

PROFESSIONAL AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE

STERLING BOARD OF EDUCATION

AND THE

STERLING EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2028

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		<u>Page</u>
Article 1	Preamble	1
Article 2	Recognition.....	1
	Durational Shortage Area Permit.....	1
	Substitute Teachers	2
Article 3	Board Prerogatives.....	2
Article 4	Professional Negotiations	2
Article 5	Duration.....	3
Article 6	Zipper Clause.....	3
Article 7	Amendment.....	3
Article 8	Severability.....	3
Article 9	Just Cause	3
Article 10	Grievance Procedure.....	3
	Purpose.....	3
	Definitions.....	4
	Time Limits.....	4
	Informal Procedure.....	4
	Formal Procedure	4
	Rights of Teachers to Representation.....	6
	Miscellaneous	6
Article 11	Teacher Salaries.....	7
Article 12	Vacancies and Transfers.....	7
Article 13	Payroll Schedule	8
Article 14	Degree Definitions.....	8
Article 15	Placement On The Salary Schedule.....	9
Article 16	Extra Pay For Extra Duty.....	9
	Mentor Teacher	10
Article 17	Annuity Plan	10
Article 18	Leaves of Absence	10
	Sick Leave.....	10
	Personal Leave.....	11
	Parenthood & Child-Rearing Leave.....	11
	Jury Duty	12
	Fifth Disease.....	12
	General Leave	12
	Professional Days.....	12
	Association Leave.....	12
	Sabbatical Leave.....	13
	FMLA Leave.....	13
	Bereavement Leave	13
Article 19	Class Size.....	14
Article 20	Employment Year	14

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(continued)

	<u>Page</u>
	New Teacher Orientation..... 14
Article 21	Teaching Assignments 15
Article 22	Teacher Facilities 15
Article 23	Working Conditions..... 16
Article 24	Use of School Facilities 16
Article 25	Teacher Files..... 17
Article 26	Protection of Teachers 17
Article 27	Personal Injury Benefits 17
Article 28	Payroll Deductions..... 17
	Deduction Procedures 17
	Indemnification..... 18
Article 29	General Provisions..... 19
	Course Reimbursement 19
Article 30	Board Policies 19
Article 31	Academic Freedom..... 20
Article 32	Insurance Benefits 20
	Insurance Waiver 21
	Life Insurance..... 21
Article 33	Reduction Of Professional Staff 21
	Tenured/Non-tenured Teachers 21
	Reappointment 22
Article 34	Length of the Teacher Workday..... 23
Article 35	Planning Time 24
Article 36	Longevity 24
Article 37	Signatures 25
Appendix A	Salary Schedules 26
	2025-2026 Salary Schedule 26
	2026-2027 Salary Schedule 27
	2027-2028 Salary Schedule 28
Appendix B	2025-2028 Stipend Schedules 29
Appendix C	Insurance Schedules Matrix 30
	Connecticut Partnership Plan 2.0 (PPO) 30
	Vision Rider 33
	Dental..... 34

This Agreement is made and entered into by and between the **Sterling Board of Education** (hereinafter referred to as the "**Board**") and the **Sterling Education Association** (hereinafter referred to as the "**Association**"), affiliated with the **Connecticut Education Association**.

ARTICLE 1

PREAMBLE

- A. This Agreement is negotiated under Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-153b thru 10-153f in order (a) to fix for its term the salaries and all other conditions of employment provided herein and (b) to encourage and abet effective and harmonious working relationships between the Board and the Association in order that the cause of public education may be best served.
- B. The Board and the Association recognize the importance of responsible participation by the parties to this Agreement in the educational process, planning, development and growth. To this end they agree to maintain communication to inform about programs, to guide in development and to assist in planning and growth either by committee, individual consultation, or designated representatives.

ARTICLE 2

RECOGNITION

- A. The Board hereby recognizes the Association as the exclusive representative, as defined in the Teacher Negotiations Act, Connecticut General Statutes Section §10-153a, et seq., for all certified personnel employed in positions requiring a teaching or other certificate and employees holding a durational shortage are permit (hereinafter "DSAP"), excluding those requiring an administrative or supervisory certificate.
- B. Unless otherwise indicated, the term "teacher", when used hereinafter in this Agreement, shall refer to all employees in the above unit.
- C. **Durational Shortage Area Permit (DSAP)**
 - 1. Teachers holding a DSAP shall be covered by all the terms and conditions of the collective bargaining Agreement, except:
 - (a) Article 12 (Vacancies and Transfers);
 - (b) Article 18 (Retirement/Severance Pay);
 - (c) Article 19 (Leaves of Absence), Sections B, D, E, G, I, J, and K;
 - (d) Article 22 (Teaching Assignments);
 - (e) Article 34 (Reduction of Professional Staff); and
 - (f) Article 37 (Longevity).

2. A DSAP holder shall not accrue seniority or length of service for any purpose in the Sterling Public School System. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a DSAP holder becomes certified as a teacher and is retained by the Board as an employee after receiving such certification, without any break in service, then the individual shall be credited with seniority and length of service for all purposes under this Agreement, retroactive to the first date of hire by the Board.
3. The Board shall have the right not to renew and/or to terminate the employment of a DSAP holder and the DSAP holder shall have no right to file and/or pursue a grievance under this Agreement with respect to such action.

D. Substitute Teachers

1. A “long-term substitute teacher” shall be defined as a certified teacher employed to fill temporarily a position held by a member of the bargaining unit while that member is absent from work, and who has been employed for forty (40) consecutive days or more, but less than an entire school year.
2. After forty (40) consecutive school days, long-term substitute teachers shall be placed on BA Step 1 of the salary schedule and entitled to sick and personal leave, on a pro-rata basis, as set forth in this Agreement for the duration of the assignment, but otherwise shall not be covered by the terms and conditions of this Agreement. In the event that the Board is required by law to make insurance benefits available to any long term substitute teacher, the long-term substitute teacher shall be required to pay the full costs for such insurance benefits.

ARTICLE 3
BOARD PREROGATIVES

It is recognized that the Board has and will continue to retain, whether exercised or not, the sole right, responsibility and prerogative to direct the operation of the public schools in the town of Sterling in all its aspects, including but not limited to the following: to employ, assign and transfer teachers; to exercise those powers specified in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 10-220, 10-221, and 10-222; to suspend or dismiss employees of the schools in the manner provided by statutes; to prepare and submit budgets to the Board of Finance, and in its sole discretion, expend monies appropriated in the budget as it shall deem desirable; to establish or continue policies, practices and procedures for the conduct of school business and, from time to time, to change or abolish such policies, practices and procedures; to discontinue processes or operations or discontinue their performance by employees; to select and determine the number and types of employees required to perform school operations; to establish contracts or subcontracts for school operations; and to determine the care, maintenance and operation of equipment and property used for and on behalf of the purposes of the school district.

ARTICLE 4
PROFESSIONAL NEGOTIATIONS

The Board and the Association agree to negotiate in good faith pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes

Section 10-153b through 10-153f, to secure a successor Agreement relative to all mandatory subjects of bargaining. The Agreement, so negotiated, shall bind and inure to the benefit of the Board and all members of the bargaining unit and shall be reduced to writing and signed by the Board and the Association.

ARTICLE 5
DURATION

The provisions of this Agreement shall be effective as of July 1, 2022 and shall continue and remain in full force and effect to and including June 30, 2025.

ARTICLE 6
ZIPPER CLAUSE

This Agreement contains the full and complete agreement between the Board and Association on all negotiable issues. The parties may mutually agree to negotiate during the term of this Agreement or shall negotiate if ordered to do so by an authority of competent jurisdiction.

ARTICLE 7
AMENDMENT

This Agreement shall not be altered, amended or changed except in writing, signed by both the Board and the Association, which amendment shall be appended hereto and become a part hereof.

ARTICLE 8
SEVERABILITY

In the event that any provision or portion of this Agreement is ultimately ruled invalid for any reason by an authority of established and competent legal jurisdiction, such provision or portion shall be severed from this Agreement, and the balance and remainder of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

ARTICLE 9
JUST CAUSE

No teacher shall be denied an increment, given a written reprimand, or suspended without just cause.

ARTICLE 10
GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

A. **Purpose**

The purpose of the following grievance procedure is to settle equitably, at the lowest possible

administrative level, issues which may arise from time to time with respect to the salaries, hours and working conditions of teachers provided for in this Agreement. Both Parties agree that the proceedings under this Article shall be kept as confidential as is appropriate. Termination or non-renewal of contract, covered under the Teacher Tenure Act, Connecticut General Statutes §10-151, as amended from time to time, is not subject to the grievance arbitration provisions of this Agreement.

B. Definitions

1. "Grievance" shall mean a complaint by a teacher or a group of teachers that, as to him/her or them, there has been a violation, misinterpretation or misapplication of a specific provision of this Agreement.
2. "Teacher" shall mean any person who is included in the bargaining unit as defined in Article 2.
3. "Grievant" shall mean the person or persons making the claim, including their designated representative as provided for herein.
4. "Days" shall mean days when school is in session, except that during the summer, days shall mean business days.

C. Time Limits

1. Since it is important that grievances be processed as rapidly as possible, the number of days indicated at each step shall be considered as a maximum. The time limits may, however, be extended by written agreement of the Board and the Association.
2. If a teacher does not file a grievance in writing within fifteen (15) days after he/she knew, or should have known of the act or conditions on which the grievance is based, then the grievance shall be considered to have been waived.
3. Failure by the aggrieved teacher at any level to appeal a grievance to the next level within the specified time limits shall be deemed to be acceptance of the decision rendered at that level.

D. Informal Procedure

1. If a teacher feels that he/she may have a grievance, he/she may first discuss the matter with the Principal or other appropriate administrator in an effort to resolve the problem informally.
2. If the teacher is not satisfied with such disposition of the matter, he/she shall have the right to have the Association assist him/her in further efforts to resolve the problem informally with the Principal or other appropriate administrator.

E. Formal Procedure

1. Level One -- School Principal

- (a) If an aggrieved teacher is not satisfied with the outcome of the informal procedures or if he/she has elected not to utilize such procedures, he/she may, within the time period referred to in Section C, Paragraph 2 above, present his/her claim as a written grievance to the Principal or other appropriate administrator.
- (b) The Principal shall, within five (5) days after receipt of the written grievance, render his/her decision and the reasons therefore in writing to the aggrieved teacher, with a copy to the Association.

2. Level Two -- Superintendent of Schools

- (a) If the aggrieved teacher is not satisfied with the disposition of his/her grievance at Level One, he/she may, within three (3) days after the decision, or within eight (8) days after his/her formal presentation, file his/her written grievance with the Association for referral to the Superintendent of Schools (hereinafter "Superintendent").
- (b) The Association shall within five (5) days after receipt refer the grievance to the Superintendent but, prior to so doing, the Association shall provide an opportunity for the aggrieved teacher to meet with the appropriate Association committee to review the grievance.
- (c) The Superintendent shall, within ten (10) days after receipt of the referral, meet with the aggrieved teacher and with representatives of the Association for the purpose of resolving the grievance.
- (d) The Superintendent shall, within five (5) days after the hearing, render his/her decision and the reasons therefore in writing to the aggrieved teacher with a copy to the Association.

3. Level Three -- Board of Education

- (a) If the aggrieved teacher is not satisfied with the disposition of his/her grievance at Level Two, he/she may, within three (3) days after the decision, or within six (6) days after the hearing, file the grievance again with the Association for appeal to the Board.
- (b) The Association shall, within three (3) days after receipt, refer the appeal to the Board.
- (c) The Board shall, no later than ten (10) days after receipt of the appeal, meet with the aggrieved teacher and with the representatives of the Association for the purpose of resolving the grievance.
- (d) The Board shall, within three (3) days after such meeting, render its decision and the reasons therefore in writing to the aggrieved teacher with a copy to the Association.

4. Level Four -- Arbitration

- (a) If the Association is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level Three, it may, within eight (8) days after the decision by the Board, or within ten (10) days after the Board meeting, in writing submit the grievance to the American Arbitration Association for arbitration in accordance with their administrative procedures, practices and rules, with a copy to the Board.
- (b) The Arbitrator selected shall confer promptly with representatives of the Board and the Association, shall review the record of prior hearings and shall hold such further hearings with the aggrieved teacher and other parties in interest as he/she shall deem requisite.
- (c) The Arbitrator shall hear and decide only one (1) grievance in each case. He/she shall be bound by and must comply with all of the terms of this Agreement. He/she shall have no power to add to, delete from, or modify in any way any of the provisions of this Agreement.
- (d) The Arbitrator shall render his/her decision, thirty (30) days after the closing of the hearing, in writing to all parties in interest, setting forth his/her findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions on the issues submitted. The decision of the Arbitrator shall be final and binding upon all parties in interest.
- (e) The costs for the services of the Arbitrator shall be borne equally by the Board and the Association.

F. **Rights of Teachers to Representation**

1. No reprisals of any kind shall be taken by either party or by any member of the Administration against any participant in the grievance procedure by reason of such participation.
2. Any grievant may be represented at Levels Two and Three of the formal grievance procedure by a person of his/her own choosing, except that he/she may not be represented by a representative or by an officer of any teacher organization other than the Association. When a teacher is not represented by the Association, the Association shall have the right to be present and to state its views at all stages of the procedure.
3. The Association may, if it so desires, call upon the professional services of the Connecticut Education Association for consultation and assistance at any stage of the grievance procedure.

G. **Miscellaneous**

1. All documents, communications, and records dealing with the processing of a grievance shall be filed separately from the personnel files of the participants.
2. Forms for filing and processing grievances and other necessary documents shall be prepared by the Superintendent, with the approval of the Association and made available through the

Association so as to facilitate operation of the grievance procedure.

3. If the Board and the Association agree that a grievance should be submitted directly to Level Two of the grievance procedure, the SEA President may submit each grievance in writing to the Superintendent directly and the processing of such grievance shall commence at Level Two. The processing of a grievance directly to Level Two shall also apply if it is reasonable to believe that the grievance cannot properly be adjudicated at Level One.

ARTICLE 11

TEACHER SALARIES

- A. The salaries of all teachers covered by this Agreement are set forth in Appendix A, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.
- B. The salaries of all teachers who perform additional duties covered by this Agreement under "Additional Salary Schedules" are set forth in Appendix B, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

ARTICLE 12

VACANCIES AND TRANSFERS

- A. Positions as used in this Section mean any position which pays a salary differential and/or involves an additional or higher level of responsibility, or is listed in Appendices A and/or B of this Agreement.
- B. Vacancies of positions which are caused by death, retirement, discharge, resignation, or by the creation of a new position shall be filled pursuant to the following procedures:
 1. The existence of vacancies of position shall be adequately publicized, both within and outside the system, including a notice at Sterling Community School (by posting or otherwise) as far in advance of the date of filling such vacancy as possible (at least five [5] days in advance). Where need to fill a vacancy arises during the summer months, electronic notification shall be made to all qualified personnel who have previously made known in writing their interest to the Superintendent, and to the Association President.
 2. Said notice of vacancy of position within the bargaining unit shall clearly set forth the job description and qualifications for the position.
 3. Teachers who desire to apply for such vacancies of position shall file their applications in writing with the Superintendent within the time limit specified in the notice.
 4. Such vacant positions shall be filled by the best qualified applicant on the basis of certification and qualification for the vacant position provided, however, that where two (2) or more applicants are equally qualified, the applicant with the greatest amount of seniority

in the system shall be given preference. Qualifications shall mean evaluations and/or recommendations, previous related experience, specialized relevant training, and meeting the specifications for the position as posted.

5. In accordance with law, all appointments to such vacant positions shall be made without regard to age, race, creed, color, religion, nationality, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disability or gender identity or expression. This paragraph shall not be subject to the grievance and arbitration procedure set forth in this Agreement.

ARTICLE 13 **PAYROLL SCHEDULE**

- A. Upon signing of a teacher's contract, each teacher shall have the option of the following payroll schedules:
 1. Payment of salary shall be made in twenty-six (26) equal bi-weekly payments to be made over twenty-one (21) pay periods during the school calendar year, with a balloon check equal to five (5) pay periods to be made on the last pay period in June. At the option of the teacher, he/she may request twenty-six (26) equal bi-weekly payments on a twelve (12) month basis.
 2. Payment of the teacher's salary to be made in twenty-one (21) equal bi-weekly installments during the school calendar year.
 3. Notwithstanding the above, all teachers hired on or after July 1, 2019 shall be paid in twenty-one (21) equal bi-weekly payments during the school calendar year OR twenty-six (26) equal bi-weekly payments on a 12 month basis, without the option of a balloon check.
 4. Election of a payment option shall be made by each teacher no later than May 1st. If a teacher is hired after May 1st, such selection shall be made upon hire.
- B. All salary payments shall be paid by electronic direct deposit to a qualified financial institution of the teacher's choice.

ARTICLE 14 **DEGREE DEFINITIONS**

- A. The Salary Schedules listed in Appendix A of this Agreement shall be interpreted and applied in accordance with the following definitions:
 1. Bachelor: A baccalaureate degree earned at an accredited college or university.
 2. Master: A master's degree earned at an accredited college or university.
 3. Sixth Year: A second master's degree in a discipline other than the discipline in which the initial master's degree was attained, or a sixth year certificate.

4. Doctorate: A doctorate degree in an educationally related field.
- B. In order to receive credit for lateral advancement on the salary schedule, the accredited college or university must be one for which the Connecticut State Department of Education will recognize for certification purposes.
- C. A teacher's lateral advancement on the salary schedule will become effective with the next pay period following the Administration's receipt of a valid transcript showing a change in degree as defined above, provided that in order for a teacher's lateral advancement to become effective within a given fiscal year, the teacher must notify the Superintendent in writing by February 1st of the previous fiscal year of that teacher's enrollment in coursework that would lead to an anticipated future degree change so that the Board may budget for the teacher's anticipated lateral advancement on the salary schedule for the upcoming fiscal year.

ARTICLE 15

PLACEMENT ON THE SALARY SCHEDULE

- A. All teachers shall be placed on the appropriate step in the salary schedule, taking into consideration the following:
 1. Degree status as defined under Article 14 of this Agreement.
 2. Full credit for previous teaching experience in public, private, and military dependency schools, provided that such experience shall have been continuous service of at least one-half (½) of any school year. Intermittent or short-term substitute service will not be credited as previous teaching experience.
 3. The Superintendent may grant salary credit for previous experience on the salary schedule and for up to two (2) steps higher for a new teacher entering the school system to fill a position in a state shortage area as designated by the State Department of Education on an annual basis.
 4. A teacher with a Doctorate Degree shall be placed on the appropriate step of the Sixth-Year level of the salary schedule and shall receive an additional one thousand dollars (\$1,000) each year over and above his/her salary.
- B. For years for which step movement is negotiated, there shall be no step movement unless the teacher worked more than ninety-one (91) days in the preceding school year. Approved leaves of absence shall not count towards the ninety-one (91) days.

ARTICLE 16

EXTRA PAY FOR EXTRA DUTY

- A. Extra duty for which extra compensation shall be paid and the amounts of such compensation are

set forth in Appendix B, which is attached hereto and made a part of this Agreement. Extra duty assignments are described in Appendix B, and describe extra work beyond the normally scheduled teacher workday. All extra-curricular activities shall be approved by the Board through the Administration. All participation in extra-curricular activities shall be voluntary.

- B. Designation of the teachers assigned for the activities listed in Appendix B, shall be determined on an annual basis by the Administration.
- C. **Mentor Teacher**
1. Any teacher who has successfully completed mentor training through an approved State Department of Education "*Mentor Training Program*" and who thereafter accepts an assignment to serve as a mentor for a new teacher under the TEAM Program shall be paid a stipend of three hundred dollars (\$300) for the first year of mentoring a new teacher and a stipend of five hundred dollars (\$500) for the second year of mentoring a new teacher in the two-year (2) TEAM cycle program.
 2. If a teacher is serving as a TEAM mentor and the mentee leaves the Board's employment for any reason during the course of a school year, the stipend for the TEAM mentor shall be pro-rated based on the number of months remaining in the school year at the time the mentee leaves the Board's employment.
 3. Service as a TEAM mentor shall be voluntary in nature and all volunteers must be approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee.
 4. Any teacher who has successfully completed mentor training through an approved State Department of Education "*Mentor Training Program*" and who thereafter accepts an assignment to serve as a TEAM reader under the TEAM Program shall be paid a stipend of three hundred dollars (\$300).

ARTICLE 17

ANNUITY PLAN

Teachers shall be eligible to participate in a "tax-sheltered" annuity plan established pursuant to United States Public Law No. 87-370.

ARTICLE 18

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

- A. **Sick Leave**
1. Each teacher shall be granted fifteen (15) days sick leave with full pay each school year. Unused sick leave shall be accumulated from year to year to a maximum of one hundred

eighty (180) days, so long as the teacher remains continuously in the service of the Board.

2. On the fourth (4th) consecutive day of illness or when sick leave abuse is suspected, the Superintendent or his/her designee may require a doctor's certification of the illness.
3. Each teacher shall receive on a yearly basis, one-half (1/2) of the substitute's rate for each unused in excess of the accumulated one hundred eight (180) days. Unused sick days in excess of one hundred eighty (180) days shall not exceed fifteen (15) days per year. Teachers hired on or after July 1, 2010 shall not be eligible for this benefit.
4. The Superintendent shall notify each teacher of his/her total number of sick days accumulated on or before the commencement of each new school year.
5. The Association agrees the Administration shall have the right to counsel teachers regarding sick leave utilization.

B. Personal Leave

1. Each teacher shall be entitled to up to four (4) days personal leave for business which cannot be conducted outside the school day. Such leave will be granted at full pay, will not be deducted from accumulated sick leave and is non-cumulative. Teachers must request personal leave directly from their Principal at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance, except in an emergency. Except under extenuating circumstances approved in advance by the Superintendent or designee in his/her discretion personal leave may not be used to extend vacations or holidays, to provide long weekends or to afford time for job-hunting.
2. During the initial year of employment, if a new teacher starts at the commencement of the school year and participates in the orientation days, the new teachers shall be credited with one (1) additional personal day.

C. Parenthood & Child-rearing Leave

1. Disabilities arising out of pregnancy, childbirth, and related conditions shall be treated the same as other physical disabilities for all job-related purposes. The Board agrees that it will not terminate a woman's employment because of her pregnancy. The Board will grant to any female employee disabled due to pregnancy a reasonable leave of absence for the period of such disability, ordinarily not to exceed six (6) weeks. Six (6) weeks are defined as consecutive weeks which include holidays and vacations. Such leaves may exceed six (6) weeks for medical reasons; however, this will require a written statement by the woman's attending doctor. The Board reserves the right to have the school physician verify such disability. Disability leaves arising out of pregnancy and childbirth may not overlap the commencement of childrearing leave. Upon signifying her intent to return, the teacher will be reinstated to a position with equivalent pay and with no loss of accumulated seniority, retirement, fringe benefits, and other service credit. Such disability leave shall be paid to

the extent that the female teacher has accumulated paid sick leave and shall run concurrently with the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (hereinafter "FMLA") qualifying leave.

2. The Board, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, may grant in its discretion an unpaid leave of absence of up to one (1) year for childrearing of a newborn or newly adopted child. A teacher must give the Superintendent notice at least forty-five (45) days in advance of the start of such leave in order to be eligible for consideration of leave beyond that permitted under the FMLA. This provision shall not apply to non-tenured teachers. Any teacher who is on an unpaid leave of absence for childrearing in accordance with this Article may, subject to eligibility requirements of the carrier, elect to continue coverage under the Board's group insurance plans. The cost of coverage during said leave of absence shall be borne by the teacher.
3. Requests for leave under this Section shall be in writing stating the anticipated date that such leaves are to start.
4. All leaves of absence under this section shall be counted concurrently towards eligibility for leave under the FMLA.

D. **Jury Duty**

Any teacher who is called for jury duty shall receive the necessary leave to fulfill this legal obligation. This leave shall not be deducted from sick leave or from personal days. The teacher shall receive a rate of pay equal to the difference between the professional salary and the jury fee.

E. **Fifth Disease**

Upon request from her physician, subject to consultation with the school medical adviser, a pregnant teacher may be transferred to alternate duties in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §46a-60 when there exists a risk of contagion of a disease potentially harmful to the fetus, including but not limited to Fifth Disease.

F. **General Leave**

Other extended leaves, with or without salary, may be granted at the discretion of the Board.

G. **Professional Days**

1. When it is evident that convention or conference attendance or the observation of an activity in another school system will contribute to the effectiveness of the instructional program, the Principal may grant convention or conference leaves, or permission to observe an activity in another school system to teachers without loss of pay.
2. The Board may, at its discretion, reimburse all teachers attending a convention or conference, or observing activities in another school system.

H. **Association Leave**

If negotiation meetings between the Board and the Association are scheduled during normal working hours of a school day, not more than three (3) representatives of the Association shall be relieved from all regular duties without loss of pay, as necessary, in order to permit their attendance at such meetings. When it is necessary, pursuant to the Grievance Procedure in Article 10 of this Agreement, for a School Representative, member of the Committee on Personnel Policies, or other representative designated by the Association to investigate a grievance or attend a grievance meeting or hearing during a school day, he/she shall, upon notice to his/her supervisor and/or Principal and to the Superintendent by the President of the Association, be released without loss of pay, as necessary, in order to permit participation in foregoing activities, but this privilege shall be limited to one (1) Association representative per grievance per day. Any teacher whose appearance in such investigations meetings or hearings as a witness is necessary shall be accorded the same right. The Association agrees that these rights shall not be abused.

I. **Sabbatical Leave**

1. Any teacher with fifteen (15) or more years of continuous experience in the Sterling School System will be eligible for a one (1) year sabbatical leave.
2. The Board of Education shall be notified in writing by February 1st of the teacher's intention for such leave for the ensuing school year.
3. At the discretion of the Board, up to one (1) sabbatical leave may be granted per year. Teachers requesting to take a sabbatical shall receive a six percent (6%) salary subsidy, and the teacher shall be required to participate in the Connecticut Teachers Retirement System. Such salary subsidy shall be paid in monthly installments upon receipt of the teacher's monthly payment to the Connecticut Teachers Retirement Board.
4. Teachers who take a sabbatical leave of absence shall return to teaching in the Sterling School System for a period of at least one (1) school year following the completion of the sabbatical. Prior to embarking on such leave, the teacher shall execute a loan note provided by the Board of Education promising to repay any salary subsidies provided in this Article if the teacher fails to return to the Sterling School System for at least one (1) year following completion of the sabbatical. The note shall be forgiven at the rate of ten percent (10%) of the face amount for each school month of service completed in Sterling upon return from the sabbatical.

J. **FMLA Leave**

Any teacher who takes an unpaid leave under the Federal Medical Leave Act (FMLA) in order to care for a spouse, child, or parent shall substitute any accumulated sick leave, up to a maximum of twelve (12) weeks, which would be granted for an illness in the immediate family. Any paid sick leave used for an illness in the immediate family, which qualifies as FMLA leave, will count against the twelve (12) weeks of FMLA leave to which the teacher is entitled.

K. **Bereavement Leave**

1. Teachers shall be permitted absences without loss of pay and without deductions from sick leave accumulation for up to three (3) days per occurrence in the event of the death of a spouse, parent, step-parent, child, step-child, brother, sister, grandparents, grandchildren, father-in-law, mother-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, uncle or aunt. Leave for attendance at a funeral for other than a member of the immediate family, as set forth in this Section, shall be limited to one (1) day, limited to two (2) occurrences per year.
2. Additional bereavement days may be granted in the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

ARTICLE 19

CLASS SIZE

- A. The Board and the Association agree that the number of students per class may have a significant effect upon the educational growth and achievement of those students.
- B. It is further agreed that the Board and the Association will attempt to limit the number of students assigned to an instructional offering so as to always be able to make maximum student learning possible.
- C. Class size is Board Policy. Board Policy will not change for the duration of this Agreement. Board Policy relative to class size will be placed in the teachers' handbook.

ARTICLE 20

EMPLOYMENT YEAR

- A. The salaries provided in this Agreement are based upon an employment year of one hundred eighty-seven (187) days, which shall consist of at least one hundred eighty-one (181) full school sessions, as defined in the Connecticut General Statutes, and six (6) additional days, which may be devoted to purposes including, but not limited to, student instruction, in-service programs, staff development, or other educational purposes of the Board.
- B. Activities on professional days may include, but are not limited to, workshops, curriculum development, conferences, and visitations. Such activities shall be contiguous to the student school year and shall not be scheduled on weekends or holidays. If the Board, in its discretion, elects to lengthen the employment year beyond that provided above, or is required to do so by law, it will negotiate the impact of such change in accordance with statutory procedures.
- C. **New Teacher Orientation**
 1. The Board may schedule up to two (2) days a year of new orientation activities for teachers new to the Sterling Public Schools, with such orientation days to take place prior to the

beginning of each work year for teachers. During the initial year of employment, if a new teacher starts at the commencement of the school year and participates in the orientation days, the new teachers shall be paid his/her per diem rate of pay.

2. Association representatives shall be provided up to one (1) hour during the new teacher orientation program to exclusively speak with the new hires and carry out Association activities, including but not limited to the distribution of Association membership materials. Such Association activities shall be non-disruptive to the overall orientation program.

ARTICLE 21

TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Teachers initially employed by the Board shall receive their grade levels, and/or subject assignments from the Superintendent's office.
- B. Teachers already in the school system shall receive notification of their classrooms, grade levels and/or subject assignments for the ensuing school year prior to the close of the current school year. If changes are necessitated due to unanticipated circumstances regarding enrollment and/or budget constraints, or other circumstances, teachers will be notified of any changes in their grade levels and/or subject assignments and classrooms for the ensuing school year within ten (10) days of the Superintendent's knowledge of the aforementioned circumstances.
- C. Teachers shall be notified in writing of any changes in their grades, levels and/or subjects that they will teach.
- D. In order to assure that pupils are taught by teachers working within their areas of competence, teachers shall not be assigned to subjects, levels, and/or grades or other classes outside the scope of their teaching certificates.
- E. In accordance with law, teacher assignments shall be made without regard to age, race, creed, color, religion, nationality, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, disability or gender identity or expression. This paragraph shall not be subject to the grievance or arbitration provisions of this Agreement.
- F. In the determination of assignments, the convenience and wishes of the teacher shall be considered.

ARTICLE 22

TEACHER FACILITIES

- A. The Board shall provide adequate storage space for instructional materials and supplies.

- B. The Board shall provide a teacher work area containing adequate equipment and supplies to aid in instructions.

- A. The Board shall provide a furnished teacher's lounge with adequate lighting and an available telephone. A teacher shall reimburse the Sterling School System for the charges on any personal long-distance calls made on a school telephone by the teacher.

ARTICLE 23

WORKING CONDITIONS

- A. All teachers shall have a duty-free lunch at least thirty (30) minutes for full school days and twenty (20) minutes for planned teacher early dismissal days.

- B. The Board and the Association recognize that school enhancement and improvement is based on a collegial approach and that in order to address the needs of Sterling students and improve the quality of learning and morale, and therefore, the building Principal shall invite teachers, as appropriate, to participate on school committees, which service shall be voluntary. Teachers desiring to work on a specific committee shall make a request to the building Principal, who shall make reasonable efforts to ensure equitable participation by teachers on relevant committees.

- C. Each teacher shall be notified electronically of any changes in Board policy, administrative regulations or teacher handbook.

- D. The Association President shall be notified in writing of the placement on the salary schedule and the experience of each teacher by October 1st of each year.

- E. A teacher shall be required to perform student health care procedures only upon demonstrating competency in such procedures.

ARTICLE 24

USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES

- A. The Association will have the right to use the school building without cost at reasonable times for meetings, provided, however that the Association will be required to pay for any additional custodial costs involved by reason of said meetings, provided such facilities use complies with the Board policy concerning same. The Principal will be notified in advance of the time and place of all such meetings.

- B. There will be one (1) bulletin board, which will be placed in the faculty lounge for the purpose of displaying notices, circulars, and other Association materials. Copies of all such material will be given to the building Principal, but his/her advance approval will not be required. The Association agrees that it will not post any material which is derogatory to the Administration, Board, or any member thereof, or the School System.

ARTICLE 25
TEACHER FILES

- A. Official teacher files shall be maintained according to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151(a).
- B. No material derogatory to a teacher's conduct, service, character or personality shall be placed in the file unless the teacher has had an opportunity to read the material. The teacher shall acknowledge that he/she has read such material by affixing his/her signature on the actual copy to be filed with the understanding that such signature merely signifies that he/she has read the material to be filed and does not necessarily indicate agreement with its content.
- C. The teacher shall have the right to answer any material filed and his/her answer shall be attached to the file copy.
- D. Upon request by the teacher and accompanied by the Principal or authorized representative, he/she shall be permitted to examine his/her file without unreasonable delay, with the exception of letters of reference marked confidential by the author of the letter.

ARTICLE 26
PROTECTION OF TEACHERS

Teachers shall be protected by the Board in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-235. This paragraph shall not be subject to the grievance or arbitration provisions of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 27
PERSONAL INJURY BENEFITS

Whenever a teacher is absent from school as a result of a personal injury caused by an assault arising out of and in the course of his/her employment, he/she shall be paid his/her full salary (less the amount of any workers' compensation award made for temporary disability due to said injury) for the period of such absence, to a maximum of ninety (90) days or through the end of the school year, whichever is longer, and no part of such absence shall be charged to his/her annual or accumulated sick leave.

ARTICLE 28
PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS

- A. In addition to those payroll deductions required by law, the following agencies are eligible for payroll deductions. All requests for deductions must be in writing on approved authorization forms. A list of approved deductions is as follows:

1. Sterling Education Association.
2. Connecticut Education Association.
3. Tax Sheltered Annuity Plans.
4. Credit Union.

B. Deduction Procedures

1. Each of the Associations named in Section A, above shall certify to the Board in writing the current rate of its membership dues. Any Association which shall change the rate of its membership dues shall give the Board thirty (30) days written notice prior to the effective date of such change.
2. Deductions referred to in Section A, above shall be made equally from each check, September through June if a teacher elects in writing to join. The Board shall not be required to honor for any month's deduction any authorizations that are delivered to it later than one (1) week prior to the distribution of the payroll from which the deductions are to be made. The Board shall electronically deposit, if feasible, any tax sheltered annuity, bank, and credit union deductions on each payday.

3. Membership Dues

- (a) The Board agrees to deduct from the salary of each teacher who elects to join in writing, an amount equal to the Association's membership dues by means of payroll deductions. The amount of membership dues shall be certified by the Association to the Board prior to the opening of school each year.
- (b) Association membership dues shall be deducted in twenty (20) equal monthly installments between September and June.
- (c) Should a teacher leave the school system, the balance of Association membership dues agreed to by the teacher shall be deducted from the teacher's last pay check by the Board.

C. Indemnification

The Association agrees to indemnify and hold the Board of Education harmless against any and all claims, demands, suits, or other forms of liability including attorney's fees and the costs of administrative hearings that shall or may arise out of, or by reason of, action taken by the Board of Education for the purpose of complying with the provisions of this Article. The Association shall provide defense counsel for the Board of Education.

ARTICLE 29

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. There shall be no reprisals of any kind taken against any teacher by reason of his/her membership in a professional organization or participation in its activities.
- B. **Course Reimbursement**
1. The Board shall reimburse each teacher fifty percent (50%) of the cost for each course taken that leads towards a master's degree, in a subject area approved in advance by the Superintendent. The cost for course reimbursement shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) per course, not to exceed four (4) courses per academic year, July 1st to June 30th. In order for a teacher to receive reimbursement for a course, said teacher must attain a grade of "B" or better.
 2. The course(s) taken must be in a program approved by an accredited college or university, which college or university is recognized by the State Department of Education for the purpose of meeting certification requirements.
 3. Teachers that are reimbursed for courses must remain as employees of the Board for at least five (5) years. If a teacher leaves the employment of the Board, he/she shall reimburse the Board twenty percent (20%) for any year less than five (5) the teacher remains employed. Teachers shall be required to sign an agreement acknowledging their obligation to repay the above sums at the time they receive their first course reimbursement.
 4. Submission for tuition reimbursement shall be made by June 8th each year.
- C. The Association President shall be permitted to use release time, without any loss of pay, during the school year for the purpose of conducting Association business and meeting with the school district's Administration for business that cannot be performed or scheduled during normal non-teaching hours. The specific amount of release time granted per year shall be mutually agreed to by the Superintendent and the Association President.
- D. Teachers resigning are expected to give thirty (30) day's notice of termination except in emergencies or extenuating circumstances.

ARTICLE 30

BOARD POLICIES

The Board shall provide each teacher with a link to, or instructions how, to access an electronic copy of the Teacher's Handbook, and the complete text of this Agreement or any successor Agreement.

ARTICLE 31
ACADEMIC FREEDOM

- A. The private and personal life of a teacher is not within the appropriate concern or attention of the Board except as it may interfere with the teacher's responsibilities to and relationships with students and/or the school system.
- B. Teachers will be entitled to full rights of citizenship and no religious or political activities of any teacher (provided such activities do not take place during his/her working hours) or the lack thereof will be grounds for any discipline or discrimination with respect to the professional employment of such teacher.

ARTICLE 32
INSURANCE BENEFITS

- A. The Board shall provide eligible teachers with individual and eligible dependent health insurance coverage under the insurance program specified herein below, or a substantially equivalent program. Teachers shall contribute their percent of the premium cost of the health and dental insurances as stated in subparagraph A3 and Section B herein, via payroll deduction.
 - 1. Each teacher shall have the annual option to participate in the Connecticut Partnership Plan 2.0 (CPP). The plan benefits (outlined in Appendix C, for informational purposed only) shall be as set forth in the CPP, including any subsequent amendments or modification made to the CCP by the state and its employee representatives. The administration of the CPP, including open enrollment, beneficiary eligibility and changes, and other administration provisions shall be established by the CPP.
 - 2. The insurance program shall be subject to the co-pays and deductibles set forth in Appendix C, Connecticut Partnership Plan 2.0 and attached hereto. The premium cost share shall consist of the following:
 - (a) Effective July 1, 2025, the teacher premium share contribution for medical and dental insurance shall be twenty-two and one-half percent (22 ½%).
 - (b) Effective July 1, 2026, the teacher premium share contribution for medical and dental insurance shall be twenty-one percent (21%).
 - (c) Effective July 1, 2027, the teacher premium share contribution for medical and dental insurance shall be twenty percent (20%).
- B. The Board shall provide teachers with individual and eligible dependent dental coverage through one (1) of the Connecticut Partnership Plan 2.0 (CPP) Dental Plans (DHMO or Option 1/DPPO-Plan 1). The dental plan benefits (outlined in Appendix C, for informational purposed only) shall be as set forth in the CPP, including any subsequent amendments or modification made to the CCP by the state and its employee representatives. The administration of the CPP, including open

enrollment, beneficiary eligibility and changes, and other administration provisions shall be established by the CPP. The premium cost share for said dental insurance via payroll deduction shall be as set forth in Article 32, Section A.2.

- C. The Board will make an IRS Section 125 Plan available to teachers making such contributions. To the extent allowable by law, IRS Regulations, participation in the IRS 125 Plan shall be at the teacher's option.
- D. Upon signing of a Teacher's Contract, application shall be made for such insurance coverage.
- E. As used in this Article, the term "teacher" refers to teachers regularly scheduled to work at least fifty percent (50%) of the regular teacher workday. For each teacher working less than fifty percent (50%) of the regular teacher work day, the Board shall pay a pro rata share of the insurance premium equal to the percentage of the regular teacher work day regularly scheduled for such teacher.

F. **Insurance Waiver**

The Board shall pay any teacher who waives insurance coverage two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for individual and two (2) person coverage and three thousand dollars (\$3,000) for family coverage. Teachers hired on or after July 1, 2013 shall not be eligible for this benefit.

G. **Life Insurance**

The Board shall provide each teacher with a life insurance policy in an amount equal to the teacher's annual salary rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) to a maximum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

- H. A teacher who either retires or resigns at the end of the school year may elect to remain on the group insurance plan provided by the district to active teachers, through August 31st of the year of retirement/resignation, subject to any restrictions imposed by the insurance carrier, until August 31st, provided the teacher informs the Administration regarding his or her intent to retire or resign prior to April 1st.

ARTICLE 33
REDUCTION OF PROFESSIONAL STAFF

- A. The Board has the sole and exclusive prerogative to eliminate professional staff positions, consistent with the provisions of State statutes.
- B. As used herein, the term "teacher" shall apply to any certified professional employee within the bargaining unit.
- C. The Board of Education may, in the first instance, exercise its right and power to reduce the number of professional staff positions without determining which teacher contracts will be terminated, if any, or what other staffing changes will be made to effectuate the purpose of position elimination.

E. **Tenured/Non-tenured Teachers**

1. For tenured teachers, if no other position exists to which a teacher may be assigned the determination of the teacher(s) to be terminated will be made by using the following guidelines in the following order:
 - (a) Number of years in the Sterling School System (system-wide service rather than length of service in a school, department, subject, etc., shall prevail).
 - (b) Certification (including multiple certifications).
 - (c) Technical fitness for specific assignment within area of certification (e.g., instrumental or vocal instruction in music, woodworking or metalworking instruction in industrial arts, or water safety instruction in physical education).
 - (d) Degree status.
 - (e) Quality of service, determined by evaluations conducted pursuant to applicable law and guidelines, and non-evaluative records routinely maintained in central office personnel files.
 - (f) Specific needs of school system.
2. For non-tenured teachers, if no other position exists to which a teacher may be assigned the determination of the teacher(s) to be terminated will be made by using the following guidelines in the order determined by the Superintendent to be in the best interests of the students in the Sterling Public Schools:
 - (a) Number of years in the Sterling School System.
 - (b) Certification, including multiple certifications.
 - (c) Technical fitness for specific assignment within area of certification (e.g., instrumental or vocal instruction in music, woodworking or metalworking instruction in industrial arts, or water safety instruction in physical education).
 - (d) Degree status.
 - (e) Quality of service, determined by evaluations conducted pursuant to applicable law and guidelines, and non-evaluative records routinely maintained in central office personnel files.
 - (f) Specific needs of school system.

F. **Reappointment**

The name of any teacher who has been laid off shall be placed upon a reappointment list and remain on such list for one (1) year provided such teacher does not refuse a reappointment. A

teacher who refuses an offer of reappointment shall have his/her name removed from the reappointment list. No new teacher shall be hired to fill a position when a teacher on the reappointment list is both certified and meets the minimum qualifications set forth in the posting. In cases where more than one (1) teacher on the reappointment list is both certified and qualified for a particular position to be filled, the factors set forth in Section F shall be considered.

- G. For the purposes of this Article, reduction of a position from a greater to a lesser full-time equivalency shall be treated as an elimination of one position and the creation of another. Any teacher, who accepts a lesser full-time equivalency position in order to avoid or to return from layoff status, shall remain on the reappointment list for one (1) year from the date the original full-time equivalency position was lost.
- H. No teacher who has been laid off shall be entitled to payment or accrual of any compensation or fringe benefits, whether or not he/she remains on the reappointment list. However, a teacher who is reappointed from the list shall be entitled to reinstatement of any benefits earned or accrued at the time of layoff, and further accrual of salary increments and fringe benefits shall resume where they were suspended. A teacher on the reemployment list may elect to remain on the Board's group medical insurance plan at his/her own expense and subject to any restrictions imposed by the carrier.
- I. It is understood that a layoff is a termination of employment subject to administrative and/or judicial review in the manner set forth in the subsections of Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-151, and in no other manner. A layoff under this Article is not subject to the grievance or arbitration provisions of this Agreement set forth in Article 10.

ARTICLE 34

LENGTH OF THE TEACHER WORKDAY

- A. The length of the normal teacher workday shall be seven (7) hours and twenty-five (25) minutes. If the Board of Education elects in its discretion to increase the teacher work day, the Board shall negotiate the impact of any such change in accordance with law.
- B. Teachers are required to attend one (1) Open House/Back to School Night per school year. This program will be held at the discretion of the Principal or Superintendent. The Open House program will be a maximum of one and one-half (1½) hours. On such days any teacher who may experience a hardship in relation to attending the evening program may request to be excused. The Superintendent or his/her appointee will exercise his/her judgment in relation to any request and his/her decision in this matter will be final.
- C. Teachers are required to attend up to two (2) Parent-Teacher conferences per school year. Parent-Teacher conferences will be a maximum of three (3) hours per evening conference, with evening being defined as any time after 5p.m. If the conference is scheduled for the one (1) session longer than two (2) hours, the school day will be on an early dismissal schedule. On such days any teacher who may experience a hardship in relation to attending the evening program may request to be excused. The Superintendent or his/her appointee will exercise his/her judgment in relation to any request and his/her decision in this matter will be final. In addition, teachers shall be required

to attend at least one (1) after school event, evening event or conference in addition to the Open House/Back to School Night and Parent-Teacher conferences that are described above. An Administrator, or, in an emergency circumstance, a designee of the Administration, shall be present during the time period scheduled for Parent-Teacher conferences.

- D. Staff meetings may be scheduled by an Administrator at any time and, except for any emergency, upon reasonable notice. Members are to be in attendance unless excused by the Administrator. Such meetings will not exceed one (1) hour in length beyond the school day. Such meetings for system-wide matters shall not exceed ten (10) in any school year.
- E. On student early release days for inclement weather, the days prior to the Thanksgiving and Christmas break, if those days are designated as early dismissal days, teachers shall be allowed to leave the building upon the final dismissal of students.

ARTICLE 35 **PLANNING TIME**

- A. Planning/Preparation time for Pre-Kindergarten teachers, full-day and half-day Kindergarten through Grade 8/Special Education teachers and other specialists teachers shall be forty-five (45) consecutive minutes per day.

ARTICLE 36 **LONGEVITY**

- A. The Board and the Association agree that a longevity increment is advantageous in rewarding teachers, and accordingly agree to the following increments:
 - 1. Fifteen (15th) -- nineteenth (19th) year of service -- Eight hundred dollars (\$800) added on the fifteen (15th) year.
 - 2. Twentieth (20th) -- twenty-fourth (24th) year of service -- One thousand eight hundred dollars (\$1,800) added on the twentieth (20th) year.
 - 3. Twenty-fifth (25th) -- twenty-ninth (29th) year of service -- Two thousand eight hundred dollars (\$2,800) added on the twenty-fifth (25th) year.
 - 4. Thirtieth (30th) year of service on -- Three thousand six hundred dollars \$3,600 added on the thirtieth (30th) year.
- B. Teachers who are hired on or after July 1, 1995 shall receive the following longevity stipend:
 - 1. Fifteen (15th) -- nineteenth (19th) year of service -- Eight hundred dollars (\$800) added on the fifteen (15th) year.

2. Twentieth (20th) -- twenty-fourth (24th) year of service:-- One thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) added on the twentieth (20th) year.
 3. Twenty-fifth (25th) of service on -- Two thousand dollars (\$2,000) added on the twenty-fifth (25th) year.
- C. Teachers who are hired on or after July 1, 2010 shall not receive the longevity stipend.

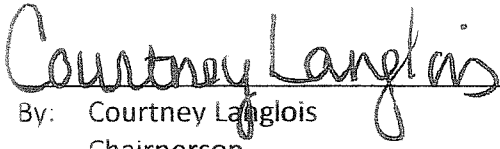
ARTICLE 37
SIGNATURES

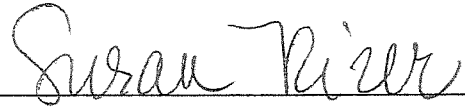
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereunto have caused these presents to be executed by their proper officers, hereunto duly authorized, and their seals affixed hereto as of the date and year first above written.

Dated this twenty-fifth (25th) day of October, 2024

STERLING BOARD OF EDUCATION

STERLING EDUCATION ASSOCIATION


By: Courtney Langlois
Chairperson


By: Susan Rizer
President

APPENDIX A
SALARY SCHEDULE

2025-2026

Previous Step	Step	BA	MA	6TH YEAR
4	1	\$46,101	\$50,523	\$55,001
5	2	\$47,877	\$52,898	\$57,751
6	3	\$49,588	\$55,331	\$60,523
7	4	\$52,150	\$57,876	\$63,428
8	5	\$54,711	\$60,538	\$66,346
9	6	\$56,707	\$63,323	\$69,398
10	7	\$59,245	\$66,110	\$72,451
11	8	\$61,782	\$69,018	\$75,639
12	9	\$64,630	\$72,055	\$78,815
13	10	\$67,477	\$75,081	\$82,125
14	11	\$70,041	\$78,235	\$85,410
15	12	\$74,814	\$84,181	\$88,740
16	13	\$76,314	\$88,390	\$95,134

Teachers not on the maximum step of the salary schedule shall advance one (1) step during the 2025-2026 school year.

APPENDIX A
SALARY SCHEDULE

(continued)

2026-2027

Previous Step	Step	BA	MA	6TH YEAR
5	1	\$48,356	\$53,427	\$58,328
6	2	\$50,084	\$55,884	\$61,128
7	3	\$52,672	\$58,455	\$64,062
8	4	\$55,258	\$61,144	\$67,009
9	5	\$57,274	\$63,956	\$70,092
10	6	\$59,837	\$66,771	\$73,176
11	7	\$62,400	\$69,709	\$76,395
12	8	\$65,276	\$72,776	\$79,604
13	9	\$68,152	\$75,832	\$82,946
14	10	\$70,741	\$79,017	\$86,264
15	11	\$75,562	\$85,023	\$89,627
16	12	\$77,077	\$89,274	\$96,085
	13		\$93,693	\$99,891

Teachers not on the maximum step of the salary schedule shall advance one (1) step during the 2026-2027 school year.

APPENDIX A
SALARY SCHEDULE

(continued)

2027-2028

Previous Step	Step	BA	MA	6TH YEAR
6	1	\$50,585	\$56,443	\$61,740
7	2	\$53,199	\$59,039	\$64,703
8	3	\$55,810	\$61,755	\$67,679
9	4	\$57,847	\$64,596	\$70,793
10	5	\$60,436	\$67,438	\$73,908
11	6	\$63,024	\$70,406	\$77,159
12	7	\$65,929	\$73,504	\$80,400
13	8	\$68,833	\$76,591	\$83,776
14	9	\$71,449	\$79,807	\$87,126
15	10	\$76,318	\$85,873	\$90,523
16	11	\$77,848	\$90,167	\$97,046
17	12		\$94,630	\$100,889
18	13		\$99,315	\$103,886

Teachers not on the maximum step of the salary schedule shall advance one (1) step during the 2027-2028 school year.

APPENDIX B
STIPEND SCHEDULES
2025-2028

	<u>2025-2028</u> (per year)
1. SBAC Coordinator:	\$ 1,748
2. Summer School Coordinator:	\$ 1,748
3. Boys Basketball Coach:	\$ 1,748
4. Girls Basketball Coach:	\$ 1,748
5. Boys Soccer Coach:	\$ 1,748
6. Girls Soccer Coach:	\$ 1,748
7. Boys Track Coach:	\$ 1,748
8. Girls Track Coach:	\$ 1,748
9. Cheerleading Coach:	\$ 1,748
10. Athletic Director:	\$ 1,748
11. Music Director (Stipend for after school activities conducted in accordance with the job description):	\$ 1,748
12. Homework Club Coordinator:	\$ 1,748
13. Yearbook Coordinator:	\$ 1,748
14. Curriculum Revision (per subject):	\$ 1,748
15. Professional Development Coordinator:	\$ 1,748
16. Washington Coordinator (2):	\$ 1,748
17. National Junior Honor Society:	\$ 1,748
18. Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)	\$ 1,748
19. After School Activity Programs hourly rate of pay:	\$ 23.83
20. Summer School hourly rate of pay	\$ 42.89
21. Committee Work (completed outside of the school day)	\$ 42.89

APPENDIX C

(For informational purposes only)

This attached insurance matrix document contains summaries and descriptions of various insurance benefits. It is agreed and understood by the parties that the insurance descriptions contained in this Agreement and the matrix are descriptive only and are not insurance policies. All questions or issues concerning insurance coverage and related matters shall be determined by reference to the actual insurance policy documents issued or possessed by the insurers. In the event of error or misstatement in this Agreement or the matrix, the policies shall always prevail.

Connecticut Partnership Plan 2.0

A. Co-pays:

1. Office Visit:	\$ 15
2. Specialist Visit:	\$ 15
3. Preventive Care Services:	\$ 0
4. Emergency Room (waived if admitted):	\$250
5. Hospital Per Admission:	\$ 0
6. Outpatient Hospital:	\$ 0
7. Walk-In:	\$ 15
8. Urgent Care:	\$ 15
9. Vision Exams (one per calendar year):	\$ 15
10. Lab/X-ray, High Cost Radiological & Diagnostic Services:	\$ 80%/20% (co-insurance tier 2)

B. Prescription Coverage:

	<u>Maintenance Drugs</u>	<u>Non-maintenance Drugs</u>	<u>HEP Chronic Condition Drugs</u>
1. Generic:	\$5/10	\$5/10	\$ 0
2. Preferred/Listed Brand Name:	\$ 25	\$ 25	\$ 5
3. Non-Preferred/Non-listed Brand Name:	\$ 40	\$ 40	\$12.50
4. Annual Maximum:	Unlimited		
5. Maximum out-of-Pocket:	\$4,600 individual/\$9,200 family		

C. Preventive Services:

1. Primary Care (Adult & Child Wellness Exams):	\$ 0
2. Gynecologist Wellness:	\$ 0
3. Mammogram:	\$ 0
4. Lifetime Maximum:	Unlimited

D. In-Network:

1. Deductible:	Not Applicable (if HEP compliant)
2. Acupuncture (20 visits per year):	\$15 co-pay

APPENDIX C

(For informational purposes only--continued)

- 3. Chiropractic: \$ 0 co-pay
- 4. Nutritional Counseling (3 visits per year); \$ 0 co-pay
- 5. Physical/Occupational Therapy: \$ 0 co-pay
- 6. Durable Medical Equipment: \$ 0 co-pay
- 7. Routine Hearing Screening (as part of an exam): \$15 co-pay

E. Out-of-Network:

- 1. Annual Deductible: \$300 individual/\$900 family (with HEP)
- 2. Co-insurance: 20% of allowable UCR charges
- 3. Maximum Out-of-Pocket: \$2,300 Individual/\$4,900 family
- 4. Lifetime Maximum: Unlimited

VISION RIDER

Administered by Cigna

BENEFIT	IN-NETWORK	OUT-OF-NETWORK
Materials Copay	\$0	N/A
Single Vision Lenses	Covered in Full	\$40 Allowance
Bifocal Lenses	Covered in Full	\$65 Allowance
Trifocal Lenses	Covered in Full	\$75 Allowance
• Elective	\$360 Allowance	\$345 Allowance
• Therapeutic	Covered in Full	\$345 Allowance
Frame (Retail Allowance)	\$175 Allowance	\$126 Allowance

In-Network Benefits Include:

One pair of prescription plastic or glass lenses, all ranges of prescriptions (powers and prisms) Lens Options:

- Standard Polycarbonate: covered for under 18 years of age; min. 20% save, \$40 out-of-pocket max. for adults.
- Oversize lenses: covered under plan.
- Rose Tints: #1 and #2 - covered under plan.
- Solid Tints: min. 20% save, \$15 out-of-pocket max. Gradient Tints: \$20 out-of-pocket max.
- Standard photochromics: 20% save, \$78 out-of-pocket max.

APPENDIX C

(For informational purposes only--continued)

- Standard anti-reflective coating: min. 20% save, \$45 out-of-pocket max. Standard scratch/ UV coating: min. 20% save, \$17 out-of-pocket max.
- Progressive lenses: covered up to bifocal lens amount with 20% savings on the difference.
- \$81 out-of-pocket max. for standard lens.

One frame of choice covered up to retail plan allowance, plus a 20% savings on amount that exceeds frame allowance.

One pair or a single purchase supply of contact lenses - in lieu of lenses and frame benefit, (may not receive contact lenses and frames in same benefit year). Allowance applied towards cost of supplemental contact lens professional services (including the fitting and evaluation), and contact lens materials.

Vision Network Savings Program:

Minimum 20% savings on additional purchases of frames and/or lenses, including lens options, with a valid prescription; offered savings does not apply to contact lens materials. Check with your Cigna Vision Network Provider for details.

APPENDIX C

(For informational purposes only--continued)

DENTAL BENEFIT SUMMARY

Administered by Cigna

DHMO

Plan Name	State of CT DHMO
Network	In-Network
Out-of-Network Coverage	No
Annual Deductible	None
Deductible waived for	Not Applicable
Annual maximum per person	Unlimited
Periodontal Care Maximum per person	None
Implant Maximum (per calendar year)	No dollar annual maximum, frequency maximum applies
Lifetime Maximum per person	None
<u>PREVENTATIVE</u>	
X-Ray	Covered
Cleanings	Covered
Oral Exam	Covered
Flouride	Covered
Sealants	Covered
<u>BASIC</u>	
Fillings	Co-pay applies
Emergency Care	Covered
Endodontics	Co-pay applies
Periodontal Cleaning	Co-pay applies
Periodontal: All Other	Co-pay applies
Denture Bridge, Crown Repair	Co-pay applies
Simple Extractions	Co-pay applies
General Anesthetics	Co-pay applies
<u>MAJOR</u>	
Crown/Inlay/Onlay	Co-pay applies
Dentures	Co-pay applies
Bridges	Co-pay applies
Space Maintainers	Co-pay applies
Oral Surgery (non simple extractions)	Co-pay applies
Implants	Co-pay applies
<u>ORTHODONTIA</u>	
Braces	Co-pay applies
Adults & Child	Yes

APPENDIX C

(For informational purposes only--continued)

DENTAL BENEFIT SUMMARY (continued)

Administered by Cigna

Option 1—DPPO Plan 1

Plan Name	Plan 1
Network	Any Dentist
Out-of-Network Coverage	Yes
Annual Deductible	\$25/individual; \$75/family
Deductible waived for	Preventive; Peridontal Cleaning & Orthodontia
Annual maximum per person	\$1,000 Annual maximum applies. No annual maximum for Peridontal cleanings, scaling & root planing
Peridontal Care Maximum per person	None
Implant Maximum (per calendar year)	Not Covered
Lifetime Maximum per person	\$1,500
<u>PREVENTATIVE</u>	
X-Ray	100%
Cleanings	100%
Oral Exam	100%
Flouride	80%
Sealants	100%
<u>BASIC</u>	
Fillings	80%
Emergency Care	80%
Endodontics	80%
Periodontal Cleaning	80%
Periodontal: All Other	50%
Denture Bridge, Crown Repair	80%
Simple Extractions	80%
General Anesthetics	Not Covered
<u>MAJOR</u>	
Crown/Inlay/Onlay	50%
Dentures	Not Covered
Bridges	Not Covered
Space Maintainers	50%
Oral Surgery (non simple extractions)	50%
Implants	Not Covered
<u>ORTHODONTIA</u>	
Braces	50%
Adults & Child	Yes