



# Keystone Learning Service Center

Northeast Kansas Infant Toddler Program (Certified Staff)

Handbook

Para-educators follow Keystone Teacher/Para Personnel Policies  
and Procedures Handbook

August 2011

Keystone does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Keystone Executive Director, 500 Sunflower Blvd, Ozawie, KS 66070.

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## **KEYSTONE MISSION**

Forging quality educational partnerships through innovation and leadership to provide quality services that produce independent learners.

## **NORTHEAST KANSAS TINY-K MISSION**

Providing a comprehensive delivery and support system for all children and families in Northeast Kansas including: Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, Jefferson, Nemaha counties, and USD 343 in Douglas and USD 322 in Pottawatomie counties. Services are available for families with young children, birth to three years of age, who meet specified eligibility criteria.

## **KEYSTONE VISION**

We deliver high-quality, innovative services using affordable, technology rich, and time responsive methods. We are leaders with respect to all educational issues. We are unified across all Keystone programs and divisions. We maximize service and reduce costs. Through relentless commitment to excellence, Keystone is trusted throughout the region to deliver the best possible educational products and services.

## **KEYSTONE VALUES**

- Demonstrating respect for students and families
- Improving student lives through education
- Developing trust relationships based upon professionalism, collaboration and respect
- Recruiting highly qualified staff and providing ongoing professional development
- Providing efficient and centrally located facilities for current and future programs

## **KEYSTONE LEARNING INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY**

The Atchison/Jefferson Education Cooperative was formed July 1, 1976 by the following school districts: Valley Falls, U.S.D. #338; Jefferson County North, U.S.D. #339; Jefferson West, U.S.D. #340; Oskaloosa, U.S.D. #341; McLouth, U.S.D. #342, Perry Unified, U.S.D. #343; and Atchison County Community, U.S.D. #377. The purpose of this organization was to provide special education services for the cooperating districts. On January 1, 1989, the organization became the Northeast Kansas Education Service Center. NEKESC adopted the name Keystone Learning Services (hereon in this document to be referred to as Keystone) in 2008 to reflect the expanded programs that Keystone has committed to provide.

Keystone is funded through local assessments and state and federal funding. It is governed by a Board of Directors (hereon in this document to be referred to as the Board) made up of one board member from each of the seven districts. The superintendents of the cooperating districts serve as advisors to the Board and the Administrators of Keystone.

## **POLICIES**

All employees of Keystone shall follow all applicable board policies, rules and regulations.

Keystone Policies can be found on the website at [www.keystonelearning.org](http://www.keystonelearning.org) under the Personnel tab.

### **DISCRIMINATION (Board Policy GAAB)**

Any incident of discrimination in any form shall promptly be reported to an employee's immediate supervisor, the building principal or Keystone compliance coordinator (Executive Director) for investigation and corrective action by the building or service center compliance officer.

### **RACIAL HARASSMENT (GAACA)**

The Board is committed to providing a positive and productive working and learning environment, free from discrimination, including harassment on the basis of race, color or national origin. Racial harassment will not be tolerated.

Employees who believe they have been subjected to racial harassment should discuss the problem with their immediate supervisor. If an employee's immediate supervisor is the alleged harasser, the employee should discuss the problem with the building principal or Keystone's compliance coordinator (Executive Director). Employees who do not believe the matter is appropriately resolved through this meeting may file a formal complaint under Keystone's discrimination complaint procedure.

## **SEXUAL HARASSMENT (GAAC)**

The Board is committed to providing a positive and productive working and learning environment, free from discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment. Sexual harassment will not be tolerated by Keystone. Sexual harassment of employees or students of the service center by board members, administrators, certificated and support personnel, students, vendors, and any others having business or other contact with Keystone employees is strictly prohibited.

Sexual harassment is unlawful discrimination on the basis of sex under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the Kansas Acts Against Discrimination. All forms of sexual harassment are prohibited at school, on school property, and at all school-sponsored activities, programs or events. Sexual harassment against individuals associated with the school is prohibited, whether or not the harassment occurs on school grounds.

It shall be a violation of this policy for any student, employee or third party (visitor, vendor, etc.) to sexually harass any student, employee, or other individual associated with the school. It shall further be a violation for any employee to discourage a student or another employee from filing a complaint, or to fail to investigate or refer for investigation, any complaint lodged under the provisions of this policy. Violation of this policy by any employee shall result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

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

Sexual harassment may result from verbal or physical conduct or written or graphic material. Sexual harassment may include, but is not limited to: verbal harassment or abuse; pressure for sexual activity; repeated remarks to a person, with sexual or demeaning implication; unwelcome touching; or suggesting or demanding sexual

involvement accompanied by implied or explicit threats concerning an employee's job status.

Keystone encourages all victims of sexual harassment and persons with knowledge of such harassment to report the harassment immediately. Complaints of sexual harassment will be promptly investigated and resolved.

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

Employees who do not believe the matter is appropriately resolved through this meeting may file a formal complaint under the service center's discrimination complaint procedure. Complaint should be in written format. (See KN)

Complaints received will be investigated to determine whether, under the totality of the circumstances, the alleged behavior constitutes sexual harassment under the definition outlined above. Unacceptable conduct may or may not constitute sexual harassment, depending on the nature of the conduct and its severity, persuasiveness and persistence. Behaviors which are unacceptable but do not constitute harassment may also result in employee discipline.

Any employee who witnesses an act of sexual harassment or receives a complaint of harassment from another employee or a student shall report the complaint to the building principal/Executive Director. Employees who fail to report complaints or incidents of sexual harassment to appropriate school officials may face disciplinary action.

Initiation of a complaint of sexual harassment in good faith will not adversely affect the job security or status of an employee, nor will it affect his or her compensation. Any act of retaliation against any person who has filed a complaint or testified, assisted, or participated in an investigation of a sexual harassment complaint is prohibited. Any person who retaliates is subject to immediate disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

To the extent possible, confidentiality will be maintained throughout the investigation of a complaint. The desire for confidentiality must be balanced with the service center's obligation to conduct a thorough investigation, to take appropriate corrective action or to provide due process to the accused.

False or malicious complaints of sexual harassment may result in corrective or disciplinary action against the complainant.

A summary of this policy and related materials shall be posted in each service center facility. The policy shall also be published in student, parent and employee handbooks as directed by the service center compliance coordinator. Notification of the policy shall be included in the school newsletter or published in the local newspaper annually.

## **WORKERS COMPENSATION (GAOE)**

**In case of an on-the job injury, the employee must notify all supervisors and contact Human Resources for proper workers' compensation forms.**

Whenever an employee is absent from work and is receiving workers compensation benefits due to a work-related injury or is receiving district paid disability insurance, the employee may use available paid sick leave to supplement the workers compensation or service center paid disability insurance payments. In the event that the employee has been intentionally injured by a student, the employee will be allowed up to five days of leave per incident with no deduction in leave days, provided a doctor's statement verifies that the employee was unable to work due to the injury. This will be in accordance with service center policy GAOE. Workers compensation benefits and FMLA benefits provided in a board approved plan shall run concurrently if both are applicable.

In no event shall the employee be entitled to a combination of workers compensation benefits, service center paid disability insurance, and salary in excess of his/her full salary. Available paid leave must be used for this purpose until 1) available paid leave benefits are exhausted; 2) the employee returns to work; or 3) employment is terminated. Leave shall be deducted on a prorata amount equal to the percentage of salary paid by the service center.

## **WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROCEDURES**

1. Upon employment by Keystone, the employee will read the following and sign a copy of the "Workers' Compensation Procedures Agreement" to be placed in their personnel file.
2. The Human Resources shall maintain a set of procedures to be followed by building principals, building managers and supervisors when employees become involved in work-related accidents.
3. Failure to follow safety procedures may result in denial of claim(s). These procedures will specify that:
  - All accidents must be reported to the injured person's special education supervisor and Keystone Human Resources immediately. If medical attention is needed the employee will see the designated health care physician. If the employee opts to see his/her own family physician, treatment will be considered unauthorized and a maximum of \$500 will be

paid.

4. Building principals and building managers shall report all work-related injuries of employees assigned to their building within twenty-four hours to Human Resources by using an "Employer's Report of Accident Form." Employees are not allowed to complete the employer's form.
5. All immediate supervisors must complete a "Supervisor's Incident Report" form before the end of the shift during which the accident, illness or other incident occurred/reported. It must accompany the state "Employer's Report of Accident Form". These forms need to be sent to Keystone Human Resources Department.
6. If an incident involved vehicular damage but no employee injury, the police report will be sufficient. Police reports are required for all vehicular incidents unless otherwise designated by police department.
7. Human Resources shall assist the immediate supervisor and the injured employee in the development of an action plan, which outlines corrective actions, to be taken by the employee and/or supervisor to prevent the causative factors associated with the accident from reoccurring.
8. If it is proved that the injury to the employee results from the employee's deliberate intention to cause such injury, or from the employee's willful failure to use a guard or protection against accident required pursuant to any statute and provided for the employee, or a reasonable and proper guard and protection voluntarily furnished the employee by the employer, or substantially from the employee's intoxication, any compensation in respect to that injury shall be disallowed.
9. The employer shall not be liable under the Workers' Compensation Act where the injury, disability or death was substantially caused by the employee's use of drugs, chemicals or any other compounds or substances, including but not limited to, any form or type of narcotic drugs, marijuana, stimulants, depressants or hallucinogens, except such drugs or medications which are available to the public without a prescription from a physician and which are used for the treatment of an illness, or which were obtained and used by the employee pursuant to and in accordance with such a prescription.
10. Building principals or Keystone Human Resource Department shall advise medical care providers that an injured employee is covered by Workers' Compensation and medical bills should be submitted to Human Resources.
11. If an eyewitness was present, the supervisor will ask him/her to fill out the "Report by Eyewitness." The reports are to be turned in to Keystone Human Resource. Human Resources will then fill out the "Employer's Report of Accident."

**KEYSTONE LEARNING SERVICES**  
**500 E. Sunflower Blvd**  
**Ozawkie, KS 66070**

Workers' Compensation Procedures Agreement

I have read the Workers' Compensation policy and understand the procedure to follow in the event of a work-related accident.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **DRUG FREE WORKPLACE (GAOA, GAOA-R)**

Maintaining a drug free work place is important in establishing an appropriate learning environment for the students of the service center. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, sale dispensing, possession of or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in Keystone.

As a condition of employment in Keystone, employees shall abide by the terms of this policy.

1. Employees shall not unlawfully manufacture, distribute, dispense, possess or use controlled substances in the workplace.
2. Any employee who is arrested/convicted under a criminal drug statute for a violation occurring at the workplace must notify the Director of the arrest/conviction within five days after the arrest/conviction.
3. Within 30 days after the notice of arrest /conviction is received, Keystone will take appropriate action with the employee. Such action may include the initiation of termination proceedings, suspension, placement on probationary status, or other disciplinary action.
4. Alternatively, or in addition to any action short of termination, the employee may be required to participate satisfactorily in an approved drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program as a condition of continued employment. The employee shall bear the cost of participation in such program.
5. Each employee in Keystone shall be given a copy of this policy. This policy is intended to implement the requirements of the federal regulations promulgated under the Drug Free Workplace Act of 1988, 34 CFR Part 85, Subpart F. It is not intended to supplant or otherwise diminish disciplinary personnel actions, which may be taken under existing Board policies or the negotiated agreement.

## **CHILD ABUSE (GAAD)**

Any Keystone employee who has reason to know or suspect a child has been injured as a result of physical, mental or emotional abuse or neglect or sexual abuse, shall promptly report the matter to the local Social Rehabilitation Services (SRS) office or to the local law enforcement agency if the SRS office is not open.

Unless otherwise specified, Keystone employees will follow those policies adopted at each local district level and Keystone.

These policies will follow the guidelines established by the State of Kansas for reporting child abuse.

Procedures for Keystone staff making reports of abuse or neglect are as follows:

1. Notify the immediate supervisor and / or building principal prior to making the report, if possible, or as soon as possible after making the report.
2. The mandated report to SRS or law enforcement is verbal.
3. If the staff member believes a verbal report should be made, s/he must do so even if the supervisor disagrees.
4. A short written record of the report will be kept on file.

## **STAFF-STUDENT RELATIONS (GAF)**

Staff members shall maintain professional relationships with students, which are conducive to an effective educational environment. Staff members shall not submit students to sexual harassment or racial harassment. Staff members shall not have any interaction of a sexual nature with any student at any time regardless of the student's age or status or consent.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

#### **Personnel Files**

Personnel files required by Keystone shall be confidential and in the custody of the records custodian and/or the Executive Director. Employees have the right to inspect their files upon proper notice to Human Resources under the supervision of an appropriate supervisor.

Before the first salary payment, all employees will be expected to have the following items on file in the Keystone central office (Human Resources):

1. Loyalty oath;
2. Current teaching certificate or license if applicable;
3. Keystone Application for Employment and references;
4. Within three days of hire, Keystone must have an I-9 verification of citizenship form plus two proofs of identification completed; (i.e. valid driver's license, or another picture id, and a social security card);
5. Verification of TB test upon initial employment and completed Health Certificate;
6. KPERS enrollment;
7. College transcripts, if applicable (official copies);
8. W-2 form;
9. K-4 form;
10. Proper forms for additional salary withholding annuities, other insurance and any other payroll deductions which are approved by the Board and the employee.

- Certificate or license and transcripts must be on file before the first paycheck can be issued.
- Current name, address, marital status (for emergency contact, benefits and tax withholding purposes only) and telephone numbers (including cell numbers) must also be on file. If an employee has an unlisted number, he/she should list it privately with Human Resources at Keystone.
- An official college transcript (no duplicate copies will be accepted) and/or an office inservice transcript must be given to Human Resources on or before **September 1** in order to advance on the salary schedule. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS MADE.**

**NOTE: All certified staff must hold certification or licensure in the area and at the teaching level, or be eligible for a waiver of these requirements by the State of Kansas. State funding is contingent upon meeting these requirements.**

**In the event that a teacher allows his/her license to expire the teacher will receive substitute wages from the date of expiration until the date a new license is issued. Once the new license is issued, wages lost during the time of the lapsed license will be retroactively paid.**

**Each licensed employee has a professional responsibility to maintain appropriate licensure. To assist teachers with this responsibility, strong support will continue through the administrative team and support staff at Keystone. We notify teachers of impending expiration dates and visit with teachers who seem to be slow in initiating licensure renewal.**

Employees are expected to complete all paperwork before the first day of employment.

The Board will avoid employing anyone who is the father, mother, brother, sister, spouse, son, daughter, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law of a direct supervisor, unless extenuating circumstances are present (ex. Staff shortages, availability of qualified employees, etc.)

## **Transfers**

Employees have the right to request a transfer. Keystone reserves the right to approve or disapprove transfer requests based on the educational and operational needs of Keystone. Transfers typically occur before the school year begins to prevent disruption of the classroom.

Any employee wishing to transfer shall make said request in writing to Human Resource indicating the position and school/department to which he/she wishes to be transferred.

## Reasonable Assurance

Kansas Employment Security Law prohibits employees who work for an educational institution from receiving unemployment benefits during regularly scheduled breaks of employment. These scheduled breaks would include scheduled time off for summer, spring, and winter. Any employee who has the reasonable assumption of continuing in the same or similar employment following any or all of these scheduled breaks would be ineligible for unemployment benefits. This includes employees of certified, classified and substitute status, so as long as the employee is paid directly by the Keystone and not be contracted services.

## Hours of Work

1. Licensed staff are not required to work when their assigned counties are closed due to inclement weather or other emergencies. Licensed staff will reschedule home visits at times agreeable to families in order to meet IFSP services.
2. Workshops attended on weekends do **not** count as workdays.
3. All staff must file a general workday schedule with the Tiny-K office prior to September 1st. An amended schedule to be submitted if there is a change to scheduled work days.
4. If staff will not be working on scheduled days, follow procedure for notification of absences.
5. If an employee works with supervisors approval on a day Keystone is closed, the employee will be paid regular pay for the hours worked. If an employee does not work, personal or unpaid may be used.
6. Certified Staff may schedule time over an eight-hour day when it is deemed necessary. However, employees are not permitted to work time over 40 hours a week.
7. Monthly hours submitted may not exceed contracted monthly amounts unless otherwise approved by supervisor.

The immediate supervisor with the approval of Keystone administrators will determine the hourly schedule for paraeducators.

1. The immediate supervisor will inform paraeducators of their daily schedule of hours of work, including meal periods and breaks.
2. Administrators may schedule time over contracted hours when it is deemed necessary. Paraeducators are not permitted to work time over their contracts without the prior approval of Keystone administrators. Violation of not informing Keystone Administrators could result in disciplinary action to the supervising teacher and or para.
3. Workday should be reported in  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$  or full day increments on the time card. Sick, personal, and jury duty should be reported in these increments.

## **Work Day**

Workday is defined as total yearly contracted hours divided by fifty-two weeks, divided by 5 days a week to obtain daily average. The average is then used as the workday for calculating absences and paid leave. All employees will have their workday computed to determine their daily average hours of work.

Paraeducators do not work when their assigned districts are closed due to inclement weather or other emergencies. Paraeducators will not be paid for these days. If earned Personal Days have not been used for the school year, these may be taken during inclement weather or other school emergency closures. Sick leave **cannot** be used for these days.

If a paraeducator cannot be in their assigned school at their scheduled time, he/she must follow the building's procedure for notification of absences. Paraeducators are expected to check with the building principal as to whom to contact and also their supervising teacher to determine if they wish to be notified at home of their absence.

## **Attendance and Punctuality**

It is the procedure of Tiny-k to have employees report to work / home visits / team meetings punctually and to work contracted hours. Excessive tardiness and poor attendance disrupts workflow and will not be tolerated.

1. Supervisors should provide starting, ending, meal / break times.
2. Supervisors will record the absences and tardiness, or early departures.
3. All employees are expected to be regular in attendance according to set days.
4. The immediate supervisor will review frequent absences.
5. Absences which are too frequent, absences which are without leave, and absences which extend beyond the established limits for a given reason are subject to review and appropriate action by supervisor (Plan of Action and Dismissal).

## **Absence Reporting**

All staff must call/email the Tiny-K office, supervisor, as well as notifying those scheduled to be seen the day of absence. Substitutes will not be hired for short term absences, however arrangements can be made with team members to insure tiny-k families are supported.

- Keystone personnel must report all absences on their monthly timecard/calendar.
- Absences are to be reported as quarter, half, three-quarter or full day.

- Notification of absences should be made to Tiny-k office, supervisor, scheduled families, and affected team members.
- Fill out appropriate form (professional / personal leave) and submit to supervisor.

## **Time Cards**

Tiny-k coordinator is expected to review and sign all staff time cards.

1. Tiny-k staff must report each day's hours, absences, mileage, traveled log, and initials of children served as well as explanation of hours worked on monthly time sheets.
2. Time cards are due to coordinator by the 2nd of the month for coordinator's signature and must be in Keystone's office by the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the month.
3. Timecards must be signed by both employee and supervisor.

## **Release from Contract**

The continuing contract law requires the employer to notify certified staff by the third Friday in May if his/her contract will not be renewed for the following year. In turn, certified staff must notify their employer by the fourteenth day following the third Friday in May if they do not plan to renew their contract. Requests for release from a contract made after the fourteenth day following the third Friday in May will be acted on individually by the Board of Education considering the merits of each case. It is likely that requested release will be contingent on finding a suitable replacement.

Upon termination of employment, if the employee is a member of KPERS and under 65, application may be made for the withdraw of contributions made to the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System. This request may be made 31 days after the final paycheck is issued.

## **Family and Medical Leave**

Family and medical leave, as required by federal law, shall be granted for a period of not more than 12 weeks during a 12-month period. (For purposes of this policy, a 12-month period shall be defined as a fiscal year beginning on July 1 and ending the following June 30.) Spouses employed by the Keystone may only take an aggregate of 12 weeks of leave for a birth or adoption of a child or to care for a child with a serious health condition. Leave is available because of:

1. the birth of a son or daughter of the employee and to care for the son or daughter;

2. the placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption or foster care; the need to care for a spouse, son, daughter or parent of the employee because of a serious health condition; or
3. a serious health condition of the employee that prevents the employee from performing the job functions. (Leave for reason 1 or 2 must be taken within 12 months of birth or placement.)

The leave shall normally be unpaid leave. However, if the employee has any paid vacation, personal, sick or disability leave that is available for use because of the reason for the leave, the paid leave shall be used first and counted toward the annual family and medical leave. The Executive Director will notify the employee prior to or during the leave period that the leave has been designated as paid or FMLA leave.

The employee is eligible for family and medical leave upon completion of 12 months of service with Keystone and at least 1250 hours of service during the preceding year.

During the period of approved family and medical leave the will continue to pay the employer portion of the employees benefits and the employees is responsible for sending in money for their regular monthly contribution. The Board may terminate group health coverage if the employee payment is not received within 30 days of the due date.

If the employee does not qualify for FMLA through our agency the Board does not continue to pay his/her portion of the benefits and the employee is responsible for sending money in for all current benefits selection until she/he return to their current position.

When leave is foreseeable, the employee shall give to the Executive Director a written notice 30 days in advance. If leave is not foreseeable, notice will be given as soon as practicable.

Upon the employee providing notice of need for leave, Keystone will notify the employee of:

1. the reasons that leave will count as family and medical leave,
2. any requirements for medical certification,
3. employer requirement of substituting paid leave.
4. requirements for premium payments for health benefits and employee responsibility for repayment if employer pays employee share,
5. any fitness-for-duty certification required by the employer.

Family leave (reasons 1 and 2) may not be used intermittently or on a part-time basis without prior approval of the Executive Director.

The Executive Director may require an instructional employee to continue leave until the end of a semester if the leave begins more than five (5) weeks before the end of a semester, lasts more than three (3) weeks and the return would occur during the last three (3) weeks of the semester.

If the leave is for a reason other than the employee's serious health condition, the Executive Director may require an instructional employee to continue leave until the end of a semester, if:

1. the leave begins in the last five (5) weeks of a semester, will last more than two (2) weeks and the return to work would occur in the last two (2) weeks of a semester, or
2. the leave begins in the last three (3) weeks of a semester, and lasts more than five (5) days.

### Military Leave

Both federal and state laws grant employees the right to leave from employment for military service. The rights of returning members of the uniformed services, including the National Guard or Reserve, are defined in the Uniformed Service Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), 38 U.S.C 4301 *et seq.*, and K.S.A. 73-213 *et seq.*

## PAYROLL AND BUSINESS OFFICE

### Paperwork Submission Deadline

All business office and payroll paperwork is due in the Keystone Central office on the first day the media mail runs each month, in the Keystone office no later than the fifth day of the month.

At the end of the school year, all purchase requisitions and vouchers must be submitted by June 5<sup>th</sup> to be taken out of the current year's budget. Failure to do so, may result in vouchers not being reimbursed or supplies not being ordered.

### Payroll

1. Keystone's payday is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Employees will be paid by check or direct deposit on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.
2. Paychecks are not released in advance for any reason.
3. Employees have the option of having checks deposited directly. Arrangements for direct deposits may be made with the payroll department at the Keystone office. If an employee is planning on picking up his/her paycheck they need to call Keystone before 3:00 pm otherwise paycheck will be mailed.
4. If an employee is planning to let another person pick up his/her paycheck, they need to call by 3:00 pm. Employee must complete a **Paycheck Authorization Form**. The authorized person must bring it into the Keystone office in order for a check to be released. No checks will be released to a person other than the employee, or person listed on the Paycheck Authorization Form. Employee or person listed on the Paycheck Authorization Form must show a valid identification card with a picture to pick up a paycheck for the Keystone office.

### Overtime Pay

Employees shall receive not less than one and one-half times their regular rates of pay for hours worked in excess of the applicable maximum hours.

Overtime will be paid upon approval of director/supervisor and must be approved prior to the overtime worked. Overtime is calculated for over 40 hours actual work time per week. Days taken as sick, personal, holiday, vacation, or without pay will not be used for calculation purposes. Overtime pay will be paid in the payroll month in which the overtime occurred.

If employee physically works a total of 40 hours or less, no extra pay is required.

## **Benefits**

Staff working thirty or more hours per week qualify for all Section 125 benefits (including Health).

Employees working thirty hours or more per week with a twelve-month contract will receive set amount consistent with Keystone Business Office policies. Employees who are working 20-29 hours per week, hired prior to July 1, 2011, and participated in benefits, are grandfathered in with those benefits currently enrolled.

**Life Insurance can be purchased through the 125 Plan as an after tax employee paid product.**

If staff resigns/terminates prior to completing current contract, all benefits will cease at the end of the resignation/termination month.

## **LEAVE**

### **Sick/Discretionary Leave**

Twelve (12) days of leave will be allotted for each certified staff on the first day of their contract available for use at anytime.

1. These days will be prorated for teachers contracted after the start of the school year.
2. Certified hourly staff who work less than full time will have their leave days prorated to equal an hourly amount per contract.
3. At the end of the school year, any unused leave will be accumulated up to seventy (70) days.
4. Sick / discretionary leave must be reported on the employee's monthly timecard/calendar by  $\frac{1}{4}$ ,  $\frac{1}{2}$ ,  $\frac{3}{4}$  or full day.
5. A monthly report of remaining leave will appear on paycheck stubs. (Current to calendars submitted)
6. If a teacher resigns or terminates before finishing the school year and has been paid for un-accrued days, the final paycheck will be adjusted to pay back un-accrued days.
7. Retirement is the only time accumulated leave will be paid. Staff who resign, non-renewed or terminated in the school year, will not be paid for their accumulated sick and discretionary leave. Retiree will be reimbursed up to 70 days of leave at the rate of \$100.00 per day.

Employee on FMLA, extended leave extended leave or disability is responsible to submit to Human Resource a physicians release to return to work.

Employees receiving disability pay will follow short-term disability guidelines.

## **Bereavement Leave**

Each teacher shall be allowed three (3) paid non-cumulative bereavement days, for each death in the immediate family. Immediate family shall be defined as: spouse/partner, children/dependents, parents, parents-in-law, siblings, grandparents, and grandchildren.

## **Leave Without Pay**

There is no such leave as Leave Without Pay except for FMLA. Staff (certified and classified) who have used all of their leave and are not on FMLA may be dismissed by the Board.

## **Leave With Pay**

Administrators may place staff members (certified and classified) on leave with pay during an investigation or for a disciplinary action.

## **Work Related Injury Leave**

In the event that certified staff have been intentionally injured by a student, the staff will be allowed up to 5 days of leave per incident with no deduction in leave days, provided a doctor's statement verifies that the staff was unable to work due to the injury. This will be in accordance with service center policy GAOE.

## **Professional Leave**

It is the belief of Keystone that in order to provide appropriate programs for students, teachers must be life-long learners, constantly adding to their knowledge, skills, and attitudes. All Keystone employees are expected to continue to learn new skills and to be knowledgeable regarding best practices and new developments in their respective areas of specialization. Staff development of special education staff is provided at the beginning of each school year and periodically throughout the year. Attendance of licensed staff is required at the August staff development day(s) and any other training as notified. Other staff development opportunities will include workshops for specific groups, workshops on topics of general interest, and individual coaching as needed. Professional leave is for the purpose of attending conferences, inservice institutes and other activities designed to improve the teacher's professional competency. The approval of Keystone Administration is required prior to taking professional leave.

Keystone sponsored workshops/in-service: Professional Leave Request Forms do NOT need to be completed. Simply follow the instructions in the announcement information, which typically includes emailing or calling the office to register.

Off-site Workshops/Conferences: A Professional Leave Request Form must be submitted to the special education administrator. All requests will be carefully considered by the administrative team and returned with the decision about attendance and reimbursement information. Conference information (registration information, conference description) must be attached to the request.

- Reimbursement: To be reimbursed for conference attendance/mileage/meals/etc., submit information with receipts\* on the Conference Expense Voucher Form and send it to the Ozawkie office ATTN: Accounts Payable. Do not submit on the monthly expense voucher.
  - Vouchers must be turned in on the first day the media route runs of each month before the fifth day of the month or payment may be delayed until the following month.
  - Vouchers for the current school year must be turned in by June 5<sup>th</sup>; failure to do so may result in non-reimbursement of expenditures.
- Meal Reimbursement: Meals are not reimbursable for day-trip conferences. Meals are only reimbursable for overnight functions in the following manner: If the meal is not provided at the function, the expense of the noon meal as well as morning/evening meals are reimbursable not to exceed the daily amount of \$45. Prior approval on the Professional Leave Request Form is required.

**\* Keystone is a tax-exempt agency. Employees will not be reimbursed for any sales tax or gratuity (tips). No alcoholic beverage is allowed on a receipt (all items on the receipt will not be reimbursed).**

1. Staff wishing to attend a conference, workshop, etc. must submit a "Certified Staff Professional Leave Request Form" to the Keystone Central Office, ATTN: special education administrator responsible for your district.
2. Conference information (registration information; conference description) Must be attached to a request.
3. The request must first be approved by Tiny-k coordinator.
4. All requests will be returned to the employee with the decision about Attendance and reimbursement information.
5. To be reimbursed for conference expenses, submit this information with Receipts on the "Conference Expense Voucher" form and send to the Central Office ATTN: Accounts Payable. Do not submit on the monthly expense voucher.
6. Keystone is a tax-exempt agency. Employees will not be reimbursed for any sales tax.
7. Meals are not reimbursable for day-trip conferences. Meals are only reimbursable for overnight functions. Approved meal allowance is up to

\$45.00 per day. If conference provides breakfast and or lunch the meal stipend will be adjusted accordingly.

8. If a teacher is granted professional leave but does not use it, he/she should Notify the Keystone Central Office so that the day will not be charged against professional leave.

## **Jury Duty and Other Court Appearances**

Employees are expected to fulfill their obligation as a citizen in serving jury duty when selected. Employees should notify their building principal(s) and Keystone administrator and submit a copy of your summons to Keystone Human Resources as soon as possible so that a substitute may be secured if needed. Any compensation, except expenses, shall revert to Keystone. No deductions of personal leave, or loss of pay, shall be made for judicial leave, unless the teacher is a complainant against Keystone or any of the seven school districts, or if they are serving in their own defense or personal civil matters.

## **KPERS**

All classified employees of Keystone who work at least 17.5 hours a week/ 630 hour annually in a covered position, as defined in the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERS) Manual, are automatically members of KPERS. Four percent prior to July 2009, thereafter rate will be at six percent of the employee's salary is deposited each month in a personal account for that employee. After five (5) years the employee is vested in KPERS and eligible for benefits upon retirement. If the employee leaves Keystone and does not work elsewhere for a KPERS employer, he/she may request remittance of his/her KPERS contributions. For more information, see the KPERS Manual or talk to Keystone's appointed KPERS Representative.

See the negotiated agreement for information pertaining to Keystone retirement benefits, including eligibility, sick leave reimbursement, and fringe benefits.

## **Ordering Supplies**

All supplies need by Tiny-k staff should be submitted to the Tiny-k coordinator for approval. Once approval is given, staff may purchase and submit for reimbursement or submit a purchase order.

1. Personal expenses for supplies will be reimbursed if the teacher obtains prior approval **and** submits a receipt. *Sales tax is not reimbursable.*
2. Supply budget is set for program as a whole.

## Purchase Card

Purchase Card can be made available to staff pending Board approved training and special education administrator's approval.

## Monthly Expense Voucher

Monthly expenses and mileage reimbursement are completed in combination with timecard. Mileage will be reimbursed at the current state rate.

1. Mileage is documented from initial visit to each subsequent visit by listing town.
2. Cell Phone stipend is given monthly to all Tiny-K certified staff.
3. Approved supply purchases receipts are attached to timecard / expense voucher.

## Mileage Reimbursement Guidelines.

- Activities outside of the Keystone area will be reimbursed in the following manner:  
Employees may claim mileage from home and back with prior administrative approval.  
Mileage reimbursement for conferences must be claimed on the "Conference Expense Voucher" **not** on the monthly "Expense Voucher" form.  
Example 1: An employee lives in Topeka and drives from home to an all-day workshop in Lawrence. Mileage may be claimed from the employee's home to Lawrence and back.
- Activities *within the Keystone* area will be reimbursed in the following manner:  
Employees may not claim mileage from home to their first work location of the day or from work to home at the end of the day. (unless otherwise agreed upon in contract negotiations)

**Where/When to Send the Reimbursement Form.** Send completed Mileage/Expense vouchers to Tiny-k Coordinator by the 2nd of each month for signature. Coordinator will submitted all timecards/expense vouchers to Ozawkie office ATTN: Accounts Payable. Vouchers must be turned in on the first day the media route runs of each month or payment may be delayed until the following month by no later than the fifth. Vouchers for the current school year must be turned in by June 5<sup>th</sup>; failure to do so may result in non-reimbursement of expenditures.

## **STAFF BEHAVIOR (Certified / Non-Certified)**

### **Confidentiality**

1. Confidentiality refers to the protection of personally identifiable information at all stages, including the collection, use and maintenance of education records.
2. Confidentiality applies to both written records **and** oral information.
3. Violations of confidentiality, which violate the privacy rights of students or personnel, could result in disciplinary actions being taken against the employee, including termination.
4. If you must talk to someone else, talk to your supervisor or someone who has shared access to the individual or information to be shared.
  1. Paraeducators may share confidential student information only with their supervising special education and general education teacher; principal; and Keystone administration.
  2. If a family member of the student or friend of the student inquires as to the student's status, progress or problems, the paraeducator must direct the person without further comment to the licensed special education provider.
  3. Confidential information, whether perceived to be positive or negative, must never be shared by a para to individuals other than those identified above.

### **Reports**

Upon request, all personnel of Keystone shall submit to the Director of Special Education any information required for the preparation of annual reports required by the State Department of Education and any other information that is needed by either federal or state sources. These reports are to be filed promptly and accurately.

### **Personnel Problems**

If problems concerning Keystone personnel arise, they should be referred immediately and in a professional manner to the immediate Keystone supervisor. Even if the problem is resolved at this level, the special education administrator or Executive Director should be notified.

## **Personal Contact with Keystone Board of Directors**

Personnel should not approach Board members directly with individual problems without having first spoken with the special education administrators, and the Executive Director. Personnel may be referred to the Board. Personnel may also ask to be placed on the agenda of the regular monthly Board meeting to express their concerns.

## **Job Responsibilities**

1. Tiny-k personnel will be under direct supervision of Coordinator.
2. Dress code for Tiny-k staff is modest and professional, as well as appropriate to complete the requirements of assigned duties.
3. Tiny-k staff are encouraged to work closely with team members concerning scheduling, planning time, and services.
4. Certified staff are encouraged to attend county ICC and visit community partners as time allows to build relationships and referral support for the program.
5. Reading personal books, newspapers, playing newspaper / books (crossword puzzles, Sudoku) during reported work time is not allowed by certified and classified staff.
6. Personal activities should only be conducted during lunch/break time.

## **Teacher Evaluations**

All licensed personnel will be evaluated by Coordinator(s) in accordance with the requirements of KDHE and Part C. Completion of paperwork requirements, child and family supports, interactions with families, interactions with other staff, and record keeping will be some of the components of each teacher's evaluation. Child records may be reviewed to determine if IFSP's are completed on time and in compliance with federal and state regulations. The quality of IFSP's will be evaluated according to Evidence Based Practice outlines. In addition, data collected during annual file reviews will be used to report the quality of IFSP's. Other records reviewed may include peer reviews, documentation of parent contacts, and information gathered from IT Department, etc. The accuracy of the IFSP documents are equally as important.

## **Paraeducator Evaluations**

1. All paraeducators will be evaluated by their supervisor(s).
2. Building principals are expected to assist in these evaluations and/or submit a separate evaluation.
3. Implementing instruction, student progress, interactions with students, interactions with other staff, and special education record keeping will be components of each para's evaluation.
4. Evaluations can be conducted anytime it is deemed necessary by the supervisor and the building special education administrator.
5. If a behavior warrants or an evaluation indicates an area of need, a Plan of Improvement can be written for the para. Keystone administrator must be contacted to assist in the writing of the plan of improvement. Paraprofessionals are an at-will employee. At-will employees can be fired at any time, for any reason (except for a few illegal reasons such as age, race, religion and sex).

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## **Telephone / Computer / Equipment Usage**

Use of cellular phones for conversations or text messaging/twittering is prohibited unless used during lunch or breaks. Personal telephone calls should not be conducted during the duty day unless it is an emergency or during breaks.

Using school district computer/equipment (copier, fax machine, printers, cameras, smartboard, etc.) is strictly prohibited for personal usage. Using computers to access personal accounts, e-mails, Facebook, writing personal information or searching the internet is not allowed. (All employees may use the computer for communication from Keystone-including electronic direct deposit slips). During school/business hours district and Keystone IT staff monitors activity conducted on computers. Inappropriate usage of computers and equipment can result in disciplinary action or dismissal.

## **Disciplinary Action for Misconduct**

Employees may be disciplined for misconduct by reprimand, suspension, disciplinary supervision or dismissal. Examples (not all-inclusive) of misconduct are:

- Illegal or Serious Misconduct (such as reporting and/or being on duty under the influence of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs; threatening, intimidating, coercing, abusive or vulgar language; interfering with the performance of other employees, customers or vendors; dishonest or improper conduct on the job; actions which are disruptive to the operation of the school; unauthorized use of Keystone or District(s) equipment)
- Insubordination (such as breaking of Keystone rules, regulations, or policies; willful disobedience of a direct order from a supervisor)
- Poor attendance (such as excessive, unexplained, or unexcused absenteeism; frequent tardiness; or failure to notify supervisor)
- Unsatisfactory work performance (such as failure to progress in job proficiency; incompetence; inappropriate dress/hygiene)

In cases involving serious misconduct, such as a major breach of policy or violation of law, the procedures contained below, may be disregarded. Administration should suspend the employee immediately and, if appropriate, recommend termination of the employee. Employees suspended from work will not receive or accrue any employee benefits during the suspension, unless administration grants an exception. At any investigatory interview conducted for the purpose of determining the facts involved in any suspected violation of Keystone rules and regulations, the following procedure should apply: prior to the interview, the employee who is suspected of violating Keystone rules and regulations should be told in general terms what the interview is about.

## **Types of Disciplinary Action**

1. Oral Reprimands. This is the most frequently used and mildest form of discipline. It is a warning, which at the same time, tries to get at the root of the problem and overcome the source of difficulty. When the supervisor gives an oral reprimand, he/she makes a brief note of it for his/her own future reference and guidance.
2. Written Reprimands. An offense, which in the opinion of the supervisor, justifies a written reprimand containing a brief description of the unsatisfactory conduct of the employee. It may include a written warning and suggest actions to be taken. A copy shall be provided to the employee prior to being included in his/her personnel file. The employee may respond in writing with five (5) workdays and such written response shall be included and made part of his/her personnel file.

## **Civil Actions and Administrative Complaints**

Any Keystone employee served with formal legal process and a complaint from a federal or state court or civil rights enforcement agency (including the Kansas Human Rights Commission, the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or the Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education) shall immediately advise

Keystone Executive Director. The filing of litigation or a complaint with an administrative enforcement agency shall suspend any further processing by Keystone of any internal complaint made regarding same subject matter. Upon receipt of any final order by a court administrative enforcement agency, any internal complaint pending Keystone regarding the same subject matter shall be dismissed.

## **Practice/Cooperating Teachers**

Licensed Tiny-k staff may agree to supervise a practicum / fieldwork level student provided the Tiny-k coordinator has given approval. All inquiries from universities or prospective students should be referred to coordinator to establish next steps. Any money received by the district as reimbursements or payments may be distributed either into the general budget or as payroll to the cooperating teacher.

## **PARA SUPERVISION**

All teachers supervising paraeducators should be familiar with policies and procedures specific to paraeducators.

It is the supervising teacher's responsibility and privilege to professionally supervise paraeducators. Communication is vital in providing effective and efficient services to students.

The Board will avoid employing anyone who is the father, mother, brother, sister, spouse, son, daughter, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law of a direct supervisor, unless extenuating circumstances are present (ex. Staff shortages, availability of qualified employees, etc.)

## **Voluntary Resignation**

Paraeducators who are absent from work for three consecutive days without being excused or giving proper notice may be considered as having voluntarily quit. This determination will be made by Keystone Administration and as such, licensed personnel should contact Keystone Administration for consideration.

## **Inservice Hours**

1. Paras with less than three years of continuous employment or staff with more than three years of employment but have unsatisfactory evaluations with Tiny-k must attend twenty hours of inservice training annually.

2. Paras with more than three years of continuous employment with Keystone and satisfactory evaluations must complete at least ten hours of inservice training annually.
3. One hour of college credit counts for 20 hours of inservice hours. There are different types of inservices allowed:
  1. On-Line / Computer Programs: Earn up to seven (7) hours of inservice using computer programs (Infinitec and WorkKeys). To receive credit a copy of the certificate must be sent in with confirmation passing the course.
  2. Inservice Classes. Examples include First aid and other inservices sponsored by the school, district, teacher, or support staff (ex. speech pathologist, school psychologist, APE, etc.). Inservice hours can also be earned through trainings at Keystone.
  3. Reading/Video. A maximum of five (5) hours can be earned for reading an approved book or watching an approved educational video. Twenty pages equals one (1) hour of inservice.
  4. Passing the ParaPro Assessment is worth 20 hours. Coursework prior to the ParaPro assessment will not be counted to the 20 hours given to passing the ParaPro Assessment. Certificate is necessary for credit.
4. Examples of non-allowable inservice hours are time worked while setting up a classroom or closing a classroom at the end of the year. Television programs are not allowed. Journal or magazine articles are generally not allowed. Computer classes or inservices that are un-related to the job are not allowed (ex. taking an algebra II class and the job held is in the preschool program). If in doubt contact the Director of Special Education.

## **Inservice Documentation**

1. All inservice requires Keystone Administrative approval to receive credit.
2. Paraeducators must complete the "Paraeducator Staff Development Documentation Form" and submit to Keystone Administration for approval. This form must be signed by the paraeducator's supervisor.
3. Paraeducator's attending a Keystone inservice opportunity, need only sign the "Staff Sign-in Sheet" to receive credit. No other documentation is required.

