

UTLA Proposal 2-18-25
District Counter 3-10-25
District Counter 4-1-25
UTLA Counter 4-28-25
District Counter 5-28-25
UTLA Counter 6-17-25
District Counter 8-20-25
UTLA Counter 9-10-25

ARTICLE X

EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT, SUPPORT AND EVALUATION

1.0 Purpose: The purposes of these procedures are to encourage a career long growth model of educator development and support, evaluate employee performance, provide assistance and remediation to employees whose performance is less than satisfactory, and continue to improve the quality of educational services provided by employees.

2.0 Evaluator: The employee's immediate administrator shall be responsible for the evaluation of the employee and assisting the employee in improving performance when necessary. The administrator may delegate these functions to another administrator, and upon request of an employee, the administrator may assign an evaluator at the site who holds the same credential. If unable to accommodate the request, the evaluator shall make every reasonable effort to consult with an administrator who holds a credential or certification within the subject and/or content area of the employee being evaluated, but shall retain ultimate responsibility. As to evaluation of site-based support service personnel, there shall be consultation between the site administrator and the employee's technical supervisor, if any, prior to either one issuing the annual evaluation.

2.1 Peer Observation: Nothing in the article shall preclude UTLA bargaining unit members from voluntarily observing other members and/or providing feedback to the person being observed. Peer observations shall not be used to supplement or supplant administrative observations for the purposes of formal evaluations.

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

UTLA Proposal 2-18-25
District Counter 3-10-25
District Counter 4-1-25
UTLA Counter 4-28-25
District Counter 5-28-25
UTLA Counter 6-17-25
District Counter 8-20-25
UTLA Counter 9-10-25

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

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

c. Because the Education Code (Section 44664) makes these evaluation-frequency decisions entirely discretionary and individualized, any decision to grant, deny or withdraw consent shall not be subject to the grievance procedures of this Agreement. However, claimed violations of the notice provisions of paragraph b. above are subject to grievance procedures.

d. In recognition of the increased time and effort that improvements to the evaluation system entail for both site administrators and teachers, the District immediately will be authorizing extensions of the period of time between evaluations for most employees with ten or more years of experience, from every second year to every third, fourth or possibly fifth year, pursuant to agreement between the administrator and employee, as provided above.

3.1 Notification to Employee:

a. An employee who is to be evaluated during a given academic year shall be so notified by site administration, if not by the end of the previous academic year then by the Fall norm day of the evaluation year or the last workday of the 5th week of school, whichever is earlier. In the case of employees first reporting to work at a school within the ten-day period preceding the above Fall notice date, or later, the notice is to be given within ten workdays of the employee reporting to work at the school.

b. Employees newly assigned to a school later than the last workday of the eighth week of the Fall term shall not be subject to evaluation that year, except in situations where the employee does not have permanent status or has received a below-standard evaluation in the previous academic year.

UTLA Proposal 2-18-25
District Counter 3-10-25
District Counter 4-1-25
UTLA Counter 4-28-25
District Counter 5-28-25
UTLA Counter 6-17-25
District Counter 8-20-25
UTLA Counter 9-10-25

4.0 Establishment of Objectives:

a. By the last workday of the eighth week of the academic year, the evaluator and employee shall work cooperatively to establish the employee's objectives for the year. The establishment of objectives shall be accomplished through one or more Initial Planning Conferences to discuss Initial Planning Sheets, proposed objectives and related strategies.

b. For employees newly assigned to the school after the notice period of Section 3.1 but before the last workday of the 8th week of the academic year, the evaluator and employee shall work cooperatively to establish the employee's objectives for the year no later than the last workday of the twelfth week of the academic year.

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

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

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

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

d. The management of classroom climate and learning environment, with mutual respect and proper sensitivity to such issues as race, gender identity, ethnicity, identified disabilities, and socioeconomic differences

e. Performance focus elements to be included in individual objectives shall be limited to seven for each employee, all of which are to be drawn from 15 District-designated annual focus elements. Of the seven, three (3) will be designated by the District, an additional three (3) will be selected by the employee, and one (1) will be cooperatively selected by the employee and evaluator; and

UTLA Proposal 2-18-25
District Counter 3-10-25
District Counter 4-1-25
UTLA Counter 4-28-25
District Counter 5-28-25
UTLA Counter 6-17-25
District Counter 8-20-25
UTLA Counter 9-10-25

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

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

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

5.0 Observations, Records, and Assistance:

a. Employees being evaluated shall receive one (1) Formal Observation during the academic year, no later than the last workday of the sixth week of the second semester. The Formal Observation shall be followed by a post-observation conference between the evaluator and employee to discuss the employee's performance toward meeting the individual objectives established pursuant to Sections 4.0 and 4.1 of this Article. The post-observation conference shall occur no later than ten (10) workdays after the formal observation.

b. The ratings for a Formal Observation shall be "Effective Practice", "Developing Practice", and "Ineffective Practice".

c. Employees being evaluated shall receive one (1) Growth Plan visit during the academic year. Performance during Growth Plan visits shall not be rated.

d. If problems are identified during a Formal Observation, Growth Plan Visit, or any other type of observation, the evaluator shall meet with the employee, make specific written recommendations for improvement, and offer appropriate counseling and assistance. Within four workdays of a post-observation conference, post-growth plan visit conference, or other types of conferences in which problems are identified, a copy of records relating to

UTLA Proposal 2-18-25
District Counter 3-10-25
District Counter 4-1-25
UTLA Counter 4-28-25
District Counter 5-28-25
UTLA Counter 6-17-25
District Counter 8-20-25
UTLA Counter 9-10-25

observations, conferences and assistance offered or given, shall be provided to the employee for the employee's information, guidance, and as a warning to improve performance.

e. Provisional and Probationary employees, and any employees whose evaluation cycle has been scheduled as the result of receiving an overall final evaluation of Below Standard for the previous year, are encouraged to pursue additional voluntary Formal Observations and Growth Plan Visits and related guidance and assistance to encourage development opportunities as needed.

f. While the entire evaluation cycle is an inherently collaborative and reflective process, the written "reflection" elements of the evaluation cycle are to be considered voluntary and optional for the employee.

6.0 Final Evaluation Report: Not less than 30 calendar days before the last regularly scheduled school day of the employee's scheduled work year in which the evaluation takes place, the evaluator shall prepare and issue the Final Evaluation Report in which the employee's overall performance and progress toward objectives is evaluated. The ratings for a Final Evaluation shall be "Exceeds Standards", "Meets Standards", and "Below Standard". Prior to the end of the school year the evaluator shall hold a Final Evaluation Conference with the employee to discuss the content of the Final Evaluation Report. When a Final Evaluation Report is marked "Below Standard," the evaluator shall specifically describe in writing the area(s) of below standard performance, together with recommendations for improvement, and the assistance given and to be given. The evaluator shall not record comments about an employee's attendance, as long as the employee has not exceeded their annual allotted or other authorized leave time in accordance with Article XII (12.3), and has provided documentation when required to do so.

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

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

6.3 Grievances: Evaluations are not subject to the grievance procedures of Article V, except when the final overall evaluation is "Below Standard." However, if the overall evaluation is "Exceeds Standards" or "Meets Standards" but there is a significant disparity between that rating and the negative comments on the form, the evaluation

UTLA Proposal 2-18-25
District Counter 3-10-25
District Counter 4-1-25
UTLA Counter 4-28-25
District Counter 5-28-25
UTLA Counter 6-17-25
District Counter 8-20-25
UTLA Counter 9-10-25

shall be subject to the grievance procedure on the same basis as it would have been had the overall rating been Below Standard. Expedited arbitration procedures will be utilized when the threshold issue of "significant disparity" is submitted to a preliminary hearing for determination as to whether the case is subject to the grievance procedure (see Article V, Sections 13.0 and 15.0).

6.4 The final overall evaluation rating of "Meets Standards" shall not be treated as the equivalent of "Below Standard" for purposes of accountability as described in other parts of this article or other parts of this Agreement. Additionally, an overall rating of "Meets Standards" shall not be used as grounds for discipline or as grounds to disadvantage the employee for purposes of "skipping" criteria in a reduction in force.

7.0 Inadequate Service by Substitutes: The site administrator may, for cause, issue to a day-to-day substitute employee a notice of inadequate service (ISR). The site administrator shall include a summary of the incident (s) that led to the issuance of the ISR. This summary will be in lieu of the option of the administrator to check a box indicating recommendation for termination. Said box shall be removed from the form. Such a notice shall, absent compelling circumstances, be issued within ten working days after the date(s) of service, with a copy to the employee (either in person or by certified mail to the employee's address of record). Prior to issuance of such a notice, the site administrator shall make a reasonable effort to contact and confer with the substitute regarding the allegations, and of the substitute's right to a meeting with representation. Upon employee request, a meeting will be held to discuss the matter. The employee may be accompanied by a UTLA representative or a person of the employee's choice, as long as that person is not a representative of another employee organization. The timeliness of the employee's request for a meeting, or the non-availability of the employee or representative shall not delay issuance of the Inadequate Service Report beyond the ten working days period set forth above. In addition to the grievance procedure, the employee may attach a written response to the report within ten working days from date received. The written response becomes a permanent part of the record.

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

...