

Administrative Leave and Suspension

The Bismarck Public School Board authorizes the Superintendent to place a district employee (teacher, administrator, or ancillary staff) on administrative leave when an employee is under district and/or law enforcement investigation, and the Superintendent identifies a need to temporarily remove the employee from his/her duties and/or job placement to protect district students, property, school operations, and/or other employees. The Superintendent may consult with district legal counsel when determining if assignment of administrative leave is appropriate.

Prior to placing an employee on administrative leave, the Superintendent should consider if a transfer or reassignment of the employee would be an appropriate alternative to administrative leave. A decision to transfer or reassign an employee shall not violate the terms of the employee's contract with the district or negotiated agreement, if applicable.

Administrative leave shall be with pay, and the employee shall not be required to take any applicable paid leave benefits as part of the administrative leave.

The duration of administrative leave shall be until the investigation is complete and the Superintendent determines that the employee's potential threat or disruption to district property, school operations, students and/or other employees has passed.

The Bismarck School Board delegates authority to the Board President to place the business manager or Superintendent on administrative leave using the same criteria and requirements established above.

Suspension

The Board retains authority to suspend all contracted district employees and shall do so in accordance with any applicable law (NDCC 15.1-14-08 and 15.1-15-10). The Superintendent is authorized to suspend all at-will employees.

Disciplinary suspension for ancillary staff should occur only after the district has verified the misconduct has occurred. Disciplinary suspensions should be unpaid, and ancillary employees suspended for disciplinary reasons should not be entitled to back pay.

Ancillary employees may be suspended during a period when termination for cause is being pursued. If the ancillary employee is suspended without pay and later reinstated, the employee shall be entitled to back wages and accrual of any benefits that would have been accumulated during the period of suspension.