



2025 – 2027

COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT

GARRETT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
AND THE GARRETT COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (TEACHERS)
770 Dennett Rd., Oakland, MD 21550

DIRECTORY

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Washington, D.C. 20036
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SCHOOL PHONE NUMBERS

Accident Elementary
301-746-8863 & 301-895-5040

Broad Ford Elementary
301-334-9445

Crellin Elementary
301-334-4704
Cafeteria 301-334-3601

Central Office
301-334-8900

Friendsville Elementary
301-746-5100
Cafeteria 301-746-5953

Grantsville Elementary
301-746-8662 & 301-895-5173

Hickory Environmental Educational Center
301-746-8461
Planetarium 301-746-7038

Northern High
301-746-8668 & 301-895-5434
Cafeteria 301-746-8166
Guidance 301-746-8669

Northern Middle
301-746-8165 & 301-895-5075
Cafeteria 301-746-8140

Route 40 Elementary
301-689-6132
Cafeteria 301-687-0254

Southern High
301-334-9447
Cafeteria 301-334-9449
Career Employability 301-334-1310
Food Service 301-334-9470
Guidance 301-334-1660
Vo-Ag 301-334-1580

Swan Meadow School
301-334-2059

Yough Glades Elementary
301-334-3334
Cafeteria 301-334-3612

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DEFINITIONS

Whenever the following terms are used in the Agreement, they shall refer to the following definitions unless otherwise stipulated:

1. BOARD - The Board of Education of Garrett County
2. ASSOCIATION – The Garrett County Education Association
3. TEACHER - Any member of the negotiating unit
4. SUPERINTENDENT – The Superintendent of the Garrett County Public Schools
5. NEGOTIATION LAW – Section 6.401-411 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland as revised within the Article for Section of this Agreement
6. PART-TIME EMPLOYEES – All regular part-time teachers who work at least thirty (30) hours of a full-time equivalent position covered by this Agreement shall receive full insurance and other fringe benefits. Sick leave and salary rates shall be established on a pro rata basis related to a full-time equivalent position.
7. TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES – A temporary employee excluded from the bargaining unit is one who is specifically assigned to replace any bargaining unit member on approved leave whose position is guaranteed upon return in accordance with terms expressed in this agreement or to replace any teacher temporarily assigned to a special project consisting of one (1) year or less, one hired to complete the remainder of a school term, or one who is hired for a temporary job or a special project for a duration of one (1) year or less and is so informed at the time of the hire.

ARTICLE 1 RECOGNITION

1.1 Unit Members:

In accordance with section 6.401-411 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Board recognizes the Association as the exclusive representative of a unit consisting of all certificated professional employees of the GARRETT COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM, excluding the Superintendent of Schools, persons designated by the Board to act in a negotiating capacity, and all other administrative and supervisory personnel. The term bargaining unit member used herein shall be defined as all professional certificated employees, and JROTC instructors, in the bargaining unit.

ARTICLE 2 GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

2.1 Definitions:

- A. A grievance is an unsettled cause of complaint arising between a grievant and the Board over an alleged violation or misapplication of the terms of this Agreement.
- B. A "Grievant" is a unit member, group of unit members or the Association making the complaint.
- C. The term "days" as used in this article means duty days.

2.2 Purpose:

The purpose of a grievance procedure is to secure at the lowest possible level an equitable solution to complaints which may arise from time to time. Nothing contained herein shall limit the right of any grievant to discuss the matter informally with his/her immediate supervisor or administrator, without the intervention of the Association so long as the resolution is not inconsistent with the terms of this Agreement.

2.3 Procedure:

- A. Informal Level - Within thirty (30) days following occurrence or first knowledge of the act or condition which is the basis of the complaint, a grievant must first meet and discuss the problem with his/her immediate supervisor, administrator, or designee for the purpose of resolving the matter informally. If the grievant does not initiate this conference within the thirty (30) days, the grievance shall be deemed to be waived.
- B. Level One - In the event the grievance is unresolved, the grievant may, within five (5) days thereafter, file the grievance in writing with the appropriate administrator or supervisor who shall hold a conference with the grievant within seven (7) days after filing. The appropriate supervisor or administrator will render a decision within five (5) days thereafter.
- C. Level Two - In the event the decision is unsatisfactory, the grievant may file an appeal within five (5) days thereafter to the Superintendent who shall hold a conference within seven (7) days after the receipt of said grievance. The Superintendent shall render a written decision within five (5) days thereafter.
- D. Level Three -
 - 1. If the grievant is not satisfied with the decision of the Superintendent, the Association may appeal such decision to arbitration under the Voluntary Labor Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association by filing a written notice to the Board within twenty (20) days after the decision at Level Two.
 - 2. Arbitration Procedure

Any grievance concerning the alleged violation of this agreement that has been properly processed through Level One and Level Two of the grievance procedure, and has not been settled or waived, may be appealed to the arbitration procedure by the Association by serving written notice to the Board within twenty (20) days after the Superintendent's response at Level Two. Should the Association fail to serve notice within the prescribed time, the right to arbitration shall be waived and the grievance shall be considered settled.

 - a. The Board and the Association will attempt to agree upon a mutually acceptable arbitrator. If the parties are unable to agree within seven (7) days after Association's notice, a request by either party for a list of arbitrators may be made to the American Arbitration Association. Parties will then be bound by the rules and procedures of the American Arbitration Association. All arbitration hearings shall be held in Garrett County.
 - b. The jurisdiction and the authority of the arbitrator and the opinion and award shall be confined to the provisions of this Agreement. The award of the arbitrator, in writing, shall be final and binding on the Association, the grievant and the Board, unless held contrary to law

or State Board By-Law. The arbitrator will have no authority to add to, alter, amend or modify any provision of this Agreement.

- c. The cost of the services of the arbitrator and the fee of the American Arbitration Association shall be equally shared by the parties.
- d. The grievant and one witness shall be released without loss of pay or benefits, as necessary, to participate in the grievance or arbitration proceeding. Any other unit member witness(es) called upon to appear during school hours will be released on administrative leave for a period not to exceed two hours on the basis of other unit members being willing and able to "cover" for said unit member-witness(es).

2.4 Right of Unit Members to Representation:

- A. No reprisals of any kind will be taken by the Board or by any members of the administration against any party in interest, any Association representative or any other participant in the grievance procedure by reason of such participation.
- B. The grievant may be represented at any level of the grievance procedure by a representative of the Association and the Association may make statements at such meetings.
- C. Documents, communications and records relating to the grievance shall be filed separately from the personnel files of the participants.
- D. The grievant's identity shall be kept confidential.

2.5 Miscellaneous:

- A. A grievance may be withdrawn at any level, without prejudice. Failure to appeal to the next level within the time prescribed herein shall constitute withdrawal of the grievance. The time limit may be extended by mutual agreement and placed in writing.
- B. Failure to render a decision within the time prescribed herein shall be understood to be a decision in favor of the grievant. The time limit may be extended by mutual agreement and placed in writing.
- C. Copies of all decisions of grievances shall be provided to the Board, the grievant and the Association.
- D. Neither party may present any material, allegation or remedy at a subsequent level that was not presented initially at Level Two of the grievance procedure.
- E. Forms for filing and processing grievances shall be designed by the Association and approved by the Superintendent. A Grievance Report is attached hereto.
- F. Released time shall be provided to the grievance coordinator during non-instructional time to investigate and process grievances.

Distribution of Form as follows: Administrator and/or Supervisor, and Association, and Grievant

Grievance Report # _____

School _____

Grievant _____

Assignment _____

Date File _____

(If additional space is needed in reporting at any step, please attach an additional sheet)

LEVEL ONE

A. Date Cause of Grievance Occurred _____

B. 1. Statement of Grievance _____

2. Relief Sought _____

Signature _____ Date _____

C. Decision of Administrator/Supervisor _____

Administrator/Supervisor _____ Date _____

Position of Grievant _____

Signature _____ Date _____

LEVEL TWO

A. Date Received by Superintendent _____

B. Decision of Superintendent _____

Signature _____ Date _____

C. Position of Grievant _____

Signature _____ Date _____

LEVEL THREE

A. Date Submitted to Arbitrator

B. Decision of Arbitrator

Signature

Date

NOTE: All provision of Article II of the Agreement will be STRICTLY OBSERVED IN THE SETTLEMENT OF GRIEVANCES

ARTICLE 3 WORKING CONDITIONS

3.1 Duty Day:

- A. The teacher's duty day shall not exceed 7 hours and thirty-six minutes (7.6 hours). When necessary for administrative purposes, the principal, with the approval of the Superintendent of Schools, may arrange different hours of the work day providing the work week does not exceed 38 hours and with five (5) days written notice.
- B. Principals and the faculty, through the faculty advisory council, shall meet at least once annually (prior to the start of the students' school year) and periodically as needed to design a procedure for assigning non-teaching, non-compensated duties among all faculty members on an equitable basis within the duty day. The faculty advisory council shall include any staff member based at the school, which may include the Association Representative from that worksite.
- C. Bargaining unit members shall indicate their presence for duty using a means determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee.
- D. On days when the start of classes for students is delayed or students are dismissed early due to inclement weather, bargaining unit members' workday shall be reduced accordingly. On days when students are dismissed early due to inclement weather, bargaining unit members shall normally be dismissed no later than thirty (30) minutes after the last bus departs, except in the event of an emergency.
- E. Any unit member leaving the school for any purpose must notify the principal, or designee, and use the sign-out sheet.

3.2 Preparation Time:

- A. Each secondary teacher shall be provided with not less than one period of unassigned duties during the duty day for preparation time. Such periods shall coincide in length with the regular instructional class period. Special education teachers will have the ability to request one (1) day per month for release time to complete required special duties, pending the availability of grant funding.
- B. Each elementary teacher shall be provided with not less than 300 minutes per week of unassigned duties in increments of not less than thirty (30) minutes during the duty day for preparation time. Special education teachers will have the ability to request one (1) day per month for release time to complete required special duties, pending the availability of grant funding.
- C. Traveling bargaining unit members shall be granted planning time equal to that of bargaining unit members at one (1) worksite to which they are primarily assigned. Travel time shall be exclusive of planning time.
- D. Administration will make every effort not to infringe upon the unit members planning time, but it is recognized that on occasions it may be necessary for the unit member to perform other duties.

- E. Any unit member shall be allowed to leave the school during his/her preparation time if such time is needed for purposes of a professional or emergency nature.
- F. The duty day may be extended by no more than once a month for the maximum of forty-five (45) minutes for the purpose of school-based meetings to be held by supervisors, building administrators, or teacher leaders. The duty days for the remainder of the pay period in which the meeting is held will be shortened by a total of forty-five (45) minutes to compensate. Every effort will be made to ensure that all unit members can attend without affecting their duty day beyond this extension.

3.3 Lunch Provision:

- A. Every unit member shall be provided with a lunch period free of any duty or responsibility each regularly scheduled school day. This lunch period shall extend for at least thirty (30) minutes.
- B. Unit members may leave school on their duty free lunch periods, but must notify the principal, or designee, prior to leaving the school and use the sign-out sheet.

3.4 Duty Year:

- A. The duty year for teachers shall not exceed 187 days, including days for professional activities.
- B. Except when school is delayed due to inclement weather, all bargaining unit members shall be released two and one-half (2.5) hours early on the workdays preceding the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.
- C. Bargaining unit members shall be provided with time within the work year for the following duties and responsibilities:

Parent Conferences:

- 1. One (1) day for parent conferences

2. Staff Development:

- a. Three (3) days prior to the start of school shall be used for professional and staff development activities, as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee.
- b. Half-days within the workday and throughout the work year, as determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee.
- c. Professional and staff development activities may include a virtual meeting link in order for participants to minimize travel time to alternate worksites and maximize meeting time.

- 3. Workdays: The first day for staff and the afternoon on the first day for students will be used exclusively for individual bargaining unit member worksite preparation.

- a. Two of the first five (5) duty days for bargaining unit members to be used exclusively for individual bargaining unit member worksite preparation. A minimum of one of these days shall be in a full day increment. The remaining day may be in two (2) half-day increments. A half day increment is defined as three and a half (3.5) hours.

- b. One-half day near the end of the semester for record keeping. (Effective 7.1.2025, this day does not need to occur on the 91st day.)
 - c. The afternoon on the first day will be used exclusively for individual bargaining unit member worksite preparation.
 - d. The previous practice of late nights is no longer in effect.
- D. A calendar committee shall be appointed by the Superintendent to prepare recommendations. The committee shall include the-President of the Association, or designee, and one (1) additional member of the Association.
- E. Each bargaining unit member shall be provided with an individual school calendar setting forth all employment days, including parent conference days, and the scheduling of alternate dates for parent conferences in case of inclement weather, by October 1. This calendar may be subject to change with bargaining unit members receiving notice of such change at least one (1) week prior to the change, if possible.
- F. Bargaining unit members shall attend a back to-school night or similar PTA program each year. Such program shall not exceed two (2) hours.
- G. Should the Board vote to dismiss students early on the last two days for students, the time after school dismissal shall be considered unit member worktime.

3.5 Substitutes:

- A. A regular teacher shall not be required to substitute for another teacher during his/her preparation time.
- B. Substitutes will be provided for Board required business involving half or full days of absences.
- C. Teachers are not required to obtain substitutes.
- D. Bargaining unit members will not be asked to substitute for or assume the work duties of an employee(s) during their individual preparation time, unless deemed an emergency.
- E. In an emergency, when no substitute is available, a unit member may be asked to give up their planning period to cover another unit member's instructional responsibilities. In addition to their regular pay, the Board will pay the covering, certified unit member a stipend of \$40.00 to cover the class.
Payment of this "Teacher Covering Teacher Stipend" is limited to the following criteria and conditions:
 - 1.) Both employees must be Unit I members.
 - 2.) Must be coverage of a certified teacher by another certified teacher.
 - 3.) Must be coverage of instructional time.
 - 4.) Forfeiture of personal planning period. A stipend will not be paid for a reassignment of duties.
(Ex. recess duty or lunch duty)
 - 5.) One Stipend per pay/planning period.

The understanding is that the employee who is covering for another teacher will not be provided with additional planning time for that day, they will do their planning before or after their regular duty day.

3.6 Extra Duty:

- A. All extra duty activities and responsibilities for which no additional compensation is paid, but which are normally considered a part of the school's program, shall be on a voluntary basis only.
- B. Any unit member receiving compensation for extra- duty activity shall consider time devoted to the activity as an addition to the regular duty day and shall assume his/her share of all nonteaching, noncompensated duties on an equitable basis assumed by the other faculty members within the duty day.

3.7 Lesson Plans:

Each teacher shall develop lesson plans for the instruction of students enrolled in his/her classroom. The primary purpose of lesson plans is to assist the classroom teacher with instruction. It also provides the basis to ensure that the state/county curriculum is being presented.

3.8 Planning and Evaluation Workload Committee:

The Superintendent and GCEA shall form an advisory work group to examine planning time and bargaining unit member workload. This group shall be comprised of seven (7) bargaining unit members appointed by the GCEA President and seven (7) members (either bargaining unit members or administrative employees) appointed by the Superintendent. Not later than January of each calendar year, the committee shall make non-binding written recommendations to the Superintendent for potential action.

3.9 Instructional Changes:

- A. Materials and texts necessary for implementation shall be available to the bargaining unit members at least thirty (30) days prior to the implementation date.
- B. Adequate time, as defined by administration, shall be scheduled for bargaining unit members to prepare and plan for implementation.
- C. It is understood that such new curricular, techniques, and/or strategies shall not include those which a supervisor recommends to a bargaining unit member or group of bargaining unit members (gradelevel, team, department, etc.) in order to bring about immediate instruction change.
- D. Any curricular changes that require new materials of instruction shall be purchased by the Board under the Superintendent's discretion.

3.10 Telework:

- A. When schools are closed to students (designated virtual student learning day) due to inclement weather, bargaining unit members may have the option to work on site or to telework, as long as the essential functions of their position can be done effectively. Bargaining unit members will be required to maintain timely communication with their supervisor by means of communication such as

telephone messages, email, virtual meetings, etc. A supervisor can deny telework if the employee cannot successfully perform the essential functions of his/her job. If telework is denied, the employee may utilize earned or accrued leave until cleared to return to work.

- B. When an employee is required to quarantine or isolate under the direction of the health department, government entity, or by GCPS due to an exposure, the employee may be granted permission to telework only if the essential functions of that employee's job can successfully be performed virtually. If the essential functions are not being implemented successfully, the supervisor can deny telework. If telework is denied, the employee may utilize earned or accrued leave until cleared to return to work or return to work. If applicable, the employee shall provide medical documentation that states the reason for the quarantine or isolation, the expected duration, and a medical note releasing said employee to return to work.
- C. GCPS will provide the necessary PPE in accordance with GCHD/CDC/MDH/MSDE guidelines; therefore, the bargaining unit member should not have to reuse any PPE without proper cleaning and disinfecting.

ARTICLE 4 LEAVES

4.1 Sick Leave:

- A. During the first year of employment in Garrett County, and during each successive year thereafter, each bargaining unit member(s) shall accrue fourteen (14) days of leave per year, in which the bargaining unit member(s) is entitled to the flexibility of using sick leave in the following manner; family illness, self-sick, and up to five (5) personal days. Any sick leave usage will pull from a bargaining unit member(s) accumulated sick leave first. After accumulated sick leave is exhausted, it will then pull first from their current allotment of nine (9) family illness days, then five (5) personal days, and up to two (2) prior personal days, if they are available.

For a first year bargaining unit member(s), the use of a family illness or sick leave day (s) will be deducted from the current allotment of nine (9) family illness days, then five (5) personal leave days, if they are available.

Sick leave may be used in accordance with the FMLA policy.

- B. A unit member may request to leave school for emergency reasons; such request must be approved by the principal or his/her designee. The unit member will not incur loss of salary or accumulated sick leave when his/her classes are covered by regular teachers, student teachers and/or assistants. The principal and his/her designee will not be required to obtain such volunteers. Emergency leave, without loss of benefits, will not be provided if volunteers are not available.
- C. Unused sick leave shall accumulate without limit. Unit members will be notified of the number of sick leave days on the employee portal.
- D. The Board reserves the right to require a physical examination, at Board expense, of unit members on extended sick leave without pay.

4.2 Sick Leave Bank

- A. Unit members shall be permitted to join and receive benefits from a Unit I Sick Leave Bank by contributing two (2) sick leave days. Days shall not be accepted from any bargaining unit member who has less than ten (10) accumulated or earned days. Contributors shall be eligible to receive Sick Leave Bank benefits. The contribution shall be authorized annually by the member on the appropriate form.

If the number of contributed days falls below thirty (30), bargaining unit members who wish to continue their participation in the Sick Leave Bank shall be required to contribute two (2) sick leave days. The annual rate of contribution shall not exceed two (2) days of sick leave per fiscal year.

Contributions for new membership shall be made during an open enrollment of July 1 to September 30 of each fiscal year. A sick leave contribution to the Sick Leave Bank, when properly authorized for a given fiscal year, shall not be returned if the member effects cancellation. The plan shall be administered by a joint committee composed of two (2) members selected by the President of the GCEA and two (2) members selected by the Superintendent. (See Addendum I)

4.3 Personal Leave:

- A. Each bargaining unit member shall be entitled to five (5) days of personal leave per year with pay and chargeable to sick leave. Provided these days are not used by a bargaining unit member, up to two (2) days will be accumulated as prior personal leave days.
- B. The maximum number of personal leave days a bargaining unit member may use in a school year shall be seven (7), providing they have accumulated two (2) personal leave days from the prior year. Any accumulated prior personal days will be deducted first. No more than five (5) personal leave days may be used consecutively without the approval from the Office of Human Resources and employee Relations. Unused personal leave days, aside from the two (2), which may be accumulated, shall revert to sick leave days at the end of the year. Personal leave shall not be taken on a professional development/in-service/professional day or mandated student assessment days. Personal leave on such days shall require administrative approval.
- C. Personal leave may be taken immediately preceding or following a school holiday if the bargaining unit member notifies his/her supervisor within two (2) weeks of the intended start date of the desired leave if applicable. Entering the leave in AESOP shall be considered adequate notification, unless it is within a 24 hour period of the absence.
- D. On occasion, a bargaining unit member may be granted up to two (2) hours of administrative leave, without reduction in pay, for the transaction of personal business that cannot be accomplished other than during the duty day. In the event coverage is needed, the bargaining unit member must make such suitable arrangements for coverage of his/her duties and responsibilities. Said request for administrative leave must be made in writing at least one (1) day prior to the start of the desired leave, except in the event of an emergency, and include an explanation of the suitable coverage which the bargaining unit member has arranged.

- E. Stipend for Early Notification of Retirement - If funding is available, GCBOE will offer members of this bargaining unit a stipend for early notification of retirement, notification date and stipend amount determined by the Superintendent.

4.4 Family Illness Leave:

- A. During the first year of employment in Garrett County, and during each successive year thereafter, each bargaining unit member(s) shall accrue nine (9) days of family illness leave per year. After a unit member(s) exhausts their current allotment of family illness days, leave will be deducted from their accumulated sick leave balance. Once the accumulated sick leave balance is exhausted, the bargaining unit member(s) leave will be deducted from the five (5) personal days, and up to two (2) prior personal days, if they are available.

For a first year unit member(s), family illness will be deducted from the current allotment of nine (9) family illness days, then five (5) personal days. A leave day for family illness will qualify if taken for an immediate family member, such as a spouse, children, mother, father, or anyone who lives regularly in the household. Family illness leave may be used in accordance with the FMLA policy.

4.5 Bereavement Leave:

- A. A unit member shall be allowed a maximum of five (5) consecutive duty days of absence without loss of salary upon the death of a child, parent (natural, foster, or in-law), brother, sister, husband, wife, or anyone who has lived regularly in his/her household. A unit member shall be allowed a maximum of two (2) consecutive duty days of absence without loss of salary upon the death of a brother-in-law, sister-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, aunt, uncle, nephew, niece, or spouse's grandparents. In the event of unusual travel, memorial service, or personal problems in connection with the use of bereavement leave, additional leave days or a reconfiguration of consecutive days may be granted by the Superintendent.

4.6 Political Leave:

- A. Upon submission of the appropriate application, a unit member will be granted a leave of absence without pay in order to run for, or serve in, public or political office. Such leave shall be for a period not to exceed one (1) year or the length of the elected office. The unit member on leave will be offered the first available position for which he/she qualifies during a period not to exceed two years from the end of the leave upon written notice by June 1 or 30 days prior to the time of return.

4.7 Sabbatical Leave:

- A. Upon written request, the Superintendent of Schools may recommend to the Board that such leave be granted to not fewer than one (1) bargaining unit member during a given school year for full-time study, including study in another area of specialization, or for travel, research or other educational endeavors that will be of value to the school system, subject to the following conditions:
 - 1. If there are sufficient qualified applicants, sabbatical leave shall be granted to not less than one (1) bargaining unit member during a given school year.
 - 2. Requests for sabbatical leave must be received by the Superintendent in writing, in such form as may be required, no later than March 1 of the school year preceding the year for which the

sabbatical leave is requested. An applicant who intends to pursue a program other than formal study must present a comprehensive proposal of the proposed program.

3. The bargaining unit member has completed at least five (5) full years of service in the Garrett County School System.
4. A bargaining unit member on sabbatical leave shall be paid by the Board at one-half (1/2) the salary rate which the bargaining unit member would have received if the bargaining unit member had remained on active duty, provided that such bargaining unit member agrees to return to employment in the Garrett County School System for a period of five (5) years.
5. Upon return from sabbatical leave, a bargaining unit member shall be placed on the salary schedule at the level which the bargaining unit member would have achieved had the bargaining unit member remained actively employed in the system during the period of absence. The bargaining unit member shall be restored to the same position, if requested in writing, by April 1 or thirty (30) days prior to the date of return if before April 1. All other conditions of employment provided to active bargaining unit member shall also be restored.
6. Group hospitalization and medical insurance, including disability income protection and group term life insurance, shall continue while on sabbatical leave.
7. An agreement shall be signed by the participating partners. Successful applicants must indicate within thirty (30) days of being awarded the sabbatical that they plan to accept and agree to the terms of the sabbatical. If an individual should decline the sabbatical before August 1, the sabbatical shall be offered to another qualified applicant. Should the bargaining unit member receiving sabbatical leave voluntarily separate his/her employment or has his/her employment separated for cause within five (5) years after returning from leave, the bargaining unit member shall be required to pay the Garrett County Public Schools a prorated portion of the sabbatical leave amount paid on his/her behalf. Such payment shall be made within one (1) year of his/her separation from employment.

4.8 Professional Leave:

- A. A tenured teacher shall be entitled to take a leave of absence up to one (1) year without pay for the purpose of study. The teacher will submit said request on such form as may be required by April 1. The teacher on leave will be offered the first available position for which he/she qualifies during a period not to exceed two years from the end of the leave, if requested in writing by the teacher prior to June 1 or thirty (30) days prior to the date of return if less than a year.
- B. Teachers on such leave shall be afforded the opportunity to continue payments toward retirement and/or insurance programs.

4.9 Parental Leave of Absence:

- A. A female unit member must use any or all accumulated leave during pre- and post-natal care for that period of time she is temporarily disabled, as determined by the unit member and her physician in accordance with the Family Medical Leave policy.
- B. A unit member using a leave of absence without pay for pre-natal care, adoption, post-natal care and/or child bonding (not to exceed a period of one (1) year in duration) shall have the opportunity to continue benefit programs provided to unit members. Unit members with at least one (1) year experience with the Garrett County Board of Education will be required after the first twelve (12)

weeks (assuming that unit member is approved and completed FMLA for the full 12 weeks of leave) to assume the Board's share of the premium in addition to any premiums he/she theretofore paid for dependent coverage and shall be offered employment upon expiration of such leave in the first available position for which he/she is certified within two (2) years from the ending date of the leave, provided that a written, advanced request is made to the Office of Human Resources and Employee Relations for re-employment which includes the anticipated date of return. If the return is within ninety (90) duty days and such return is stipulated at the beginning of the leave, the same position shall be offered.

- C. Adoptive parents may use up to twelve (12) weeks (assuming that unit member is approved and completed FMLA for the full 12 weeks of leave) in compliance with Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) of accumulated leave for the purpose of adoption and/or bonding.

4.91 Association Leave:

- A. The Association may draw upon an annual twenty (20) day leave bank, which is cumulative between both GCEA bargaining units. Days will not be charged to leave or result in loss of salary as long as notice is given to the Office of Human Resources and Employee Relations prior to the absence. Substitute's pay will be paid by the Association. If additional days are needed, GCEA will request those days to be considered. Consideration will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- B. Local Association delegates elected to the annual State Teachers Association Representative Assembly may use professional leave to attend. GCEA will pay for the substitutes.
- C. Any teacher elected to state or national office shall be granted leave without pay to serve and be eligible to maintain his/her other benefits of employment while on such leave. He/she will be offered the first available position upon return from such leave.

4.92 Extended Illness Leave:

A unit member may be granted a leave of absence, with the approval of the Superintendent of Schools, for one (1) year or less without pay for serious family or personal illness. An employee in such a non-pay status may continue as a member of the group health insurance, if they qualify for FMLA, after the first twelve (12) weeks (assuming that the unit member is approved and completed FMLA for the full 12 weeks of leave) the employee will be required to assume the Board's share of the premiums in addition to any premium he/she theretofore paid for dependent coverage. If return is within ninety (90) duty days and such return is stipulated at the beginning of the leave, the same position shall be offered. If the leave requested is for more than ninety (90) duty days the unit member will be offered employment upon expiration of the leave in the first available position for which he/she is certified within two (2) years from the end of the leave, provided that a written request is made to the Office of Human Resources and Employee Relations by June 1.

4.93 Civil Leave:

- A. A bargaining unit member subpoenaed to appear in court for a work-related matter or serve on jury duty shall be granted leave without loss of pay. A copy of the court summons, subpoena, or letter from the court requesting the bargaining unit member's presence must be submitted to administration.

- B. When a bargaining unit member is scheduled to be absent and such appearance in court is negated or the bargaining unit member is excused in such time to return to his/her work site for the remainder of his/her workday, then he/she is required to do so.

4.94 Family Medical Leave Act:

The Board shall pay its share of the premiums for up to a total of twelve (12) weeks per year during an approved qualifying leave in accordance with the Family Medical Leave Act.

ARTICLE 5 TEACHER RIGHTS

5.1 Just Cause:

No teacher will be discharged, disciplined, reprimanded, reduced in rank or compensation, or deprived of any professional advantage without just cause.

5.2 Personal Life:

The Board agrees that nothing shall be deemed to deny or restrict any teacher from full individual rights or personal freedom except as it may directly impair performance as a teacher during duty hours.

5.3 Freedom of Association:

A teacher's participation or non-participation in religious, political or teacher association activities conducted outside duty hours and off school property shall not be grounds for disciplinary action or for discrimination with respect to professional employment, providing said activities do not violate local, state or national laws or are not prejudicial to the teacher's effectiveness in teaching performance.

5.4 Academic Freedom:

Teachers shall have reasonable freedom in the implementation of the curriculum including the right to select materials and to determine the class needs as they relate to the curriculum. However, this does not exclude the right and obligation of the administration to question, consult and direct whenever necessary.

5.5 Reduction in Force:

- A. In any reduction in force as a result of budgetary actions or curriculum and/or administrative reorganization, teachers shall be laid-off in inverse order of seniority by date of employment based on certification.
- B. Seniority in the bargaining unit is determined from the most recent date of hire, which was approved by the Board, and shall include time on approved leave or layoff. If two or more unit members with the same certification are hired on the same date, the establishment of seniority shall be determined by the time recorded at the signing of the employee's contract.
- C. Subject to certificate endorsement, normal attrition (teachers who resign or retire will not be replaced) will be used if possible.

- D. In any reduction in force based upon the certification, conditional certificated teachers will be separated first, then non-tenured certificated teachers.
- E. While a layoff continues, no new teachers will be considered for employment except in unique circumstances where there are no teachers on layoff qualified to fill a vacant position and all qualified teachers on layoff decline the offer to fill the vacancy. Teachers on layoff will keep the Office of Human Resources informed of current address and status of employment.
- F. Teachers on layoff will be recalled in reverse order of layoff based on certification when appropriate vacancies become available.
- G. The recall privilege shall exist for a two (2) year period.
- H. Teachers on layoff shall have priority in serving as long term substitutes if certified in that field.
- I. A person who is on the recall list is eligible to continue insurance benefits in accordance with the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA).

5.6 Termination of Services:

- A. In the event a non-tenured teacher's contract is non-renewed, the Board will advise the teacher in writing prior to May 1.

5.7 Personnel Files:

Teacher files shall be maintained in accordance with the following procedures:

- A. No material related to a teacher's conduct, service, character or personality shall be placed in the file unless it is signed by the person submitting the information. The teacher shall be given the opportunity to acknowledge that he/she has read such material by affixing one's signature on the actual copy to be filed with the understanding that such signature merely signifies that he/she has read the material to be filed and does not necessarily indicate agreement with its contents. No such material shall be used in a hearing against a teacher unless an opportunity for such review has been afforded. A teacher's refusal to sign will be noted by an administrator and a witness. If the item has been sent to the teacher by "Certified Restricted Mail", then the certified mail receipt may be attached to the item in lieu of the teacher's signature on the copy.
- B. The teacher shall have the right to answer any material filed and the answer shall be attached to the file copy. The appropriate administrator or supervisor shall affix his/her signature to the reply indicating that such reply was read and noted.
- C. A teacher shall be permitted to examine his/her files at all reasonable times. A designee of the Superintendent shall be present at all times. A one-time copy of any document filed shall be provided the teacher with the exception of confidential references. Additional copies may be provided at cost.
- D. A teacher's file shall be open to inspection by only those persons whose official responsibilities require such inspection.

- E. The Office of Human Resources and Employee Relations shall continue to place in a teacher's file information of positive nature indicating special competencies, achievements, performances or contributions of an academic, professional or civic nature.
- F. Letters of personal references received prior to initial employment are confidential and not subject to review.
- G. Adverse material properly placed in a teacher's file and not acted upon within two (2) years may be removed upon request by the teacher unless it relates to a substantiated issue involving the abuse or sexual harassment of either a student or fellow employee or an issue involving drug abuse or alcohol abuse that has a direct impact upon job performance. Materials related to abuse or sexual harassment or those involving drug abuse or alcohol abuse related to job performance may be removed upon request by the teacher if not acted upon within five (5) years. All materials related to the teacher's evaluation process and properly signed by the principal, supervisor, or other administrative or supervisory personnel and the teacher shall be exempt from this provision.
- H. Any written complaint made against a teacher by a parent, student, or other person which may be used in any manner in evaluating the teacher shall be reported to the teacher in writing and the teacher shall be afforded the opportunity to answer such complaints.

5.8 Parent-Teacher Conferences:

- A. Unit member shall be available at mutually arranged times during the regular school day to confer with parents regarding learning difficulties, student progress and/or behavioral problems a student may be experiencing. Unit members are encouraged to arrange a meeting or conference with parents before or after the regular school day if both time and place are mutually agreeable.
- B. In the event that a bargaining unit member does not communicate with a parent on the established date for parent unit member conferences as per the calendar adopted by the Board, a reasonable attempt to contact that parent will be made. A reasonable attempt constitutes a phone call or email. If that contact is not returned, the bargaining unit member shall not be obligated to make further contact.

5.9 Planning/Workload/Evaluation Committee

The Superintendent and GCEA shall form an advisory work group to examine planning time, bargaining unit member workload, and the evaluation process. This group shall be comprised of five (5) bargaining unit members appointed by the GCEA President and five (5) members appointed by the Superintendent and GCEA president.

5.10 Employee Discipline or Reprimand

Employees shall not be disciplined or reprimanded in the presence of students, parents, and other employees, or members of the public, with the exception of the employee's or employer's representative.

ARTICLE 6 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

6.1 Tuition Reimbursement:

- A. Unit members will be reimbursed for the cost of college courses up to nine (9) hours earned from July 1 of one (1) year to June 30 of the following year. The maximum rate of reimbursement will be adjusted to be the tuition rates set by Frostburg State University for undergraduate and graduate courses. Reimbursement for courses taken through other institutions or agencies may not exceed the Frostburg State University tuition rate or the actual invoiced cost of the course.

Effective 7.1.21, should a bargaining unit member currently receiving tuition reimbursement voluntarily separate his/her employment or has his/her employment separate for cause within three (3) years, the bargaining unit member shall be required to repay the Garrett County Public Schools a prorated portion each year that shall equate to thirty-three and one-third percent (33 1/3%) of the total tuition reimbursement on his/her behalf. Such payment shall be made within one (1) year of his/her separation from employment.

6.2 Conditions of Tuition Reimbursement:

In order to be entitled to reimbursement, the bargaining unit member must meet the following conditions:

- A. The bargaining unit member must be under contract with the Board of Education and actively employed to receive reimbursement for classes taken during the summer.
- B. Credits must be earned at an accredited institution.
- C. A grade of "B" or better must be earned in the course or a passing grade in a pass/fail course.
- D. Credits earned must contribute toward the securing and/or renewal of the Standard Professional Certificate, toward the securing or renewal of an Advanced Professional Certificate or toward the securing of an advanced degree in education or graduate courses in education or field of teaching.
- E. Any courses not covered in Item-D. must have prior approval, in writing, from the Office of Human Resources and Employee Relations.
- F. Claims for reimbursement must be submitted by September 15, January 15, and June 15 of each school year. Reimbursement shall be made during the following month.
- G. Any financial assistance or allowance received for tuition from any source shall be deducted from the amount the unit member would have been reimbursed according to the guidelines above.
- H. Should a bargaining unit member currently receiving tuition reimbursement for a Doctoral Degree voluntarily separate his/her employment or has his/her employment separated for cause within three (3) years after degree completion, the bargaining unit member shall be required to repay the Garrett County Public Schools any tuition reimbursement paid on his/her behalf during the three (3) years preceding the date of separation. Such payment shall be made within one (1) year of his/her separation from employment.

6.3 Professional Meetings:

- A. A teacher may request time without loss of leave or pay to attend workshops, conferences or meetings of his/her subject matter or grade level area. Request should be in writing and directed to the appropriate Director for approval with a copy of said request provided to the school administration when applicable. The appropriate director and/or administrator will make every effort to respond to the unit member's request within ten (10) business days.
- B. At least one (1) classroom teacher shall be included whenever a group is attending a conference, workshop or special meeting that is related to their teaching assignment.
- C. Notification of State Department workshops, conferences or meetings shall be posted in each school.
- D. The Board recognizes the responsibility of providing in-service workshops for all new and required programs introduced into the curriculum.

6.4 Staff Development:

The County finds that the professional expertise and insight of the classroom teacher to be an invaluable ingredient in the development and delivery of staff development programs that meet the needs of the classroom teachers. Therefore, a professional staff development committee comprised of five (5) representatives appointed by the GCEA and five (5) administrative representatives will collaborate in the development of the professional development program. Teachers shall be released at 3:15 to serve on the committee.

ARTICLE 7 ASSOCIATION RIGHTS

7.1 No Reprisal:

There will be no reprisal of any kind taken against any unit member for reasons of his/her membership in the Association, participation in any of its activities, or for exercising his/her rights under this agreement.

7.2 Bulletin Boards:

In each school's teachers' lounge there shall be bulletin board space reserved for the Association for the purpose of displaying Association notices.

7.3 Association Communications:

The Association will have the right to place official notices, circulars and other professional materials in teachers' mailboxes.

7.4 Association Meetings:

- A. The Association shall have the right to use school facilities for meetings without cost after the regular students' school day.

- B. The Association shall be provided the opportunity to address new unit members at their annual orientation meeting.

7.5 Access to Schools:

In order for the Association to properly administer its Agreement, Association officers and the Uniserv Director will have access to all school buildings and all unit members, provided that the exercise of this right will not interfere with the educational program and the principal of each school is given prior notice.

7.6 Faculty Meetings:

The Association's faculty representatives and the Uniserv Director will be provided an adequate amount of time during the school faculty meetings to report on matters involving the representation of unit members by the Association.

7.7 Information to the Association:

- A. Upon prior notice, the Superintendent or designee will make available to the Association information that is available to permit the Association to bargain understandingly and administer this Agreement.
- B. The Board shall maintain a copy of the current Policies and Procedures Handbook with all new revised policies and procedures, as approved, and will be posted on the Board of Education's website www.garrettcountyschools.org.

7.8 Board Meetings:

The Association may refer to the Garrett County Public Schools website or BoardDocs for Board Meeting agendas and minutes. The agendas are available one week in advance of the scheduled Board Meetings. The minutes are not available until the Board approves them at the following Board Meeting.

7.9 Unit Members Lists:

- A. The Board will provide to the Association a directory of unit members which shall include their names, addresses, and school assignments as soon as it is available for distribution.
- B. Names and addresses of all new unit members shall be provided the Association within ten (10) calendar days following initial hiring.

7.91 Association Dues:

- A. The Association shall provide to the Board of Education (Finance Office) all notices of cancellation within the pay period in which they occurred.
- B. The deduction shall be made in twenty-six (26) equal installments beginning with the salary check issued no later than September 30.
- D. The Association shall provide to the Board of Education (Finance Office) all notices of cancellation within the pay period in which they occurred.

D. The Board agrees to transmit to the Association all dues and members' names pursuant to this section.

7.92 Voluntary Political Contributions:

- A. The Board shall make bi-weekly payroll deduction voluntarily authorized by individual unit members to the Fund for Children and Public Education.
- B. Unit members may voluntarily sign up for VPC deductions at the beginning of each school term. Deadline for enrolling will be September 10 of each school year VPC contributions will be ongoing once authorized but may be revoked at any time by notifying the Association and the Board of Education in writing.

7.93 Exclusivity:

The rights and/or privileges granted to the Association in this article will not be granted to any other teacher organization.

7.94 Association Rights:

The Association will be permitted to participate in any new employee orientation meetings at the beginning of each school year.

ARTICLE 8 TEACHER ASSIGNMENT

8.1 Assignment:

- A. A teacher who desires a change in grade and/or subject assignment in the same school shall file a written statement with the principal and the Office of Human Resources and Employee Relations.
- B. All teachers will be given written notice of their school assignment for the forthcoming school year by June 5. A tentative notice of grade and subject assignment will be given the teacher prior to the close of the school year.
- C. In the event of changes in school, grade or subject assignments made after July 1, the details of such changes shall be submitted to the teacher in writing.

8.2 Letter of Intent:

The Letter of Intent, prepared and distributed by the Board, is recognized as a tentative indication for future staff planning, and, therefore, shall carry such indication thereon.

8.3 Teachers Assigned to More Than One School:

- A. All teachers assigned to more than one school will be assigned home schools for reporting purposes.
- B. Teachers assigned to more than one school shall be assigned to schools within a reasonable distance.

- C. The school assignments of teachers assigned to more than one school will be finalized no later than August 1, however, changes and/or additions to staff may necessitate changes in assignment(s). If such changes are necessary, the teacher will be notified in writing.

ARTICLE 9 TRANSFERS AND VACANCIES

9.1 Involuntary Transfer:

- A. In order to meet the staffing needs of the county to prevent undue disruption of the instructional program, it may be necessary to transfer a teacher involuntarily. Such transfers shall be affected only after prior notice to the teacher involved. The teacher may request a meeting with the Superintendent, or designee, to discuss such transfer. The affected teacher will be given the reasons for such involuntary transfer.
- B. Depending upon the reasons for the involuntary transfer, volunteers from the school affected by the need of a transfer may be given first consideration for transfer. If no volunteers are identified, the factors such as certification and length of service in Garrett County Public Schools may be considered.

9.2 Voluntary Transfer:

- A. A tenured teacher who desires a voluntary transfer to another school shall indicate such interest on the county intent form. The teacher will identify not more than five (5) schools for which he/she would like to be considered for a voluntary transfer.
- B. Teachers with the fewest years of service in the county shall be considered for transfer first in any reassignment required as a result of a reduction in force at the worksite or the county.
- C. A teacher shall have the right to discuss the transfer request with the appropriate administrator. If the transfer request is denied, the teacher shall be given the reason.
- D. A teacher who receives a voluntary transfer will not be eligible for another voluntary transfer for a period of at least two (2) years unless approved by the Superintendent.
- E. Any teacher who agrees to a voluntary transfer, at the request of the Superintendent, shall be provided with three (3) to five (5) days, with a minimum of two (2) days for classroom preparation, of staff development employment prior to the beginning of the school year for training and preparation. Such voluntary transfers shall be given priority over all other voluntary transfers.

9.3 Announcement of Vacancies:

When a vacancy occurs, a vacancy announcement will be posted on the designated secure site linked to the GCPS website at www.garrettcountyschools.org. The announcement will indicate the closing date which shall be no sooner than five (5) calendar days following the posting date. Those who wish to apply must do so through the application process within the advertised time period.

9.4 Vacancies:

When a vacancy is being filled within the unit, a current tenured teacher employed by the Garrett County Board of Education who expressed interest in the position, received a satisfactory rating on his/her most recent evaluation, is certified for the vacant position, and possesses any special qualifications required for the job shall be given consideration for the position over applicants not meeting the qualification set forth. Any special criteria or skills that are required must be stated in advance of any consideration of the candidates for the position and shall be directly related to the performance of the job. Length of service and prior satisfactory experience may be factors considered in the selection of the applicant to be placed in the position. Tenured teachers in the system may be given priority consideration over new applicants for the position

ARTICLE 10 MAINTENANCE OF CLASSROOM CONTROL & DISCIPLINE

10.1 School Policy:

Each school's administration and faculty shall develop a written policy on classroom control and discipline which will include the following items:

- A. Misbehavior - When a student's behavior seriously disrupts the instructional program to the detriment of other students, the classroom teacher may remove the student from class and refer the student to the principal or designee. The principal will determine the time of return to class, but such determination shall only be made after consultation with the teacher. Any affected unit member with supervisory responsibility for the student will be provided information pertinent to the student's instructional needs. A copy of the student's disposition will be provided to the referring unit member. Any unit member may request a conference with the administrator prior to the student's readmission. Additionally, any unit member with supervisory responsibility will be made aware of the disposition of that student as soon as possible.
- B. Serious Incidents - If a teacher is directly subjected to serious verbal abuse, profanity or outright disrespect by a student:
 - 1. The student shall be removed from the teacher's class pending an investigation.
 - 2. The teacher and the principal shall work cooperatively to determine the action necessary for correction of the student's behavior.
 - 3. Prior to re-admission to class, the teacher shall be informed of action taken by the principal. Re-admission shall not occur until a conference is held to include, but not limited to, administrator, parent, pupil service department and teacher.
 - 4. At the teacher's request, the facts of the case and the proposed corrective action shall be reviewed by the Superintendent or designee.
- C. Assault or Battery - Any case of assault or battery upon a teacher which had its inception in a school centered problem shall be promptly reported to the Superintendent or designee. If the assault was by a student, the student shall be immediately removed from the class. The administration shall promptly investigate the matter, render all reasonable assistance it deems warranted to the teacher in connection with the handling of the incident. The teacher shall be informed of action taken prior to the student's re-admission to class.

- D. When GCPS is informed that a student engaged in reportable offenses, or when a student is transitioning to a school from an outside facility, that information will be shared with staff who have supervisory responsibility for that student unless prohibited by law. Opportunity for feedback on behavior, safety and individualized education plans will be provided for the affected staff prior to implementation.

ARTICLE 11 PROTECTION OF TEACHERS

- A. The Board hereby assures bargaining unit members that it shall put its full support behind the discipline procedures and policies hereinafter recommended and adopted by the Board. It is also agreed that such policies will be enforced fairly and consistently pursuant to its anti-discrimination policy.
- B. A bargaining unit member, absent from work as a result an injury occurring in the course of his/her employment, may apply for Worker's Compensation. In accordance with State Law pertaining to Workers' Compensation, the bargaining unit member shall be paid for the period of such absence without loss of sick leave.

Under GCPS' current practice employees on worker's compensation leave continue to receive his/her salary (the total amount remains the same, but it is paid between GCBOE and the current workers' compensation insurance carrier). Under GCPS' current practice employees on worker's compensation leave continue to accrue his/her longevity and paid leave.

- C. Differently, in accordance with 6-111 of the Education Article to the Annotated Code of Maryland, any bargaining unit member who is absent as the result of a compensable injury arising from an assault during the course of his/her employment shall continue to receive full salary for the period of such absence without loss of sick leave.
- D. It is the responsibility of the Board to provide a safe environment free from hazardous conditions. Employees shall not be required to perform tasks that endanger their health or safety. Employees are expected to report any unsafe working conditions to the administration.
- E. Teachers shall not be required to transport students under any circumstances.
- F. Any teacher who has suffered loss, damage, or destruction of clothing or personal property while on duty in the school, on school premises, or during school sponsored activities shall refer the loss to the proper legal authorities for appropriate action. School officials shall render all reasonable assistance.
- G. Classroom visitation guidelines developed by the local Board will apply to the visiting public.
- H. Immediately Hazardous, Dangerous, or Infectious Conditions:
GCPS will comply with guidance from GCHD/MDH/MSDE/CDC in any immediately hazardous, dangerous, or infectious condition. GCEA will have access to a recovery plan, if applicable.

- I. GCPS will comply with guidance from the appropriate agencies to fix/upgrade any immediate hazard. GCEA will have access to a recovery plan, if applicable.

ARTICLE 12 TEACHER FACILITIES

12.1 Minimum School Facilities:

The Board shall provide:

- A. A serviceable desk and chair for each teacher.
- B. The use of the office telephones for professional and emergency personal reasons and provide confidentiality where possible.
- C. Separate partitioned dining area for exclusive use of teachers, to the extent possible, without cost for construction or renovation of existing facilities.
- D. Space in which teachers may store instructional materials and supplies.
- E. A furnished room reserved for the exclusive use of the school staff as a lounge to the extent possible. Said room will be cleaned by the custodial staff.
- F. A parking area reserved for the exclusive use of teachers at each school.
- G. Maintenance for all curricular and extracurricular activities.

12.2 Facilities Where Feasible:

In all new buildings, and where feasible in existing buildings the following facilities will be provided:

- A. A teacher work area containing adequate equipment and supplies to aid in the preparation of instructional materials.
- B. Well-lighted and clean teacher rest rooms, separate for each sex and separate from the students' rest rooms.

12.3 Vending Machines:

At the request of the faculty, the principal shall arrange for the installation of vending machines in each faculty lounge. The disposition of proceeds from such vending machines shall be determined with the advice and consent of the faculty advisory council.

ARTICLE 13 FRINGE BENEFITS

13.1 Fringe Benefits:

- A. Effective January 1, 2018, an up to nine hundred dollar (\$900.00) health insurance cost share will become effective through the end of each plan year. Each employee (active or retired under age 65)

and their spouse enrolled in coverage through The Garrett County Employee Health Care Plan will be eligible to receive a premium differential incentive to mitigate this premium cost share. Enrolled employees (active and retired under age 65) may earn \$600.00 toward their cost share for participating in certain activities within the Garrett County Health Care Plan Wellness Program. In addition, their enrolled spouses may earn \$300.00 toward their cost share for participating in the same activities within the Garrett County Health Care Plan Wellness Program. Activities include the following, which must be completed within certain time frames:

1. Self-Assessment Questionnaire provided by the current medical carrier; and
 2. Biometric health screenings or
 3. Non-medical plan option(s)
 4. Tobacco Cessation requirements
- B. Prior to the Board of Education entering into an agreement with the Board of Garrett County Commissioners and Garrett College to alter any of the following, the Board will enter into negotiations with GCEA on the issues being considered for modification:
1. Increase of the percentage of the employee's share of the premium for coverage
 2. Increase of employee co-pays for doctor's visits
 3. Increase of percentage paid by employees for covered services
 4. Increase of co-pay for prescription drugs
 5. Reduction or elimination of retiree insurance benefits
- C. The Board shall provide term life insurance in the amount of \$25,000 for each unit member (Double Indemnity included) and \$1,000 for each dependent, including spouse and children, up to age 26. Due to a unit member's age, unit members may be placed in the category of "Age Reduction," per the terms of the basic life and supplemental insurance contract. Basic Life and AD&D insurance coverage, as well as Supplement life amounts, are reduced by 25 % at age 70 and by 33.33 % at age 75, as defined in our life insurance contract.
- D. The Superintendent shall appoint a Health and Wellness Committee to make non-binding written recommendations, no later than January of each calendar year, to him/her. The committee shall include the President of the Association, or a bargaining unit designee, and one (1) additional bargaining unit member. It is understood that said committee shall include appointees by the Superintendent, including, but not limited to, bargaining unit members from each designated exclusive bargaining agent which negotiates with the Board in accordance with 6-408 and/or 6-510 of the Education Article to the Annotated Code of Maryland.
- E. In accordance with IRS regulations, the Board shall implement a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) benefit for bargaining unit members no later than July 1, 2017. The Board shall deduct an amount, including any associated plan fees, from the bargaining unit member's pay. The total amount per year shall be determined by the bargaining unit member each enrollment period, and said amount shall be divided and deducted on a per pay period basis. The President of the Association, or a bargaining unit designee, and/or the UniServ Director may participate in any meeting involving the review of FSA plans. However, the Board shall have the sole authority to select the FSA provider and resolve the structure of such plans with said provider.

- F. The Board will attempt to make influenza and COVID-19 vaccines available to all bargaining unit members. Every effort will be made to have vaccinations available on worksites. Note: Flex leave can be used as our past practice.
- G. Effective July 1, 2022, dental care will be unbundled and the premium rates will be a 50/50 split between Board & Employee. For Medical/Rx coverage, all plans will have a premium rate increase of 11.3% and the gold plan will change to a Defined Contribution Model. The design plan will include Prudent Rx.
- H. Effective July 1, 2024, newly hired unit members to GCPS would only be eligible for post-retirement insurance benefits until age 65 as Medicare eligible.

13.2 Retiree Benefits:

- A. Upon a unit member's retirement, he/she shall receive thirty (\$30.00) for each unused day of sick leave accumulated up to two hundred and nine (209) days. Should the unit member die while in active service, the designated beneficiary shall receive the amount of thirty dollars (\$30.00) for each unused day of sick leave accumulated up to two hundred and nine (209) days. At the option of the bargaining unit member, all or a portion of the stipend may be placed into a tax deferred or sheltered annuity plan.

Note: Unused days of sick leave will also be converted to months of creditable service by the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System.

- B. Effective for those retiring July 1, 2006, and thereafter, the Board will pay toward the cost, as defined in the Terms and Conditions of the Garrett County Health Care Plan and the Plan Provisions for other post-employment benefits.
- C. Individuals must be eligible for retirement under the Maryland State Pension and Retirement System--Individuals must go directly into retirement after employment with the Garrett County Board of Education, to maintain Board of Education sponsored group health insurance coverage. There cannot be any time break between the last day of employment with the Garrett County Board of Education and the commencement of receiving retirement benefits from the State of Maryland Retirement and Pension system.
- D. Effective July 1, 2024, newly hired unit members to GCPS would only be eligible for post-retirement insurance benefits until age 65 as Medicare eligible.

ARTICLE 14 EXTRA DUTY COMPENSATION

- A. This schedule is based on time devoted by the unit member beyond the regular at-school duty hours. A unit member will not receive extra duty compensation for more than two assignments unless approved by the Board.

ANNUAL COMPENSATION FOR COACHING POSITIONS

Total #	Position	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Yearlong Athletic Positions				
2	Athletic Director	2448	2564	2696
2	Varsity Cheerleader Advisor	1649	1723	1810
2	Assistant Cheerleader Advisor	1154	1203	1267
Fall Athletic Positions				
2	Bowling Coaches	1067	1117	1170
4	Cross Country Coaches	1067	1117	1170
2	Head Football Coach	5342	5459	5588
6	Assistant Football Coach	3684	3766	3852
2	Golf Coaches	1067	1117	1170
4	Head Soccer Coaches	2108	2203	2308
4	Assistant Soccer Coaches	1386	1489	1597
2	Volleyball Coach	2108	2203	2308
2	Assistant Volleyball Coach	1386	1489	1597
Winter Athletic Positions				
4	Head Basketball Coach	2448	2564	2696
8	Assistant Basketball Coach	1758	1836	1922
2	Wrestling Coaches	2170	2274	2383
2	Assistant Wrestling Coaches	1386	1489	1597
2	Indoor Track Coaches	1067	1117	1170
Spring Athletic Positions				
2	Baseball Coaches	2021	2119	2213
2	Assistant Baseball Coach	1386	1489	1597
2	Softball Coaches	2021	2119	2213
2	Assistant Softball Coaches	1386	1489	1597
4	Head Track Coaches	2021	2119	2213
4	Assistant Track Coaches	1386	1489	1597
4	Tennis Coaches	1067	1117	1170
Non- Athletic Yearlong Positions				
2	Band Directors	5342	5459	5588
2	Assistant Band Director	3740	3820	3909
2	Mock Trial Directors	1067	1117	1170
2	Drama Coaches	1894	1980	2076
2	6-8 Drama Coaches (flat rate–no steps)		1000	
2	SkillsUSA Advisors	1067	1117	1170
1	County-Wide Student Council Advisor	1067	1117	1170
2	Junior Class Advisor	1067	1117	1170
2	Senior Class Advisor	1067	1117	1170
Unified Sports Positions				
2	Football Coaches	1100	1150	1176
2	Bocce Coaches	660	688	704
2	Assistant Bocce Coaches	440	462	472

2	Track Coaches	1100	1150	1176
2	6-8 Bocce Coaches (flat rate—no steps)		1000	
2	6-8 Tennis Coaches (flat rate—no steps)		1000	
7	Elementary Bocce Coaches (flat rate—no steps)		500	

Maximum number of positions are shown. Actual number of positions shall be determined on a per season basis; however, under no condition will the total number of positions be fewer than sixty-two (62).

- B. Extra duty compensation will be paid in one payment upon completion of the activity. Each unit member involved shall be responsible for submitting the proper form.
- C. Extra duty assignment forms shall be provided the unit members for the following year and are due within 30 calendar days following the ratification date of the negotiated agreement. Such forms shall include compensation for such activity.
- D. All unit members beginning an extra duty or transferring to a different assignment will be placed on the first step.
- E. A representative of the Association will serve as an ex-officio member of the School Activities Review/Evaluation Committee and shall be given two (2) weeks' notice of regular meetings. A twenty-four hour notice will be given for emergency meetings.

ARTICLE 15 SALARIES

15.1 Salaries:

- A. A twenty-six (26) check pay schedule shall be used to distribute pay every two (2) weeks, except in those years when the financial calendar requires a different pay schedule. The Board shall provide bargaining unit members with timely notification of the pay schedule via a payroll calendar.
- B. All unit members shall be required to enroll for direct deposit and shall be paid by means of direct deposit.
- C. Unit members employed on an 11 or 12-month basis shall receive the compensation of additional days at a per diem rate based upon the unit member's pay, grade, and step.
- D. The Board shall provide means for unit members to participate through payroll deduction in tax deferred or sheltered annuity plans, with not less than five carriers with a goal to maintain at least ten, and credit union transactions.
- E. Employment Outside Normal Contract
 - 1. Unit members individually requested, as opposed to unit members who voluntarily participate in an activity open to all unit members or a defined segment of unit members, to work beyond their normal duty year shall be paid their per diem rate for each day worked. If the additional day of employment is for less than a normal 7.6 hour workday, the unit member shall be paid an hourly rate equal to his/her regular per diem pay divided by 7.6 hours.

2. Unit members who volunteer to work additional days beyond their normal duty year shall be paid thirty (30) dollars per hour.
- F. Conditional Certificate holders will be paid on the Standard Professional Salary Schedule.
 - G. Effective July 1, 2006, all teachers who did not receive full incremental credit for previous experience when hired, shall receive an additional step increment each year until they have reached the appropriate step level according to their certification, experience, and education as determined by the Office of Human Resources and Employee Relations.
 - H. One (1) Step with 1.0% COLA to Salary Scales effective 7/1/2018.
 - I. The Superintendent and GCEA shall form a Joint Commission to examine the employee compensation packages for GCEA. This group shall be comprised of three (3) members appointed by the Superintendent. This group shall make non-binding recommendations to the Superintendent.
 - J. A full step increment for 2019-2020, effective 7/1/2019 with a COLA applied to each step to achieve a 3% increase when combined with step increase. Should Kirwan funding come available for members in this bargaining unit, negotiations will reconvene to determine the parameters for allocating those funds.
 - K. For 2020-2021, effective 7/1/2020 a blended step with 2.05% except longevity at 16, 20 & 25.
 - L. For 2021-2022, effective 7.1.21, unit members will advance one full step and the salary scales will increase by a prorated amount determined by the # of days in the duty year. (See salary scale).
 - M. For 2022-2023, effective 7.1.22, unit members will receive \$1,650 applied to salary scales, and will receive a late-year step, which is modeled as a step being applied to the last eight (8) pay periods of the duty year.
 - N. For 2023-2024, effective 7.1.23, scales would increase by the following amounts based on the number of days in the duty year: \$2,000 for 187 day scale or \$2,214 for 207 day scale. Award restorative step to unit members the completed Fiscal Year 2010 and/or 2016 and are continuing employment with GCPS. Collapse the Standard Professional Scale for Steps 1-4 to the new value of 4.
 - O. Effective 7.1.24, unit members will receive a 4.9% increase applied to salary scales. In 7.1.25, a 5.0% increase will be applied to salary scales, and in 7.1.26, a 5.1% increase will be applied to salary scales. This is a total of 15% over the next three years.
- The agreed-upon changes in salary negotiation would be subject to the availability of funding and any changes in the timeline for Blueprint implementation.
- P. Effective 7.1.24, the negotiated rate for additional duty contracts for GCPS full-time employees will be the following: **Hourly**

Workshop leader (Teacher or Principal) ~~\$37.50~~ \$42.50

Certificated

~~\$30.00~~– \$35.00

15.2 Career Ladder

- A. Effective 7.1.24, all certificated staff will be placed on the career ladder as defined by Md. Code, Educ. § The Maryland State Department of Education fully funds 6-1001-1013.
- B. Effective 7.1.25, certificated educators eligible for their first National Board Certification Maintenance of Certification (MOC) [2021,2022, 2023, 2024] would receive the salary enhancement fully funded by Maryland Blueprint.
- C. To advance on the career ladder a unit one member would have to earn a rating of “Effective” or “Highly Effective”.

Garrett County Board of Education
Blueprint Career Ladder Salary Scale

Professional Teacher **

Step	Base Salary - Level I	Blueprint Enhancements		
	FY 2026	NBC	Low Performing School	1st MOC
1	57,098	10,000	7,000	3,000
2	57,098	10,000	7,000	3,000
3	57,098	10,000	7,000	3,000
4	58,659	10,000	7,000	3,000
5	59,459	10,000	7,000	3,000
6	60,240	10,000	7,000	3,000
7	61,635	10,000	7,000	3,000
8	63,028	10,000	7,000	3,000
9	64,422	10,000	7,000	3,000
10	65,813	10,000	7,000	3,000
11	67,206	10,000	7,000	3,000
12	68,683	10,000	7,000	3,000
13	69,923	10,000	7,000	3,000
14	71,161	10,000	7,000	3,000
15	72,399	10,000	7,000	3,000
16	78,377	10,000	7,000	3,000
17	78,377	10,000	7,000	3,000
18	78,377	10,000	7,000	3,000
19	78,377	10,000	7,000	3,000
20	81,472	10,000	7,000	3,000
21	81,472	10,000	7,000	3,000
22	81,472	10,000	7,000	3,000
23	81,472	10,000	7,000	3,000
24	81,472	10,000	7,000	3,000
25	84,571	10,000	7,000	3,000

Duty Year 187 days

Duty Day 7.6 hours

Additions to base:

Level 2A	Pursuing Master's degree, NB or 30 hours in non-NBC area - \$1,000
Level 2B	Master's degree - \$2,000 +30 hours beyond Master's degree - \$1,000 +60 hours beyond Master's degree - \$1,000 Doctorate degree - \$2,000
Level 3	NBC

**** Note:** This scale reflects a combined (SPC & APC) salary structure.

Garrett County Board of Education Certificated
Salary Scale - 7.6 Hour Schedule Fiscal Year
2026

Step	Standard Professional	Advanced Professional	Step	Psychologist	Physical Therapist
1	57,098		1	78,108	78,108
2	57,098		2	79,200	79,200
3	57,098		3	80,266	80,266
4	57,098	58,659	4	82,214	82,214
5	57,820	59,459	5	84,175	84,175
6	58,544	60,240	6	86,139	86,139
7	59,268	61,635	7	88,103	88,103
8	59,991	63,028	8	89,937	89,937
9	60,714	64,422	9-13	92,838	92,838
10	61,438	65,813	14-18	94,290	94,290
11		67,206	19+	96,552	96,552
12		68,683			
13		69,923			
14		71,161			
15		72,399			
16		78,377			
17-19		78,377			
20-24*		81,472			
25**		84,571			
Duty Year	187 days	187 days	Duty Year	207 days	207 days
Duty Day	7.6 hours	7.6 hours	Duty Day	7.6 hours	7.6 hours

Additions to Base:

Master's degree - \$2,000

+30 hours beyond Master's degree - \$1,000***

+60 hours beyond Master's degree - \$1,000***

Doctorate degree - \$2,000

* Must have 10 years of service in Garrett County

** Must have 15 years of service in Garrett County

*** The graduate credit hours must be in education or a field of teaching. The graduate credit hours must be verified by an official transcript, and the teacher must request of Human Resources for additional salary. If necessary, additional documentation may be requested. Undergraduate courses taken for the purpose of adding additional content certifications, after completing a Master's degree, may be counted in the 30 and 60 hours above the Master's degree for pay purposes, with prior approval from the Director of Human Resources

Garrett County Board of Education
 Certificated Salary Scale - 8 Hour Schedule
 Fiscal Year 2026

Step	Standard Professional	Advanced Professional	Step	Psychologist	Physical Therapist
1	60,103		1	82,219	82,219
2	60,103		2	83,370	83,370
3	60,103		3	84,490	84,490
4	60,103	61,746	4	86,542	86,542
5	60,864	62,588	5	88,605	88,605
6	61,626	63,410	6	90,673	90,673
7	62,387	64,878	7	92,741	92,741
8	63,148	66,346	8	94,670	94,670
9	63,909	67,812	9-13	97,724	97,724
10	64,672	69,277	14-18	99,252	99,252
11		70,743	19+	101,634	101,634
12		72,298			
13		73,602			
14		74,905			
15		76,208			
16		82,502			
17-19		82,502			
20-24*		85,760			
25**		89,022			
Duty Year	187 days	187 days	Duty Year	207 days	207 days
Duty Day	8 hours	8 hours	Duty Day	8 hours	8 hours

Additions to Base:

Master's degree - \$2,000

+30 hours beyond Master's degree - \$1,000***

+60 hours beyond Master's degree - \$1,000***

Doctorate degree - \$2,000

* Must have 10 years of service in Garrett County

** Must have 15 years of service in Garrett County

*** The graduate credit hours must be in education or a field of teaching the graduate credit hours must be verified by official transcript and the teacher must request of Human Resources for additional salary. If necessary, additional documentation may be requested. Undergraduate courses taken for the purpose of adding additional content certifications, after completing a Master's degree, may be counted in the 30 and 60 hours above the Master's degree for pay purposes with prior approval from the Director of Human Resources

Garrett County Board of Education Certificated
Salary Scale - 7.6 Hour Schedule Fiscal Year
2025

Step	Standard Professional	Advanced Professional	Step	Psychologist	Physical Therapist
1	54,379		1	74,389	74,389
2	54,379		2	75,429	75,429
3	54,379		3	76,444	76,444
4	54,379	55,866	4	78,299	78,299
5	55,067	56,628	5	80,167	80,167
6	55,756	57,371	6	82,037	82,037
7	56,446	58,700	7	83,908	83,908
8	57,134	60,027	8	85,654	85,654
9	57,823	61,354	9-13	88,417	88,417
10	58,512	62,679	14-18	89,800	89,800
11		64,006	19+	91,954	91,954
12		65,412			
13		66,593			
14		67,772			
15		68,951			
16		74,645			
17-19		74,645			
20-24*		77,592			
25**		80,544			
Duty Year	187 days	187 days	Duty Year	207 days	207 days
Duty Day	7.6 hours	7.6 hours	Duty Day	7.6 hours	7.6 hours

Additions to Base:

Master's degree - \$2,000
+30 hours beyond Master's degree - \$1,000***
+60 hours beyond Master's degree - \$1,000***
Doctorate degree - \$2,000

* Must have 10 years of service in Garrett County

** Must have 15 years of service in Garrett County

*** The graduate credit hours must be in education or a field of teaching. The graduate credit hours must be verified by an official transcript, and the teacher must request of Human Resources for additional salary. If necessary, additional documentation may be requested. Undergraduate courses taken for the purpose of adding additional content certifications, after completing a Master's degree, may be counted in the 30 and 60 hours above the Master's degree for pay purposes, with prior approval from the Director of Human Resources

Garrett County Board of Education Certificated
Salary Scale - 8 Hour Schedule Fiscal Year
2025

Step	Standard Professional	Advanced Professional	Step	Psychologist	Physical Therapist
1	57,241		1	78,304	78,304
2	57,241		2	79,400	79,400
3	57,241		3	80,467	80,467
4	57,241	58,806	4	82,421	82,421
5	57,966	59,608	5	84,386	84,386
6	58,691	60,390	6	86,355	86,355
7	59,416	61,789	7	88,325	88,325
8	60,141	63,187	8	90,162	90,162
9	60,866	64,583	9-13	93,070	93,070
10	61,592	65,978	14-18	94,526	94,526
11		67,374	19+	96,794	96,794
12		68,855			
13		70,097			
14		71,338			
15		72,579			
16		78,573			
17-19		78,573			
20-24*		81,676			
25**		84,783			
Duty Year	187 days	187 days	Duty Year	207 days	207 days
Duty Day	8 hours	8 hours	Duty Day	8 hours	8 hours

Additions to Base:

Master's degree - \$2,000

+30 hours beyond Master's degree - \$1,000***

+60 hours beyond Master's degree - \$1,000*** Doctorate
degree - \$2,000

* Must have 10 years service in Garrett County

** Must have 15 years service in Garrett County

*** The graduate credit hours must be in education or a field of teaching the graduate credit hours must be verified by official transcript and the teacher must request of Human Resources for additional salary. If necessary, additional documentation may be requested. Undergraduate courses taken for the purpose of adding additional content certifications, after completing a Master's degree, may be counted in the 30 and 60 hours above the Master's degree for pay purposes with prior approval from the Director of Human Resources

Blueprint Career Ladder Salary Scale

Professional Teacher **

Step	Base Salary - Level I	Blueprint Enhancements		
	FY 2025	NBC	Low Performing School	1st MOC
1	54,379	10,000	7,000	3,000
2	54,379	10,000	7,000	3,000
3	54,379	10,000	7,000	3,000
4	55,866	10,000	7,000	3,000
5	56,628	10,000	7,000	3,000
6	57,371	10,000	7,000	3,000
7	58,700	10,000	7,000	3,000
8	60,027	10,000	7,000	3,000
9	61,354	10,000	7,000	3,000
10	62,679	10,000	7,000	3,000
11	64,006	10,000	7,000	3,000
12	65,412	10,000	7,000	3,000
13	66,593	10,000	7,000	3,000
14	67,772	10,000	7,000	3,000
15	68,951	10,000	7,000	3,000
16	74,645	10,000	7,000	3,000
17	74,645	10,000	7,000	3,000
18	74,645	10,000	7,000	3,000
19	74,645	10,000	7,000	3,000
20	77,592	10,000	7,000	3,000
21	77,592	10,000	7,000	3,000
22	77,592	10,000	7,000	3,000
23	77,592	10,000	7,000	3,000
24	77,592	10,000	7,000	3,000
25	80,544	10,000	7,000	3,000

Duty Year 187 days

Duty Day 7.6 hours

Additions to base:

Level 2A Pursuing Master's degree, NB or 30 hours in non-NBC area - \$1,000

Level 2B Master's degree - \$2,000
+30 hours beyond Master's degree - \$1,000
+60 hours beyond Master's degree - \$1,000 Doctorate degree - \$2,000

Level 3 NBC

** Note: This scale reflects a combined (SPC & APC) salary structure.

ARTICLE 16 GENERAL PROVISIONS

16.1 Agreement:

This Agreement shall supersede any rules, regulations, procedures, policies or practices of the Board which shall be contrary to or inconsistent with terms contained within this Agreement. The provisions of this agreement shall be incorporated into and be a part of the established policies of the Board.

16.2 Severability:

If any provision of this Agreement or any application thereof to any unit member or group of unit members is held to be contrary to law by a court of competent jurisdiction or held to be contrary to State Board By Law, such provision or application will not be deemed valid and subsisting, except to the extent permitted by law or By-Law, but all other provisions or applications will continue in full force and effect. The parties will meet at a mutually agreed time after any such holding for the purpose of renegotiating the provisions affected.

16.3 School Board Authority:

The Association recognizes that subject to the provisions of this Agreement and the Public School Laws of Maryland, the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools reserve and retain full rights, authority and discretion in the proper discharge of these duties and responsibilities to control, supervise and manage the Garrett County Public Schools under existing law, rules and procedures.

16.4 Negotiations and Ratifications:

- A. The terms and conditions of this agreement shall take effect July 1, 2024, and remain in effect through June 30, 2027, until superseded by a successor agreement, except as indicated in the following fiscal years: FY25, FY26, and FY27, the agreed-upon changes in salary negotiation would be subject to the availability of funding and any changes in the timeline for Blueprint implementation. The applied 2% healthcare increase in FY25, FY26, and FY27 would be subject to changes in healthcare cost trends.
- B. The terms and conditions resulting from the subsequent negotiations will be submitted to the Association and the Board for final ratification.
- C. Association negotiators, not to exceed five (5), shall be released at 3:15 p.m. on each day scheduled for negotiations with the Board's negotiation team, not to exceed five (5), if such release does not interfere with the equitable assignment of non-teaching, non-compensated duties. The association and the Board shall be permitted to bring a third party to provide data on specific topics and considerations. Either party wishing to bring a third party to the table shall provide the other party to negotiations at least three days prior notice.

16.5 Successor Agreement:

Negotiation sessions shall not begin later than December 1 of any given year in which bargaining is an option, unless agreed upon in writing otherwise.

16.6 Impasse Procedures:

Impasse proceedings shall be in accordance with § 6-408 of the Education Article to the Annotated Code of Maryland.

16.7 Distribution:

An electronic copy of this Agreement will be provided to each unit member in the negotiating unit that has an email account with the Garrett County Board of Education. The comprehensive agreement will be posted on the Human Resources page of the Board and the Association's website. Each school, central office, and association will be provided five (5) printed copies that will be accessible to employees. The cost for the printed copies shall be shared equally by the Association and the Board.

ARTICLE 17 DURATION

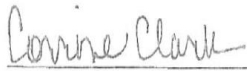
GCBOE/GCEA (Unit I: Certificated)

2025-2027 Comprehensive Agreement

June 11, 2024

Heather Gosnell, President

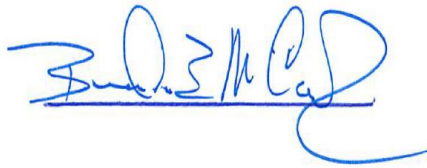
M. Tom Woods, President





Corrine Clark, Vice President

Dr. Brenda McCartney, Superintendent



Addendum I

SICK LEAVE BANK

- A. A GCEA (Unit I) Sick Leave Bank member who is actively employed with the Garrett County may use bank days for prolonged, catastrophic, incapacitating personal illness, injury or quarantine of the bargaining unit member during regular scheduled workdays.
- B. **Eligibility for Benefits:**
1. Sick Leave Bank benefits are available only when the member personally has a severe medical hardship (catastrophic illness or serious accident).
 2. Benefits can be received only after all accumulated sick leave and vacation days have been exhausted.
 3. Any member receiving Worker's Compensation or disability benefits shall not be eligible to receive benefits from the Sick Leave Bank.
 4. A member who is on leave of absence, suspended, or terminated from the Garrett County Board of Education shall not be eligible for Sick Leave Bank benefits.
 5. The form, entitled "Request for Sick Leave Benefits" and physician's statement are required before the SLB Review Committee will consider a request for benefits. The physician's statement shall include a history of the illness, date the illness began, a diagnosis and prognosis, and any other related information.
 6. Approval by the Sick Leave Bank Review Committee is required prior to the receiving of benefits.
 7. Normal pregnancies, childbirth, childcare, or child adoption shall not be considered as eligible reasons for Sick Leave Bank benefits.
 8. A four (4)-member Sick Leave Bank Review Committee, consisting of two (2) members appointed by the President of the Association and two (2) appointed by the Superintendent, shall have the responsibility of receiving requests, verifying the validity of requests and approval or denial of requests. Any approval of a request must have the support of at least three (3) members of the committee Sick Leave Bank Review Committee.

The Sick Leave Bank Review Committee shall develop its rules of procedure and shall give wide distribution to said rules upon approval of the President of the Association and the Superintendent.

C. **Operation of SLB**

1. The following criteria shall be used by the Sick Leave Bank Review Committee in determining eligibility and benefits:
 - a. Documented medical evidence of serious illness and injury;
 - b. Prior utilization of all sick leave and vacation days;
 - c. Propriety of previous sick leave;
 - d. Any other information the Sick Leave Bank Review Committee deems appropriate.
2. When approved by the Sick Leave Bank Review Committee, a maximum of thirty (30) sick leave days shall be deposited in the member's sick leave account. The use of these days will be reviewed by the Sick Leave Bank Review Committee.
3. The member receiving benefits may submit to the Sick Leave Bank Review Committee additional requests for a maximum of twenty (20) days per request as their present grant expires. The request application shall be accompanied by an updated physician's statement.

Once a unit member is eligible for retirement benefits, including disability retirement from the Maryland State Retirement Agency, all Sick Leave Bank benefits shall stop.
4. The maximum number of Sick Leave Bank days available per member per fiscal year is one hundred (100).
5. The contribution forms for any unused days shall be returned to the Association.

6. The existence of the Sick Leave Bank and participation by a member in the Sick Leave Bank does not eliminate any other benefits provided through law, policy or contract.
 7. Members shall not use Sick Leave Bank days to extend medical or life insurance coverage.
- D. GCEA shall be responsible for providing the Board the name(s) of the person(s) choosing to participate in the Sick Leave Bank. GCEA shall also provide the Board with an authorization form signed by each person contributing days authorizing the Board to deduct the donated days from their accumulated sick leave.
- E. Representatives of the Board and the Association shall review the provisions set forth in B and C annually or as needed.