

EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

DC
(LOCAL)

The College District will adhere to established principles and guidelines in the selection of employees. All hiring and employment practices will be in accordance with the College District's affirmative employment plan and focused on the employment of outstanding applicants with the requisite knowledge, skills, and abilities to meet the demands of the position and to help the College District achieve its strategic goals. The College District human resources office is responsible for establishing employment procedures and for ensuring that the guidelines and procedures are followed through monitoring and providing staff support throughout the process. The Board may establish special procedures and criteria for hiring the District President.

New, including rehired, full-time employees will be placed on probationary employment status for a period of 90 days following the date of full-time employment. Employees in a new employee probationary status may be dismissed at any time during the probationary period for any reason and without the right to appeal.

The following general guidelines apply to the selection of College District employees:

1. All Board-approved and budgeted full-time positions opened externally will be advertised for a minimum of ten working days. Positions opened only on an internal basis will be advertised for a minimum of five working days. (Subject to the exception noted in item 7, below.) For the purpose of applying for positions, any employee on the College District's payroll on the date a position is posted is considered an internal applicant.
2. All applicants for employment will complete the application furnished by the College District. It is the responsibility of the applicant to furnish accurate information and credentials. Any falsification of either information or credentials is cause for dismissal or denial to employ at any time.
3. Individuals who are retired from the Teachers' Retirement System of Texas (TRS) after September 1, 2005, are generally not eligible to be employed by the College District in a TRS-eligible position due to the pension surcharge. [See TAC Title 34.3.31.D, Rule 31.41]
4. Search committees will be used for regular, full-time faculty positions. Search committees may be used for full-time administrative positions but will not generally be used for other types of positions. Search committees will review and follow the procedures outlined in the College District's search committee guidelines.

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5. Regardless of the method used in the selection of personnel, it is the primary responsibility of the hiring supervisor, with review and oversight by all College District leaders in the approval path, to ensure a fair and impartial evaluation of all applicants for the position.
6. Employment for full-time positions is valid only upon completion of all personnel papers, submission of all required documentation of credentials/qualifications, and approval of the appropriate Leadership Team member, a cabinet member, and the District President.
7. An individual offered employment in a Board-approved and budgeted full-time position may begin employment upon approval by the District President. Information of new full-time employees, employee promotions, changes, retirements, and separations will be provided in a personnel report that is included as an information item in Board meeting agendas. Board members may also access specific information of employees through an employee dashboard provided as part of the administrative systems of the College District.
8. The District President may, based upon need, employ personnel on a full-time temporary basis without advertising for the position.
9. In no event will an employee be assigned to a position for which the employee is not qualified as determined by the College District, using the job description for a particular position.
10. The College District human resources office, in conjunction with appropriate administrators, will maintain records of positions that are security sensitive.
11. The advertisement, application, and search committee provisions of this policy are not applicable when a position is filled by a lateral transfer, which is a reassignment of an employee between positions on the same salary schedule level, or by a transfer to a position at a lower level on the salary schedule.

**Criminal History
Checks**

The criminal history record of applicants selected to fill designated security-sensitive positions within the College District will be checked through the Crime Records Division of the Texas Department of Public Safety and through other designated resources, when appropriate.

Security-sensitive positions are identified in the job postings and in the College District's position description.

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Section 51.215 of the Texas Education Code entitles an institution of higher education to obtain criminal history record information for positions identified by the institution as security sensitive, i.e., those responsible for handling currency or those having access to the College District's computer network, drugs/chemicals, or a master key.

The chief human resources officer, director of human resources/employment and professional development, and designated human resources personnel are the College District's authorized agents to obtain the criminal history information. All information obtained is considered privileged and confidential and may not be released or disclosed to any person or agency except by court order.

Unauthorized release of conviction information constitutes official misconduct, is a violation of Texas law, and subjects the individual to Texas Public Information Act penalties.

The College District may deny employment to an applicant for a security-sensitive position who fails to provide a complete set of fingerprints upon request. Further, the College District may deny employment to an applicant for a security-sensitive position who fails to submit to, or authorize, a criminal background check. Should the criminal background check on an applicant for employment reveal a criminal history, the following will be considered before extending an offer of employment:

- Nature of the crime;
- When the crime was committed; and
- The relevance of the crime to the position being sought by the applicant.