

AGREEMENT
JULY 1, 2024 – JUNE 30, 2027 CONTRACT
BERKSHIRE HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
&
BERKSHIRE HILLS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION – UNIT A

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AGREEMENT made as of July 1, **2024**, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 150E of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by and between the BERKSHIRE HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT (hereinafter referred to as "District") and the BERKSHIRE HILLS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (hereinafter referred to as the "Association").

PREAMBLE

This agreement is built on a relationship of mutual cooperation between the Berkshire Hills Education Association and the Berkshire Hills Regional School District School Committee. While it codifies terms of employment and working conditions, its foundation is a shared commitment to the mission of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District: to enable learners to understand important ideas and processes in and across disciplines; to transfer their learning across disciplines in meaningful and effective ways; and, to demonstrate effective habits of mind. In this way the Berkshire Hills Regional School District will provide all students the highest quality education and challenge them to explore and maximize their potential, ensuring the acquisition of skills and knowledge necessary to lead fulfilling lives.

Both parties are committed to working together in a respectful, collaborative process to ensure that in every classroom and every school, the content, pedagogy, assessments, instruction, emotional and physical environments and resources are dedicated to the realization of our common mission.

As articulated in the District's long term plan both parties are also committed to underlying principles of teaching and learning based in best practice and common sense. These principles provide standards within which professional prerogative, academic freedom, and employee creativity can flow.

ARTICLE I – RECOGNITION

The Committee does hereby, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 150E of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, recognize the Association for the purpose of collective bargaining as the exclusive representative of all certified employees hereinafter referred to as "employees" who are employed by the District as classroom teachers, guidance counselors, school adjustment counselors, certified librarians, school psychologists, registered nurses, long-term substitutes, Occupational Therapist, Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA), Instructional Coaches and Special Education Evaluation Team Leaders (ETL) Positions which do not have Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) Licensure are not eligible for professional status. The Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant position will be covered by separate terms and conditions of employment defined in Addendum I of this contract.

It is agreed that substitutes (except long-term substitutes) and night and summer school adult education teachers are not members of the bargaining unit and do not come within the purview of this contract and are not entitled to the benefits of this contract. Further, the District has sole and exclusive right to establish and from time to time increase or decrease the per diem short-term substitute rate of pay.

ARTICLE II - DISTRICT PREROGATIVES

1. The Association agrees that the School Committee has complete authority over the policies and administration of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District, which it exercises under the provisions of law. It further agrees that said District will continue to retain, whether exercised or not, the responsibility and prerogative to direct the operation of the said District in all aspects except same shall not be exercised in violation of any of the express terms and provisions of this agreement. The action of the District with respect to such retained rights, responsibilities, and prerogatives shall not be subject to any grievance or arbitration provision hereinafter set forth.
2. The parties acknowledge that during the negotiations, which resulted in this agreement, each had the unlimited right and opportunity to make demands and proposals with respect to any subject or matter not removed by law from the area of collective bargaining, and that the undertakings and agreements arrived at by the parties after the exercise of that right and opportunity are set forth in this agreement. Therefore, the District and the Association, for the life of this agreement, each voluntarily and unqualifiedly waives the right and each agrees that the other shall not be obligated to bargain collectively with respect to any subject or matter referred to or covered in this agreement, or with respect to any subject or matter not referred to specifically or not covered in this agreement, even though such subject or matter may not have been within the knowledge or contemplation of either or both of the parties at the time that they negotiated and signed this agreement.
3. No agreement, alteration, understanding, variation, waiver, or modification of any of the terms, conditions, undertakings, or covenants contained herein shall be binding upon the parties hereto unless agreement is made and executed in writing between the parties hereto.
4. The waiver of any breach or condition of this agreement by either of the parties hereto shall not constitute a precedent in the future enforcement of the terms of this agreement.
5. If any part of this agreement is in conflict with law, such part shall be suspended and the appropriate mandatory provisions shall prevail, and the remainder of this agreement shall not be affected thereby.

6. If either of the parties hereto shall, during the life of this agreement desire to make any proposal with respect to the modification or alteration of this agreement or with respect to any matter not expressly covered by this agreement, the said party may submit such proposal, in writing, to the other party and request a meeting. Within ten (10) days of the submission of such proposal, the recipient thereof shall acknowledge the receipt thereof and indicate whether or not it wishes to discuss the same. The submission of such proposal and any subsequent discussions thereof shall not be construed by either of the parties hereto as an agreement by the other that said proposal comes within the purview of this agreement.

ARTICLE III – SALARIES

1. Salaries during that period beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2027 shall be paid to a person within the unit defined in Article I in accordance with and at that rate set forth in Exhibits A, B, C, and D for the work year indicated.
2. Employees covered by the contract who are employed by the District during the term of this agreement shall be advised in writing of the vertical and horizontal levels at which he/she is first employed at the commencement of his/her employment, and such employee shall be placed upon that vertical level and horizontal level commensurate with the employee's degree, experience, and graduate credits.
3. Employees, except long-term substitutes, shall be paid bi-weekly with the following pay options a - c (all these options must be submitted in writing to the Superintendent's office by September 1 of the school year).
 - a. Employees may elect to have their salaries paid in equal bi-weekly installments spread over twelve months.
 - b. Employees may elect to have their salaries paid in bi-weekly installments spread over the ten school months with their July and August payments paid in a lump sum by June 30.
 - c. Employees may elect to have their entire salary paid in equal bi-weekly payments spread over the ten months of the school year.
 - d. Long-term substitutes shall be paid bi-weekly based upon the number of days worked in each bi-weekly pay period.
4. In considering initial salary placement for newly hired Chapter 74 Vocational teachers, the District will grant relevant trades or industry experience as follows:

- a. Up to four (4) years of experience = 0 steps
- b. Four (4) years or more experience = one year placement for each year of experience, with a cap of Step 6

In evaluating the academic credentials of a newly hired Chapter 74 Vocational Teacher for initial salary placement, the District will base its decision on receipt of official transcripts. If a teacher has no degree, he/she will be placed on the Bachelor's scale. If the teacher has a degree, but is not certified, he/she will be placed on the Bachelor's scale. When he/she becomes certified, and has a Bachelors' degree, he/she will be moved to the Master's scale

5. Whenever the employee's per diem rate is pertinent, it shall be determined by dividing the salary provided by the number of days in the employee's work year.
6. If a teacher is ill or otherwise unavailable, the District shall diligently seek to provide a short-term substitute teacher. If such short-term substitute is not available, an employee from within the system may be required to so substitute, notwithstanding other provisions of this agreement provided, however, that such substitutions shall be distributed upon an equitable basis.

If a teacher shall provide short-term substitute coverage, District agrees that it shall pay to said teacher one fifth (1/5) the prevailing per diem short-term substitute rate of pay per class for such coverage.

7. The horizontal level of each employee will be determined by his/her academic credits as set forth on Exhibit A subject to approval by the Superintendent of Schools. Academic credits between recognized degrees shall be recognized for purposes of incremental increase only if, the courses for such credits have received the Superintendent's prior approval. The Superintendent, in considering whether to grant approval, shall be guided by the following:
 - a. Generally, only graduate level courses will be approved except that undergraduate courses may be approved if related to an employee's assignment and not repetitive of prior academic work.
 - b. Generally, only courses that are rigorous and sponsored by an accredited institution of higher learning will be approved.
 - c. Courses are to be, in the opinion of the Superintendent, either directly related to the area of the employee's assignment or are otherwise in the best interests of the District.

- d. Courses which are District sponsored and which the employee elects to take for credit will be considered pre-approved. The employee is responsible for paying whatever cost the institution sponsoring the course sets as required in order to obtain graduate credit.
- e. When an employee qualifies for a horizontal movement on or before October 1st of a given school year, the effective date of the movement shall be the beginning of that school year. When an employee qualifies for a horizontal movement after October 1st but before the next succeeding March 1, the effective date of the movement shall be the 91st day of that school year. An employee is qualified for a horizontal movement when all documentation, including the approval of the Superintendent and official transcript of the credits involved, have been received by the personnel office.
- f. Related service providers who complete an advanced master's degree as a requirement of state certification will have their graduate credits counted to recognize that credit accumulation (i.e. a sixty (60) credit master's degree will be counted as a master's plus thirty (30) credits for the purposes of placement on the salary schedule). This resolution is specifically limited to positions which require advanced coursework for certification. This includes the following positions: School Adjustment Counselors, School Psychologists and Occupational Therapists. It specifically excludes the following degrees MFA, JD and others that are not a requirement of state certification. The placement on the salary schedule is only applicable to faculty members serving in the position of School Adjustment Counselors, School Psychologists and Occupational Therapists and remaining in those positions.
- g. Berkshire Hills Regional School District will provide interest free loans for educational costs for teachers who enroll in a master's degree program directly related to employee's assignment or otherwise in the best interests of the District. All programs must be pre-approved by the Superintendent. Documentation of acceptance into the program must be provided. Upon completion of the graduate program, teachers will advance to the next column as per the provision of Article III, Section 7.e. Until said loan is repaid in full to the District, the District shall withhold the difference between the salary of the step and column on which the teacher is now placed and that of the teacher had he or she not moved over a column. The teacher can repay any or all of the loan at any time. Employees enrolling in an approved master's degree program under this article shall enter into a written agreement prior to any funds being expended with Berkshire Hills Regional School District guaranteeing a repayment of said funds.

- h. Berkshire Hills Regional School District will grant professional development points to be used for horizontal movement on the salary schedule. Employees may be awarded no more than ninety (90) professional development points (equivalent to ninety (90) hours or nine (9) state defined continuing education credits or six (6) graduate credits) within the bachelor's columns and no more than one hundred thirty-five (135) professional development points (equivalent to one hundred thirty-five (135) hours or thirteen and one-half (13 ½) state defined continuing education credits or nine (9) graduate credits) in a master's column. Accumulated PDP's earned in the Bachelor's column cannot be transferred to the master's column. Professional development points may be approved in advance at the discretion of the Superintendent. (forty-five (45) professional development points equals = (forty-five (45) clock hours = three (3) college credits.)
- 8. Employees will annually be moved one (1) vertical step on the salary scale provided the employee shall have completed the previous year satisfactorily.
- 9. The Berkshire Hills Regional School District may hire individuals to fill stipended positions per Exhibit B. These will be filled by the appropriate Building Principal, with Superintendent approval. Positions shall be posted and advertised according to District policy and applications will be accepted from both within and outside the District. If in the judgment of the Building Principal and Superintendent, all other qualifications and performance are comparable, hiring preference will be given to a member of the District. However, these hiring decisions are not subject to Article V of this agreement.
 - a. Satisfactory performance of duties referred to in Exhibit B may entail work beyond the work day defined in Article VII. Evaluation of performance will be conducted at least once during a working year by the Building Principal in conjunction with each position's Immediate Supervisor.
 - b. These positions must be applied for and appointed every school year.
 - c. The payment provide for in Exhibit B shall be in addition to any other salary to which the employee would be otherwise entitled as an employee of the District.
 - d. The positions referred to in Exhibit B may change from year to year, in number and scope, based on the needs of the District.

- e. Nothing herein set forth shall be construed as requiring the District to establish or maintain any one or more of these positions.
10. The District employs part-time employees and during the terms of this agreement, may continue to do so at its discretion and without preference to existing part-time employees. However, the Berkshire Hills Regional School District shall not eliminate a full-time position and replace it with two part-time positions which, taken together, equate to the same duties and assignments as the original full-time position.
11. For curriculum and instruction developed beyond the school year as requested by the administrators, the following rates shall be paid:
- a. If the employee is teaching a professional development course, he/she will be compensated at fifty dollars (\$50.00) per hour on instruction plus one (1) hours of preparation for every six (6) hours of instruction.
 - b. If an employee is a student in the course, he/she will be compensated thirty dollars (\$30.00) per class hour.
 - c. If the employee is writing and developing curriculum for the District he/she will be compensated forty \$40.00 per hour.
 - d. When the District requires employees to take a course and provides release time during the academic year to do so, and the District also provides the same course during weekends or vacation times, an employee who elects to take the course during weekends or vacation time will not receive the compensation given in item b.

ARTICLE IV – LONGEVITY

1. Professional staff members who have completed the service in the Berkshire Hills Regional School District as indicated below will be entitled to the following annual longevity payment:

Completed Years of Service:

	<u>FY25</u>	<u>FY26</u>	<u>FY27</u>
15 – 19 Years	\$450	\$550	\$650
20 – 24 Years	\$850	\$950	\$1,050
25 + Years	\$1,500	\$1,600	\$1,700

2. The completed years of service must be full school years as Unit A member in Berkshire Hills Regional School District and do not have to be consecutive.
3. Employees who received payment under the prior longevity process and who would like to engage in the new process shall return all funds received to the District. Once that is complete, they will be eligible for the payment under Article IV, Section I.
4. Employees who are new to the District and hired within the first twenty (20) school days shall have their first year counted as a full school year of service.

ARTICLE V - GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

1. A "grievance" is a dispute concerning the interpretation or application of this agreement or any amendment or supplement thereto.
2. For the purposes of this article, communication by e-mail is encouraged.
3. Parties are encouraged to seek resolutions to disputes or conflicts through collegial, respectful and prompt face-to-face conversations directly with the person involved and/or their Immediate Supervisor.
4. Prior to an employee or the Association (hereinafter referred to as the "grievant") filing a formal grievance, the grievant shall submit the details and circumstances of the potential grievance to the Berkshire Hills Association President within those twenty (20) working days immediately ensuing the day of the occurrence of those acts or omissions upon which the grievance is premised. The President will notify the Superintendent, who will arrange a Meet and Confer session unless deemed inappropriate by consensus of School Committee Chair and Berkshire Hills Education Association President or their designees within fifteen (15) working days, between the Berkshire Hills Education Association negotiations team and School Committee negotiations team to discuss the matter in the hope of finding a resolution.
5. **Level One.** If a potential grievance is not resolved to the satisfaction of the grievant within six (6) working days following the Meet and Confer session, the grievant may elect to formally file a grievance. The grievant shall present the grievance in writing to his/her Building Principal. The written letter shall cite the alleged grievance and the exact article and section upon which said grievance is premised. (If the involved grievant is not directly responsible to an individual Building Principal, the presentation shall be made to the grievant's Immediate Supervisor.) The Building Principal or Immediate Supervisor shall return a written reply to the grievant within six (6) work days.

6. **Level Two.** If the grievance is not resolved to the satisfaction of the grievant within six (6) work days after the date of the Building Principal's or Immediate Supervisor's reply at Level One, the grievant may appeal this work related problem to the Superintendent. The grievant shall do this by sending a written request to the Superintendent for a meeting. The Superintendent shall hold such meeting within six (6) work days after the date of the grievant's written request. The Superintendent or his/her designee, may call any pertinent parties to the meeting for information. The Superintendent or his/her designee, shall return a written reply to the grievant within six (6) work days after the date of the meeting.
7. **Level Three.** If the grievance is not settled to the satisfaction of the grievant within those six (6) work days after the date of the Superintendent's replay at Level Two, the grievant may appeal the grievance to the School Committee. This shall be done by sending a written request to the School Committee via the Superintendent, for a meeting. The School Committee shall hold such meeting at a special meeting called for that purpose or at its next regularly scheduled School Committee meeting. Whether such meeting is held in open or executive session shall be covered by the provisions put forth by Chapter 39, Section 23 A, B and C of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended by Chapter 303 of the Acts of 1975 (Open Meeting Law). The School Committee shall return a written replay to the grievant within six (6) work days after the date of the meeting.
8. The time limitations mentioned in this Article may be waived in writing by mutual agreement of the employee or the Association and the District.
9. An employee may pursue a grievance through the level prior to arbitration and have such grievance heard without intervention by the exclusive representative of the employee organization representing said employee, provided that the exclusive representative is afforded the opportunity to be present at all proceedings and that any adjustment made shall not be inconsistent with the terms of this contract.
10. If a grievance is resolved at any of the above levels, the Association filing the grievance will communicate in writing that the grievance has been resolved and therefore, dropped. A summary of the agreed upon resolution shall also be put in writing. The correspondence will be addressed to the last person to hear the grievance.
11. **Level Four.** If the alleged grievance is not resolved to the satisfaction of the employee and the Association within twenty (20) calendar days immediately ensuing the response at Level Three, the Association may submit a grievance in writing to arbitration, provided that the Association shall contemporaneously with the submission to arbitration, advise the District in writing, that the Association is of the opinion that the grievance is meritorious

The following general provisions shall pertain to arbitration:

- a. Within ten (10) work days after written notice has been given by the Association to the District that a grievance is to be submitted to arbitration in accordance with the provisions hereinabove set forth, the Association and the School Committee will agree upon a mutually acceptable arbitrator and will obtain such commitment from said arbitrator to serve. If the parties are unable to agree upon an arbitrator or to obtain such commitment within the specified period, either party may request the designation of an arbitrator by the American Arbitration Association or by mutual agreement, the parties may request an arbitrator through the Massachusetts Division of Labor Relations. The parties will be bound by the rules of procedure of the American Arbitration Association or Massachusetts Division of Labor Relations, in the designation of an arbitrator and the proceedings before him/her as otherwise herein provided.
 - b. The cost of the services of the arbitrator, including per diem expenses, if any, and actual and necessary travel and subsistence expenses, shall be borne equally by the District and the Association.
 - c. The arbitrator will confer with the representatives of the School Committee and the Association and hold hearings and will issue his/her decision as soon as possible. The arbitrator's decision will be in writing and will set forth his/her findings of fact, reasoning and conclusions on the issue submitted. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding upon the parties, except that the arbitrator shall make no decision which alters, amends, adds to or detracts from this agreement, or which recommends a right or relief for any period of time prior to the effective date of this agreement, or which modifies or abridges the rights and prerogatives of the Committee as set forth in Article II of this agreement, or which requires the commission of an act prohibited by law.
 - d. The arbitration hearing will be held within the District unless both parties agree to another designated place.
 - e. The submission of any grievance to arbitration shall constitute a waiver of all other rights and remedies which the said employee or Association may have with respect to the matter submitted to said arbitration.
12. The District acknowledges the right of the Association to participate in the processing of a grievance at any level. Provided the parties agree, Level One and/or Level Two of the grievance procedure may be passed and the grievance brought directly to the next step. No reprisals of any kind will be taken by the District or its agents or members of the School Committee because of the participation in this grievance

procedure or by any bargaining member against the District or its agents or members of the School Committee. All documents, communications and records dealing with the processing of the grievance shall be filed separately from the personnel files of the participants.

13. The District and the Association will cooperate with each other in the investigation of any grievance and, further, will furnish to each other such information, if available, as required for the processing of any grievance. Grievance meetings and the investigation of the same will normally take place outside of school hours. Arbitration meetings will be held outside of school hours.

ARTICLE VI- TRANSFERS, REASSIGNMENTS, VACANCIES, AND PROMOTIONS

1. Whenever the Superintendent decides to transfer or reassign an employee, he/she shall, at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the effective date of such transfer or reassignment, give the employee written notice of the transfer or reassignment and the reasons therefore. No transfer or reassignment can take place in less than twenty-one (21) days before the opening of school unless by mutual agreement of the Superintendent and the employee. The employee may, within five (5) work days immediately ensuing the receipt of said notice, request in writing a conference to discuss such transfer or reassignment with the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall, upon receipt of such written request from the employee and within three work days of that request, confer with the employee. Compliance with the procedural provisions of this paragraph (but not the substantive decisions hereunder made) shall be subject to the provisions of Article V.
2. Whenever an employee wishes a transfer or reassignment, he or she shall make application therefore. Said application shall be in writing, addressed and delivered to the Superintendent, and shall state the reasons for the transfer or reassignment. If the grant of the requested transfer or reassignment shall not either directly or indirectly cause the transfer or reassignment of an employee other than the applicant, the Superintendent shall, within the ten (10) work days immediately following the date of the receipt of the application, advise the employee of his/her decision. If the grant of the applied for transfer or reassignment shall either directly or indirectly cause the transfer or reassignment of an employee other than the applicant, the Superintendent shall advise the applicant employee of his/her decision within ten (10) work days after having complied with the provisions of the first paragraph of this Article. Compliance with the procedural provisions of this paragraph (but not the substantive decisions hereunder made) shall be subject to the provisions of Article V.

3. Whenever there is a Unit A opening, the Superintendent shall, as soon as practical, post a notice of vacancy upon the appropriate bulletin board in each building and email staff with the posting. Such notice shall set forth the minimum qualifications for the position and its duties with the date that the Superintendent expects the vacancy to be filled. Applications for such positions shall be accepted from professional personnel within the District for five (5) business following the posting. The Superintendent shall, in selecting an applicant, consider the professional background, attainments and experience of each applicant within the District. If the qualifications for the position are not met by employees within the District; then after the five (5) days; the position could be posted outside of the District.

4. The Superintendent shall, in selecting an applicant for a Unit A position, consider the professional background, attainments and experience of each applicant, together with such other factors it shall deem to be relevant. If, in the judgement of the Superintendent the professional background, attainments, and the experience of the applicants deemed by it to be most qualified are, in its opinion, substantially equal, it will give preference to an applicant then currently employed by the District unless, in the opinion of the Superintendent the grant of preference shall not be in the best interest of the District. Compliance with the procedural provisions of this paragraph (but not the substantive decisions hereunder made) shall be subject to the provisions of Article V. However, the Superintendent, in the event that preference for the employment of an applicant from outside the District, shall notify within ten (10) work days prior to awarding such position to the applicant outside of the District, in writing, each applicant from within the District of the expression of such preference. Within the three (3) work days immediately following the date of such written notice, an applicant from within the District may request, in writing, to meet personally to confer with the Superintendent. Such request shall be granted before an applicant from outside of the District is employed.

ARTICLE VII - WORKING HOURS, YEAR AND LOAD

1. The District will annually establish starting and dismissal times in accordance with the statutory requirements. The starting time of the established work day will not be earlier than 7:30 a.m. Elementary students must be scheduled for and receive a minimum of 900 instructional hours per school year. Middle school and secondary school students must be scheduled for and receive 990 instructional hours per school year.

2. The work day of the Unit A employee shall begin 12 minutes before the established starting time and will end 15 minutes after the established dismissal time for students. The Unit A workday may vary among grade levels and buildings; however, the workday will not exceed seven hours, twelve minutes, or the equivalent of thirty-six (36) hours a week if mutually agreed upon by the District and employee.

3. If it is determined that through flexible scheduling of the day the needs of students could be better met, the work day of the employee may be adjusted as follows:
 - a. Staff hired prior to April 1, 2005 shall only be assigned a contiguous work day outside established work day hours by mutual and voluntary agreement between the staff member and administration.
 - b. Employees hired after April 1, 2005 may be assigned a contiguous work day outside the established work day hours which is seven hours, twelve minutes in length. Employees hired after April 1, 2005 may be assigned a non-contiguous work day only if it is mutually agreed upon by the District and employee. In accordance with Section 10 of this Article, staff will be notified by June 1 of the grade, subject and hours they will teach during the following year.

4. The "work year" of the employee (other than new personnel who will be required to attend an additional induction session) will begin no earlier than August 25 and terminate no later than June 30. However, the Superintendent may request to the Association by April 15 that the school year begin prior to August 25. The Association must notify the Superintendent of its decision by May 15. The work year shall include days when pupils are in attendance, orientation days at the beginning of the school year, conference days, and any other days on which employee attendance, in the opinion of the Superintendent, is desirable, provided, however, that the work year shall not exceed one hundred eight four (184) days and provided, further, that said work year shall not include Saturday or Sunday or those holidays celebrated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

The District and Association will work collaboratively to plan the additional work days.

5.
 - a. The District recognizes that planning and collaboration time support effective instruction and learning. In all schools, certified employees shall have at least one daily self-directed period, or the equivalent in drop schedules. In addition, the District will endeavor to refine schedules so that certified employees have regularly schedule time, preferably two or more times a week, to work in teams (grade level, department or Professional Learning Communities). The District and Association will meet at each building level to plan and evaluate the successes and challenges of building shared time into the schedule and its implementation.

The District and Association will work collaboratively on substantial changes to schedules.

- b. At the high school, teachers will be assigned for a maximum of six (6) class periods, ideally five (5) instructional periods and one (1) duty period. A duty is defined as a study hall or a similar student supervision, or monitoring students when they are not in the classroom. In addition each teacher may be assigned to cover a Community Group. Inasmuch as the decision of the Principals regarding said assignments is a matter of educational policy, said assignments shall be subject to provisions of Article V through Level III, but shall not be subject to arbitration.

A high school teacher may be asked to teach six (6) or more periods in a day by mutual agreement between said teacher and administration. Said teachers will be compensated at a per diem amount based on \$2,000/year for the sixth class and will not be required to cover a duty during any semester when teaching (6) classes. If a teacher teaches six (6) classes in two (2) consecutive years, he/she will be compensated at a per diem amount based on \$5,000/year for the second year.

- c. Any Unit A member who splits a school day between buildings as part of their regular job description, shall have his/her travel time between buildings built into his or her schedule.

- 6. The District recognizes the importance of maintaining class sizes conducive to learning. Therefore, with the exception of classes such as band, physical education, chorus and any other classes customarily larger in size, the District will strive to maintain average class sizes that do not exceed in a building as follows:

Grades	PreK – K	16 - 20
Grades	1 – 4	20
Grades	5 – 8	25
Grades	9 – 12	25

- 7. All employees shall have a duty-free lunch period of thirty (30) consecutive minutes. Duty-free is defined in accordance with definitions provided by the Department of Labor.
- 8. Certified employees shall be required to report after the end of the work day without additional compensation for the following purposes: (a) Staff meetings, sixty (60) minutes long, not to exceed twenty (20) per school year. Ten (10) of these meeting shall be co-planned with employees at the building level to be used for teacher/department collaboration, long-range goals planning, and curriculum development; (b) Open house and parent conferences, length can be variable, not to exceed two (2) per school year. The format of the parent conferences will be developed jointly by administrators and employees at each building level.

9. Employees shall be required to provide direct support to students in their grade level or area of expertise for a minimum of forty-five (45) minutes per week on a regularly scheduled basis. Employees will publicly post the time they are available to ensure students have the greatest access to support and assistance. These times may be before, after, or during the school day outside of class time, to best meet scheduling needs of students/parents, and with prior approval of the Building Principal.
10. In lieu of obtaining non-professional or para-professional personnel to perform additional non-teaching duties, teachers may volunteer time above their contractual obligation to perform such non-teaching duties. Employees who so volunteer shall be compensated as provided in Exhibit B.
11. Employees shall be notified by the administration, in writing, of their tentative program for the next ensuing year, which shall include the schools, grades, subjects and hours that they will teach, by that June 1 which immediately precedes the commencement of the next ensuing year.
12. The Superintendent shall assign employees within their areas of certification and competence. It is the responsibility of every educator to be fully licensed at all times and to meet all licensure requirements in effect at the time of employment. The District will employ only fully licensed teachers, or those on approved Department of Education waivers. The District will strive to hire only the most highly qualified and motivated teachers. All employees will provide the Superintendent's office with a copy of their current licensure so that one will always be on file.
13. The District shall reimburse employees for use of their motor vehicles and other education related expenses as per School Committee Policy. Reimbursement will be made upon submission, accompanied by a District mileage reimbursement voucher and receipts, and authorized by the Building Principal or administrator for reimbursement within thirty (30) days of said use with final submission on June 30, of the school year in which such use occurred.
14. Certain certified employees are required to complete work that extends beyond the school year. Those employees shall have a work year that exceeds one hundred eighty-four (184) days and their compensation shall be adjusted accordingly. The listed employees shall have an FTE work year as indicated:
 - a. Guidance Counselors work year minimum of 196 days, not to exceed 216 days to be scheduled at the sole discretion of the building principal after consulting with each counselor. Notification of the additional summer days shall be no later than June 1st.

- b. School Psychologists work year 202 days
- c. Instructional Coach work year minimum of 196 days, not to exceed 202 days to be scheduled at the sole discretion of the building principal after consulting with each counselor. Notification of the additional summer days shall be no later than June 1st.

The extended work year shall not include Saturdays, Sundays, nor any holiday recognized by the Federal Government or Commonwealth of Massachusetts; e.g. the Fourth of July.

- 15. All instructional coach(es) shall be properly trained and shall receive the contractual hourly rate for all training outside of the normal workday. All instructional coaches shall receive the same individual preparation and/or team meeting time as other teachers at their particular grade level. Instructional coaches shall not be made to attend any after school meetings beyond what is contractually allowed for all teachers. Any and all verbal and/or written interactions between the instructional coaches and the teachers they work with shall remain confidential. In no circumstance shall any of the information collected by the instructional coach be used in any teacher observation and/or evaluation. The building principals will be the input evaluator(s) for the instructional coaches. All summative evaluations will be done by the primary evaluator, the Director of Teaching and Learning.

ARTICLE VIII- REDUCTION IN FORCE

- 1. If the Superintendent, in the exercise of his/her discretion, determines that it shall reduce the professional staff of the District, Superintendent shall, subject to the provisions of the General Laws of this Commonwealth, implement such reduction by terminating or not renewing the employment of the teachers with non-professional status as opposed to the qualified teachers with professional status.

Should further reductions be necessary, severance pay will be offered to the employee(s) directly affected by this reduction in force and selected by the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall offer and subsequently provide, in writing, severance pay equal to twelve and one half percent (12.5%) of the employee's current salary provided:

- a) the employee has been in the employment of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District within Unit A for ten (10) years.

- b) the employee agrees that acceptance of severance pay terminates all recall rights within the Berkshire Hills Regional School District. Such notification shall be received in the Superintendent's Office within ten (10) workdays after receiving a letter from the District.

The Superintendent, subject to the provisions of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, shall implement such reduction by retaining within the employ of the District, those employees who the District and/or its representative deems will best serve the interests of the District. In considering the employee who will best serve the interests of the District, the District and/or its representative must consider the classroom performance of the employee, areas of certification, and that work done outside the classroom by the teacher, on behalf of the District. Primary consideration will be given to the performance of the employee. Should all things be equal, length of service within the District shall be used to determine the best candidate for the position.

2. Employees removed for cause shall not be eligible for either severance pay or longevity pay.

ARTICLE IX - RECALL RIGHTS AND PROCEDURE

1. If the Superintendent should decide to terminate the employment of an employee serving at the discretion of the Superintendent (a professional status teacher) because of a decline in pupil enrollment, budgetary constraints or programmatic changes, the Superintendent shall deliver to the employee a written notice of termination which will affirmatively set forth: (1) the date of termination and (2) a statement that such termination is because of a decline in pupil enrollment, budgetary constraints or programmatic changes, and (3) the areas within which the said employee is then certified to teach according to the records of the District.
2. If within the one-year period immediately ensuing the termination of the employment of a professional status employee because of a decline in pupil enrollment, budgetary constraints or programmatic changes, a teaching vacancy shall occur within the District, the Superintendent shall (1) so notify, in writing, those professional status employees whose employment has been terminated (because of a decline in pupil enrollment, budgetary constraints or programmatic changes) within that one-year period immediately preceding the date that the vacancy is to be filled and who are certified to fill the vacancy, and (2) appoint to such vacancy an employee who has been so notified and who has within the fourteen (14) work days immediately ensuing the date of the aforesaid notice delivered or caused to be delivered to the Superintendent a written request for appointment to such vacancy. If two (2) or more employees shall have requested appointment to such vacancy in a timely manner, the Superintendent shall appoint the employee who is deemed to best serve the interests of the District. In

considering the employee who will best serve the interests of the District, the Superintendent will consider the classroom performance of the employee, areas of certification, length of service as a full-time teacher in and out of the District and that work done outside the classroom by the employee. Primary consideration, however, will be the performance of the employee. The decision of the Superintendent as to the recipient of such appointment shall be final and binding and shall not be subject to either grievance or arbitration.

3. In the event that an employee whose employment has been terminated as provided in this article acquires further certification within the one-year period immediately ensuing the date of termination, the employee shall so notify the Superintendent. Such notice shall be in writing and shall set forth the fact of such additional certification and the details thereof. Absent such notification, it shall be conclusively presumed that an employee holds only such certification as is set forth in the written notice of termination referred to in paragraph 1 of this article.
4. The notice referred to in paragraph 2 of this article to be given by the Superintendent to the employee shall be delivered by certified mail receipt mail to the last known address of the employee as such address appears upon the records of the District. It is the burden of the employee to advise the Superintendent of any change of address occurring subsequent to the termination of employment.

ARTICLE X – DISCIPLINE, DISCHARGE AND SUSPENSION

1. The Berkshire Hills Education Association and each employee recognize the authority and responsibility of the District to reprimand and discipline an employee for just cause. No employee in the bargaining unit shall be discharged, disciplined, suspended, reprimanded, reduced in rank or compensation, or deprived of any professional advantage without just cause. If an employee is to be reprimanded or disciplined by a Building Principal or a member of the administration above the level of Building Principal, the employee shall have the right to have a member of the Berkshire Hills Education Association present. Any reprimand by a Building Principal or any member of the administration above the level of Building Principal shall be made in private. The presence or absence of just cause shall be subject to grievance and arbitration as provided in Article V unless the employee or Association proceeds to challenge the reprimand or discipline in a proceeding provided by statute including but not limited to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, Section 42, in which event neither the employee nor the Association shall use grievance or arbitration provided for in Article V of this agreement. If an employee or Association files a grievance under Article V which in any way involves a reprimand or discipline and proceeds to arbitration, both the employee and Association shall be deemed to have waived all rights to challenge the

reprimand or discipline directly or indirectly in any court of law, in any administrative proceeding and before an arbitrator appointed under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71, §42.

2. The non-renewal of an employee who has not attained professional status shall not be considered as either discipline or reprimand.
3. The layoff or dismissal of an employee without professional status pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 71, §42, who has not been teaching in the District more than ninety (90) school days, shall not be considered as either discipline or reprimand.
4. Oral statements concerning conduct, acts or omissions of a teacher shall not be considered a reprimand or discipline unless reduced to writing and placed in an employee's personnel file.

ARTICLE XI - EMPLOYEE FACILITIES

Each school shall have the following facilities insofar as the same are deemed by the District to be physically, economically, and educationally feasible:

1. An employee work area containing adequate equipment and supplies to aid in the preparation of instructional materials;
2. A room to be reserved for the exclusive use of employees during lunch time;
3. An individual mailbox for each employee.

ARTICLE XII - SICK LEAVE

For the 2024-2025 school year, the parties agree to implement an attendance incentive payment program. Specifically, any teacher who uses five (5) days or less of any combination of sick days, personal days, and 3-hour leave time (two 3-hour leaves = 1 day), shall receive the incentive payment of \$200 in the last paycheck of the fiscal year. The parties further agree that this language shall sunset at the conclusion of the contract year and the parties will reopen only this section of the contract to negotiate extending and/or modifying the program.

The existing language above shall not be in effect in the 2024 -2025 school year. Should the parties not extend and/or modify the attendance incentive payment program beyond the 2024-2025 school year, the existing language will become effective.

1. A full-time, full year employee shall be credited with five (5) days of sick leave on the first day of each work year that employee reports for duty. Part-time, full year employees shall be granted sick days proportionate to their part-time equivalence. (i.e., a .6 FTE will be granted five (5) .6 sick days rather than five (5) full day sick days). Employees who are on approved leaves of absence will receive, upon their return to work, a pro-rated number of sick days proportionate to the amount of time to be worked that school year.
2. Each employee shall be credited during the work year with one (1) day of sick leave for each month worked by the employee.
3. Unused sick leave shall be accumulated to a maximum of one hundred eighty (180) days.
4. An employee who, because of illness, is absent from work on any given day for less than one-half of the regular workday shall be deemed not to have been absent on said day.
5. In the event of the absence of an employee because of personal illness for more than five (5) consecutive days in any work year, the employee shall, upon request of the Superintendent, submit to him/her a certificate of a duly practicing physician substantiating such illness. In the event of the absence of an employee because of illness for more than ten (10) cumulative days within any twenty (20) consecutive work days, the employee shall, upon request of the Superintendent, submit to him/her a certificate of a duly practicing physician indicating that said employee is then fit to resume his or her duties. Such certificate shall be at the expense of the District.
6. Employees who have accumulated one hundred eighty (180) sick days and who have achieved perfect attendance (no sick days) during an academic year will be compensated at their own per-diem rate of one (1) day's pay at the conclusion of that work year.
7. An employee may use sick leave for rendering necessary care to an ill member of the employee's immediate family (employee's spouse, child, parent). In the event of the absence of an employee because of illness within the immediate family for more than five (5) consecutive days in any work year, the employee shall, upon request of the Superintendent, submit to him/her a certificate of a duly practicing physician substantiating such illness.

8. An employee may request additional sick days, up to two (2), be advanced to him/her in extenuating circumstances. The decision to grant advance sick days shall be at the discretion of the Superintendent and shall not be grievable.

9. District Sick Leave Reserve

- a. Each employee shall be assessed two (2) days of sick leave to be transferred to the District Sick Leave Reserve in the 2024-2025 school year. Such transfer shall be effective on the first day of the regular school year or on the first day of the employee's work year should the employee be hired as a full-time permanent employee after the start of the school year.
- b. The maximum number of days that may accumulate in the Sick Leave Reserve is 2x the total number of employees in the Reserve.
- c. At any time that the total number of days in the Bank is reduced to two hundred fifty (250), each employee shall contribute one (1) additional day. Employees shall be notified when this occurs.
- d. Upon receipt of a request from a full-time permanent employee for personal sick leave, the Sick Leave Reserve Committee (SLRC) shall meet to vote approval of the request, provided the following guidelines shall have been fulfilled:
- 1) The employee requesting such leave shall have exhausted all accumulated personal sick days and other days of temporary leave.
 - 2) The employee shall have demonstrated that the request is due to a personal illness of substantial and critical need as evidenced by a letter from a certified medical physician.
 - 3) The request must be for no more than thirty (30) workdays.
- e. Available Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) leave shall be used concurrently with use of the Sick Leave Reserve days. (refer to Article XIV.9 – Family Medical Leave Act)
- f. Employees granted sick leave under this provision may request additional sick leave by providing documentation of a continuing, substantial and critical need. However, such additional sick leave shall not exceed sixty (60) additional workdays.

- g. The Sick Leave Reserve Committee (SLRC) shall consist of:
 - 1) the Berkshire Hills Education Association President or designee,
 - 2) the Chairperson of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District School Committee or designee,
 - 3) the Superintendent of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District or designee.
- h. The SLRC shall have the authority to grant additional days upon proof of sufficient and critical continuing need, but in no case shall the employee receive additional days beyond the regular work year.
- i. Previous sick leave abuse can be considered when deciding whether or not to approve a sick bank request.
- j. The decision of the SLRC shall not be grievable under Article V.

ARTICLE XIII - TEMPORARY LEAVES OF ABSENCE

1. **Professional Leave:**

The Superintendent may, but need not, grant temporary leaves of absence without loss of pay for the following reasons and upon the following terms and conditions. The grant or denial of leave by the Superintendent shall be conclusive and his/her decision shall not be subject to grievance or arbitration:

- a. For the purposes of visiting other schools or attending meetings or conferences of an educational nature, provided request is made to the Superintendent and then only for a period of not in excess of one (1) day;
- b. For the purposes of attending convention, seminars and conferences, provided request is made to the Superintendent in writing at least ten (10) days before the commencement of the time of the requested absence.

2. **Three Hour Clause:**

Upon request the Superintendent shall grant five (5) temporary leaves of absence without loss of pay not to exceed three (3) hours in a given day per employee, per school year, for those matters that cannot be taken care of after work hours which are for legal, business, household or family matters.

- a) An employee may not take a leave on in-service days and on the last workday preceding a holiday or vacation or on the first work day following a holiday or vacation except when granted by the Superintendent for hardship reasons.

3. **Personal Leave:**

The Superintendent shall grant temporary leaves of absence for those matters that cannot be taken care of after school hours which are for medical, legal, business, household or family matters. Leaves granted under Section 3 shall not be counted as temporary leaves of absence. The total number of days of leave in the aggregate shall not, in any work year, exceed three (3) days and further provided:

- a. Employee may not take leave on in-service days and on the last workday preceding a holiday or vacation or on the first workday following a holiday or vacation except when granted by the Superintendent for hardship reasons.
- b. Employee gives the Superintendent or his/her designee written request at least 24 hours in advance (except in the case of emergency the request may be given in less than 24 hours in advance).
- c. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Superintendent/designee may deny employee's request for leave if more than six (6) teachers at Monument Mountain High School or three (3) teachers at any other of the District's schools have been granted such leave for the given day. The granting of leaves shall be in the order in which written requests for leaves are received by the Superintendent or his designee.
- d. The Superintendent may, but need not, grant one (1) additional day of temporary leave. The grant or denial of such leave shall not constitute precedent to grant or deny temporary leaves requested by the same or another employee.
- e. The Superintendent may, at his/her discretion, grant additional days of leave without pay for extenuating circumstances.
- f. At the end of each fiscal year, June 30, employees that have remaining personal days will have them converted into sick time. This excludes the Superintendent's discretionary day.

4. **Bereavement Leave:**

Employees shall be granted temporary leaves of absence without loss of pay for the following reasons and upon the following terms and conditions:

- a. In the event of the death of the spouse, child, brother or sister, or parent of the employee, for a period not to exceed five (5) consecutive work days. The leave shall commence on or about the date of death. This leave also applies to any other person who acted in the capacity of a parent or child.
- b. In the event of the death of a grandparent, family-in-laws, aunt or uncle of the employee, for a period not to exceed three (3) consecutive work days. The leave shall commence on or about the date of death.
- c. For such bereavements as the Superintendent shall deem appropriate.

5. **Religious Observance**

- a. For purposes of religious observance if the religious convictions of the employee prohibit him/her from working on said day.

6. **Other**

- a. All numbers given are for full-time full-year employees (1.0 FTE). All employees who are full-year part-time employees, employed less than 1.0 FTE, will be eligible for the same number of days per leave, but at their part-time equivalent. For example, a .5 FTE employee will be eligible for three (3) half day (.5) personal days.
- b. All employees who are employed only part of the year, such as those on approved leaves of absence, shall have all leaves pro-rated. For example, an employee who is on a half year leave of absence will be eligible for 1.5 personal days and may request an additional one half (1/2) day discretionary personal day. The only exception to the pro-rated standard for employees fitting this definition will be bereavement leave.

7. **Other Leave:**

The Superintendent may, but need not, grant temporary leaves of absence to employees for the following reasons upon the terms and conditions as may be set forth below and upon such further terms and conditions as the District may determine. The grant, denial, or imposition of terms and conditions by the Superintendent with respect to such leave shall be conclusive and shall not be subject to grievance or arbitration:

- a. Because of illness or injury which does not come within the purview of Article XVI or which extends beyond the period provided for in said article.
 - b. For sabbatical leave. With respect to leave under this paragraph (b), the employee must submit an application of intent to seek such leave to the Superintendent on or before that November 1 of the year preceding the year during which the leave is to commence. Said application shall set forth such information as will enable the Superintendent to review deliberatively and act upon such request. The applicant will be notified in writing by December 1 that his/her application has been approved or denied. If granted, employee must formally notify the Superintendent in writing by April 1 of the year in which the sabbatical is desired if he/she intends to take such a sabbatical. Employees will be compensated at the rate of 75% of their regular teaching or administrative salary in effect at the time of the sabbatical. Employees on sabbatical shall have the option of receiving this compensation in 21 bi-weekly payments, beginning with the first payment in September and ending with the last payment in June. Employees wishing to be compensated in this manner should notify the Superintendent by June 1. An employee taking a sabbatical will be under obligation to return the following year to the Berkshire Hills Regional School District as stated in chapter 71, Section 41A of the General Laws.
 - c. For academic pursuit not coming within the purview of 4(b) hereof, and application for which has expressly been requested under this paragraph 4(c).
 - d. For such other reasons as the Superintendent shall deem appropriate.
 - e. For attendance at legal proceedings, including administrative hearings, provided such attendance is at the request of District.
8. **Jury Duty:**
In accordance with M.G.L. ch. 268, Section 14A and M.G.L. ch. 234A Section 48:
- a. Employees summoned to jury duty shall serve without loss of pay or benefits. The employee shall provide the Building Principal and Superintendent with a copy of the summons to serve on a jury no later than ten (10) days after its receipt and the employee shall also complete a leave of absence form forwarded to the Superintendent.

- b. For jury service beyond three (3) days, the District shall pay the employee the difference between what is paid the juror by the state and the per-diem salary of the employee.
 - c. The employee shall notify his/her Building Principal as soon as possible if he/she is not required to report for jury duty on any given day, and he or she will report to work that day.
 - d. If an employee is released early from jury duty, he or she shall notify his or her Building Principal as soon as possible and, if so directed, shall promptly report to work for the balance of the workday.
 - e. Employees must turn in documentation of the days served on jury duty along with their jury duty pay as soon as it is received to the central business office.
9. In addition, any employee who has completed the initial probationary period shall be granted up to eight (8) weeks of maternity/paternity leave under the provisions of the Massachusetts Maternity Leave Act (MMLA). Employees so covered shall be entitled to use all accrued personal and sick leave time.
10. **Family Medical Leave Act**
An employee, who has worked for the Berkshire Hills Regional School District for at least twelve (12) months and who has performed at least twelve hundred fifty (1250) hours of work during the year preceding the commencement of the leave, shall be eligible for up to twelve (12) weeks of leave while school is in session during a twelve (12) month period pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) for the following purposes:
- a. Birth of the employee's child
 - b. Placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care
 - c. When the employee is needed to care for the employee's parent, spouse, or child
 - d. When the employee has a serious health condition which renders the employee unable to perform the essential duties of the employee's job

The employee shall utilize earned sick leave concurrently with the FMLA leave.

Employees shall submit all requests for leave on an approved form with accompanying medical documentation as far in advance of the leave as possible

and not less than thirty (30) days before the first day of leave requested when such leave is foreseeable.

The duration of the leave and the timing of the employee's return to employment shall be determined in accordance with the specific provisions of the FMLA concerning employees and the regulations enacted thereunder.

The District shall continue to pay its portion of the employee's group health insurance premium during the approved leave period unless the employee decline such coverage, fails to pay the employee's portion of the premium in a timely fashion, or notifies the District that the employee will not return from leave.

During FMLA leave time the employee shall continue to accrue seniority and other benefits (such as advancement on the salary scale).

Nothing in this section shall prohibit the District from requiring periodic reports from the employee with respect to the employee's status and intent to return to work.

11. Paid Parental Leave

The Committee will grant twenty (20) consecutive workdays of paid parental leave, without any deduction from accumulated sick leave, for birth, adoption, child rearing, or court placement; provided that there was a timely request for said leave and the paid leave is started within twelve (12) weeks immediately following the birth or arrival of the adopted child. No more than one such paid leave may be received within a school year. The time shall not be increased as a result of multiple births or adoptions. Paid parental leave days also may be granted at the Superintendent's discretion.

12. Domestic Violence Leave

Up to fifteen (15) days of Domestic Violence Leave will be granted, in accordance with M.G.L. c. 149, s. 52E, to an employee if the employee or an employee's family member is the victim of domestic violence. An employee may use up to fifteen (15) days of sick leave during this period, unless the employee does not have sick time available. In that case, the leave will be unpaid.

For the purposes of this leave a "family member" is defined as: (i) persons who are married to one another; (ii) persons in a substantive dating or engagement relationship and who reside together; (iii) persons having a child in common regardless of whether they have ever married or resided together; (iv) a parent, step-parent, child, step-child, sibling, grandparent or grandchild; or (v) persons in a guardianship relationship.

Except in cases of imminent danger, the employee shall provide at least twenty-four (24) hours advance notice of leave.

ARTICLE XIV - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

1. Realizing the importance of a sustained professional development (PD) program that supports continuous professional growth and student learning, the Berkshire Hills Education Association (BHEA) will work with the Berkshire Hills Regional School District's Director of Learning and Teaching (DoLT) to create and appoint members to a standing District wide Professional Development Committee. The Committee will serve under the leadership of the Director of Learning and Teaching and make recommendations directly to the Superintendent through the Director of Learning and Teaching.

The Committee shall consist of three (3) BHEA representatives from each school composed of two (2) classroom teachers and one (1) specialist. Each school group will select a PD Building Leader who will be the liaison to the building Principal and the District leadership. The Committee shall meet at least four (4) times per year to plan and assess the District's PD offerings. These meetings will be scheduled quarterly with the meeting in the second quarter (January/February) used to schedule summer PD and the meeting in the fourth quarter (April - June) to schedule the PD for the following school year. The Committee shall also conduct mid- and end of year assessments. To assist in the assessment process, staff will be required to complete short, ongoing quality assessments at the end of each PD session.

- Teachers will receive appropriate training on the software platform used to enter and monitor individual PD completion.
- Within sixty (60) days of the completion of a District Professional Development, teachers will enter that they have completed a particular PD and the District will issue the appropriate certificate of completion.

2. In recognizing that there are many methods by which a teacher may improve his or her professional background. The District will ~~pay~~ reimburse to a maximum of \$200 per teacher towards the reasonable expenses (including fees, lodging, and transportation) incurred by teachers who take courses, attend workshops, seminars, conferences, school visits, or other professional improvements sessions at the request and/or with the advance approval of the Superintendent.

3. Upon request of the teacher or administrator, and with the approval of the Superintendent, leaves shall be granted for the purpose of visiting other schools or attending meetings or conferences of an educational nature. All professional development requests need to have

written pre-approval of the Principal or immediate supervisor. Such approval shall be distributed equitably.

ARTICLE XV - INJURY IN THE COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT

1. If an employee, because of injury sustained in the course of and arising out of the employee's employment by the District, is receiving weekly total incapacity compensation benefits under Chapter 152 of the General laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (Workers' Compensation Act), the District shall pay to such employee each pay period, so long as such employee is receiving such benefits, an amount equal to the difference between the employee's salary at the time of such injury and amount of weekly indemnity being received by the employee. The total amount payable under this article because of any one injury shall not exceed an amount obtained by multiplying the number of such employee's accumulated sick leave days by such employee's per diem rate. (Total amount payable = number of employee's accumulated sick days x employee's per diem rate.) The number of accumulated sick leave days available to the employee shall be reduced by an amount equal to the total sum paid to the employee under this article divided by the employee's per diem rate. (Number that accumulated sick days is to be reduced by = total sum paid to employee divided by employee's per diem rate.) This method of calculation results in only a part of a sick day being used for each day an employee receives workers' compensation until all sick days have been utilized. The part of the sick day used is equal to the proportional amount of pay provided by the District. For example, if the per diem of the employee is \$200 and workers' compensation pays \$150 then the Berkshire Hills Regional School District pays the remaining \$50. Thus only .25 of a sick day is used and the employee still has .75 of that sick day available.

2. If the injury of an employee comes within the purview of both this Article and Article XIII, it shall be deemed to come within the purview of this Article and such employee shall not be paid any benefits pursuant to Article XIII for such illness or injury except as is provided in the preceding paragraph.

ARTICLE XVI – PROTECTION

1. Employees will immediately or as soon as practicable report, in writing, all cases of assault made or suffered by them in connection with their employment, to the Superintendent and the Building Principal. The Building Principal shall, if requested by the employee:
 - a. Request the Great Barrington Police Department to investigate the incident and;

- b. Request the Great Barrington Police Department to assist the employee to obtain a show-cause hearing;
 - c. The District's legal council will assist the employee up until criminal complaint is filed.
2. If criminal complaint(s) are issued against an employee alleging that he/she committed an assault in connection with his/her employment, the District will reimburse the employee reasonable legal fees incurred by the employee in the defense of such complaint(s) if the employee is found not guilty of all assault complaint(s).
3. The District agrees to indemnify employees in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 258, § 9.
4. If a duly authorized administrator shall require an employee to transport one or more students to or from a school activity, the District shall indemnify and save harmless the said employee against any and all liability, loss, damages, costs or expense, which employee may thereafter incur, suffer or be required to pay by reason of any injury or damage caused by, and arising out of such transportation to the extent permitted by the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The employee shall immediately or as soon as practical report all incidents for which indemnification of an employee may be available and comply with any reasonable request from the District for information in the employee's possession relating to the incident and the persons involved. The employee will also comply with the provisions of M.G.L. C. 258.
5. The District shall maintain non-owned motor vehicle liability insurance in an amount of not less than one million dollar (\$1,000,000) combined single limit.

ARTICLE XVII - EMPLOYMENT OF ADULT EDUCATION TEACHERS FOR NIGHT AND SUMMER SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

All openings for positions in summer school and evening adult education programs shall be publicized by the Superintendent so that employees may apply for such positions. The District, in filling such positions, will endeavor to give preference to regularly employed employees but expressly reserves the right to make the ultimate decision with respect to such appointments, and it is agreed that its decision, with respect to the grant or denial thereof, shall not be subject to either grievance or arbitration.

Employees whose contracts have been issued in accordance with Article VIII, Section 3b so that their hours of work are outside the established work day hours are fully covered by all articles of their contract and not by this article.

ARTICLE XVIII – INSURANCE AND ANNUITY PLAN

1. Prior to the start of the new school year, each employee shall receive, in addition to his/her contract, a statement of such employee's benefits as appropriate, including but not limited to health, life and disability insurance.
2. The District will pay the percentage hereinafter provided for the cost of one of the following types of insurance selected by an employee:

The District will pay 82.5% of the individual or family coverage, whichever is applicable in the particular case for the HMO plan (Network Blue New England Value Plus) with such benefits and through such organizations as the District shall from time to time select.

The District will pay an equal dollar amount as the HMO contribution above for the PPO or POS plans (currently Blue Care Elect Value Plus and Blue Choice New England Value Plus) with such benefits and through such organization as the District shall from time to time select. Said amount shall not fall below 50% in accordance with state law.

Contained in a separate MOA: Article XIX, s.4 notwithstanding, the District shall not initiate, vote for, or propose any change to any of the other insurance plans (PPO, POS, HMO) offered for the life of the 2024-2027 contract.

4. The above premium percentages will be in effect for the three (3) years of the contract provided that the Berkshire Health Group (BHG) makes no changes in the individual plans offered. Should the BHG force a change in any particular plan type, the District and the Association agree to reopen negotiations solely for the purpose of discussing Article XIX, Section 3 regarding the premium co-payment rates. Such reopening will apply only to Article XIX, Section 3 and will not impact any other Articles or items in the successor contract.
6. Employees will be eligible to participate in a group life insurance plan. A \$10,000 life insurance policy is available, 89% of the premium cost which is borne by the District, unless modified in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32B.
7. Employees who work more than thirty (30) hours per week, will be eligible to participate in the long-term disability plan offered by the District providing each participating employee authorizes payment of the full premium through payroll deduction.

8. Employees will be eligible to participate in a dental plan substantially equivalent to the plan offered by Blue Cross/Blue Shield through the Berkshire Health Group (BHG). Fifty percent (50%) of the premium cost will be borne by the District and fifty percent (50%) by the employee.
9. Both the Association and the District agree to establish an Insurance Advisory Committee (IAC) in compliance with Massachusetts General Law, composed of representation from both parties, and which may include representation from other employee groups.

ARTICLE XIX - EARLY NOTICE OF RETIREMENT PAYMENT

1. Except as set forth in subsection B, below, any teacher meeting the qualifications set forth in subsection C, below, whose formal notice of their intent to retire from the Berkshire Hills Regional School District is received by January 5th of the calendar year of their retirement shall be paid a \$2,000 one-time bonus. Said payment shall be made no later than July of the calendar year of the teacher's retirement.
2. No payment shall be made pursuant to subsection A, above, to a teacher who retires during a school year.
3. In order to qualify for the bonus provided in subsection A, above, a teacher must:
 - a. invoke this provision in writing to the Superintendent;
 - b. be eligible to retire under the rules of the Massachusetts Teachers Retirement Board; and,
 - c. have not less than fifteen (15) school years of continuous service in the Berkshire Hills Regional School District immediately prior to seeking this benefit.
4. If a teacher has provided early notice of intent to retire consistent with the provisions of this section, so that the teacher is entitled to the benefit described in subsection A, above, then, if that teacher dies before they could finish the work requirement described in subsection B, above, the sum that would have been due the teacher upon completion of their employment shall be deemed a debt owed to that teacher at the time of their death, and, consistent with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the teacher's estate shall receive the payment otherwise due to the teacher.

ARTICLE XX - TEACHER EMERITUS

Any teacher who has retired from the Berkshire Hills Regional School District may request

to be designated as a Teacher Emeritus. Such application shall be forwarded to the appropriate Building Principals.

If the Principal determines that a need exists for a part-time teacher, the position may be filled by a Teacher Emeritus who is qualified and certified for the position. In all cases, the Building Principal would select the certified teacher who is best qualified for the position. The position of Teacher Emeritus would be limited to no more than .5 FTE per day.

The appointment of a Teacher Emeritus shall be at the discretion of the Superintendent upon recommendation of the Building Principal on an annual basis. Failure to appoint a retired teacher as a Teacher Emeritus shall not be a matter subject to the provisions of the grievance procedure.

These guidelines and qualifications for the position do not apply to a teacher who retires under the former retirement law if the condition of a critical need has been approved by the Massachusetts Department of Education.

Pay for an Elementary or Middle School Teacher Emeritus position shall be based upon a percentage of the teacher's per diem had the teacher continued in the full employ of the District. The per diem rate of pay for Teacher Emeritus will be prorated to an hourly rate of pay, and the Teacher Emeritus will actually be paid for the hours he or she works each day subject to the limits of Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System (MTRS). In no case will the combination of retirement pay and teaching pay be more than the teacher would have earned had he or she continued to teach full-time. All leave days would be prorated based on the percentage being worked. No benefits would carry forward from year to year, and the Teacher Emeritus would have no continuing contract status.

Pay for a High School Teacher Emeritus shall be based upon a percentage of the teachers' per diem had the teacher continued in the full employ of the District. Each full year section being taught will be calculated as equivalent to 1/6 of the per diem rate, subject to the limits of Massachusetts Teachers' Retirement System (MTRS). In no case will the combination of retirement pay and teaching pay be more than the teacher would have earned had he or she continued to teach fulltime. All leave days would be prorated based on the percentage being worked. No benefits would carry forward from year to year, and the Teacher Emeritus would have no continuing contract status.

Should any of the schools change their schedules such as to make the above methods of calculation not applicable, a Meet and Confer will be held to rewrite this article.

ARTICLE XXI – DEDUCTIONS

1. The District agrees to deduct from the salaries of its employees membership dues for

the Berkshire Hills Education Association, the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the National Education Association or any one of said associations as said employees individually and voluntarily authorize the District to deduct and to transmit the monies promptly to the Berkshire Hills Education Association for those employees who choose to join one or more of the said associations.

2. The District will allow employees to participate in a tax-sheltered annuity, otherwise known as a 403 (b) plan, and may deduct an annual fee, from participating members to cover the account cost mandated by the provider and District administrative costs. If there are no costs mandated by the provider, the District will waive the administrative costs.
3. The District will provide a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) and/or Health Savings Account (HSA) to all staff and may deduct an annual fee, from participating members, to cover the account cost mandated by the provider and District administrative costs. If there are no costs mandated by the provider, the District will waive the administrative costs.
4. All monies so deducted under the preceding sections shall be remitted to the appropriate parties promptly in accordance with such procedures as desired by the employee, provided it coincides with the payroll period of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District.

ARTICLE XXII - ASSOCIATION PRIVILEGES

The District shall permit:

1. The Association to use bulletin boards and emails provided by District for the purpose of displaying notices, circulars and other Association material.
2. The Association, upon reasonable notice, to utilize school facilities for the purpose of conducting the business of the Association.
3. Berkshire Hills Regional School District shall grant the Berkshire Hills Education Association President and his/her designee up to two (2) days in any one-work year for the performance of association business. Berkshire Hills Educators' Association agrees to pay the cost of substitute coverage under this article.
4. Berkshire Hills Regional School District agrees to provide Berkshire Hills Educators' Association with regularly scheduled meeting time (30 minutes) on District orientation and any full in-service days during the year at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools.

5. Regularly scheduled meetings shall be held with the Berkshire Hills Regional School District Superintendent, Berkshire Hills Education Association President and representatives from both parties to discuss ongoing concerns which arise during the duration of this contract. Minutes will be taken and distributed to both parties.

ARTICLE XXIII - EMPLOYEE EVALUATION

1. The Berkshire Hills Education Association and Berkshire Hills Regional School District School Committee are mutually committed to a rigorous, educationally sound and professionally supportive supervision and evaluation process. The Supervision and Evaluation process deliberates, monitors and supports mutually agreed upon research based instructional standards which lead to improved student achievement.

The Berkshire Hills Education Association and Berkshire Hills Regional School District School Committee have a supervision and evaluation model.

The Berkshire Hills Regional School District Teacher Evaluation System is to be amended only by agreement between the School Committee and the Berkshire Hills Education Association.

2. Any complaint or concern regarding an employee, requiring investigation, shall be initially referred to the administrator at the lowest possible level. Such complaint or concern shall be brought to the attention of the employee within five (5) working days after receipt. The employee shall be informed of all details as promptly as possible in order to respond. Such information shall not be used by any employee in a manner detrimental to the best interest of any pupil.

ARTICLE XXIV EMPLOYEE FILE

The official files of the District shall reside in the Superintendent's office. No report, memoranda, or other document shall hereafter be placed in those files or records referred to in Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71, Section 42C, without a copy thereof being delivered to the employee. Upon receipt of such report, memoranda, or other document, the employee shall have the right to submit to the Superintendent, in writing, such refutation or other comment as the employee shall deem to be pertinent. Such refutation or other comment shall be incorporated into the file or record. Further, employee shall, in the exercise of his or her rights under the provisions of Chapter 71, Section 42C of the General Laws, have the right to the advice, assistance and presence of a representative chosen by the employee.

ARTICLE XXV - SPECIAL ASSISTANCE FOR EMPLOYEES

The District recognizes that the classroom teachers will require the assistance of certain specialists in order to carry out their assigned duties effectively. The District, therefore, agrees that the services of guidance personnel, reading specialists, speech therapists, psychological services, but not necessarily limited to these specialists, will be retained to perform these functions provided, however, that the decision of the District as to the nature, number, extent, and kind of specialists that will be retained shall be final and binding and, although subject to the grievance procedure, shall not be subject to arbitration.

ARTICLE XXVI- CONTINUITY OF OPERATIONS

The Association and its members, individually and collectively, hereby expressly agree that they will not cause, sponsor, sanction, assist or participate in any strike, work stoppage, concerted absence from or refusal to perform assigned duties, illegal picketing or other unlawful activity directed against the Berkshire Hills Regional School District.

Employees who participate in any such activities shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by the District within the laws of the Commonwealth.

ARTICLE XXVII- GENERAL

The School Committee agrees that any policy adopted which contravenes any express provision of this agreement or any portion hereof shall be subject to impact bargaining, if necessary.

ARTICLE XXVIII – ELECTRONIC INFORMATION

The Berkshire Hills Regional School District has filed with the Department of Education (DOE) its mandatory five year Long-Term Technology Implementation Plan. The primary goal of the plan is to enhance educational excellence by the appropriate integration of technology into all aspects of teaching and learning, as well as administrative duties. This document was developed by a committee comprised of teachers, administrators and staff and adopted by the School Committee. The Berkshire Hills Educational Association supports the goals of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District Long-Term Technology Plan. The expectations for employees within the Plan are listed on the Signature Form for Electronic Resources Policy (IJNDBB-E) Exhibit E. Employees at all levels will be part of the review process to select software which achieves these expectations. Considerations such as grade level, developmental appropriateness, efficiency of usage, meaningfulness of information to families and consistency PreK-12 will be among the selected criteria.

All employees are required to abide by the Berkshire Hills Regional School District Policy entitled Electronic Information Resources for Staff (IJNDBB). Prior to authorization of a password on the District network, they must signify their understanding of and agreement to comply with the policy by signing the Employee Signature Form for Electronic Information Resources Policy (IJNDBB-E) (Exhibit E).

Full copies of Policy IJNDBB are located in each building's main office. The Terms and Conditions of this Policy IJNDBB-R are Exhibit F. The only acceptable usage of District owned technology resources which is permissible under the policy is:

“Acceptable Use: The use of an assigned account must be in support of education, business and/or research and within the educational goals and objectives of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District. Each staff member is personally responsible for this provision at all times when using the electronic information services.”

Any violation of the Electronic Information Resources Contract for Staff may result in the loss of the user's account and may result in further action as provided in this contract. Furthermore, the employees covered in this contract agree to report any misuses of the electronic information resources to the Technology Administrator or building administration.

ARTICLE XXIX– CRIMINAL OFFENDER RECORD INFORMATION (CORI)

The following applies to Criminal Offender Record Information (“CORI”) checks:

1. CORI checks will be conducted once every three (3) years for employees covered by this Agreement, or more often with reasonable cause or required by law.
2. A copy of a CORI report will be available to the employee. If the CORI report shows any activity, a copy will be sent to the Employee.
3. An employee may notify the Superintendent that he/she intends to challenge the results of the CORI check.
4. All CORI reports will be maintained in the Superintendent's office in separate confidential files. The reports will be stored and/or destroyed in accordance with state law and school committee policy
5. The Superintendent or his/her designee from the Superintendent's Office will be the only persons authorized to request CORI checks.

6. Failure of an employee after written request to sign and return to the Superintendent's office within 21 calendar days such forms as are necessary or advisable to comply with the CORI shall be deemed to be and will constitute just cause for dismissal from the employ of the District under this collective bargaining agreement and Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 71.

ARTICLE XXX – STATE APPLICANT FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (SAFIS)

1. The parties agree that, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 71 §38R and Implementation of the Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2013 “An Act Relative to Background Checks”, the State Applicant Fingerprint Identification System (SAFIS), all employees must complete the SAFIS check prior to being appointed.
2. The Superintendent and/or the District's SAFIS Authorized Point of Contact will be the only persons authorized to request SAFIS.
3. All SAFIS reports will be maintained in the Superintendent's office, in separate confidential files as per state law and regulations. A copy of an individual's SAFIS report will be made available to the employee upon request. If the SAFIS report shows any activity, the employee will be notified and a copy will be immediately forwarded to the employee.
4. All reports will be stored and/or destroyed in accordance with state law and school committee policy. The District will create and file a suitability determination based on the results received. The receipts will be attached to the suitability determination and stored in a separate locked file once reports have been destroyed as completion of the requirement.
5. Any disciplinary action taken as a result of SAFIS will be in accordance with the terms of this Agreement, District Policy and/or applicable state law.

ARTICLE XXXI- EVALUATION JOINT LABOR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The parties agree to establish a standing Evaluation Joint Labor Management Committee (JLMC) for the purpose of enhancing the collaborative relationship and cooperatively addressing issues specifically related to evaluation as they arise. Meetings will be conducted on a quarterly basis and/or as needed. The JLMC will not discuss items which are properly the subject of grievances. The JLMC shall consist of up to four (4) members of the BHEA's choosing and up to four (4) members chosen by the Superintendent. The committee shall be jointly chaired. Either party can have up to two (2) agenda items at any one time.

For the 2024-2025 school year only, this committee shall consist of 2 teachers and 1 caseload member from each school of the BHEA's choosing, and the DOLT, all 3 principals, the Superintendent, and the Director of Student Services. This group shall have a first meeting no later than October 15, 2024, to discuss and make recommendations regarding the evaluation protocols and standards, peer review, and evidence. Their recommendations will be sent to the respective negotiation subcommittees for collective bargaining no later than March 1, 2025. The parties agree to complete negotiations no later than June 1, 2025.

The JLMC is an advisory committee only and may not modify terms and conditions of the collective bargaining agreement and/or past practice without agreement of the School Committee and the Association.

ARTICLE XXXII- INSTRUCTIONAL LEAD (IL) / SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL);

The parties agree to form a committee consisting of the DOLT and other available administrators as well as an IL or an SEL and a clinical teacher from each school. This committee will review and make recommendations to the parties negotiation subcommittees with respect to the stipends, who is eligible to be an IL or SEL, meeting frequency, priorities, and other relevant matters..This group shall have a first meeting no later than October 15, 2024, to discuss and make recommendations. Their recommendations will be sent to the respective negotiation subcommittees for collective bargaining no later than March 1, 2025. The parties agree to complete negotiations no later than June 1, 2025.

ARTICLE XXXIII – DURATION AND RENEGOTIATIONS

This agreement shall be effective as of **July 1, 2024** and remain in full force and effect through **June 30, 2027**. Not later than **November 1, 2026**, the parties shall enter into negotiations with respect to a successor agreement as provided in Chapter 150E of the General Laws.

In witness whereof, we have affixed our hands this day of June 20, 2024

For Berkshire Hills Regional School District:



Signature - School Committee Chair

June 20, 2024
Date


For Berkshire Hills Education Association:



Signature – Association President

7/1/24
Date

Witness:



Signature – Superintendent of Schools

June 20, 2024
Date

Exhibit A – Teachers Salary Schedule

Initial Placement: Teachers will be placed on the appropriate level by the superintendent based on previous experience per Article III of the BHEA Unit A Contract. Newly hired staff will not be placed higher than existing staff with similar experience. In unique situations, the superintendent will consult with the BHEA.

FY25 Salary Schedule

STEP	BA	BA30/MA	MA+30	CAGS/MA60
A	49,182	55,023	60,863	66,546
B	51,132	56,973	62,813	68,421
C	53,082	58,923	64,763	70,296
D	55,032	60,873	66,713	72,171
E	56,982	62,823	68,663	74,046
F	58,932	64,773	70,613	75,921
G	60,882	66,723	72,563	77,796
H	62,832	68,673	74,513	79,671
I	64,782	70,623	76,463	81,546
J	66,732	72,573	78,413	83,421
K	68,682	74,523	80,363	85,296
L	70,632	76,473	82,313	87,171
M	72,582	78,423	84,263	89,046
N	74,532	80,373	86,213	90,921
O	76,482	82,323	88,163	92,796
P	78,432	84,273	90,113	94,671
Q	80,382	86,223	92,063	96,546
R	82,332	88,173	94,013	98,421
S	84,282	90,123	95,963	100,296
T		92,073	97,913	102,171
U			99,863	104,046

*No teacher can advance into the yellow. Teachers already placed in the yellow will continue to advance within.

FY26 Salary Schedule

STEP	BA	BA30/MA	MA+30	CAGS/MA60
A	50,868	56,864	62,860	68,627
B	52,818	58,814	64,810	70,502
C	54,768	60,764	66,760	72,377
D	56,718	62,714	68,710	74,252
E	58,668	64,664	70,660	76,127
F	60,618	66,614	72,610	78,002
G	62,568	68,564	74,560	79,877
H	64,518	70,514	76,510	81,752
I	66,468	72,464	78,460	83,627
J	68,418	74,414	80,410	85,502
K	70,368	76,364	82,360	87,377
L	72,318	78,314	84,310	89,252
M	74,268	80,264	86,260	91,127
N	76,218	82,214	88,210	93,002
O	78,168	84,164	90,160	94,877
P	80,118	86,114	92,110	96,752
Q	82,068	88,064	94,060	98,627
R	84,018	90,014	96,010	100,502
S	85,968	91,964	97,960	102,377
T		93,914	99,910	104,252
U			101,860	106,127

*No teacher can advance into the yellow. Teachers already placed in the yellow will continue to advance within.

FY27 Salary Schedule

STEP	BA	BA30/MA	MA+30	CAGS/MA60
A	52,587	58,742	64,897	70,749
B	54,537	60,692	66,847	72,624
C	56,487	62,642	68,797	74,499
D	58,437	64,592	70,747	76,374
E	60,387	66,542	72,697	78,249
F	62,337	68,492	74,647	80,124
G	64,287	70,442	76,597	81,999
H	66,237	72,392	78,547	83,874
I	68,187	74,342	80,497	85,749
J	70,137	76,292	82,447	87,624
K	72,087	78,242	84,397	89,499
L	74,037	80,192	86,347	91,374
M	75,987	82,142	88,297	93,249
N	77,937	84,092	90,247	95,124
O	79,887	86,042	92,197	96,999
P	81,837	87,992	94,147	98,874
Q	83,787	89,942	96,097	100,749
R	85,737	91,892	98,047	102,624
S	87,687	93,842	99,997	104,499
T		95,792	101,947	106,374
U			103,897	108,249

*No teacher can advance into the yellow. Teachers already placed in the yellow will continue to advance within.

EXHIBIT B

	<u>FY25</u>	<u>FY26</u>	<u>FY27</u>
Head Coaches (Category I) *	5,052	5,204	5,360
Lead Directors (Category I) **	5,052	5,204	5,360
<u>Category I - Assistant Positions</u>			
Assistant Coaches (Category I) *	3,156	3,251	3,348
Assistant Directors (Category I) **	3,156	3,251	3,348
<u>CATEGORY II</u>			
Head Coaches (Category II) ** *	3,156	3,251	3,348
<u>Category II - Assistant Positions</u>			
Assistant Coaches (Category II) ***	1,970	2,030	2,090
<u>CATEGORY III</u>			
Project Sprout	4,091	4,214	4,340
WISE	4,091	4,214	4,340
<u>CATEGORY IV</u>			
Best Buddies	3,156	3,251	3,348
Key Club	3,156	3,251	3,348
Newspaper (Maroon Reflections)	3,156	3,251	3,348
Pathways	3,156	3,251	3,348
Quiz Team Advisor	3,156	3,251	3,348
Spartones	3,156	3,251	3,348
Student Government	3,156	3,251	3,348
Yearbook, Business	3,156	3,251	3,348
Yearbook, Literary	3,156	3,251	3,348
<u>CATEGORY V</u>			
After Prom Coordinator	1,262	1,300	1,339
Advisor, Senior Class	1,515	1,561	1,607
Advisor, Underclass	1,262	1,300	1,339
Give To Give			
Mass Hysteria	1,515	1,561	1,607
National Honor Society	1,515	1,561	1,607
School Store Manager	1,515	1,561	1,607
Shakespeare Program Advisor	1,515	1,561	1,607
<u>CATEGORY VI</u>			
Musicians (4@ rate; paid by Booster Club)	894	921	948
<u>W.E.B. Du Bois Regional Middle School</u>			
After School Activity Advisor	1,262	1,300	1,339
<i>Stipended positions for short term 8 - 10 week activities.</i>			
<i>The stipened positions may, but need not include:</i>			
Band Director	1,515	1,561	1,607
Drama Club/Musical Producer	3,156	3,251	3,348
Musical Director	3,156	3,251	3,348
Newspaper/Magazine Advisor	3,156	3,251	3,348

Student Government Advisor	3,156	3,251	3,348
Yearbook Advisor	3,156	3,251	3,348

Muddy Brook Regional Elementary School

<i>Stipended positions, full-year programming equivalents.</i>	2,525	2,600	2,678
Student Leadership Team Coordinator	2,464	2,538	2,614
Recess Activities Coordinator	2,770	2,853	2,938

Other

BCREB Internship Coordinator	1,845	1,900	1,957
BCREB Job Coordinator	1,230	1,267	1,305
BCREB Site Coordinator	615	633	652
Extended School Day/Year Instructor			
Certified/Discipline Professional	\$50/hour	\$50/hour	\$50/hour
Non-Certified			
Mentor- Level 1	1,330	1,370	1,411
Mentor- Level 2	666	686	707
Mountainside Pre-K - extended day	10,000	10,000	10,000
Nurse Leader	4,396	4,528	4,664
Nurse Supervisor of LPN	5,000	5,000	5,000
Project / Shared Leadership	2,770	2,853	2,938
Instructional Leads(ILs) / Social Emotional Leads (SELs)	5,000		
Professional Hourly Work			
Supervisor of SLPA	4,396	4,528	4,664
Summer Fellowships	615	633	652
Title I Coordinator	3,156	3,251	3,348
Tutoring	\$50/hour	\$50/hour	\$50/hour
Webmaster - 3 positions	1,515	1,561	1,607
(1 each: elementary, middle, high school)			
Wellness Champion	1,845	1,900	1,957

Stipends paid in accordance with the contract

are:

* Head Coaches & Assistant Coaches

Negotiated Sports Include:

** Lead Directors & Assistant Directors (Category I)

Negotiated Activities Include:

Band, Spring Musical, Media Production.

Three (3) Assistant Musical Positions paid by District:

Spring Musical - Assistant Director, Music Director, Technical Director, Lighting Director, Choreography Director

***Head Coaches & Assistant Coaches (Category II) –

Negotiated Sports Include:

Golf, Skiing - Downhill, Cheerleading/Dance Team, Unified Coaches (at assistant coach rate)

Exhibit B: All stipends shall increase by 2% in each year of the contract.

- 1. Stipends and/or positions can only be shared upon recommendation of the Building Principal and approval of the Superintendent and all paperwork has been completed.**
- 2. Compensation for summer work shall be paid after the start of the school year, after satisfactory completion of the work, upon request of the Building Principal.**
- 3. All compensation for extra-curricular positions that extend over a period in excess of one-half year shall be paid in two equal installments. One shall be at the conclusion of the period of service, the other shall be at a point approximately halfway through the period of service.**
- 4. Others shall be paid in full according to the following schedule (on or about):
November 15 March 15 June 15**
- 5. All stipend payments are made after a request from the appropriate administrator and/or director.**
- 6. Stipends funded through operating and/or grant revenue sources will be negotiated with the Berkshire Hill1, Education Association consistent with contracted stipends.**

EXHIBIT C

NURSES SALARIES AND BENEFITS

All of the benefits and terms of this agreement apply to nurses except as provided by the language of the contract and except as follows:

1. Nurses shall receive 100% of the teachers' salary schedule compensation rate. A Master's degree and/or additional post graduate training must be in nursing, education or related fields.
2. The nurses shall work two (2) additional days at the discretion of the Superintendent and such work shall be paid at their per diem rate.
3. Nurses may not leave the school premises without the permission of the Building Principal or his/her designee.
4. Notwithstanding any of the provisions herein above set forth, nurses shall render such emergency assistance to pupils as required.
5. The provisions relating to sabbatical leave shall not apply to nurses.

EXHIBIT D

CERTIFIED OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSISTANT (COTA)
SALARY AND BENEFITS

Benefits and terms of this agreement apply to Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants except as provided by the language of the contract and except as follows:

1. COTAs shall receive 70% of the Bachelor's rate, to be calculated using the schedule in Exhibit A. COTAs may not move horizontally across the schedule.
2. Contract provisions that *shall differ* for COTAs are as follows, with the listed language to apply:
 - a. Article XXII-Employee Evaluations
Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants shall be evaluated annually by the Building Principal and/or his/her designee.
3. COTAs are eligible for a **RETIREMENT BENEFIT** as follows:

The District shall pay a sum equal to the reimbursement of seventy (70) days of sick leave times the maximum prevailing short-term substitute per diem rate of pay to an employee upon retirement from the District providing the following conditions are met.

- a. The employee has at least fifteen (15) years of employment with the District.
 - b. The employee has at least seventy (70) accrued and unused sick leave days upon retirement.
 - c. The employee shall have notified the Superintendent, in writing, of his/her intention to retire at least six (6) months prior to the date of retirement.
4. Contract provisions that *shall not apply* to COTAs are as follows:
 - a. Article III - Salaries-Sections:
 - i. 2-Language regarding horizontal placement.
 - ii. 4-Language regarding Vocational Teachers.
 - iii. 7-Language regarding horizontal placement.
 - b. Article IV – Longevity
 - c. Article VI – Transfers, Reassignments, Vacancies, and Promotions

- d. Article VII – Working Hours, Year and Load – Sections:
 - i. 5. – Language regarding planning time.
 - ii. 6. – Language regarding class size.
 - iii. 11 – Language regarding tentative assignment timeline.
 - iv. 14 – Language regarding extended year.

- e. Article VIII – Reduction in Force

- f. Article IX – Recall Rights and Procedure

- g. Article XIX – Teacher Emeritus

- h. Article XXIV – Special Assistance for Employees

EXHIBIT E

LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTES

1. a. Long-term substitute is defined as a substitute teacher who after appointment by the Building Principal serves for more than ten (10) consecutive school days in the same position and who is responsible for all class preparation.
- b. Long-term substitute status does not follow from one assignment to the next or from one year to the next unless the assignments are consecutive.
2. There are two scenarios most likely to happen when appointing long-term substitute teachers:
 - a. It is known from the first day the substitute is working that it is a long-term placement, such as when someone is on an approved leave of absence or approved maternity leave. In such cases the sub will be placed on BA Step 1 for the first ten (10) days of actual teaching. On the eleventh (11th) day they will be placed on their appropriate step, with the maximum step being MA Step 5. Their salary in both cases is calculated at the per diem rate of the step on which they are placed.
 - b. It is not known at the time a substitute begins an assignment that the position will extend beyond the ten (10) days for same assignment. In these cases the substitute will receive regular sub pay for the first ten (10) days of substituting. On day eleven (11), they will be retroactively compensated for the difference between the BA Step 1 rate and substitute pay. They will continue on BA Step I while the long-term position is posted and filled. Should they apply and be appointed, they will be retroactively paid from day eleven forward for the difference if any exists, between BA Step 1 and whatever step they are placed upon, the maximum step not to exceed MA Step 5. In each scenario the substitute is paid the per diem rate of the step upon which they are placed.
3. Long term substitutes shall not be eligible for benefits, except as follows:
 - a. Long-term substitutes shall be eligible for sick leave pay, credited at the rate of one (1) day per month of service after the first twenty (20) days of continuous employment. There shall be no accumulation of unused sick leave days at the conclusion of the period of long-term substitution.

- b. Long-term substitutes shall be eligible for Jury Duty benefits, as per Article XIII, Section 8.
4. The provisions of Article VII shall not apply to long-term substitutes.

EXHIBIT F

**EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE FORM
FOR ELECTRONIC INFORMATION RESOURCES POLICY**

I have been provided with a copy of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District Electronic Information Resources Policy and I agree to abide by the provisions contained therein during my time employed by the District. I further understand that any violation by me of the terms of the Electronic Information Resources Policy may result in the suspension or termination of my network privileges and may also result in disciplinary action being taken against me consistent with the Berkshire Hills Regional School District disciplinary policy and the terms of any collective bargaining agreement applicable to my employment. If a violation constitutes a criminal offense, appropriate legal action may be taken. I further agree to compensate the Berkshire Hills Regional School District in the event that the District suffers any monetary loss, including costs, damages and attorney's fees because of any knowing violation by me of this Electronic Information Resources Policy.

Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Email Expectations:

1. View email **each work day** and respond to parent emails within **two (2) work days**
2. Read the **appropriate memos**
3. Manage Inbox, Sent Items and Deleted Items once every two weeks
4. Training and an implementation timeline will be provided.

Calendar Expectations:

1. Check the School and District calendars to be aware of events.
2. Submit events to school secretary for inclusion in school calendars.
3. Training and an implementation timeline will be provided.

Grading Expectations:

1. All teachers are expected to post grades and/or assessment information as developmentally grade level appropriate as the programs and technology come online in their building.
2. Training and an implementation timeline will be provided.

Homework Expectations:

1. All teachers are expected to post homework and/or other grade level developmentally appropriate material as the programs and technology come online in their building.
2. Training and an implementation timeline will be provided.

Attendance Expectations:

1. All staff will use software for attendance.
2. Training and an implementation timeline will be provided.

Expectations:

1. Respond to meeting invitations
2. Use Out of Office Assistant when you are not in the building for the day or coming days.
3. Training and an implementation timeline will be provided.

Computer/LCD Projector Use:

1. Use computer, LCD projectors and other technology to enhance instruction
2. Training and an implementation timeline will be provided.

Special Education :

1. All special education and related services staff shall generate student Individual Educational Programs (IEPs), forms, and notices through the District's designated software.
2. Training and an implementation timeline will be provided.

EXHIBIT G

File: **IJNDBB-R**

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS POLICY

1. **Privileges:** The use of electronic information resources is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use of these resources will result in the loss of computer services, disciplinary action, and/or referral to legal authorities. The systems administrator will close an account if necessary. An administrator or faculty member has the right to request, for cause, that the systems administrator deny, revoke, or suspend specific staff accounts.

2. **Acceptable Use:** The use of an assigned account must be in support of education, business and/or research and within the educational goals and objectives of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District. Each staff member is personally responsible for this provision at all times when using the electronic information services.
 - a. Use of other organizations' networks or computing resources must comply with rules appropriate to that network.
 - b. Transmission of any material in violation of any United States or other states' organizations is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to: copyrighted materials, threatening or obscene material or material protected by trade secrets.
 - c. Commercial activities by for-profit institutions are generally not acceptable.
 - d. Use of product advertisement or political lobbying, including lobbying for office, is prohibited.
 - e. Time and bandwidth are costly. While accessing the Internet, no games may be played unless approved for specific educational purposes.
 - f. Illegal activities of any kind are forbidden.
 - g. Do not reveal personal information, i.e., home address, phone numbers, password, or social security number; this also applies to others' personal information or that of organizations.
 - h. Do not use the network in any way that would disrupt network use by others, including the unauthorized installation of software that allows the download and sharing of MP3 files, videos, soundtracks, etc.
 - i. No personal disks may be used on any of the computers. You are authorized to use only the disks provided to you by your instructor or systems administrator. You are not permitted to copy your personal programs/games onto any of the computers in the networked labs, and you may not copy any programs installed on the network/computers onto your personal disks for your personal use.

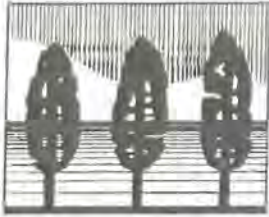
- j. No food or drink is permitted in networked labs or around any network resources.
 - k. Illegal installation of copyrighted software or files for use on BHRSD computers is prohibited.
3. Monitored Use: Electronic mail transmissions and other use of electronic resources by employees shall not be considered confidential and may be monitored at any time by designated employees to ensure appropriate use for instructional and administrative purposes. The District has the right, but not the duty, to monitor any and all aspects of its computer system, including, but not limited to, monitoring sites employees visit on the Internet, monitoring chat groups and newsgroups, reviewing material downloaded or uploaded by employees, and reviewing e-mail sent and received by employees. All information, in any format, stored by any means on the District electronic facilities is the property of the Berkshire Hills Regional School District and subject to inspection at any time without notice. Employees waive any right to privacy in anything they create, store, send or receive on the District's computer or Internet.
4. Network Etiquette: Each account holder is expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of staff etiquette. These rules include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a. Be polite. Never send, or encourage others to send abusive messages.
 - b. Use appropriate language. Remember that you are a representative of your school and District on a non-private system. You may be alone on a computer, but what you say and do can be viewed globally! Never use vulgar or any other inappropriate language.
 - c. Use electronic mail appropriately. Electronic mail (e-mail) is not guaranteed to be private. Everyone on the system has access to mail. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities must be reported to the system administrator or school administration.
 - d. Sending, receiving, displaying, printing or otherwise disseminating material that is fraudulent, harassing, illegal, embarrassing, sexually explicit, obscene, intimidating or defamatory is prohibited.
5. Vandalism: Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy property of another user or of any other agencies or networks that are connected to the Internet. Vandalism includes, but is not limited to, the uploading, downloading, or creation of computer viruses. It also includes any physical damage to computer hardware or software in the District.

6. Security: Security on any computer system is a high priority because there are multiple users. Once properly logged into the BHRSD network, do not leave your account/connection open or unattended. Do not use another individual's account. Unauthorized access to a computer system or part of a computer system that you do not have permission to use is known as electronic trespass and is illegal. If you identify a security problem, notify the system administrator or school administration at once.

7. Liability: The Berkshire Hills Regional School District makes no warranties of any kind whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The District will not be responsible for any damages the staff suffers while on the system. These damages include, but are not limited to, loss of data as a result of delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by the system or your errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the information system is at your own risk. The Berkshire Hills Regional School District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy of information obtained through electronic information sources.

8. Amendments: This policy may be amended from time-to-time in collaboration with employees, unions and the Berkshire Hills Regional School District.

EXHIBIT H



BERKSHIRE HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
GREAT BARRINGTON • STOCKBRIDGE • WEST STOCKBRIDGE

50 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 617 • STOCKBRIDGE, MA 01262 • (413) 298-4017

Memorandum of Understanding
Between
Berkshire Hills Regional School District
All District Bargaining Groups
(Unit A, Unit C, Cooperative Contract, Independents, Administrators)

The Berkshire Hills Regional School District (hereinafter referred to as "District"), and all District Bargaining Groups (hereinafter referred to as "Bargaining Groups") hereby agree to the following terms, conditions, and understandings pertaining to the tuition rate for current BHRSD staff for the Mountainside Pre-Kindergarten Program at Monument Mountain Regional High School. The District hopes this benefit is sympathetic to all staff.

Tuition Rate Mountainside Pre-Kindergarten Program at MMRHS

- Tuition Rate: \$8,000 per year
- Tuition Rate (current BHRSD staff) \$4,000 per year
- Tuition Rate ((current BHRSD staff who are eligible for free/reduced lunch): \$2,000 per year

As Signed:




Signature – BHRSD Superintendent of Schools

5/4/2023
Date




Signature – BHRSD School Committee Chair

5/4/2023
Date



Signature – Cooperative Contract Staff Representative

5/23/2023
Date



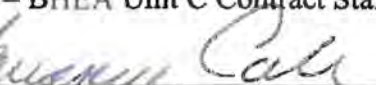
Signature – BHEA Unit A Contract Staff Representative

5/18/23
Date



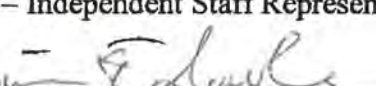
Signature – BHEA Unit C Contract Staff Representative

5/25/23
Date



Signature – Independent Staff Representative

5/22/2023
Date



Signature – Administrative Staff Representative

5/31/23
Date

Berkshire Hills Education Association
And
Berkshire Hills Regional School District
Memorandum of Understanding
2024-2025 Exploratory Schedule at DBRMS

The Berkshire Hills Regional School District ("District") and the Berkshire Hills Education Association ("Association"), pursuant to Article VII Section 5.a. in the 2021-24 Unit A Contract, agree to pilot a new schedule at W.E.B. Du Bois Middle School in the 2024-25 school year. In an effort to reduce class sizes and improve heterogeneous groupings conducive to positive classroom environments and improved learning outcomes, the District and the Association agree to the following:

1. Unit A members teaching Design, Art, Health, Music, and Physical Education classes ("Exploratory teachers") will carry a course load of 6 sections in their content areas.
2. Exploratory teachers will be exempted from teaching Crew classes and morning duties.
3. Exploratory teachers will take their daily prep during homeroom crew time and the first period of the day crew time. Their lunch and meeting period will continue to fall during 5/6 and 7/8 lunch / recess periods.
4. Exploratory classes will operate on a 30 day schedule instead of the 45 day quarter schedule. Exploratory teachers will submit comments and grades based on dates established by the District.
5. In order to facilitate the curriculum shift, Exploratory teachers may apply for up to 5 hours of summer planning time to be compensated at the standard district rate. Evidence of work will be presented to building administration prior to the end of September 2024.
6. The District and Association agree to convene with the Exploratory teachers in January 2025 to review the schedule, make possible in-year adjustments, and begin drafting a more comprehensive improvement plan for the future if needed.
7. The District and Association agree that this non-precedent setting arrangement is a one year trial.



BERKSHIRE HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIR

Date: 06/20/2024



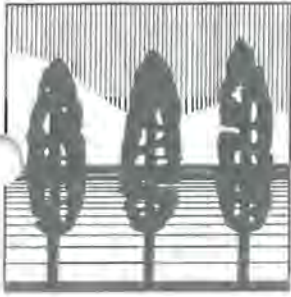
BERKSHIRE HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Date: 06/20/2024



BERKSHIRE HILLS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Date: 6/20/24



BERKSHIRE HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

GREAT BARRINGTON • STOCKBRIDGE • WEST STOCKBRIDGE

50 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 617 • STOCKBRIDGE, MA 01262 • (413) 298-4017

Berkshire Hills Regional School District
And
Berkshire Hills Education Association
Memorandum of Understanding
Safety Care Training Stipend

The Berkshire Hills Regional School District ("District") and the Berkshire Hills Education Association ("Association"), agree to add a Safety Care Trainer stipend to the 2024-2027 BHEA Unit A Contract. Safety Care Training for district employees is mandated in

1. Qualifications:
 - a. Safety Care Trainers must possess current certification in QBS- Safety Care Crisis Prevention Training.
2. All Safety Care Trainer Responsibilities
 - a. Safety Care Trainer will adhere to BHRSD Policy JKAA and BHRSD practices and procedures.
 - b. Bi-Monthly Team Meeting-Review incidents with teams, Q&A, identify strategies and needs moving ahead
 - c. Monthly Para Training/Meeting-To teach and review specific SC curriculum
 - d. Monthly Team Practice-To practice specific de-escalation and physical management techniques for proficiency.
 - e. Incident Review, Reporting - Based on 20-25 incidents per year
 - f. Trainer Recertification - To be recertified as trainers
 - g. Specialist Recertification Session 1- To-recertify district employees
 - h. Specialist Recertification Session 2 -To-recertify district employees
 - i. Specialist Recertification Session 3 - To-recertify district employees
 - j. Initial Training - To certify new employees
 - k. Small Child Training - Initial - To certify staff working with elementary students
 - l. Small Child Training -Recert -To recertify staff working with elementary students`
 - m. Data Review, Trainer Connect data entry- To review policies and data to meet with and advise admin team
 - n. TBD Items
3. Lead Safety Care Trainer Additional Responsibilities
 - a. Planning/scheduling
 - b. Communicating with staff re: trainings
 - c. Securing location of trainings
 - d. Reporting attendance for compensation

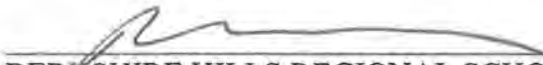
Berkshire Hills Regional School District does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, to include traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture, hair type, hair length and protective hairstyles, color, sex, age, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, pregnancy or parenting status, limited English proficiency, or homelessness. (Chapter 622, Title IX and Sec. 504 Regs.)

- e. Keeping track of status of specialist's certifications/expiring certifications
 - f. TBD items
4. Appointment
- a. Safety Care Trainers will be appointed by the Director of Student Services
5. Remuneration
- a. Lead Safety Care Trainer (one); at \$5,000
 - b. Safety Care Trainers (two); at \$4,000 each
6. This agreement does not set practice or precedent on either party and does not alter or change the current terms and conditions of the collective bargaining agreement.



BERKSHIRE HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL COMMITTEE CHAIR

Date: 8/15/2024



BERKSHIRE HILLS REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Date: 8/15/2024



BERKSHIRE HILLS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Date: 8/20/2024

