

# Obion County Board of Education

Monitoring:  <b>Review: Annually, in February</b>	Descriptor Term:  <b>Separation Practices for Non-Tenured Teachers</b>	Descriptor Code: <b>5.201</b>	Issued Date: <b>05/12/08</b>
		Rescinds: 5.200/5.203/ 5.204/5.205	Issued: <b>02/02/04</b>

1 **SUSPENSION**

2  
3 A director of schools/designee may suspend a non-tenured teacher at any time when deemed necessary.<sup>1</sup>  
4 Before an employee is suspended s/he shall be: (1) provided with reasons for the suspension; (2) given  
5 an opportunity to respond; and (3) given a written decision of the suspension.

6  
7 Under no circumstances shall a director of schools suspend a non-tenured teacher with pay. If reinstated,  
8 the nontenured teacher shall be paid full salary for the period of suspension, unless suspension without  
9 pay is deemed to be an appropriate penalty.

10  
11 **DISMISSAL**

12  
13 The director of schools may dismiss any non-tenured teacher **during the contract year** for incompetence,  
14 inefficiency, insubordination, improper conduct or neglect of duty after giving the nontenured teacher,  
15 in writing, due notice of the charges.

16  
17 The director of schools shall give the non-tenured teacher an opportunity for a full and complete hearing  
18 before an impartial hearing officer.<sup>2</sup>

19  
20 **PERSONNEL HEARINGS**

21  
22 The Board will appoint an impartial Personnel Hearing Officer to conduct such hearings. The Personnel  
23 Hearing Officer will hear the case and the employee shall have the right to:

- 24  
25 1. be represented by counsel;  
26 2. call and subpoena witnesses;  
27 3. examine all witnesses; and  
28 4. require that all testimony be given under oath.  
29

30 Factual findings and decisions in all dismissal cases shall be reduced to written form and delivered to  
31 the affected employee within ten (10) working days following the close of the hearing. The employee  
32 may appeal the decision to the Board within ten (10) working days of the Personnel Hearing Officer  
33 rendering the written decision to the employee. Written notice of appeal to the Board shall be given to  
34 the director of schools. Within twenty (20) days on receipt of notice, the director shall prepare a copy  
35 of the proceedings, transcript, documentary and other evidence presented and provide the Board a copy  
36 of the same.

37  
38 The Board shall hear the appeal. No new evidence shall be introduced. The non-tenured teacher may ap-  
39 pear in person or be represented by counsel and argue why the decision should be modified or reversed.  
40 The Board shall take one of the following actions:  
41

- 1 1. sustain the decision;
- 2 2. send the record back if additional evidence is necessary; or
- 3 3. revise the penalty or reverse the decision.

4  
5 Before any decision to dismiss is made, a majority of the membership of the Board shall concur in  
6 sustaining the charges. The Board shall render a decision on the appeal within ten (10) working days  
7 after the conclusion of the hearing.

8  
9 The director of schools shall also have the right to appeal any adverse ruling by the Personnel Hearing  
10 Officer in same manner as the non-tenured teacher.

11  
12 Within twenty (20) days after receipt of notice of the decision of the Board, either party may appeal to  
13 the chancery court in the county where the school system is located. The Board shall provide the entire  
14 record of the hearing to the court.

### 15 16 **NONRENEWAL**

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18 Non-tenured teachers are subject to the same rules and regulations and are entitled to the privileges of  
19 employment enjoyed by tenured teachers except that they have no claim upon continuing employment  
20 or tenure protections.

21  
22 The principal is responsible for discussing deficiencies as part of the evaluation process with the non-  
23 tenured teacher and providing assistance for overcoming these deficiencies.

24  
25 The director of schools is under no obligation to re-employ nontenured teachers at the end of their con-  
26 tract period. If the director of schools determines not to renew the contract of a non-tenured teacher,<sup>1</sup>  
27 the following action shall be taken:

- 28 1. The Board shall be notified at the next regular board meeting; and
- 29 2. Written notice of non-renewal shall be hand delivered or sent to the employee by registered  
30 mail so that it will be received by the employee **prior to April 15.**<sup>3</sup>

### 31 32 **RESIGNATION**

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35 A teacher shall give the director of schools notice of resignation at least thirty (30) days before the  
36 effective date of the resignation. A teacher who fails to give such notice, in the absence of justifiable  
37 extenuating circumstances, shall forfeit all tenure status. The Board may waive the thirty (30) days  
38 notice requirement and permit a teacher to resign in good standing.

39  
40 The conditions under which it is permissible to break a contract with the Board are as follows:

- 41 1. The incapacity on the part of the teacher to perform the contract as evidenced by the certified  
42 statement of a physician approved by the Board;
- 43 2. The release by the Board of the teacher from the contract which the teacher has entered into with  
44 the Board.<sup>4</sup>

45  
46  
47 Any teacher on leave shall notify the director of schools in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the  
48 date of return if the teacher does not intend to return to the position from which he/she has taken leave.  
49 Failure to render such notice may be considered a breach of contract.<sup>5</sup>

1 Upon a breach of contract, the Board, upon a motion recorded in its minutes, may file a complaint with  
2 the Commissioner and request the suspension of a teacher's certificate. After the Commissioner has  
3 provided the teacher an opportunity for defense during a hearing, the Commissioner may suspend the  
4 certificate for no less than thirty (30) and no more than three hundred sixty-five (365) days.<sup>6</sup>

## 6 RETIREMENT

8 Retirement shall mean a termination of services under conditions which will allow the employee to draw  
9 benefits from retirement plans and/or social security benefits.

11 Employees eligible for retirement benefits may elect to retire at any age according to the provisions of  
12 the retirement system.

14 Central office personnel shall assist employees in securing retirement benefits; however, it shall be the  
15 responsibility of the retiring employee to provide verification of eligibility in writing from TCRS to the  
16 central office. It shall be the responsibility of the retiring employee to file for benefits.

18 Employees who retire under TCRS may be employed up to one hundred twenty (120) days per year  
19 without loss of retirement benefits. Retired teachers may substitute teach for an additional ninety (90)  
20 days if the director of schools certifies in writing to the Board that no other qualified personnel are  
21 available to substitute teach.<sup>7</sup>

23 The director of schools may employ teachers retired for at least one year for full-time employment as a  
24 kindergarten through twelfth grade teacher on a year-to-year basis. Retirement benefits will not be lost  
25 or suspended under certain conditions, which include but are not limited to the following:<sup>8</sup>

- 27 1. The director of schools of the employing system must certify in writing that no other qualified  
28 individuals are available to fill the position;
- 29 2. The Commissioner of Education must certify that the employing school system serves an area  
30 that lacks qualified teachers to serve in the position to be filled;
- 31 3. The retired teacher must hold a valid license and shall not be entitled to tenure status;
- 32 4. The retired teacher shall not be eligible to accrue additional retirement benefits, accrue leave  
33 or receive medical insurance coverage; and
- 34 5. The salary paid to the retired member shall not be less than the rate of compensation set by  
35 the Board for teachers with no experience filling similar positions, nor more than eighty-five  
36 percent (85%) of the rate of compensation set by Board for teachers with comparable training  
37 and years of experience filling similar positions.

39 *(Note: Nonrenewal of non-tenured teachers after the contract year is not suspension or dismissal and*  
40 *does NOT follow the suspension/dismissal procedures outlined in this policy. Rather, nonrenewal of non-*  
41 *tenured teachers after the contract year follows the nonrenewal procedures outlined in this policy.)*

### 44 Legal References:

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| 45 1. TCA 49-2-301 (b)(1)(EE)  | 5. TCA 49-5-706 |
| 46 2. TCA 49-2-301 (b)(1)(GG)  | 6. TCA 49-5-411 |
| 47 3. TCA 49-5-409(a); OP Tenn. Atty. Gen. 97-123 (September 2, 1997);<br>48 OP Tenn. Atty. Gen. 99-091 (April 12, 1999) | 7. TCA 8-36-805 |
| 49 4. TCA 49-5-508   | 8. TCA 8-36-821 |