

NORTHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

POLICY DOCUMENT

COVERING

WAGES, WORKING CONDITIONS AND FRINGE BENEFITS

OF

CHILD NUTRITION EMPLOYEES

**Policy Extends from
July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028
*Approved by the School Board on May 26, 2026***

ARTICLE I EMPLOYMENT

Section 1.01 – Introduction

These Personnel Policies and Practices contain information pertaining to your employment with Independent School District No. 659, Northfield (“District”). Please note that the information contained in this document may be changed from time to time. Nothing in this document establishes any form of a contract between you and the district, nor does anything in this document alter your at-will employment relationship with the District. In the same sense that you can resign your employment with the district at any time for any reason or no reason at all, so can the district terminate your employment at any time for any reason or no reason at all, consistent with the concept of at-will employment. When changes occur to the information contained in this document, the revisions will be issued to you. The statements contained in this Section 1.01 are subject to the requirements of any applicable law, such as the teacher Continuing Contract Law or the Veterans’ Preference Act, granting the administrator employment rights.

Section 1.02 – Basic Services

Employees shall faithfully perform the services prescribed by the School Board or designated representative whether or not such services are specifically described in this manual or in a general job description, abide by the rules, regulations and policies as established by the School Board and the State Department of Education, and any additions or amendments thereto, for the annual salary indicated in this agreement.

Section 1.03 – Policy

This policy is in effect from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2028. In the event a successor policy is not approved prior to the expiration of this Policy, the employee shall be compensated according to their current rate until a successor policy is approved by the Board of Education.

Section 1.04 – Entry Level Probationary Period

Entry level employees’ probationary period shall be six (6) months. The purpose of probation is to verify the match between Northfield Public Schools mission based Child Nutrition needs and the mission aligned knowledge, skills and work behaviors of entry level employees. Employees in this category may or may not pass probation at the discretion of the district.

Section 1.05 - Resignations

Employees electing to resign shall be required to give the Child Nutrition Director dated, written, and signed notice at least two (2) weeks in advance of the employee's final work day. The employee electing to resign shall continue Child Nutrition regular job responsibilities during the two-week notice period. Any request to leave sooner than the two-week notice period shall be considered by the Child Nutrition Director after a suitable replacement employee is obtained for the position. No use of personal leave is allowed in the last two weeks of employment.

Section 1.06 – Required Certification

All Child Nutrition employees must be certified by one of the following entities and keep their certification current:

- Servsafe at www.servsafe.com
- Safe food training (SFT) at www.safefoodtraining.com
- Food Safety Guy at <https://foodsafetyguy.com>

New employees that do not already have the certification must successfully complete one of the above certifications prior to the end of their six-month probationary period.

NCEC Child Nutrition employed servers and Child Nutrition Subs, that have not previously worked as a Child Nutrition employee and completed ServSafe Training, will complete the Food Handler Course.

Section 1.07 – Minnesota Food Protection Managers Certificate.

All Child Nutrition employees must hold a current MN Food Protection Manager Certificate. Current Child Nutrition staff will be required to get their Minnesota Food Managers certificate before their current food safe certificate expires.

ARTICLE II RATES OF PAY AND OTHER COMPENSATION

Section 2.01 – Wages

<u>Job Classification</u>	<u>2026-27 Hourly Rate</u>	<u>2027-28 Hourly Rate</u>
Child Nutrition Manager II - H.S. or M.S.	\$28.66	\$29.24
Child Nutrition Manager I - Elementary	\$28.26	\$28.83
Child Nutrition Associate III	\$26.80	\$27.33
Child Nutrition Associate II	\$24.75	\$25.24
Child Nutrition Associate I	\$23.52	\$23.99
Summer Child Nutrition Lead	\$28.26	\$28.83
Summer Child Nutrition Associate	\$23.52	\$23.99
Student Child Nutrition Associate	**	**

** Pay for this position aligned with Minnesota minimum wage rates.

There will be an extra \$2.00/hour stipend paid for Kitchen Managers that oversee a satellite kitchen.

The Child Nutrition Director shall determine the job classification for each employee based upon the responsibilities of the position and the corresponding qualifications of the incumbent/entry-level employee.

Section 2.02 - Training Stipend

An hourly stipend of \$1.75 per hour in both years of the agreement for individuals who have completed Level I of the School Nutrition Association Certification will be added to the hourly rates of pay for Child Nutrition Employees. An hourly stipend of \$2.50 per hour in both years of the agreement for individuals who have completed Level 2 of the School Nutrition Association Certification will be added to the hourly rates of pay for Child Nutrition Employees. Certification shall be provided to the Human Resources Office no later than September 1 to receive the stipend.

Section 2.03 - Long-Term Substitutes

Individuals who substitute in the same position for twenty (20) consecutive work days or more shall be eligible to be paid at the CNA I hourly rate, upon the recommendation of the Child Nutrition Director and approval of the Superintendent or their designee. Upon completion of the long-term substitute assignment, further substitute assignments will be paid at the regular substitute rate of pay. Eligibility for payment at this level cannot be carried over from one school year to the next.

Section 2.04 - Rate of Pay for Regular Employees Who Substitute in a Position of Higher Classification:

Regular Child Nutrition employees who substitute in a position with a higher classification shall be paid at the hourly rate established for the higher classification beginning with the sixth consecutive day of substituting in that position.

Section 2.05 - Uniform Allowance

\$300 per year taxable stipend for all employees to be paid with their first paycheck of the contract year. The employee must purchase one (1) pair of work shoes that are slip-resistant on an annual basis. The remainder of the stipend is to be used to purchase either black, navy, khaki, gray, or olive pants (can be denim) and the approved district uniform shirt(s) or sweatshirt, with the district logo. It is required that all Child Nutrition employees purchase new clothing each school year using the allowance. The district office will coordinate the orders for shirts at the beginning of the school year. Each employee will be responsible for purchasing the approved pants. Acceptable options will not include athletic pants, yoga pants, jeggings; denim with rips, holes or tears.

Job Sharing: For Child Nutrition employees that share a position, the uniform allowance will be split equally between the two employees sharing the position.

Section 2.06 – Lunch

Child Nutrition employees will be provided a regular Type A lunch on food preparation days at no cost to the Child Nutrition employees according to the National School Lunch Program regulations

HOURS OF WORK, BREAKS, OVERTIME, AND HOLIDAYS

Section 2.07 – Work Day

The number of hours authorized for each position shall be established by the School Board on the basis of the requirements of the job and financial resources of the district, and shall be scheduled by the Child Nutrition Director. The paid work day shall exclude time for lunch (30 minutes). Typically, hours worked will coincide with regular established schedules. However, hours may need to be reduced or extended when student activities

result in less or more students eating lunch on a given day. Kitchen Managers will notify employees of any change in hours. Employees will be paid only for time worked. The calculation of wages shall be based on the number of hours shown on the employee's weekly attendance record.

Section 2.08 – Work Year

The maximum number of work days in a given year shall be the number of student days scheduled on the approved school calendar plus up to three (3) days for opening and closing the kitchens (for example, two (2) days to receive the food order, clean and open the kitchen in the Fall and one (1) day to store food and supplies and organize the kitchen in the Spring). Additional days may be scheduled for special events such as a luncheon during preschool workshop and/or school staff in-service meetings, special workshops, etc. Any work days outside of the number of student days scheduled on the approved school calendar must be authorized as scheduled by the Child Nutrition Director.

Section 2.09 - School Closing

In the event that school (or schools) is closed due to an emergency, Child Nutrition employees shall continue to receive compensation for up to a maximum of one (1) prorated day per year, equivalent to the normal work hours for each employee. Child Nutrition employees shall be required to perform services if requested to do so by the Child Nutrition Director. An emergency closing shall be defined as any unscheduled closing of the school or schools. Examples might include inclement weather, energy shortage, breakdown of equipment, strike, etc. The district shall have the right to require employees to perform services on days scheduled as make-ups for student days lost due to emergency closings. In the event school is closed after a late start had been announced, Child Nutrition employees who have already reported to work for the day will be paid at time and one half their base hourly rate for four (4) hours. The additional compensation does not apply for e-learning days, early dismissal or late start if due to an emergency.

Job Sharing: There is only one snow day per position.

Section 2.10 - Paid Breaks

Child Nutrition Associates shall have a 15-minute paid rest break for every 4 hours worked. Employees working less than 4 hours/day will not receive a paid rest break.

Child Nutrition Associates that work less than four (4) hours per day will not have a rest break period.

An unpaid 30-minute lunch break is required for employees working at least 6 hours/day, unless the employee signs a waiver opting out of the unpaid lunch break.

These breaks shall be taken at a time when the least possible disruption in service results and as scheduled by the Kitchen Manager.

Section 2.11 – Overtime

Employees shall be paid at time and one-half of the base hourly rate for hours worked in excess of 40 in any one work week. Vacation time, sick time, or other leave time will not be used to calculate hours worked in any work week. The time and one-half rate shall also apply to services rendered for special functions after 4:00 p.m. or on weekends. The scheduling of overtime for employees shall be approved in advance by the Child Nutrition Director and Kitchen Manager.

Child Nutrition Substitutes are not eligible for overtime unless they work more than forty (40) hours in any one work week. Substitutes will be paid \$3.00 per hour above their normal pay rate for services rendered for special functions after 4:00 p.m. or on weekends.

Section 2.12 - Holidays with Pay

Employees will receive the following six (6) holidays with pay provided the Holidays occur within the employee's work year: Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve Day, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, and Memorial Day.

Summer Program: If July 4th falls during regular summer programming and on a day when summer programming is in session, employees working in the summer program will be paid for July 4th for the number of hours they would normally have worked in the summer program.

Job Sharing: For child nutrition employees that share one position, each child nutrition employee will receive three paid holidays.

Section 2.13 - Professional Development

Professional development activities such as workshops, classes, and training sessions may be provided on a group or individual basis within budget allocations at the discretion of the Child Nutrition Director.

Annual Training Requirements

Required for all school nutrition program employees regardless of local educational agency (LEA) size. The hourly requirements for each position are outlined in the table below:

Position	Required Hours
Director	12 hours
Manager	10 hours
All other program staff (working more than 20 hours/week)	6 hours
Part-time program staff (working less than 20 hours/week)	4 hours
Substitutes/Volunteers/Student Workers/Temporary	2 hours
Hired after January 1	Must complete half of the above training hours For their position during the first year of employment when hired after January 1.

Please note:

- Any excess training hours from a school year can be carried over to meet the previous year's requirements or used to meet the following year's requirements.

ARTICLE III LEAVES

Section 3.01 - Sick Leave

The district may require an employee to furnish a medical statement from a qualified physician as evidence of illness in order to qualify for sick leave pay if sick leave requested is due to the illness or injury of the employee. Final determination as to the eligibility of an employee for sick leave will be made by Northfield Public Schools.

Employees Working 15 to 19.99 Hours Per Week:

Employees that work under this agreement for less than 4 hours per day shall earn leave time as required by law.

Employees Working 20 Hours Per Week or More:

Ten (10) prorated days per year with pay shall be allowed whenever an employee's absence is due to illness or injury of the employee, the employee's dependent child, and/or for other individuals to the extent provided by Minnesota law. Sick leave days are cumulative to 120 days.

The sick leave provided under this Agreement is intended to satisfy the requirements for Earned Sick and Safe Time ("ESST"). Accordingly, the sick leave provided under this Agreement runs concurrently with ESST and is not in addition to ESST.

Job Sharing: For child nutrition employees that share one position, each child nutrition employee will receive the amount of leave time required by state law.

An employee receiving compensation under the Worker's Compensation Act may elect to use accumulated leave allowance to make up the difference between the worker's compensation payments and the employee's regular basic salary. Deductions from leave allowance will be made on a prorated basis according to the additional payments to the employee. In no event shall the additional compensation paid to the employee result in the payment of total daily, weekly or monthly compensation in excess of such employee's basic salary.

Section 3.02 - School Conference and Activities Leave

In accordance with the provisions of MS.181.9412, the district will provide each employee with up to two prorated days of school conference and activities leave during any twelve-month period to attend school conferences or school related activities related to the employee's child, provided the conference, activity or observation cannot be scheduled during non-work hours. One school day advance written notice shall be provided via the district's substitute/leave reporting system. The Human Resources Director can waive the advanced written notice requirement in emergency situations under exceptional or unusual circumstances. Such leave will be deducted from the employee's sick leave allowance.

In addition to the statutory definition of school conference and activity leave, employees may also use school conference and activity leave for post-secondary college visits for high school age students.

Section 3.03 - Bereavement Leave

Employees Working 15 to 19.99 Hours Per Week:

Up to two (2) days per year may be used in case of bereavement. Time off for bereavement shall be deducted from unused Sick Leave. Bereavement leave may be used in the case of a death of family members or friends.

Employees Working 20 Hours Per Week or More:

Up to ten (10) days per year of leave with pay in case of bereavement. Time off for bereavement shall be deducted from unused Sick Leave. Bereavement leave may be used in the case of death of family members or friends.

Section 3.04 - Personal Leave

Employees Working 15 to 19.99 Hours Per Week:

Employees working less than 20 hours per week on average are not eligible for Personal Leave.

Job Sharing: For child nutrition employees that share one position, neither employee would be eligible for personal leave under this section.

Employees Working 20 Hours Per Week or More:

At the discretion of the Kitchen Manager and Child Nutrition Director, Child Nutrition personnel may be granted Personal Leave of up to five (5) prorated days per year. Personal Leave days will be deducted from unused Sick Leave. Personal Leave prorated days may not be carried over from one academic year to another. No more than three (3) personal leave days can be used consecutive. No more than one (1) employee per building can use personal leave on any given day. Personal leave may not be used during the last two weeks of the school year.

Requests for personal leave must be made via the district's substitute/leave system at least three (3) working days in advance, except for emergencies. Recommendations for leave approval from the Kitchen Manager are subject to final approval by the Child Nutrition Director.

Section 3.05 - Leave of Absence Without Pay

Child Nutrition personnel may apply for a Leave of Absence Without Pay in the event of personal circumstances regardless of the number of hours worked per week. A request for a leave of absence without pay must be submitted no less than thirty (30) days prior to the requested day(s) off unless emergency circumstances prevent such notice. A Leave of Absence Without Pay of up to five (5) prorated days may be approved by the Child Nutrition Director. The Child Nutrition Director will consider how many employees are scheduled to be absent at the requesting employee's site when considering the request. Typically, no more than two (2) employees may be scheduled to be absent in school sites who have 10 employees or more in one work day for any reason other than illness or emergency. School sites with less than 10 employees may not have more than one (1) employee scheduled absence. Additional days may be granted without pay at the recommendation of the Child Nutrition Director and the approval of the Superintendent or their designee.

Section 3.06 – Judicial Duty

For any employee who is required to serve as a juror or is subpoenaed to appear as a witness (not as a defendant) in a criminal court case, Northfield Public Schools will make up the difference between such employees basic salary and the fees (but not reimbursed expenses) received by the employee. In order to be eligible for this supplement, the employee must submit to the finance office an itemized certification of fees and expenses for judicial duty. Advance notice to the Director of Child Nutrition is required to permit the scheduling of a substitute. An employee is also required to notify the Director of Child Nutrition or Kitchen Manager immediately upon being excused from judicial duty.

Section 3.07 - Child Care and Adoption Leave

Child care leaves under this section include maternity leave, parental leave and adoption leave. Child care leaves shall be processed under the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) for those employee's that meet the current eligibility requirements of FMLA as outlined in Policy 410 and Policy 448. Child care leaves for those employees that do not meet the current eligibility requirements of FMLA shall be processed under the District Disability After Childbirth Policy – Policy 411.

- A. A child care leave shall be granted by the district subject to the provisions of this Section. Child care leave may be granted because of the need to prepare and/or provide parental care for a child or children of the employee for an extended period of time.
- B. An employee making application for child care leave shall inform the district in writing with intention to take the leave as soon as possible and at least one calendar month before commencement of the intended leave, except in unusual circumstances. The district and the employee will attempt to work out a satisfactory plan for the leave.
- C. If the reason for the child care leave is occasioned by pregnancy, the employee shall also provide at the time of the leave application, a medical certification indicating the expected date of the delivery.
- D. Sick leave under Section 3.02 and long-term disability insurance under Article IV, Section 4.06, is available for the disabilities of pregnancy prior to the commencement of the child care leave. Such use of sick leave days shall run concurrently with parental leave days under paragraph I.
- E. In making a determination concerning the commencement and duration of a child care leave, the School Board shall not, unless otherwise agreed, be required to:
 - (1) Grant any leave more than six (6) months in length or to the beginning of the school year following such six (6) month period.
- F. Failure of the employee to return pursuant to the date determined under this Section shall constitute the failure to work without first securing a release which is a ground for immediate discharge unless the district and the employee mutually agree to an extension in the leave.
- G. An employee who returns from child care leave within the provisions of this Section shall retain all previous experience credit and any unused leave time accumulated under the provisions of this Agreement at the commencement of the leave.

H. Up to twenty (20) days leave allowance may be used for adoption purposes such as preparation and legal reasons, necessary travel, and initial adjustment.

I. Up to ten (10) days parental leave may be used within 30 days of the birth of a child, the days used to be deducted from sick leave. Employees that qualify for maternity leave are not eligible for these parental leave days.

J. Time off during the leave period shall not count toward a step advancement on the wage schedule. However, employees will be advanced a step if they worked more than one-half of the duty days in their work year.

ARTICLE IV GROUP INSURANCE

Section 4.01 – Eligibility

Employees Working Less than 20 Hours Per Week:

No Group Insurance is provided to Child Nutrition employees who work less than 20 hours per week.

Employees Working 20 Hours Per Week or More:

Employees scheduled to work all of the scheduled student days in session or more shall be eligible for Group Insurance Benefits.

Insurance coverage will be effective upon enrollment of the employee and acceptance by the carrier. All District participation and contribution toward benefits shall cease effective on the last working day of the month in which the Child Nutrition employee terminates employment. However, employees may be continued in the group for a period determined by COBRA legislation at the employees' own expense.

During the term of this policy, the employer will purchase the group insurance policies described in this section. It is understood and agreed that the provisions of this section are merely descriptive of the coverage provided, and that the eligibility of the employee for benefits shall be governed by the terms of the master insurance contracts in force between the employer and the insurer providing such coverage. The effective date for employer contributions shall be January 1 of each year of this agreement.

Section 4.02 - Health and Hospitalization Insurance

Eligible employees and their spouse and dependent children may participate in the district group health and hospitalization insurance plan. The district will contribute toward the premium according to the schedule below. Any additional cost of the premium shall be borne by the employee and paid by payroll deduction.

2026-28 Health Insurance District Contribution

	30-40 hrs/wk <u>1.0 factor</u>	25 < 30 hrs/wk <u>.6 factor</u>	20 < 25 hrs/wk <u>.5 factor</u>
<u>SINGLE</u>	Same as teachers settlement	.60 × teachers settlement	.50 × teachers settlement
<u>FAMILY</u>	Same as teachers settlement	.60 × teachers settlement	.50 × teachers settlement

Section 4.03 - Dental Insurance

Eligible employees and their spouse and dependent children may participate in the district group dental insurance plan. The district will contribute toward the premium according to the schedule below. Any additional cost of the premium shall be paid by the employee through payroll deduction.

2026-28 Dental Insurance District Contribution

	30-40 hrs/wk <u>1.0 factor</u>	25 < 30 hrs/wk <u>.6 factor</u>	20 < 25 hrs/wk <u>.5 factor</u>
<u>SINGLE</u>	Same as teachers settlement	.60 × teachers settlement	.50 × teachers settlement
<u>FAMILY</u>	Same as teachers settlement	.60 × teachers settlement	.50 × teachers settlement

Section 4.04 - Life Insurance

The district shall provide, at District expense, a group term life insurance plan providing \$35,000 of coverage for each eligible employee. The eligible employees may purchase additional group term life insurance in increments of \$25,000 up to a maximum of \$100,000 at the group rate upon evidence of insurability and acceptance by the carrier. The cost of such additional coverage shall be paid fully by the employee through payroll deduction.

Section 4.05 - Income Protection

The district shall pay the full premium for long-term disability insurance for eligible employees. Benefits shall be payable after 60 consecutive days of total disability at 66 2/3% of the basic monthly earnings.

Section 4.06 – Retirement

All District contributions for benefits shall cease upon retirement. Child Nutrition employees who retire after age 59 may continue participation in the district’s group health and hospitalization insurance plan until eligible for Medicare provided they pay the full cost of the premium. Participation beyond that shall be in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

**ARTICLE V
LONGEVITY**

Section 5.01 - Longevity Appreciation

Employees working 20 hours/week or more Longevity Appreciation:

2026-28

After 5 years:	\$1,000/yr	After 15 years:	\$2,000/yr
After 10 years:	\$1,500/yr	After 20 years:	\$2,500/yr

Employees working less than 20 hours/week Longevity Appreciation:

After 5 years: \$700/yr

Section 5.02 - Longevity Pay Schedule

The longevity amounts are on an annual basis and are to be paid in addition to the basic salary. Longevity increments will be divided equally over the total number of pay periods during the fiscal year, beginning with the first paycheck of each school year. All longevity pay will be based on the latest hiring date in cases of broken service.

ARTICLE VI RETIREMENT

Section 6.01 – 403(b) Matching Plan

Each year by October 1, employees who wish to participate in the plan shall be responsible to complete and file a salary deduction authorization for their annual contribution to a matching 403(b) plan. The district will match an employee's contribution to a 403 (b) plan up to \$2,500 per school year. During a year in which the employee makes no contribution, the district shall likewise make no contribution to that employee account. Maximum lifetime district contribution will be \$35,000.

Job Sharing: For child nutrition employees that share one position, the district matching amount would be split between the two child nutrition employees.