

January 19, 2012

Colleagues,

As you know, the deadline for the determination of how school recognition funds will be distributed is February 1<sup>st</sup>. If the school staff and the school advisory council cannot reach agreement by that date, the statute states that “the awards must be equally distributed to all classroom teachers currently teaching at the school.” The question then becomes how do we define the term “classroom teachers?”

Section 1012.01(2)(a) defines the term “classroom teachers” as follows:

- “Classroom teachers are staff members assigned the professional activity of instructing students in courses in classroom situations, including basic instruction, exceptional student education, career education, and adult education, including substitute teachers.”

As our district does not include substitute teachers as part of a school staff, they would not be included in the distribution. Substitute teachers assigned to a class as part of support facilitation are selected by the school and are subject to change at the discretion of the principal, and therefore are also excluded.

The definition of “classroom teachers” by its terms excludes administrative personnel, secretarial/clerical personnel, School Way Café personnel, custodial and maintenance personnel, student transportation services personnel, and campus advisors from the post February 1<sup>st</sup> mandatory distribution. However, other statutory definitions also exclude additional positions that might otherwise be considered personnel who provide student instruction.

The additional terms defined in section 1012.01(2) includes “student personnel services”, “librarians/media specialists”, “other instructional staff” and “education paraprofessionals.” As the statute provides separate definitions for these terms, personnel that fall within the definitions of these terms are not considered “classroom teachers”, and also would be excluded from the post February 1<sup>st</sup> mandatory distribution. The definitions for these terms are as follows:

- “Student personnel services.—Student personnel services include staff members responsible for: advising students with regard to their abilities and aptitudes, educational and occupational opportunities, and personal and social adjustments; providing placement services; performing educational evaluations; and similar functions. Included in this classification are guidance counselors, social workers, career specialists, and school psychologists.”
- “Librarians/media specialists.—Librarians/media specialists are staff members responsible for providing school library media services. These employees are responsible for evaluating, selecting, organizing, and managing media and technology resources, equipment, and related systems; facilitating access to information resources beyond the school; working with teachers to make resources available in the instructional programs;

assisting teachers and students in media productions; and instructing students in the location and use of information resources.”

- “Other instructional staff.—Other instructional staff are staff members who are part of the instructional staff but are not classified in one of the categories specified in paragraphs (a)-(c). Included in this classification are primary specialists, learning resource specialists, instructional trainers, adjunct educators certified pursuant to s. [1012.57](#), and similar positions.”
- “Education paraprofessionals.—Education paraprofessionals are individuals who are under the direct supervision of an instructional staff member, aiding the instructional process. Included in this classification are classroom paraprofessionals in regular instruction, exceptional education paraprofessionals, career education paraprofessionals, adult education paraprofessionals, library paraprofessionals, physical education and playground paraprofessionals, and other school-level paraprofessionals.”

Please let me know if you have any questions.

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