

# STAFFING CONSIDERATIONS IN A WORSENING ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT

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## EDUCATION CODE

### § 44846.

The following general provisions shall apply regardless of date of employment:

As between two or more employees who first rendered paid service to the district on the same date, and who, following the termination of services, have a statutory preference to reappointment in the order of original employment, the governing board shall determine the order of reemployment solely on the basis of the needs of the district and the students thereof. Any terminated employee subject to the conditions of this section shall, upon request, be furnished in writing, no later than 15 days following such request, the reasons and basis of the needs of the district and the students thereof utilized by the governing board in determining which employee or employees shall be reappointed. This requirement that the governing board provide, on request, a written statement of reasons for determining the order of reappointment shall not be interpreted to give affected employees any legal right or interest that would not exist without such a requirement.

Records showing date of employment, whether kept by the district or by the county, shall be accessible, on demand, to any certificated employee of the district or to his designated representative.

In the absence of records as to any of the matters referred to in the two preceding sections, the governing board, in accordance with evidence presented, shall determine the order of employment after giving employees a reasonable opportunity to present such evidence.

The order of employment in all districts, when required, shall be determined as prescribed by Sections 44830 to 44855, inclusive.

The governing board shall have power and it shall be its duty to correct any errors discovered from time to time in its records showing the order of employment.

### § 44955.

(a) No permanent employee shall be deprived of his or her position for causes other than those specified in Sections 44907 and 44923, and Sections 44932 to 44947, inclusive, and no probationary employee shall be deprived of his or her position for cause other than as specified in Sections 44948 to 44949, inclusive.

(b) Whenever in any school year the average daily attendance in all of the schools of a district for the first six months in which school is in session shall have declined below the corresponding period of either of the previous two school years, whenever the governing board determines that attendance in a district will decline in the following year as a result of the termination of an interdistrict tuition agreement as defined in Section 46304, whenever a particular kind of service is to be reduced or discontinued not later than the beginning of the following school year, or whenever the amendment of state law requires the modification of curriculum, and when in the opinion of the governing board of the district it shall have become necessary by reason of any of these conditions to decrease the number of permanent employees in the district, the governing board may terminate the services of not more than a corresponding percentage of the certificated employees of the district, permanent as well as probationary, at the close of the school year. Except as otherwise provided by statute, the services of no permanent employee may be terminated under the provisions of this section while any probationary employee, or any other employee with less seniority, is retained to render a service which said permanent employee is certificated and competent to render.

In computing a decline in average daily attendance for purposes of this section for a newly formed or reorganized school district, each school of the district shall be deemed to have been a school of the newly formed or reorganized district for both of the two previous school years.

As between employees who first rendered paid service to the district on the same date, the governing board shall determine the order of termination solely on the basis of needs of the district and the students thereof. Upon the request of any employee whose order of termination is so determined, the governing board shall furnish in writing no later than five days prior to the commencement of the hearing held in accordance with Section 44949, a statement of the specific criteria used in determining the order of termination and the application of the criteria in ranking each employee relative to the other employees in the group. This requirement that the governing board provide, on request, a written statement of reasons for determining the order of termination shall not be interpreted to give affected employees any legal right or interest that would not exist without such a requirement.

(c) Notice of such termination of services shall be given before the 15th of May in the manner prescribed in Section 44949, and services of such employees shall be terminated in the inverse of the order in which they were employed, as determined by the board in accordance with the provisions of Sections 44844 and 44845. In the event that a permanent or probationary employee is not given the notices and a right to a hearing as provided for in Section 44949, he or she shall be deemed reemployed for the ensuing school year.

The governing board shall make assignments and reassignments in such a manner that employees shall be retained to render any service which their seniority and qualifications entitle them to render. However, prior to assigning or reassigning any certificated employee to teach a subject which he or she has not previously taught, and for which he or she does not have a teaching credential or which is not within the employee's major area of postsecondary study or the equivalent thereof, the governing board shall require the employee to pass a subject matter competency test in the appropriate subject.

(d) Notwithstanding subdivision (b), a school district may deviate from terminating a certificated employee in order of seniority for either of the following reasons:

(1) The district demonstrates a specific need for personnel to teach a specific course or course of study, or to provide services authorized by a services credential with a specialization in either pupil personnel services or health for a school nurse, and that the certificated employee has special training and experience necessary to teach that course or course of study or to provide those services, which others with more seniority do not possess.

(2) For purposes of maintaining or achieving compliance with constitutional requirements related to equal protection of the laws.

### **§ 44955.5**

(a) During the time period between five days after the enactment of the Budget Act and August 15 of the fiscal year to which that Budget Act applies, if the governing board of a school district determines that its total revenue limit per unit of average daily attendance for the fiscal year of that Budget Act has not increased by at least 2 percent, and if in the opinion of the governing board it is therefore necessary to decrease the number of permanent employees in the district, the governing board may

terminate the services of any permanent or probationary certificated employees of the district, including employees holding a position that requires an administrative or supervisory credential. The termination shall be pursuant to Sections 44951 and 44955 but, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Sections 44951 and 44955, in accordance with a schedule of notice and hearing adopted by the governing board.

(b) This section is inoperative from July 1, 2002, to July 1, 2003, inclusive.

### **§ 44956.**

(a) Any permanent employee whose services have been terminated as provided in Section 44955 shall have the following rights:

(1) For the period of 39 months from the date of such termination, any employee who in the meantime has not attained the age of 65 years shall have the preferred right to reappointment, in the order of original employment as determined by the board in accordance with the provisions of Sections 44831 to 44855, inclusive, if the number of employees is increased or the discontinued service is reestablished, with no requirements that were not imposed upon other employees who continued in service; provided, that no probationary or other employee with less seniority shall be employed to render a service which said employee is certificated and competent to render. However, prior to reappointing any employee to teach a subject which he or she has not previously taught, and for which he or she does not have a teaching credential or which is not within the employee's major area of postsecondary study or the equivalent thereof, the governing board shall require the employee to pass a subject matter competency test in the appropriate subject.

(2) The aforesaid right to reappointment may be waived by the employee, without prejudice, for not more than one school year, unless the board extends this right, but such waiver shall not deprive the employee of his right to subsequent offers of reappointment.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a school district may deviate from reappointing a certificated employee in order of seniority for either of the following reasons:

(A) The district demonstrates a specific need for personnel to teach a specific course or course of study, or to provide services authorized by a services

credential with a specialization in either pupil personnel services or health for a school nurse, and that the employee has special training and experience necessary to teach that course or course of study, or to provide those services, which others with more seniority do not possess.

(B) For purposes of maintaining or achieving compliance with constitutional requirements related to equal protection of the laws.

(4) As to any such employee who is reappointed, the period of his absence shall be treated as a leave of absence and shall not be considered as a break in the continuity of his service, he shall retain the classification and order of employment he had when his services were terminated, and credit for prior service under any state or district retirement system shall not be affected by such termination, but the period of his absence shall not count as a part of the service required for retirement.

(5) During the period of his preferred right to reappointment, any such employee shall, in the order of original employment, be offered prior opportunity for substitute service during the absence of any other employee who has been granted a leave of absence or who is temporarily absent from duty; provided, that his services may be terminated upon the return to duty of said other employee and that said substitute service shall not affect the retention of his previous classification and rights. If, in any school year the employee serves as a substitute in any position requiring certification for any 21 days or more within a period of 60 schooldays, the compensation the employee receives for substitute service in that 60-day period, including his or her first 20 days of substitute service, shall be not less than the amount the employee would receive if he or she were being reappointed.

(6) During the period of the employee's preferred right to reappointment, the governing board of the district, if it is also the governing board of one or more other districts, may assign him to service, which he is certificated and competent to render, in said other district or districts; provided, that the compensation he receives therefor may in the discretion of the governing board be the same as he would have received had he been serving in the district from which his services were terminated, that his service in the said other district or districts shall be counted toward the period required for both state and local retirement, as defined by Section 22102, as though rendered in the district from which his services were terminated, and that no permanent

employee in said other district or districts shall be displaced by him.

It is the intent of this subsection that the employees of a school district, the governing board of which is also the governing board of one or more other school districts, shall not be at a disadvantage as compared with employees of a unified school district.

(7) At any time prior to the completion of one year after his return to service, he may continue or make up, with interest, his own contributions to any state or district retirement system, for the period of his absence, but it shall not be obligatory on state or district to match such contributions.

(8) Should he become disabled or reach retirement age at any time before his return to service, he shall receive, in any state or district retirement system of which he was a member, all benefits to which he would have been entitled had such event occurred at the time of his termination of service, plus any benefits he may have qualified for thereafter, as though still employed.

#### **§ 44957.**

Any probationary employee whose services have been terminated as provided in Section 44955 shall have the following rights:

(a) For the period of 24 months from the date of such termination, any employee who in the meantime has not attained the age of 65 years shall have the preferred right to reappointment, subject to the prior rights to reappointment by all permanent employees as set forth in Section 44956, in the order of original employment as determined by the governing board in accordance with the provisions of Sections 44831 to 44855, inclusive, if the number of employees is increased or the discontinued service is reestablished, with no requirements that were not imposed upon other employees who continued in service. Except as otherwise provided, no probationary or temporary employee with less seniority shall be employed to render a service which such employee is certificated and competent to render and provided that such an employee shall be given a priority over employees whose right to a position is derived pursuant to Section 44918. However, prior to reappointing any employee to teach a subject which he or she has not previously taught, and for which he or she does not have a teaching credential or which is not within the employee's major area of postsecondary study or the equivalent thereof, the governing board shall require the employee to pass a subject matter competency

test in the appropriate subject.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), a school district may deviate from reappointing a probationary employee in order of seniority for either of the following reasons:

(1) The district demonstrates a specific need for personnel to teach a specific course or course of study, or to provide services authorized by a services credential with a specialization in either pupil personnel services or health for a school nurse, and that the employee has special training and experience necessary to teach that course or course of study, or to provide those services, which others with more seniority do not possess.

(2) For purposes of maintaining or achieving compliance with constitutional requirements related to equal protection of the laws.

(c) As to any such employee who is reappointed, the period of his absence shall be treated as a leave of absence and shall not be considered as a break in the continuity of his service, he shall retain the classification and order of employment he had when his services were terminated, and credit for prior service under any state or district retirement system shall not be affected by such termination; provided, however, that the period of his absence shall not be counted as a part of the service required for attaining permanent status in the district or, except as provided in subdivision (e), for retirement purposes.

(d) During the period of his preferred right to reappointment, any such employee shall, in the order of original employment, and subject to the rights of permanent employees as set forth in Section 44956, be offered prior opportunity for substitute service during the absence of any other employee who has been granted leave of absence or who is temporarily absent from duty; provided, that his services may be terminated upon a return to duty of such other employee, that such substitute service shall not affect the retention of his previous classification and rights, and that such an employee shall be given a priority over employees whose right to a substitute position is derived pursuant to Section 44918.

(e) At any time prior to the completion of one year after his return to service, an employee reappointed under the provisions of this section may elect to continue or to reinstate his membership and interest in any state or district retirement system and to receive retirement benefits as if no absence from service had occurred. In the event of such election

the employee shall pay into the retirement system the amount of his share of contribution and the district's share of contribution attributable to the period of absence and the amount of any contributions withdrawn, plus interest.

### **§ 45117.**

(a) When, as a result of the expiration of a specially funded program, classified positions must be eliminated at the end of any school year, and classified employees will be subject to layoff for lack of funds, the employees to be laid off at the end of the school year shall be given written notice on or before April 29 informing them of their layoff effective at the end of the school year and of their displacement rights, if any, and reemployment rights. However, if the termination date of any specially funded program is other than June 30, the notice shall be given not less than 45 days prior to the effective date of their layoff.

(b) When, as a result of a bona fide reduction or elimination of the service being performed by any department, classified employees shall be subject to layoff for lack of work, affected employees shall be given notice of layoff not less than 45 days prior to the effective date of layoff, and informed of their displacement rights, if any, and reemployment rights.

(c)

(1) A classified employee may not be laid off if a short-term employee is retained to render a service that the classified employee is qualified to render. This subdivision does not create a 45-day layoff notice requirement for any individual hired as a short-term employee, as defined in Section 45103, for a period not exceeding 45 days.

(2) This subdivision does not apply to the retention of a short-term employee, as defined in Section 45103, who is hired for a period not exceeding 45 days after which the short-term service may not be extended or renewed.

(d) This section does not preclude the governing board of a school district from implementing either of the following actions without providing the notice required by subdivision (a) or (b):

(1) A layoff for a lack of funds in the event of an actual and existing financial inability to pay the salaries of classified employees.

(2) A layoff for a lack of work resulting from causes not foreseeable or preventable by the governing

board.

(e) This section shall apply to districts that have adopted the merit system in the same manner and effect as if it were a part of Article 6 (commencing with Section 45240).

**§ 45298.**

Persons laid off because of lack of work or lack of funds are eligible to reemployment for a period of 39 months and shall be reemployed in preference to new applicants. In addition, such persons laid off have the right to participate in promotional examinations within the district during the period of 39 months.

Employees who take voluntary demotions or voluntary reductions in assigned time in lieu of layoff or to remain in their present positions rather than be reclassified or reassigned, shall be granted the same rights as persons laid off and shall retain eligibility to be considered for reemployment for an additional period of up to 24 months; provided, that the same tests of fitness under which they qualified for appointment to the class shall still apply. The personnel commission shall make the determination of the specific period eligibility for reemployment on a class-by-class basis.

Employees who take voluntary demotions or voluntary reductions in assigned time in lieu of layoff shall be, at the option of the employee, returned to a position in their former class or to positions with increased assigned time as vacancies become available, and without limitation of time, but if there is a valid reemployment list they shall be ranked on that list in accordance with their proper seniority.

**§ 45308.**

Classified employees shall be subject to layoff for lack of work or lack of funds. Whenever a classified employee is laid off, the order of layoff within the class shall be determined by length of service. The employee who has been employed the shortest time in the class, plus higher classes, shall be laid off first. Reemployment shall be in the reverse order of layoff.

For purposes of this section, in school districts with an average daily attendance below 400,000, for service commencing or continuing after July 1, 1971, "length of service" means all hours in paid status, whether during the school year, a holiday, recess, or during any period that a school is in session or closed, but does not include any hours compensated solely on an overtime basis as provided for in Section 45128. Nothing in this section shall preclude

the governing board of a school district from entering into an agreement with the exclusive representative of the classified employees that defines "length of service" to mean the hire date. For purposes of this section, in school districts with an average daily attendance of 400,000 or more, for service commencing or continuing after January 1, 1986, "length of service" shall be determined by the date of hire.

If a governing board enters into an agreement with the exclusive representative of classified employees that defines "length of service" to mean the hire date, the governing board may define "length of service" to mean the hire date for a classification of employee not represented by any exclusive bargaining unit.

Nothing contained in this section shall preclude the granting of "length of service" credit for time spent on unpaid illness leave, unpaid maternity leave, unpaid family care leave, or unpaid industrial accident leave. In addition, for military leave of absence, "length of service" credit shall be granted pursuant to Section 45297. In the event an employee returns to work following any other unpaid leave of absence, no further seniority shall be accrued for the time not worked.

"Hours in paid status" shall not be interpreted to mean any service performed prior to entering into a probationary or permanent status in the classified service of the district except service in restricted positions as provided in this chapter.

