

MASTER AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
HOPKINS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AND
ASSOCIATION OF PARAPROFESSIONALS
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2029

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PURPOSE AND INTENT

The general purpose of this agreement is to set forth the wages, hours, working conditions and other conditions of employment for the duration of this Agreement and to promote harmonious labor relations for the mutual interest of the employer and the employees. The Board and the Association for and in consideration hereinafter specified, agree to abide by the terms and provisions set forth herein for the duration of this agreement. Any employee serving students in an instructional capacity shall be considered a paraprofessional or instructional assistant. Employees not involved in direct instructional contact with students shall be considered non-instructional staff, i.e. playground or school lunch staff. Throughout the contract all groupings shall be referred to as Association Members.

MANAGEMENT RIGHTS

The Board, on its own behalf and on behalf of the electors of the district, hereby retain and reserves authority, duties and responsibilities conferred upon and vested in it by the laws of Michigan and of the United States, including, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the right:

1. To the executive management and administrative control of the school system and its properties and facilities, and the direction of the activities of its employees within the scope of their employment, to establish written personnel and other policies.
2. To hire all employees subject to the provisions of law, to determine their qualifications for continued employment, to discharge, discipline, demote, promote, transfer, and rehire all such employee.
3. To establish policies, schedules, hours of work, and other duties, responsibilities and assignment of paraprofessionals and other employees, terms and conditions of employment not in conflict with this Agreement.
4. Any issues not covered under this agreement should be settled between the administration and the affected employee.

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT PROBATIONARY PERIOD

A new employee hired to fill a vacancy other than that of a temporary nature shall have the status of a probationary employee for a full three-month period. After an employee has completed the probationary period of employment and have proved to be satisfactory, they will be given the status of a regular employee.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

1. The assignment of duties and responsibilities is the responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools upon the recommendation of the Building Principals and Supervisors.
2. In the performance of their assigned duties, Association Members are responsible to their respective supervisor.
3. No overtime or extra work will be allowed without advance approval of the Superintendent.
4. The employee may be required to participate in professional development activities as determined by their supervisor.

RE-HIRE

An employee who voluntarily terminates employment and is re-hired shall be considered a new employee.

REPORTING ILLNESS

In the event of illness, or absence, an Association Member must notify their supervisor at least one hour before the work day begins. They must also state the reason for their absence. The supervisor will notify the main office.

PROFESSIONALISM

1. All happenings on the school grounds are to be held confidential. Association Members shall not discuss happenings, students or school personnel (including teaching and non-teaching personnel) with other persons in the community. When confidential information needs to be discussed, the Association Member should go directly to the Supervisor or Building Principal.
2. The Association Member should be fully prepared to carry out assignments as requested by their individual Supervisor.
3. The Association Member should be prompt in arriving to assigned area.
4. The Association Member should be prompt and at assigned area unless their individual supervisor has requested that they be somewhere else during that time.

If an Association Member does not perform in these ways, they will receive a verbal communication from their supervisor or building principal explaining the difficulty. If it is necessary to send a second communication to that individual, the communication will be in writing. After the second communication, if the problem continues, the employee could be terminated.

SENIORITY

Seniority for paraprofessionals will be based on the first day of continuous employment in that position. Those members who began work first will receive the highest seniority. Seniority is not applicable for one-on-one paraprofessionals; when their assigned student is no longer at the district, that paraprofessional's employment with the district will be terminated.

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES

Seniority and benefits for part time employees shall be pro-rated based on a work year of 1,250 hours.

ONE-ON-ONE INSTRUCTIONAL AIDES

In the event it is known ahead of time that the student of a one-on-one paraprofessional will be absent, that assigned paraprofessional shall not report to work during the student's absence. In cases that the absence is not known ahead of time, and the one-on-one paraprofessional reports to work, that paraprofessional shall be sent home after working two hours.

SALARY

Classification of employees shall be as follows:

Non-instructional staff – Playground workers, mail deliverers and lunch-room monitors, etc.

Paraprofessional - Non-degreed instructional personnel – over 50% of time spent on direct instructional contact with students. After 5 years of service in the district and consistent effective evaluations, those at the Paraprofessional hourly rate will be transitioned to the Instructional Assistant (I/A) hourly rate.

Instructional Assistant (I/A) – Involved in direct instructional contact with students and have received a two-year Associates degree in reading, math, science or special education. An Instructional Assistant with a Bachelor's Degree will receive credit for one additional step on the I/A hourly rate scale.

Employees hired between July 1 and December 31 will move to the next step on July 1.
Employees hired between January 1 and June 30 will move to the next step on January 1.

2025-2026 Pay Scale (3%)			
Step	Non-Instructional Staff Hourly Rate	Paraprofessionals Hourly Rate	Instructional Assistant (I/A) Hourly Rate
Start/Sub Pay	12.26	13.29	14.88
After 60 work days	12.93	13.96	15.21
After year 1	13.57	14.60	15.72
2 years	13.81	14.84	15.95
3 years	13.99	15.02	16.21
4 years	14.21	15.24	16.33
5 years	14.49	15.52	16.72
6 years	14.71	15.74	16.94
7 years	14.94	15.97	17.22
8 years	15.21	16.24	17.45
9 years	15.44	16.47	17.73
10 years	15.72	16.75	17.89
12 years	15.93	16.96	18.17
14 years	16.16	17.19	18.39
16 years	16.39	17.42	18.61
18 years	16.60	17.63	18.84
20 years +	16.82	17.85	19.06

2026-2027 Pay Scale (3%)			
Step	Non-Instructional Staff Hourly Rate	Paraprofessionals Hourly Rate	Instructional Assistant (I/A) Hourly Rate
Start/Sub Pay	12.62	13.69	15.33
After 60 work days	13.31	14.38	15.67
After year 1	13.97	15.03	16.19
2 years	14.23	15.29	16.43
3 years	14.41	15.47	16.70
4 years	14.64	15.70	16.82
5 years	14.93	15.99	17.22
6 years	15.15	16.21	17.45
7 years	15.38	16.44	17.74
8 years	15.67	16.73	17.97
9 years	15.90	16.96	18.26
10 years	16.19	17.25	18.43
12 years	16.41	17.47	18.71
14 years	16.65	17.71	18.94
16 years	16.88	17.94	19.17
18 years	17.10	18.16	19.40
20 years +	17.32	18.39	19.63

Both parties agree to a wage-only reopener for the 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 school years.

If the minimum wage in Michigan exceeds the starting pay on the pay scale, the parties agree to a wage-only reopener.

All bargaining unit members shall be required to log in and out for work on an automated time-keeping system. The electronic system will be used in determining their compensation. When leaving school premises for lunch, punching out via the automated system will be required.

Bargaining unit members working outside of their normal working hours/days will be paid at their hourly rate.

MERT/CPI TRAINING STIPEND

Bargaining unit members that are trained, certified and currently serving on the MERT team or

CPI will receive a \$100 stipend each year.

HOLIDAY PAY

Association members will receive their regular daily pay for Labor Day, Thanksgiving, day following Thanksgiving, Spring Break Friday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years Eve, New Years Day, and Memorial Day.

SICK DAYS

1. A sick day is considered the amount of time the employee works on a daily basis.
2. Each full-time paraprofessional will receive 10 (ten) sick days per year, maximum 50 days. Any sick days over 50 will be paid at 50% at end of school year.
3. Upon retirement, all days will be paid at 50% value of unused sick days. Payment shall be made the pay period following the employee's retirement into a non-elective 403(b) tax-deferred annuity.
4. The district may take appropriate action, including termination of any employee with un-acceptable overall attendance. Paid sick leave is solely for the purpose of providing employee protection against financial loss. Any employee whose record shows frequent absences may be required to obtain medical verification from a health care provider acceptable to the district to qualify for sick leave. Further, the district may require medical verification of disability from a health care provider acceptable to the district when it has reason to believe that the employee is not disabled.
5. Sick days are to be used for personal illness, illness in the immediate family, death in the immediate family, or doctor's visits.

FUNERAL LEAVE

The employee shall receive 5 days off with pay, not to be deducted from sick leave, when there is the death of a spouse, child, stepchild, mother or father. The employee shall receive 3 days off with pay, not to be deducted from sick leave, when there is a death in the immediate family of the employee. Immediate family is defined as step parents, brother, sister, mother in law, father in law, brother in law, sister in law, son in law, daughter in law, grandparents, grandchildren, and grandparents in law. One (1) sick day may be used to attend the funeral of a friend or relative not listed above.

PERSONAL DAYS

Employees may be granted three (3) personal days per year, which if not used will be added to sick leave at the end of each year, in addition to leave days, to be used for activities that cannot be scheduled before or after work hours, or on non-school days. The request must be made in writing to the immediate supervisor at least five (5) days in advance of the requested day. These days cannot be used before or after a holiday or holiday weekend. They may or may not be granted based on district coverage needs. Personal days will be based on daily hours worked.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

1. Employees may be granted a leave of absence upon approval of the Board of Education. Should the leave of absence be for sixty (60) days or more, or seventy-five (75) for

maternity or extenuating circumstances the employee will be required to wait until a vacancy occurs for which they are qualified. Seniority shall not be earned while the employee is on an unpaid leave of absence.

2. A short term leave of absence for 30 days or less may be approved. This leave may be paid (employee using sick leave days) or unpaid at the employee's request.
3. An employee who was on an extended leave of absence which has ended will be removed from the Association seniority list if they do not accept a district call back.

ACT OF GOD DAYS

Association members shall be paid for each day worked. Employees may use personal business days for compensation on Act of God Days. Employees may also use sick days for compensation on Act of God Days. For days in which there is a delay or early dismissal, employees may only use personal time in order to be paid.

JURY DUTY

In the event Association Members are asked to perform jury duty, they shall be reimbursed the difference between their salary and the salary they receive for serving on the jury.

WORKER'S COMPENSATION

Each employee will be covered by the applicable worker's compensation laws and insurance purchased by the Board.

- A. The employee will not be covered if an eight (8) day period lapses between the time of the injury and the report to the insurance agents. The employee must report injuries immediately to the superintendent's office, and their supervisor.
- B. Employees receiving pay from worker's compensation for time off the job shall not receive pay from Hopkins Public Schools for the same period of time.

BENEFITS

Members who regularly work 30 or more hours per week will be eligible to enroll themselves and their eligible dependents in the Blue Cross Blue Shield Hospitalization Medical coverage, ACA Plan RX 24 through Western Michigan Health Insurance Pool. The board's annual contribution will be approximately 75% of the single subscriber premium. For all other employees, the coverage may be purchased by the employee funding 100% of the premium cost. Any premium amounts owed by the employee shall be paid via payroll deduction. For the summer months, when the employee is not receiving a paycheck, the employee will be responsible to remit their monthly contribution to the Business Office no later than the 15th of each month.

Open enrollment will be limited to the month of June with a July 1 effective date. Members who choose to enroll understand that they must continue with the plan through June 30 of the following calendar year. If there is a significant increase or decrease in the employee's hours the following school year impacting the board's annual contribution amount, the employee will be allowed to drop or add the insurance effective October 1.

Dental and Vision Coverage

The Board will pay 90% of the cost for Dental/Vision coverage for all employees who regularly work 32 or more hours per week. If the employee is regularly scheduled for 25 to 32 hours per week, the Board will pay 70% of the coverage cost. For employees working 10 to 25 hours per week the Board will pay 57% of the coverage. There will be no board paid coverage for employees working less than 10 hours per week. Open enrollment for this program is limited to the month of September.

An employee who does not wish to participate in the Dental/Vision plan shall receive a one-time per year payment of \$600. This will be paid the last regular pay of the school year.

EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE

Employees who retire before a school year during which they reach their 60th birthday and have completed ten years of service to the district, shall receive 50% of the difference between the top and bottom step of their pay scale multiplied by 1300 hours. Payment shall be made the pay period following the employee's retirement into a non-elective 403(b) tax-deferred annuity.

To receive this incentive, the employee shall notify the Superintendent of Schools a minimum of 90 calendar days before the anticipated date of retirement.

EDUCATIONAL REIMBURSEMENT

Paraprofessionals in the following job classifications will be eligible for this partial reimbursement.

1. Title I
2. At Risk
3. Special Education
4. Library Paraprofessional

Eligible paraprofessionals shall receive tuition reimbursement for college credits as follows:

1. All classes must be of a nature that will contribute to the development of knowledge and skills related to their job assignment (reading, mathematics, science & special education).
2. The Superintendent or designee must approve all classes in writing prior to course registration. Classes must be taken at an approved college or university (not correspondence classes).
3. The class must be passed with a minimum grade of "C" for undergraduate coursework, and a "B" for graduate coursework.
4. Reimbursement shall not exceed \$100 per class.
5. Reimbursement shall not exceed \$300 per school fiscal year.
6. It is the employees' responsibility to provide the district with a receipt showing the cost of tuition and fees for the class, along with a grade report, or official transcript, when requesting reimbursement.

Eligible paraprofessionals will also be reimbursed for the cost of successfully completing the teacher certification test.

WORK RELATED PROBLEMS

If a problem or complaint arises, the Association Member should proceed through the proper channels. These channels are:

1. Consult the immediate supervisor.
2. If the problem persists the employee shall talk to the building principal.
3. If the problem continues after the above steps, the employee shall go to the Superintendent of Schools.
4. If the problem remains after the first three steps, the employee may ask for a hearing before the Board of Education's Personnel Committee.

REPRIMAND, SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION

The Board of Education expects employees to perform their work in a satisfactory manner as assigned by their supervisor. They are also expected to conduct themselves in a manner that sets a positive example for the children of our schools.

Employees that exhibit unsatisfactory behavior on the job shall be subject to the following disciplinary action:

- 1st warning - Verbal
- 2nd warning - Written Reprimand
- 3rd warning - 1 day disciplinary layoff
- 4th warning - 3 days disciplinary layoff or termination

The Superintendent or the employee's supervisor may temporarily suspend an employee from duty without pay, and could seek termination for major disciplinary problem.

The service of an Association Member may be terminated upon the recommendation of the supervisor to the Superintendent, who in turn recommends the employee's release to the Board. Association Member must be notified in writing of impending release, and the reasons therefore. The supervisor shall make every effort to discuss unsatisfactory work practices, and a means of correction with the Association Member before recommending termination.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Section 1: A grievance shall be defined as a charge of a violation, misinterpretation of the expressed terms of this Agreement.

Section 2: For purposes of this Article, day shall mean calendar days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

Section 3: Procedures for Adjustment of Grievances:

Step 1: An employee with a problem or a grievance shall first discuss the matter with the immediate supervisor with the objective of settling it quickly and informally.

Step 2: In the event the grievance has not been satisfactorily settled, the matter shall be reduced to writing no later than ten (10) days from date of occurrence. The written grievance shall set forth the following items:

- a. Name Grievant and date grievance occurred.
- b. Facts involved including section of contract allegedly violated.
- c. The Grievance shall be signed by the Grievant and a member of the Grievance Committee.
- d. Grievance shall specify relief requested.

The written Grievance shall be presented to the immediate supervisor for disposition. Within five (5) days of receipt of written grievance, the supervisor shall have a conference with the Grievance Committee. It is the Supervisor's responsibility to attempt to set a mutually satisfactory time and place for said meeting. Within five (5) days after meeting, the supervisor shall state his decision in writing and furnish a copy thereof to the employee and Grievance Committee Chairman.

Step 3: Within five days after receiving the decision in Step 2, the Grievance Committee may appeal in writing to the Superintendent of Schools.

- a. Within five days of receipt of the written grievance, the above designated administrator shall have a conference with the Grievance Committee. It is the Administrator's responsibility to attempt to set a mutually satisfactory time and place for said meeting. The affected employee may be present at such meetings.
- b. Within five days after the meeting, the Superintendent shall state his decision in writing, and furnish a copy thereof to employee and the Grievance Committee.

Step 4: Within five days after receiving the decision of Step 3, the Grievance Committee Chairman may appeal the decision in writing through the Superintendent to the Board of Education. Within ten days of receipt of the grievance the Board of Education shall schedule a hearing with the Grievance Committee.

It is the Superintendent's responsibility, after consulting with the chairman of the Grievance Committee, to set the time, place, date of hearing and to so inform the Chairman of the Grievance Committee.

The Board of Education shall hear the grievance in dispute and shall render its decision in writing within ten days from the close of the hearing. The Board of Education's decision shall be submitted in writing and shall set forth the finding and conclusions with respect to the issue submitted to them.

Step 5: If the employee group is not satisfied with the disposition of Grievance by the Board or no decision is rendered with the time provided in Step 4, the employees may, within ten days, submit the matter to arbitration.

Prior to submitting the matter to arbitration, the Chairman of the Grievance Committee shall so inform the Superintendent of Schools in writing of the Association's intention.

The Board's representative and the Chairman of the Grievance Committee shall mutually select the arbitrator within ten days of receiving a list of available arbitrators from the American Arbitration Association. If the parties can't agree as to the arbitrator, he shall be selected by the American Arbitration Association in accordance with its rules. The only

evidence or argument which may be presented at the arbitration hearing are those which were used in the previous steps of this grievance procedure and a written reference has been made.

The arbitrator shall hear the grievance in dispute and shall render his decision in writing within thirty days from the close of the hearing. The arbitrator's decision shall be submitted in writing and shall set forth his findings and conclusions with respect to the issue submitted to arbitration. The arbitrator shall confine his decision to the particular case submitted to him. Both parties agree to be bound by the award of the arbitrator.

The arbitrator shall have no authority except to pass upon alleged violations of this agreement. The arbitrator shall have no power to alter, add to, or subtract from the terms of this agreement, nor to interfere with the Board's rights and responsibilities, except as these are expressly limited by this Agreement.

The fees and expenses of the arbitrator shall be paid at the equal expense of the parties.

Section 4: Miscellaneous

A. All Grievance, dispute or other matters which may be processed under any state or federal regulation or statute shall not be the subject matter of the grievance procedure herein established.

Any determination or action taken under any such state or federal regulation or law shall be binding the extent required by such regulation or law.

B. On agreement between the Board of Education and the Grievance Committee, hearing upon a grievance may be commenced at any step, and any time limit within the grievance procedure may be extended by mutual agreement.

C. An employee or Board has the right to be represented any step in the grievance procedure by an attorney or representative of their own choice.

D. Any disposition of an appeal by the employees which is not issued within the time limits specified shall result in a forfeiture of the grievance or settlement on the basis of the employees remedy requested.

E. Names of the Negotiation and Grievance Committee shall be submitted in writing to the Superintendent of schools. No member of this committee shall function as such until the Superintendent has been advised of the selection in writing by the employees. This committee shall be limited to three members including the Chairman.

PREGNANCY

In the event of pregnancy, Association Members may be required to furnish a doctor's certificate stating that she is able to perform her duties, upon the request of the Superintendent.

LAY-OFF PROCEDURE

The following guidelines will be used in the event lay-off of Association Members becomes

necessary.

- A. Positions will be eliminated and the person designated as laid off.
- B. A laid off person will be allowed to "bump" for another position on the following basis in order of priority:
 - 1. training, competency and fitness for the job
 - 2. seniority
 - 3. attendance record
 - 4. evaluation
- C. "Bumping" shall not be allowed between Non-instructional and Instructional personnel covered in this agreement or any position not covered in this agreement.
- D. Thirty days written notice shall be given a person on lay-off. A copy of this notice will be placed in the personnel file of the individual involved.
- E. No credit on the salary scale shall be given a person during the lay-off period.
- F. Should eliminated positions be restored, the following basis for recall shall be used:
 - 1. training, competency and fitness for the job
 - 2. seniority
 - 3. preference of the supervisor
- G. A recalled person must notify the school within two (2) weeks if he/she desires to return to work. If such notification is not received within two (2) weeks, the position will be filled with another person, and the laid off person will forfeit recall privilege.

LENGTH OF CONTRACT

1. Contract terms are in effect from July 1 to June 30.
2. This agreement shall be for a four-year period from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2029.

For the Paraprofessionals:

Colleen Lund
Lori Hutt

For the Board:

Andrea Pelt
Its President
[Signature]
Its Secretary
Scott V. B.
Its Superintendent