

Technical Academies of Minnesota

Adopted: Orig. 2/22/2022

Revised: 11/22/2022

404 EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND CHECKS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe and healthy environment in the school district, promoting the physical, social, and psychological well-being of its students. To that end, the school district will seek a criminal history background check for applicants who receive an offer of employment with the school district and on all individuals, except enrolled student volunteers, who are offered the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services to the school district, regardless of whether any compensation is paid, or such other background checks as provided by this policy. The school district will also conduct background checks on other volunteers, independent contractors, and student employees within the school district.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. The school district shall require that applicants for school district positions who receive an offer of employment and all individuals, except enrolled student volunteers, who are offered the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services to the school district, regardless of whether any compensation is paid, submit to a criminal history background check. The offer of employment or the opportunity to provide services shall be conditioned upon a determination by the school district that an individual's criminal history does not preclude the individual from employment with, or provision of services to, the school district. Those positions that require background checks before working with students and student-related data:
 - 1. All Licensed Staff
 - 2. All non-licensed staff
 - 3. All School Board Members
 - 4. All Volunteers who will directly work with students, even under the supervision of a staff member
 - 5. All Volunteers who will accompany students on an extended field trip
- B. The school district specifically reserves any and all rights it may have to conduct background checks regarding current employees, applicants, or service providers without the consent of such individuals.

- C. Adherence to this policy by the school district shall in no way limit the school district's right to require additional information, or to use procedures currently in place or other procedures to gain additional background information concerning employees, applicants, volunteers, service providers, independent contractors, and student employees.

III. PROCEDURES

- A. Normally, an individual will not commence employment or provide services until the school district receives the results of the criminal history background check. The school district may conditionally hire an applicant or allow an individual to provide services pending completion of the background check, but shall notify the individual that their employment or opportunity to provide services may be terminated based on the results of the background check. Background checks will be performed by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA). The BCA shall conduct the background check by retrieving criminal history data as defined in Minn. Stat. § 13.87. The school district reserves the right to conduct criminal history background checks by other organizations or agencies.
- B. In order for an individual to be eligible for employment or to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services to the school district, except for an enrolled student volunteer, the individual must sign a criminal history consent form, which provides permission for the school district to conduct a criminal history background check, and provide a money order or check payable to either the BCA or to the school district, at the election of the school district, in an amount equal to the actual cost to the BCA and the school district of conducting the criminal history background check. The cost of the criminal history background check is the responsibility of the individual, unless the school district decides to pay the costs for a volunteer, an independent contractor, or a student employee. If the individual fails to provide the school district with a signed Informed Consent Form at the time they receive a job offer or permission to provide services, they will be considered to have voluntarily withdrawn their application for employment or request to provide services.
- C. The school district, in its discretion, may elect not to request a criminal history background check on an individual who holds an initial entrance license issued by the Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board or the commissioner of education within the 12 months preceding an offer of employment or permission to provide services.
- D. The school district may use the results of a criminal background check conducted at the request of another school hiring authority if:

1. the results of the criminal background check are on file with the other school hiring authority or otherwise accessible;
 2. the other school hiring authority conducted a criminal background check within the previous 12 months;
 3. the individual executes a written consent form giving the school district access to the results of the check; and
 4. there is no reason to believe that the individual has committed an act subsequent to the check that would disqualify the individual for employment or provision of services.
- E. For all non state residents who are offered employment with or the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services to the school district, the school district shall request a criminal history background check on such individuals from the superintendent of the BCA and from the government agency performing the same function in the resident state or, if no government entity performs the same function in the resident state, from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The offer of employment or the opportunity to provide services shall be conditioned upon a determination by the school district that an individual's criminal history does not preclude the individual from employment with, or provision of services to, the school district. Such individuals must provide an executed consent form for their criminal history.
- F. When required, individuals must provide fingerprints to assist in a criminal history background check. If the fingerprints provided by the individual are unusable, the individual will be required to submit another set of prints.
- G. Copies of this policy shall be available in the school district's employment office and will be distributed to applicants for employment and individuals who are offered the opportunity to provide athletic coaching services or other extracurricular academic coaching services upon request. The requirement to undergo a criminal history background check may be included as part of the basic criteria for employment or provision of services in the position posting and advertisements.
- H. The individual will be informed of the results of the criminal background check(s) to the extent required by law.
- I. If the criminal history background check precludes employment with, or provision of services to, the school district, the individual will be so advised.

- J. The school district may apply these procedures to other volunteers, independent contractors, or student employees as well.
- K. At the beginning of each school year or when a student enrolls, the school district will notify parents and guardians about this policy and identify those positions subject to a background check and the extent of the school district's discretion in requiring a background check. The school district may include this notice in its student handbook, a school policy guide, or other similar communication. A form notice for this purpose is available from the site office for each school.

IV. THE FREQUENCY OF BACKGROUND CHECKS

- A. The frequency of background checks is as follows for each person:
 - 1. Licensed Staff: Upon Employment and again each year, the teacher is relicensed by the Board of Teaching (every 5 years)
 - 2. Non-Licensed Staff: Upon Employment and again every five years
 - 3. School Board Members: Prior to appointment to the school board and again if more than 2 terms are served, in accordance with the TAM By-Laws
 - 4. Volunteers: Prior to volunteering for an activity and again every 5 years

V. RESULTS OF THE BACKGROUND CHECKS

The results of the background check will be kept on file by District Staff. Any negative findings are reported to the Personnel Committee or School Board Chair, depending on the position of the background applicant.

VI. CRIMINAL HISTORY CONSENT FORM

A form to obtain consent for a criminal history background check is available from the site office for each school.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. § 13.04, Subd. 4 (Inaccurate or Incomplete Data)
Minn. Stat. § 13.87, Subd. 1 (Criminal History Data)
Minn. Stat. § 123B.03 (Background Check)
Minn. Stat. §§ 299C.60-299C.64 (Minnesota Child Protection Background Check Act)
Minn. Stat. § 364.09(b) (Exception for School Districts)

Cross References: