433. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Purpose

Continuing professional education and training are prerequisites for professional development, enhanced ability to complete responsibilities, and maintaining certification.

2. Authority

The Joint Operating Committee encourages all professional employees to further their professional and personal advancement through graduate courses, inservice training, and professional development activities.

In order to continue employment in the school, professional employees are required to meet all obligations necessary to maintain active certification.

3. Guidelines

Graduate/Special Courses

Only courses of study that are preapproved shall be eligible for reimbursement by the school and movement on the salary schedule.

Reimbursement for credits for approved graduate study or special courses shall be made in accordance with terms of the collective bargaining agreement, as preapproved by the Administrative Director.

Documentary evidence of satisfactory completion of all study programs shall be required.

Approved graduate study or special courses/programs may be of sufficient advantage to the school to warrant an increase in an employee's annual salary, upon satisfactory completion. Such increase will be in accordance with terms of the collective bargaining agreement and as determined by the Joint Operating Committee.
### Conferences/Workshops/Activities

**Pol. 431**

Professional employees shall be encouraged to attend appropriate conferences, workshops, and activities related to their school assignment. In every case a written report shall be submitted to the Administrative Director. Attendance at state and national programs shall be limited.

### Induction Plan

**Title 22 Sec. 4.13, 49.16**

The school shall comply with Department of Education regulations in developing and maintaining an induction plan for first-year teachers and teachers new to the school. The plan shall be approved by the Joint Operating Committee prior to submission for approval by the PA Department of Education.

### Professional Education Plan

**SC 1205.1**

The Joint Operating Committee shall appoint to the professional education committee parents/guardians and representatives of the community and local businesses. Representatives of administrators, teachers and educational specialists on the professional education committee shall be selected by their respective members.

**SC 1205.1**

The Joint Operating Committee shall approve a professional education plan that is designed to meet the educational needs of the school and its employees; specifies approved courses, programs, activities and learning experiences, including those designed to improve teachers' knowledge in subject areas covered by academic standards; and identifies approved providers. The Joint Operating Committee shall approve the plan prior to submission for approval by the Department of Education.

**SC 1205.1**

The Joint Operating Committee shall ensure an annual review of the school's professional education plan by the professional education committee to determine if the plan continues to meet the needs of the school, the Strategic Plan, and the employees, students and community. The professional education committee may recommend amendments to the plan, subject to approval by the Joint Operating Committee and the Department of Education.

**SC 1205.2**

The Joint Operating Committee may approve, on a case-by-case basis, specific professional education activities not stated within the school's professional education plan. Joint Operating Committee approval is not required for credits or hours required for administrator certification, earned through activities conducted by providers approved by the Department of Education or the Department itself, or related to the area of assignment or certification.

**SC 1205.2**

If the school assumes all costs of credits or hours, the Joint Operating Committee may disapprove any course, program, activity or learning experience that is inconsistent with the goals of the professional education plan.
### Act 48 Responsibilities

All professional employees shall meet their responsibilities under the law to complete specified levels of hours/credits in professional development activities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Act</th>
<th>SC 1205.1, 1205.2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Code</td>
<td>School Code 1144, 1205.1, 1205.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PA Code Title 22, Sec. 4.13, 49.16, 49.17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>