employee shall report alleged violations of the conflict of interest policy to the superintendent. The superintendent shall make an initial investigation to determine whether the policy has been violated. Upon evidence of a violation, the superintendent shall report to the board for a board determination. If a district employee has been found to have violated the conflict of interest policy, the board may warn the employee, in writing, to cease and desist from all such activities, suspend, or possibly dismiss the employee.

## **Dismissal**

Two weeks notice is anticipated upon notice of resignation or release by the district. Notice should not be anticipated for involuntary dismissal for lack of performance or misconduct.

## **Driver's License & Driving Record**

Employees whose work requires operation of a motor vehicle must present and maintain a valid driver's license and a driving record acceptable to our insurer. You will be asked to submit a copy of your driving record to Renwick USD 267 each year. Any changes in your driving record must be reported to the business office immediately. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action, up and to including possible dismissal.

## **Equal Employment Opportunity**

Renwick USD 267 will provide equal employment opportunity without regard to race, sex, age, disability, religion, national origin, marital status, or status as a veteran.

The policy applies to all areas of employment, including recruitment, hiring, training and development, promotion, transfer, termination, layoff, compensation benefits, and all other conditions and privileges of employment in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws.

It is the policy of Renwick USD 267 to comply with all the relevant and applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Renwick USD 267 will not discriminate on the basis of disability. Renwick USD 267 also will make reasonable accommodation wherever possible and necessary for all employees or applicants with disabilities, provided that the individual is otherwise qualified to safely perform the duties essential and assignments connected with the job and provided that any accommodations made do not require significant difficulty or expense.

Equal employment opportunity notices are posted on appropriate employee bulletin boards as required by law. The notices summarize the rights of employees to equal opportunity in employment and lists the names and addresses of the various government agencies that may be contacted in the event that any person believes he or she has been discriminated against.

Management is primarily responsible for seeing that Renwick USD 267's equal employment opportunity policies are implemented, but all members of the staff share in the responsibility for assuring that by their personal actions the policies are effective and apply uniformly to everyone.

Any employees, including supervisors, involved in discriminatory practices will be subject to discipline, including possible dismissal.

Discrimination against any individual on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or religion in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, the district's programs and activities is prohibited. The Superintendent of Schools, 600 West Rush, P.O. Box 68, Andale, Kansas 67001 has been designated to coordinate compliance with nondiscrimination requirements contained in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Complaints of discrimination should be addressed to an employee's supervisor or to the compliance coordinator. Complaints against the superintendent should be addressed to the Board of Education.

Complaints of discrimination will be resolved using the district's discrimination complaint procedure, as outlined in Board Policy KN.

## **Hazing/Intimidation/Bullying/Menacing**

Renwick USD 267 is committed to providing a positive and productive learning and working environment. Hazing, intimidation, menacing or bullying by students, staff or third parties is strictly prohibited and shall not be tolerated in the district.

Students whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion. Staff whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline, up to and including dismissal. Third parties whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to appropriate sanctions as determined and imposed by the superintendent or Board of Education.

Individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials.

## **Health Examinations**

All employees of Renwick USD 267 shall submit, at the employee's expense at the time of their employment, a Certificate of Health (TB skin test) on a form provided by the district and signed by a person licensed to practice medicine and surgery under the laws of any state. If at any time there is a reasonable cause to believe that any employee of the district is suffering from an illness detrimental to the health of the students of the district, the board may require the employee to file a new certificate of health.

The board may require any staff member to take a physical examination to verify fitness to fulfill their work assignment or in case of frequent or prolonged questionable absences. If it is determined the employee cannot complete his/her duties, the board reserves the right to require the employee to step down from his/her position, in accordance with the contract laws of the State of Kansas. Any required physical examination will be paid by the board, who will select a doctor if its choice.

## **Job Descriptions**

Renwick USD 267 maintains a job description for each position. The job description will be updated when duties or responsibilities are significantly changed. A job description can be obtained from the employee's supervisor, and or business office or the district website.

## **Keys/Fobs/ID Badges**

Building principals will be responsible for issuing door keys/fobs/ID badges and maintaining an accurate up-to-date list in the school office of all people who have been issued keys/fobs/ID badges. Building principals are responsible for retrieving all keys/fobs/ID badges provided to any employee under their authority when the employee is no longer employed by the district or is assigned to another building.

Staff members shall not loan keys/fobs/ID badges to students or other people. A complete inventory of all keys/fobs/ID badges shall be made at least once each year. Any loss of keys/fobs/ID badges shall be reported immediately to the principal so that measures may be taken to protect district property.

## **Loyalty Oath**

As required by current law, all employees must have a signed loyalty oath on file in the district office before beginning employment to be eligible for a paycheck.

## **Nepotism**

The board discourages the employment of anyone who is the father, mother, brother, sister, spouse, son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law of any member of the board or certified employee (See Board Policy GAGA).

This provision shall not apply to any person who has been regularly employed by the board prior to the adoption of this policy or to any person who has been regularly employed by the board prior to the election or appointment of a new board member to whom the person is related.

The superintendent shall make reasonable efforts to determine whether a candidate for employment in the district is related to a board member or an employee. If a candidate is related, the superintendent will make this fact known to the board.

## **Outside Employment**

What you do on your free time is your own business. However, if you are employed by Renwick USD 267 in a full-time position, Renwick USD 267 will expect that your position here is your primary employment. Any outside activity must not interfere with your ability to properly perform your job duties at Renwick USD 267. If you are thinking of taking on a second job, it would be wise to notify your supervisor immediately. He or she will thoroughly discuss this opportunity with you to make sure that it will not interfere with your job at Renwick USD 267 nor pose a conflict of interest.

## **Proof of U.S. Citizenship and/or Right to Work**

Federal regulations require that 1) before becoming employed, all applicants must complete and sign Federal Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification Form; and 2) all applicants who are hired need to present documents of identity and eligibility to work in the U. S.

Renwick USD 267 shall maintain a file on all of the district's employees hired after November 6, 1986, proving that each employee has verified their identity, employment status, U. S. citizenship, or legal alien status. An Authorized Representative for Renwick USD 267 must review and verify the Employee's documents. Acceptable documents that establish both identity and Employment Authorization can include but are not limited to one of the following: US Passport or US Passport Card, Permanent Resident Card, Foreign Passport that contains a temporary I-551 Stamp, etc.

Additional documents that can be presented can include but are not limited to two of the following (one from each list):

List 1: Driver's License or ID Card issued by a State, ID Card issued by Federal, State or Local Government Agencies, School ID Card with photograph, Voters Registration Card, etc.

List 2: Social Security Account Number Card, Certification of Birth Abroad (Form FS-545), Certification of Report of Birth (Form DS-1350), Original or Certified Copy of Birth Certificate, etc.

## **Security Checks**

Renwick USD 267 may exercise its right to inspect all packages and parcels entering and leaving our premises.

## **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment will not be tolerated in the school district. Sexual harassment of employees or students of the district by board members, administrators, certificated and support personnel, students, vendors, and any others having business or other contact with the school district is strictly prohibited.

Sexual harassment shall include, but not be limited to telling of sexually suggestive jokes and stories, display of sexually suggestive objects or pictures, unwelcome sexual advances, unwelcome touching, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when: (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment; (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual; or (3) such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

No district employee shall sexually harass, be sexually harassed, or fail to investigate or refer a complaint of sexual harassment for investigation. Complaints of sexual harassment by employees will be promptly investigated and resolved. Initiation of a complaint of sexual harassment will not adversely affect the job security or status of an employee, nor will it affect his or her compensation or work assignment. Violation of this policy shall result in disciplinary action, which may include but not be limited to verbal warnings, letters of reprimand, mandatory harassment training, transfers, suspension with or without pay, and dismissal.

Employees who believe that they have been subjected to sexual harassment should discuss the problem with their immediate supervisor. If an employee's immediate supervisor is the alleged harasser, the employee should discuss the problem with the building principal and/or the superintendent.

Employees who do not believe that the matter is appropriately resolved through this meeting may file a written complaint under the district's discrimination complaint procedure (Board Policy KN). Confidentiality shall be maintained throughout the complaint procedure.

### **Student Privacy Rights**

District employees may have ongoing opportunities to access confidential information or records that are required to be kept confidential. Much of the student information processed by district employees is confidential, and state and federal law limits its release, for example, driver record and vehicle registration information, confidential student records, criminal history background check information, information obtained pursuant to Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) intervention, social security number information, and professional misconduct background checks.

Employees are prohibited from divulging information contained in the student records and files of the district, except to other, authorized employers who may need such information for an educational purpose in connection with their duties and to authorize persons or agencies only in accordance with law, district policies, and administrative rules.

If an employee is approached to provide information inappropriately, the employee must refuse to release the requested information unless authorized by his/her supervisor or otherwise be required to release the information under law or court order. In all cases, the employee's supervisor shall immediately be informed of any requests.

Any employee who inappropriately releases information, or uses confidential information obtained in the course of his/her employment with the district will be disciplined in accordance with board policies, the negotiated agreement, and district procedures. Disciplinary action may include penalties, up to, and including dismissal.

## **Wage & Salary Policies**

All Renwick USD 267 employees' wages will be paid through the district's payroll system and appropriate payroll taxes will be withheld. No employee may be paid directly out of petty cash or any other such fund for work performed. The only exception to this policy is where a contract relationship exists with a bona fide contractor.

### **Deductions from Paycheck (Mandatory)**

Renwick USD 267 is required by law to make certain deductions from your paycheck each time one is prepared. Among these are your federal, state and local income taxes and your contribution to social security as required by law. These deductions will be itemized on your check stub. The amount of the deductions may depend on your earnings and on the information you furnish on your W-4 (Federal) and K-4 (State) form regarding the number of dependents/exemptions you claim. Any change in name, address, telephone number, marital status or number of exemptions must be reported to the business office immediately, to ensure proper credit for tax purposes. The W-2 form you receive each year indicates precisely how much of your earnings were deducted for these purposes.

Any other mandatory deductions to be made from your paycheck, such as court-ordered attachments, will be explained whenever Renwick USD 267 is ordered to make such deductions.

**Note:** See "Wage Assignments (Garnishments)" later on in this section for further information.

### **Overtime Pay**

Recognizing that extra work may be required from time to time and that a definite policy will permit proper administration and control, the following guidelines shall govern authorized overtime:

- A. Emergency maintenance where safety and/or protection of facilities is necessary.
- B. Repairs to grounds and improvement thereon where safety and protection is advisable.
- C. Removal of snow and ice to the extent of reducing hazardous conditions.
- D. Additional custodial service, resulting from reduced work force when caused by excessive illness and/or unfilled positions.
- E. Extra activity services occurring on non-working days that are school sponsored, including athletic events, student activities and programs.

Each instance of overtime shall have prior approval by the employee's supervisor and be reported on the regular payroll time card/electronic timekeeping. Unauthorized or non-approved work in excess of the normal workweek will be brought to the attention of your supervisor and may result in disciplinary action.

If you perform overtime work, you will be paid one and one-half (1½) times your regular hourly wage for any time over forty (40) hours per week that you work. If, during that week, you were away from the job because of a job-related injury, paid holiday, jury duty, vacation taken in single-day increments, or paid sick time, those hours not worked will not be counted as hours worked for the purpose of computing eligibility for overtime pay. You must physically work 40 hours in one week to qualify for overtime pay.

### **Pay Period**

Cut off Date 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month (unless designated by the district office)

Cards to D/O Monday following 1<sup>st</sup> Friday

Pay Date 20<sup>th</sup> of every month, unless the 20<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday, Sunday or holiday, the pay date will be on the Friday before.

The cut off date of the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month is for all payroll information, including all time cards, leave cards, extra duty and activity pay, teacher for teacher and substitute cards, drivers ed., and any other payroll related information. Supervisors are responsible for turning in the above information and approving the electronic timekeeping by the following Monday.

***Any information received late in the district office will not be paid until the following month's payroll.***

### **Direct Deposit**

Renwick USD 267 requires that all employees utilize direct deposit for payroll purposes. Each employee will complete a form authorizing the district to deposit his/her net pay directly to the bank account of their choosing. Pay can be deposited into a checking or savings account and into more than one bank. Paystubs will be emailed on the day of payroll to either a work email address or an email account of the employee's choosing.

It is very important to notify the business office of any change in bank or account numbers prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month. Payroll will not process correctly if the employee fails to notify the business office that the account originally designated for direct deposit is closed.

### **Time Cards/Electronic Timekeeping/Records**

By law, we are obligated to keep accurate records of the time worked by employees. This is done by paper time cards/electronic timekeeping. All paper time cards/electronic timekeeping must be approved by the supervisor.

Your paper time card/electronic timekeeping is the only way the payroll department knows how many hours you worked and how much to pay you. Your paper time



card/electronic timekeeping indicates when you arrived and when you departed. You are to report time in and out for lunch and for brief absences like a doctor's or dentist's appointment. All employees are required to keep the office advised of their departures from and returns to the premises during the workday by filling out a paper absentee card or electronic leave request.

You are responsible for your paper time card/electronic timekeeping. Remember to record your daily time. When using a paper time card daily time should be rounded up or down to the nearest quarter (.25) hour. Payment of employee wages will be based on actual hours worked. Bus drivers are guaranteed 2 hours per a.m., p.m. and mid-day routes (in the case of an early release due to inclement weather, teacher in-service etc).

No one may record hours worked on another's card. Tampering with another's time card is cause for disciplinary action, including possible dismissal, of both employees. Do not alter another person's record, or influence anyone else to alter your record for you. In the event of an error in recording your time, please report the matter to your supervisor immediately.

### **Wage Assignments (Garnishments)**

We hope you will manage your financial affairs so that we will not be obligated to execute any court-ordered wage assignment or garnishment against your wages. However, whenever court-ordered deductions are to be taken from your paycheck, you will be notified.

According to the Federal Wage Garnishment Act, three (3) or more garnishments may be cause for dismissal.

# Performance Reviews

## Performance Reviews

Your supervisor is continuously evaluating your job performance. Day-to-day interaction between you and your supervisor should give you a sense of how your supervisor perceives your performance.

However, to avoid haphazard or incomplete evaluations, Renwick USD 267 conducts a formal review once a year for each employee.

Performance reviews will be conducted annually during the school year. New employees may be reviewed more frequently. A review may also be conducted in the event of a promotion or change in duties and responsibilities.

During formal performance reviews, your supervisor will consider several factors including the following:

- ☆ Attendance, initiative and effort
- ☆ Knowledge of your work
- ☆ Attitude and willingness
- ☆ The quality and quantity of your work
- ☆ The conditions under which you work
- ☆ Effective working relationships with others

The primary reason for performance reviews is to identify your strengths and weaknesses in order to reinforce your good habits and develop ways to improve in your weaker areas. This review also serves to make you aware of and to document how your job performance compares to the goals and description of your job. This is a good time to discuss your interests and future goals. Your supervisor is interested in helping you to progress and grow in order to achieve personal as well as work-related goals – perhaps he or she can recommend further training or additional opportunities for you.

In addition to individual job performance reviews, Renwick USD 267 periodically conducts a review of job descriptions to insure that we are fully aware of any changes in the duties and responsibilities of each position, and that such changes are recognized and adequately compensated.

## **Work Schedule**

### **Absence or Lateness**

From time to time, it may be necessary for you to be absent from work. Renwick USD 267 is aware that emergencies, illnesses, or pressing personal business that cannot be scheduled outside your work hours may arise. Sick days and discretionary days have been provided for this purpose.

If you are unable to report to work or if you will arrive late, please contact your supervisor immediately. Give him or her as much time as possible to arrange for someone else to cover your position until you arrive. If you know in advance that you will need to be absent, you are required to request this time off directly from your supervisor. He or she will determine when will be the most suitable time for you to be absent from your work. Failure to contact your supervisor may result in discipline, including suspension or dismissal.

When you call in to inform Renwick USD 267 of an unexpected absence or late arrival, ask for your supervisor directly. For late arrivals, please indicate when you expect to arrive for work. Notifying a fellow employee is not sufficient. If you are unable to call in yourself because of an illness, emergency or for some other reason, be sure to have someone call on your behalf. If your supervisor is not available when you call, you may leave the information with another supervisor.

### **Closure after Starting Time**

If severe weather conditions exist and the superintendent (or designated representative) decides to close school for the remainder of the day, you will be notified as soon as possible by your supervisor.

When school is dismissed or cancelled due to inclement weather, classified employees will be paid for the entire day(s). Classified staff will be paid in accordance with their regular schedule, for instance if the employee were scheduled for 5 hours on day that is cancelled due to inclement weather that employee would be paid for 5 hours. However if that employee was not scheduled to work there would be no pay if school is cancelled.

If employees remain at their job or come to work during the time or day(s) that school is dismissed, they will be paid their regular rate for those hours in addition to the normal scheduled hours. The normal scheduled hours by themselves will not result in overtime pay; you must still physically work more than 40 hours in a week to receive overtime.

## **Excessive Absenteeism or Lateness**

In general, a consistent pattern of absence will be considered excessive, and the reasons for the absences may come under question. Tardiness or leaving early is as detrimental to Renwick USD 267 as an absence. Be aware that excessive absenteeism, lateness or leaving early may lead to disciplinary action, including possible dismissal.

# Leave Policy

## Holidays

Renwick USD 267 observes the following holidays: Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and the day after Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day and Independence Day.

With the exception of temporary or seasonal employees, all classified employees are eligible for holiday pay only if the holiday falls on a normal workday for the employee. Temporary or seasonal employees are not eligible for holiday pay. Holiday pay will be based upon the length of your normally scheduled workday.

## Vacation

Twelve-month, full-time personnel shall be allowed non-accumulative vacation each year, allotted at a rate of 1 hour of leave for each 26 scheduled hours, to a maximum of 80 hours. New employees must work at least six (6) months before being entitled to any vacation allowance; however, after the six-month waiting period, the employee is entitled to vacation from the first day of employment. After the 10<sup>th</sup> year, vacation will accrue at a rate of 1 hour for each 17 scheduled hours, to a maximum of 120 hours.

A paper absentee card or electronic leave request must be filled out to show the number of hours and/or days an employee was absent. Vacation leave may not be used for other employment for financial gain with the exception of military leave.

### Accumulation Rights

Vacation time may not be carried over and accumulated in subsequent calendar years. Therefore each employee should utilize vacation time before October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Exceptions to the policy may be made in unusual circumstances, each case to be considered separately by the superintendent, with approval in writing.

### Payment in Lieu of Vacation

The purpose of a vacation is to provide you with a time to rest and relax; therefore, no additional wages will be paid to you in lieu of vacation.

## Bereavement Leave

Renwick USD 267 will allow up to five (5) days of non-chargeable leave (per occurrence) to the employee for the bereavement of immediate family. **Immediate family** is defined as the spouse, the children, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, father, father-in-law, mother, mother-in-law, brother, brother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, grandparents, grandchildren or step family members of the spouse and any other minor residing in the household.

Bereavement of a close friend or relative, other than immediate family, would be chargeable to sick leave and limited to two (2) days per occurrence.

## Sick/Discretionary Leave

Classified employees shall accrue sick leave based on their fulltime equivalency (FTE). A person working twelve (12) months, five (5) days a week and eight (8) hours per day is defined as a full time employee or 1.0 FTE.

The total annual hours of a full time employee will be used to compute all other FTEs. This normally will be 2080 hours, but may vary from year to year depending on how the weekends fall in the current school year of July 1st through June 30th.

A full time employee will receive a maximum of fifteen (15) eight (8) hour days of leave per year or 120 hours. Two-thirds or eighty (80) hours will be considered sick leave with the balance of one-third or forty (40) hours to be labeled discretionary leave. Any unused portion of discretionary hours on June 30th will revert to sick leave for the next school year of July 1st through June 30th.

Any employee scheduled to work less than a full time employee as defined above, will receive leave based on their FTE. FTE will be determined by dividing their scheduled annual hours into a full time employee's total annual hours. The part time employee's leave hours will also be divided into two-thirds sick and one-third discretionary.

**Example:**

	Part time employee – 1560 Total Annual Hours
Divided by	Full time employee – 2080 Total Annual Hours
=	.75 FTE
	120 Maximum hours
X	.75 FTE
=	90 Leave Hours (2/3 = 60 hours Sick Leave) (1/3 = 30 hours Discretionary Leave)

### Sick Leave

Sick leave may be used for personal illness, disability or doctor appointments of the employee or the employee's immediate family and childbirth due to adoption. It may also be used for bereavement of a close friend or relative, other than immediate family (as described above). Limited to two days.

### Discretionary Leave

Discretionary leave may be used at the employee's discretion, but may not be used for other employment for financial gain with the exception of military leave. New employees must work at least 30 days before being entitled to any discretionary leave allowance.

### Carryover

Unused sick leave shall be accumulated to a maximum of 640 hours. The leave hours accumulated to 640 plus the current year leave allowance will be the maximum number of hours available for use. Unused discretionary leave for a given year converts to sick leave for accumulation purposes.

Renwick USD 267 will reimburse the employee for each unused 8.0 hour day of sick leave that is attained above the maximum accumulation of 640 hours at a rate equal to 50% of the rate paid to teachers, pursuant to the current Professional Agreement negotiated between the Renwick USD 267 Board of Education and the Renwick Education Association.

### **Jury Duty**

Employees of the school district serving on a jury will be granted additional leave for the period of actual service on the jury. Employees will also be granted leave for responding to a summons as witness for appearing in any legal proceedings in connection with his/her employment when directed by the superintendent, or other matters in which the employee has no vested interest.

# Unpaid Leaves of Absence

## Reasons for Taking Leave

An employer must grant unpaid leave, without pay and benefits, to an eligible employee for one or more of the following reasons:

- ☆ for the care of the employee's child (birth, or placement for adoption or foster care);
- ☆ for the care of the employee's spouse, son or daughter, or parent, who has a serious health condition;
- ☆ for a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform their job;
- ☆ for other approved reasons; or
- ☆ for all approved absences in excess of the employee's accumulation of appropriate paid leave.

At the employee's or employer's option, certain kinds of paid leave may be substituted for unpaid leave.

## Advance Notice

The employee is required to provide advance leave notice to the supervisor and gain written approval.

## Intermittent or Reduced Leave

An employee may take intermittent leave or may work a reduced leave schedule to reduce the usual number of hours per day or workweek. Intermittent or reduced leave schedules are subject to employer approval unless medically necessary.

## Insurance Premium Payment During Leaves of Absence

Other than for leave under the Family Medical Leave Act, you will be responsible for paying the total premiums for your coverage and that of your dependents while on leave. Failure to do so may result in loss of coverage or possible refusal by the insurance carrier to allow your coverage to be reinstated or you may be subject to preexisting condition exclusions from benefits.



## **Family Medical Leave Act**

### *Basic Leave Entitlement*

Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job protected leave to eligible employees for the following reasons:

- for leave due to pregnancy, prenatal medical care or child birth;
- to care for the employee's child after birth, or placement for adoption or foster care;
- to care for employee's spouse, son or daughter or parent, who has a serious health condition; or
- for a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the employee's job.

### *Military Family Leave Entitlements*

Eligible employees with a spouse, son, daughter or parent on active duty or call to active duty status in the National Guard or Reserves in support of a contingency operation may use their 12-week leave entitlement to address certain qualifying exigencies. Qualifying exigencies may include attending certain military events, arranging for alternative childcare, addressing certain financial and legal arrangements, attending certain counseling sessions, and attending post-deployment reintegration briefings.

FMLA also includes a special leave entitlement that permits eligible employees to take up to 26 weeks of leave to care for a covered service member during a single 12-month period. A covered service member is a current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who has a serious injury or illness incurred in the line of duty on active duty that may render the service member medically unfit to perform his or her duties for which the service member is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, or is in outpatient status or is on the temporary disability list.

### *Benefits and Protections*

During FMLA leave, the employer must maintain the employee's health coverage under any "group health plan" on the same terms as if the employee had continued to work. Upon return from FMLA leave, most employees must be restored to their original or equivalent positions with equivalent pay, benefits and other employment terms.

Use of FMLA leave cannot result in the loss of any employment benefit that accrued prior to the start of an employee's leave.

### Eligibility Requirements

Employees are eligible if they have worked for a covered employer at least one year, have worked at least 1,250 hours during the 12 months prior to the start of the FMLA leave, and worked at a location where at least 50 employees are employed by the employer within 75 miles.

### Definition of Serious Health Condition

A serious health condition is an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves either an overnight stay in a medical care facility, or continuing treatment by a health care provider for a condition that either prevents the employee from performing the functions of the employee's job, or prevents the qualified family member from participating in school or other daily activities.

Subject to certain conditions, the continuing treatment requirement may be met by a period of incapacity of more than 3 consecutive calendar days combined with at least two visits to a health care provider or one visit and a regimen of continuing treatment, or incapacity due to pregnancy, or incapacity due to a chronic condition. Other conditions may meet the definition of continuing treatment.

### Use of Leave

An employee does not need to use this leave entitlement in one block. Leave can be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically necessary. Employees must make reasonable efforts to schedule leave for planned medical treatment so as not to unduly disrupt the employer's operations. Leave due to qualifying exigencies may be also taken on an intermittent basis.

### Substitution of Paid Leave for Unpaid Leave

Employees may choose or employers may require use of accrued paid leave while taking FMLA leave. In order to use paid leave for FMLA leave, employees must comply with the employer's normal paid leave policies.

### Employee Responsibilities

Employees must provide 30 days advance notice of the need to take FMLA leave when the need is foreseeable. When 30 days notice is not possible, the employee must provide notice as soon as practicable and generally must comply with an employer's normal call-in procedures.

Employees must provide sufficient information for the employer to determine if the leave may qualify for FMLA protection and the anticipated timing and duration of leave. Sufficient information may include that the employee is unable to perform job functions, the family member is unable to perform daily activities, the need for hospitalization or

continuing treatment by a health care provider, or circumstances supporting the need for military family leave. Employees also must inform the employer if the requested leave is for a reason for which FMLA leave was previously taken or certified. Employees also may be required to provide a certification and periodic recertification supporting the need for leave.

### Employer Responsibilities

Covered employers must inform employees requesting leave whether they are eligible under FMLA. If they are, the notice must specify any additional information required as well as the employees' rights and responsibilities. If they are not eligible, the employer must provide a reason for the ineligibility.

Covered employers must inform employees if leave will be designated as FMLA-Protected and the amount of leave counted against the employee's leave entitlement. If the employer determines that the leave is not FMLA-protected, the employer must notify the employee.

### Unlawful Acts by Employers

FMLA makes it unlawful for any employer to:

- interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of any right provided under FMLA;
- discharge or discriminate against any person for opposing any practice made unlawful by FMLA or for the involvement in any proceeding under or relating to FMLA.

### Enforcement

An employee may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor or may bring a private lawsuit against an employer.

FMLA does not affect any Federal or State law prohibiting discrimination, or supersede any State or local law or collective bargaining agreement which provides greater family or medical leave rights.

### **Notice of CHIPRA Policy**

(Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009)

If you decline enrollment for yourself or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health coverage, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents in this plan at a later date if you or your dependents lose eligibility for that other coverage (or if the employer stops contributing towards your or your dependents' other coverage). However, you must request enrollment within 30 or 63 days after your or your dependents' other coverage ends (or after the employer stops contributing toward the other coverage).

Effective April 1, 2009, if you or a dependent lose coverage under Medicaid or a state children's health insurance program (SCHIP), you may be eligible for coverage under this plan. However, you must request enrollment within 60 days after the coverage ends.

In addition, if you have a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents. However, you must request enrollment within 30 days after the marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption.

### **HIPAA Notice**

(Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act)

This notice is to advise you of your rights under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, in regards to Special Enrollment Rules. This provision allows for a special enrollment period for individuals who do not enroll in the medical and/or dental plans at the first opportunity and subsequently lose other sources of coverage.

#### Open Enrollments and Qualifying Events

If you elect not to enroll for yourself and your eligible dependents at your first opportunity to enroll, you will only be allowed to enroll during the open enrollment period or due to a qualifying event. If you have one of the follow qualifying events occur, you will have the opportunity to enroll during a special enrollment period. They are as follows:

- Loss of coverage due to COBRA being exhausted
- Losing eligibility due to legal separation or divorce, death of a spouse
- Termination of spouse's employment
- Reduction in spouse's work hours
- Termination of spouse's employer contributions towards coverage
- Date of marriage, birth of a child, adoption or placement for adoption

You must notify the human resources department within 31 days of a qualifying event to enroll after your initial eligibility date.

#### Pre-existing Conditions

Covered charges incurred under Medical Benefits for Pre-Existing Conditions are not payable unless incurred after the person has been covered under this plan for 90 days from the Date of Enrollment\*.

Note: The length of a Pre-Existing Conditions Limitation may be reduced or eliminated if an eligible person has creditable coverage from another health plan unless there has been a lapse in coverage of 63 days or more.

An eligible person may request a certificate of creditable coverage from his or her prior plan. The employer will assist any eligible person in obtaining a certificate of creditable coverage from a prior plan. If after creditable coverage has been taken into account, a Pre-Existing Conditions Limitation will still be imposed, that individual will be so notified.

Pre-Existing Condition is a condition for which medical advice, diagnosis, care or treatment was recommended or received within 90 days of a person's Enrollment Date. For these purposes, Genetic Information is not a condition. Treatment includes receiving services and supplies, consultations, diagnostic tests, or prescribed medicines. In order to be taken into account, the medical advice, diagnosis, care, or treatment must have been recommended by, or received from a Physician.

The Pre-Existing Condition does not apply to pregnancy, to a newborn child within 30 days of birth who is covered under creditable coverage, or to a child who is adopted or placed for adoption before attaining age of 18 and who, as of the last day of the 30-day period beginning on the date of the adoption or placement for adoption, is covered under creditable coverage.

The prohibition on exclusion for newborn, adopted, or pre-adopted children does not apply to an individual after the end of the first 63-day period during all of which the individual was not covered under any creditable coverage.

\* Enrollment Date: For purposes of the pre-existing condition limitation provision, means the first day of the individual's company imposed waiting period.

## COBRA

(Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act)

A temporary extension of health benefits may be available to you at group rates in certain instances where coverage under the plan would otherwise end. Please refer to your official COBRA notice provided by USD 267 Renwick for your rights and obligations under the continuation of coverage provisions of the law.

### Qualifying Events

Covered individuals experiencing a qualifying event may continue coverage as outlined in the chart below. Your coverage will be billed direct from the insurance company. Both the health plan and the dental plan can be continued under COBRA.

Qualifying Event	Qualified Beneficiary	Number of Months
The employee terminates employment or hours are reduced.	Employee and all covered dependents.	18
The employee loses coverage because the employer files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.	Employee and all covered dependents.	18
The employee becomes disabled (18 months plus 11-month extension allowed per law).	Employee and all covered dependents.	29
The employee becomes eligible for Medicare due to age while on COBRA coverage.	Qualified beneficiaries of the covered employee (dependents).	36 *
The employee's death.	Dependents of covered employee.	36 *
Divorce or legal separation.	Dependents of covered employee.	36 *
Dependent child no longer qualifies as a dependent (e.g., reaches the maximum dependent age, gets married, etc.).	Dependent child.	36 *

Note: 1. If the dependents experience a second qualifying event while they are covered under COBRA, the total eligibility period will be no more than 36 months.

2. A reduction in hours followed by termination of employment is one event. The termination is not a second qualifying event for the employee or the employee's beneficiaries.

*Example:* An employee with a wife and a child terminates employment and goes on COBRA. Four months after going on COBRA, the child becomes ineligible because of age. The child will be eligible for 32 months under the child's own identity for a total of 36 months of COBRA coverage.

# Retirement

## **Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS)**

All district employees who are employed in a position covered by KPERS (630 hours or more per year and are not a seasonal employee) must become a member. A payroll deduction (as determined by KPERS) will be made monthly. Employees who leave school employment before completion of five (5) years of service will be reimbursed all contributions plus interest upon written application. Employees with five (5) years of service or more who leave school service may withdraw contributions plus interest or leave the contributions with KPERS and receive a retirement benefit when eligible.

The details regarding KPERS employee contributions, vesting, and retirement options are included in a separate booklet provided by KPERS which was given to you along with this handbook when you were hired.

## **Voluntary 403(b) Retirement Plan**

All employees may be eligible to participate in a 403(b) Retirement plan, as a salary reduction.

Upon employment, newly hired personnel will be given the opportunity to select from a number of funds provided through the ESSDACK 403(b) Consortium. Our local representative is Grant Lane with Ameritime, and the plan is administered by TPP, LLC.

New employees can sign up during open enrollment, or by January 1, April 1 or June 1 if they are hired during the school year. Changes to the amount of salary contributed to the plan can be made through the Payroll Clerk at Central Office, changes to your investment mix or where future contributions will be invested can be made anytime online at the TPP website, [www.yourfutureisdaily.com](http://www.yourfutureisdaily.com).

Information regarding the 403(b) plan, including investment options and strategies are available at District Office.

# Government Required Coverage

## Workers' Compensation

Workers compensation is a required insurance plan provided by the employer to pay employee benefits for job-related injuries, disability or death that arise out of and in the course of employment.

Per K.S.A. 44-508, an injury by accident shall be deemed to arise out of employment if:

- There is a casual connection between the conditions under which the work is required to be performed and the resulting accident; and
- The accident is the prevailing factor causing the injury, medical condition and resulting disability or impairment.

The words "arising out of and in the course of employment" as used the Workers Compensation Act shall not be construed to include:

- Injury which occurred as a result of the natural aging process or by the normal activities of day-to-day living;
- Accident or injury which arose out of a neutral risk with no particular employment or personal character;
- Accident or injury which arose out of a risk personal to the worker; or
- Accident or injury which arose either directly or indirectly from idiopathic causes.

### Who is covered?

Every Renwick USD 267 employee is protected by workers' compensation.

### What is covered?

Any injury is covered if it's caused by your job – not just serious accidents, but even first-aid type injuries. Illnesses may also be covered, if they're related to your job. For example, common colds and flu are not covered, but if you caught tuberculosis while working at a TB hospital, that's covered. The main question is if the injury or illness is the result of the performance of your job.

### When am I covered?

Coverage begins the first minute you're on the job and continues anytime you're working for Renwick USD 267. You don't have to work a certain length of time, and there's no need to earn any minimum amount of wages before you're protected.



### What Are the Benefits?

Kansas law guarantees you three kinds of workers' compensation benefits:

- ☆ **Medical care to take care of the injury, including not only doctor bills, but also medicines, hospital costs, fees for lab tests, x-rays, crutches and so forth –** There's no deductible and all costs are paid directly by our workers' compensation insurance carrier. If you do receive a bill, be sure to submit it to the business office for payment through our insurance carrier.
- ☆ **Rehabilitation services necessary to return to work –** Sometimes this is just an extension of medical treatment (for example, physical therapy to strengthen muscles). However, if the injury keeps you from returning to your usual job, you may qualify for vocational rehabilitation and retraining, too. Again, all costs are paid directly by Renwick USD 267 through our workers' compensation insurance carrier.
- ☆ **Cash payment for lost wages –** The most common kind of payments, for "temporary disability", will be made for as long as the doctor says you're unable to work. Additional cash payments may be made after you're able to work if there's a permanent handicap – for example, the amputation of a finger or loss of sight. If the injury results in death, payments will be paid to surviving dependents.

### What to do if an Accident Occurs on the Job?

#### **Responsibilities of the Employee:**

Per K.S.A. 44-520, for injuries on or after April 25, 2013, a claim may be denied if an employee fails to notify their employer within the earliest of the following dates:

- 20 calendar days from the date of accident or the date of injury by repetitive trauma;
- 20 calendar days from the date such medical treatment is sought if the employee is working for the employer against whom benefits are being sought and such employee seeks medical treatment for any injury by accident or repetitive trauma;
- or
- 10 calendar days after the last day of actual work for the employer if the employee no longer works for the employer against whom benefits are being sought.

Notice may be given orally or in writing. Where notice is provided orally, notice must be provided to a supervisor or manager and/or the District office.

Where notice is provided in writing, notice must be sent to a supervisor or manager and/or the District office.

The notice, whether provided orally or in writing, shall include the time, date, place, person injured and particulars of injury. It must be apparent from the content of the notice that the employee is claiming benefits under the Workers Compensation Act or has suffered a work-related injury.

### Average Weekly Wage

A worker's "average weekly wage" is calculated by adding together the base wage, the average weekly overtime and the weekly value of fringe benefits that have been discontinued.

### Weekly Benefits

Benefits are paid by the employer's insurance carrier or self-insurance program. Injured workers are not entitled to compensation for the first week they are off work unless they lose three consecutive weeks. The first compensation payment is normally due at the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> day of lost time. An injured employee is entitled to a weekly amount of 66 2/3 percent of his average weekly wage up to a maximum of 75 percent of the state's average weekly wage. These benefits are subject to legislative changes. If the injury results in permanent disability, the Kansas Compensation Law provides for additional benefits.

### Medical Benefits

An injured worker is entitled to all medical services reasonably necessary to cure and relieve the worker from the effects of the injury. The employer has the right to select the doctor who will treat the injury. A worker may seek the services of an unauthorized doctor up to a limit of \$500. A worker may apply to the Workers Compensation Director to change the authorized treating doctor. Reimbursement for travel to obtain medical treatment is payable at a rate set by law for trips that are five miles or more.

#### CLAIMS ADVISORY/OMBUDSMAN

DIVISION OF WORKERS COMPENSATION  
800 SW JACKSON STREET, STE 600  
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1227

TOLL FREE 1-800-332-0353

If you were hurt on the job and have any questions about Workers Compensation benefits contact the **Claims Advisory Section** at the Kansas Division of Workers Compensation. The Division of Workers Compensation has full time personnel who specialize in aiding injured workers with claim information and problems. They can give information about benefits an injured worker is entitled to receive. They can help try to solve problems with benefits not being paid on time, with medical treatment, with unpaid medical bills, with questions about how to figure settlement amounts, etc. Spanish interpreters are available at the Division of Workers Compensation.

### What If There's a Problem?

Fortunately, most claims – better than 9 out of 10 – are handled routinely. After all, workers' compensation benefits are automatic and the amounts are set by the legislature. But mistakes and misunderstandings do happen. If you think you haven't received all benefits due you, please contact your supervisor.

If you're not satisfied with your supervisor's explanation, get advice from the nearest office of the State Division of Industrial Accidents. If the problem still can't be resolved, it may be necessary to file an "Application for Adjudication" with the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, that reviews cases where an injured worker believes he or she hasn't received what's coming to him or her.

The Appeals Board is a court of law. You can represent yourself, of course, but you may want to hire an attorney. If you do, the fee will be deducted from any benefits awarded you by the Appeals Board. If it's necessary to go to the Appeals Board to resolve your case, be sure to do so within one year from the date of the injury, or one year from the date of your last medical treatment. Waiting longer could mean losing your right to benefits.

### Other Benefits

If the injury is very serious – one where you won't be able to work for a year or more – you may be eligible for additional benefits from Social Security. For information contact the nearest office of the Social Security Administration, or discuss your situation with the claims representative of Renwick USD 267's workers' compensation insurance carrier.

Employees returning to work after being absent due to an injury must report to their supervisor prior to beginning work and must bring a doctor's clearance for returning to duty.

### Injuries Occurring When an Employee is "Under the Influence"

The Workers' Compensation Law clearly states that compensation is not payable if the injury was caused primarily by the intoxication of the employee or by the influence of any drugs, barbiturates, or other stimulants not prescribed by a physician. Under the law, the employer may require the employee to submit to a test for the presence of any or all drugs or alcohol in his or her system. If the injured worker refuses to submit to a drug test, it shall be presumed in the absence of clear and convincing evidence to the contrary that the injury was caused primarily by the influence of drugs or alcohol.

### Recreational and Social Activities

Recreational and social activities are not compensable unless such recreational or social activities are an expressly required incident of employment and produce a substantial direct benefit to the employer beyond improvement in employee health and morale that is common to all kinds of recreation and social life.

### Injuries Suffered While Traveling to and from Work

An injury suffered while going to or coming from work is not an injury arising out of and in the course of employment whether or not the employer provided transportation if such means of transportation was available for the exclusive personal use by the employee, unless the employee was engaged in a special errand or mission for the employer, or access to the vehicle was an integral element of the employment. An employee who is injured while deviating from the course of his employment, including leaving the employer's premises, is generally not eligible for benefits unless such deviation is expressly approved by the employer.

### Horseplay

An employee who is injured during horseplay occurring in the course of the workday is not entitled to benefits unless the injured employee is an innocent victim not participating in the activity.

## **Unemployment Compensation**

Renwick USD 267 pays a percentage of its payroll to the Unemployment Compensation Fund according to Renwick USD 267's employment history. If you become unemployed, you may be eligible for unemployment compensation, under certain conditions, for a limited period of time. Unemployment compensation provides temporary income for workers who have lost their jobs. To be eligible you must have earned a certain amount and be willing and able to work. You should apply for benefits through your local State Unemployment Office as soon as possible. Renwick USD 267 pays the entire cost of this insurance.

## **Social Security**

The United States Government operates a system of contributory insurance known as Social Security. As a wage earner, you are required by law to contribute a set amount of your weekly wages to the trust fund from which benefits are paid. As your employer, Renwick USD 267 is required to deduct this amount from each paycheck you receive. In addition, Renwick USD 267 matches your contribution dollar for dollar, thereby paying one-half of the cost of your Social Security benefits.

## Other Policies

### Communications

Successful working conditions and relationships depend upon successful communication. Not only do you need to stay aware of changes in procedures, policies and general information, you also need to communicate your ideas, suggestions, personal goals or problems as they affect your work.

In addition to the exchanges of information and expressions of ideas and attitudes which occur daily, make certain you are aware of and utilize all Renwick USD 267 methods of communication, including this Employee Handbook, bulletin boards, discussions with your supervisor, memoranda, staff meetings, newsletters, training sessions, district website, emails, etc.

You will receive other information booklets, such as your insurance booklets, from time to time. You may take these booklets home so that your family may know more about your job and your benefits.

In addition, you may receive letters and/or emails from Renwick USD 267. There is no regular schedule for distribution of this information. The function of each letter and/or email is to provide you and your family with interesting news and helpful information that will keep you up-to-date on the events here at Renwick USD 267.

### Concerns/Complaints

Personnel having a concern should follow the procedure below to resolve conflict or concern:

- Level I:* Meet with immediate supervisor.
- Level II:* Meet with building principal.
- Level III:* Meet with superintendent of schools.
- Level IV:* Meet with board of education.

School personnel should not supersede this conflict-resolving procedure unless otherwise stated in another policy, contract or statute. If no solution is found at a step, the supervisor or administrator should refer the issue to the next step. Personnel who are refused the next step should contact the superintendent. The complaint or concern should be in writing at Level II and Level III.

### Benefit Continuation Privileges

At your exit interview or upon dismissal, you will learn how you can continue your insurance coverage and any other benefits you currently enjoy as an eligible employee.

## **Dress Code/Personal Appearance**

A neat, tasteful appearance contributes to the positive impression you make on our patrons. You are expected to be suitably attired and groomed during working hours or when representing Renwick USD 267. A good clean appearance bolsters your own poise and self-confidence and greatly enhances our district's image.

## **Exit Interviews**

In instances where an employee voluntarily leaves our employ, Renwick USD 267 administration would like to discuss your reasons for leaving and any other impressions that you may have about Renwick USD 267. If you decide to leave, you will be asked to complete an Exit Interview Survey. On the Exit Interview Survey, you can express yourself freely. It is hoped that this exit interview will help us part as friends, as well as provide insights into possible improvements we can make. All information will be kept strictly confidential and will in no way affect any reference information that Renwick USD 267 administration will provide another employer about you. Your district email account will be discontinued after your last payroll check. Only the superintendent can grant an exception to this policy.

## **Expense Reimbursement**

You must have your supervisor's written authorization (requisition/purchase order, etc.) prior to incurring an expense on behalf of Renwick USD 267. To be reimbursed for all authorized expenses, you must submit an expense report/voucher accompanied by receipts and approved by your supervisor. The Travel and Business Expense Guide is on file in the District office.

If no district vehicle is available and you are asked to conduct district business using your personal vehicle, you will be reimbursed at the rate approved by the board for mileage reimbursement.

## **Faculty/Staff Meetings**

From time to time, your supervisor will schedule faculty/staff meetings before, during, or after work. It's to your advantage to be at these meetings. They give you and your fellow workers a chance to receive information on Renwick USD 267 events, to review problems and possible solutions, and to make suggestions about your department or your job.

If your attendance at faculty/staff meetings is mandatory, you will be informed in writing. Your attendance at the August District in-service is mandatory. Classified staff will be paid for the time spent attending in-service.

## **Personal Property**

The district does not provide insurance on employees' personal property and, therefore, does not assume any liability. If an employee's personal property is broken, damaged or stolen while the employee is on the job, repair or replacement is the employee's responsibility.

## **Resignation**

While we hope both you and Renwick USD 267 will mutually benefit from your continued employment, we realize that it may become necessary for you to leave your job with Renwick USD 267. If you anticipate having to resign your position with Renwick USD 267, you are expected to notify your supervisor at least two (2) weeks in advance of the date that you must leave. Please see Exit Interviews section above.

## **Severance Pay**

All classified employees who leave the employment of the district in good stead after at least five years of continuous employment, that is, those who are not terminated or asked to resign for unsatisfactory performance or misconduct, are eligible to receive fifteen dollars (\$15) for each 8.0 hour day of unused accumulated sick leave. The District does not pay for unused vacation leave.

## **Safety Rules**

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Safety is to be given primary importance in every aspect of planning and performing all Renwick USD 267 activities. We want to protect you against industrial injury and illness, as well as minimize the potential loss of production.

Please report all injuries (no matter how slight) to your supervisor immediately, as well as anything that needs repair or is a safety hazard. Below are some general safety rules. Your supervisor or department head may post other safety procedures in your department or work area.

- ☆ Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many appliances or machines.
- ☆ Use flammable items, such as cleaning fluids, with caution.
- ☆ Ask for assistance when lifting heavy objects or moving heavy furniture.
- ☆ Smoking is not allowed inside any Renwick USD 267 building or school vehicle. However, employees may smoke on district property in areas outside the district buildings as designated by the building principal or superintendent.
- ☆ Wear or use appropriate safety equipment as required in your work.
- ☆ Start work on any machine only after safety procedures and requirements have been explained (and you understand them).

- ☆ Keep your work area clean and orderly, and the aisles clear.
- ☆ Stack materials only to safe heights.
- ☆ Watch out for the safety of fellow employees.

## **Security**

Maintaining the security of Renwick USD 267 buildings and vehicles is every employee's responsibility. Develop habits that insure security as a matter of course. For example:

- ☆ Always keep cash properly secured. If you are aware that cash is insecurely stored, immediately inform the person responsible.
- ☆ Know the location of all alarms and fire extinguishers, and familiarize yourself with the proper procedure for using them, should the need arise.
- ☆ When you leave Renwick USD 267's premises make sure that all entrances are properly locked and secured.

## **Tobacco Products/Electronic Cigarettes**

Renwick USD 267 discourages its employees from smoking. Smoking is regarded as a poor health habit that can detract from performance and is often offensive to coworkers. While we cannot regulate employee conduct off the job or outside of work hours, we feel it is our responsibility to provide a workplace free of exposure to hazardous substances. The use of tobacco products in any form and/or electronic cigarettes is prohibited in any school building owned or operated by the district and in school vehicles. All employees are expected to abide by this policy while at work.

## **Substance Abuse**

Renwick USD 267 has a vital interest in maintaining safe, healthful, and efficient working conditions for its employees. Being under the influence of a drug or alcohol on the job may pose serious safety and health risks not only to the user, but to all those who work with the user, as well as our students. The unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by school employees on school premises or as a part of any school activity is prohibited. This policy is required by the 1989 amendments to the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act, P.L. 102-226, 103 St. 1928.

## **Telephone Calls**

District telephones are for school business. Use of phones, including cell phones, for personal business should be avoided except in case of an emergency. Excessive use of phones (whether for a call or text) for personal reasons may result in disciplinary action, including possible dismissal.



## **Violations of Policies**

You are expected to abide by the policies and procedures in this handbook. Failure to do so will lead to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.