

**USD 225
FOWLER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**2024-2025 & 2025-2026
NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT**



**USD 225 BOARD OF EDUCATION
&
FOWLER TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION**

Approved by the USD 225 Board of Education on March 18th, 2024.

Statement of Ratification

The attached negotiated agreement, resulting from professional negotiations between Fowler Teachers Association and the Board of Education of Unified School District 225, for the 2024-2025 & 2025-2026 school years, is hereby approved by the undersigned.

Kim McLachlan, Chief Negotiator
Fowler Teachers Association

TJ Milford, Board President
USD 225

Fowler Teachers Association Team

Kim McLachlan
Debbie Wise

Board Negotiations Committee

Jessica Ackerman
Fred Boyd

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**ARTICLE I
DEFINITIONS**

ADMINISTRATION: Any employee so designated by the Board of Education as employed in an administrative capacity.

ASSOCIATION: The Fowler Teachers Association, affiliated with the Kansas National Education Association and the National Education Association.

BOARD: The Board of Education of Unified School District 225, Fowler, Kansas.

SUPERINTENDENT: Superintendent of Schools of Unified School District 225.

DISTRICT: Unified School District 225

DAYS: Except when otherwise indicated, days shall mean calendar days.

EMPLOYEE: The terms “employee” and “teacher” may be used interchangeably but shall mean the same.

TEACHER: All “professional employees” (except administration) employed in a position requiring certificate issued by the State Board of Education.

KNEA: Kansas National Education Association

NEA: National Education Association

FTA: Fowler Teachers Association

**ARTICLE II
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Section A – Recognition Clause

Pursuant to the Professional Negotiations Act (PNA), K.S.A. 72-2218 et seq., the Fowler Teachers Association has been duly recognized as the exclusive representative of the Unified School District No. 225 Board of Education's (Board or District) professional employees' bargaining unit.

The bargaining unit shall be defined as those employees of the Board in positions which require a certificate issued by the State Board of Education but shall not mean an administrative employee.

Section B – Saving Clause

If any provision of this agreement or an application of this agreement to any employee or group of employees is held to be contrary to law, such provision or application of the provision shall not be deemed valid except as permitted by law, but all other provisions or applications shall continue in full force and effect.

Section C – Ratified Agreement Distribution

Once the agreement has been ratified by both parties, it will be typed in final form by the Board. Both parties will proofread the final typed copy and will attest to its accuracy by signature of the appropriate representatives for both parties.

An electronic copy will be posted on the district's website and a printed copy will be provided to staff members upon request.

Section D – Duration of Agreement

After ratification by the Board and the Fowler Teachers Association, the terms of this agreement shall be in effect from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026.

ARTICLE III SALARIES AND WAGES

Section A – Salary Schedule

The base salary will be \$44,000. All teachers shall be allowed movement for steps and columns as applicable.

- a.) Salary Enhancement
 1. All undergraduate and graduate hours must relate to education, or a specific teaching field, to count towards salary enhancement.
 2. Professional Development Council (PDC) points may be used for column movement. Twenty PDC points are equivalent to 1 college credit hour. Highest movement would be BA+45 column until master's degree is earned. Once a master's degree is earned then teachers can continue to use both college credit and PDC points for column movement.
- b.) Salary Enhancement Request Form
 1. A Salary Enhancement Request Form must be submitted to the board clerk by May 1st to assist the board in budget planning for the next year.
 2. All supporting documentation (official transcripts, etc.) regarding the Salary Enhancement Request must be filed with the board clerk by September 1st for the salary enhancement to take place.
- c.) Amount of Experience Accepted
 1. A maximum of 30 years of certified experience in education may be brought into the district. Certified experience must have been completed within the area of teaching/administration in which the employee is licensed. Further documentation or proof of employment may be requested by the district. All employees shall be brought to the correct column beginning in the 23-24 school year.

Section B – Supplemental Salary Schedule

Supplemental Salaries are figured on a percentage of the base salary on the Certified Salary Schedule. The Board of Education reserves the right to not fill positions, reduce the number of positions, or combine positions filled based on financial availability of funds.

Section C – Fringe Benefit

The board will provide the following fringe insurance benefits:

- a.) **Health Insurance**

The board will pay up to \$550 monthly towards the district purchased health insurance plan. This is a “take it or lose it” benefit.
- b.) **Life Insurance**

The board will pay the cost of a term life insurance policy in the minimum amount of \$10,000.
- c.) **Medical Transport**

The board will pay the cost of one Medical Air Services Association (MASA) base membership per employee.

Section D – Payroll Deduction

The board will withhold, without cost to the employee, dues for NEA, KNEA, and KPAC from the salary of any employee who requests such withholdings. Dues shall be withheld upon request, in approximately 9 equal monthly installments beginning with the September pay date.

ARTICLE IV HOURS AND AMOUNT OF WORK

Section A – Length of Contract

The teacher contract is for 160 days, following the approved district calendar.

Section B – Length of Contract Day and Calendar

The contract day will begin at 7:30am and end at 4:15pm as determined by administration. Professional employees will adhere to the approved school calendar for required days.

Section C – Lunch

Teachers will be provided no less than a 25-minute lunch. Teachers that eat breakfast and/or lunch with students will receive their meal for free.

- Teachers may be required to monitor lunch at least once a week at the discretion of administration.

Section D – Guaranteed Plan Time

An elementary teacher's duty day will include a planning time equivalent to a minimum of 60 minutes per day during an instructional week. A secondary teacher's duty day will include a minimum of 216 minutes within the scheduled duty week.

- When a teacher covers another class during their designated plan time, the teacher will be paid a rate of \$20.00 per class period or \$10.00 per half class period (one class or learning section is considered 45-minutes).
- A signed timesheet is to be submitted to the board clerk no later than one week after coverage. Compensation will be made at the next scheduled pay period.

Section E – Certification

- All professional employees must hold a license issued by the Kansas State Board of Education qualifying them for the position they hold.
- A salary WILL NOT be allowed for persons whose license is not current or in the process of renewal by the due date.
- It is the responsibility of the professional employee to see that the license is renewed by the due date.
- A copy of the current license is to be on file with the district office and registered with the Superintendent prior to August 1st.
- A copy of an up-to-date transcript is to be on file with the district office when college hours are obtained.
- Professional employees may be required to have a TB test given by the health department.

Waivers:

Waivers, including emergency substitute, are approved on an annual basis, and compensated accordingly. The district will not accept a waiver without an approved application by the state prior to BOE consideration. A waiver will not be extended past two years.

An application for a Kansas license and a passing score on any required exam(s) will be necessary for further consideration of employment.

Transition to Teach:

Individuals that are designated "Transition to Teach" must provide documentation demonstrating enrollment in an accredited education program and progression within a Program of Study. See Article VI Tuition Reimbursement-Section B for more details.

Approved by the USD 225 Board of Education on March 18th, 2024.

ARTICLE V LEAVE

Section A – Universal Leave

- Teachers will be granted 10 days of universal leave each year.
- Leave lasting longer than two consecutive contract days, at one time, will need Superintendent approval.
- Leave is prorated for a teacher not employed for the entire year.
- Universal leave days may be sold back to the district for \$100 per day at the end of the school year. A signed form is required.
- Days carried over into the next school year will be considered sick days, not universal leave days, and not eligible for buy back at the end of the year- except for \$25 per day upon retirement, disability, or death.
- Sick days may be used for absences of the teacher's own illness, or illness of immediate family. Illness encompasses physical, mental, or emotional health.
- Sick days can accumulate up to 60 days.
- Five (5) universal days must be used before the use of carried over sick days.
- Upon retirement, disability or death, employees will be paid for unused sick days at a rate of \$25 per day.

Section C – Bereavement Leave

The board will grant up to three (3) days of bereavement. Bereavement leave defined as death of immediate family, parents, child, spouse.

Section D - Maternity or Adoption Leave

Such leave may be granted not to extend beyond the end of the current school year. If the employee is eligible for such leave under the Family Medical Leave Act, any maternity or adoptive leave will be granted under the provisions of the Family Medical Leave Act. Universal days are to be used before sick days.

Section E - Donated leave –

Criteria for use of donated leave:(voluntary basis only and non-negotiable).

- Only accessible for an unexpected medical, physical, or mental emergency.
- All universal and carried over sick leave days must be exhausted prior to the request for donated leave.
- Licensed staff may donate a number of leave days not to exceed two days.
- Donated leave cannot be retracted.
- A request is to be submitted in writing to the Superintendent
- Donated requests cannot exceed four days per request.
- The superintendent will make the final decision on requests submitted.
- A request can be denied.
- A maximum number of requests per year is two (one request per semester).
- Donated leave days are only accessible if available.
- Requests are confidential.

ARTICLE VI TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

Section A – Tuition Reimbursement Procedure

A Tuition Reimbursement Request Form must be submitted to the superintendent prior to enrollment of courses. Hours must be in an education field or specific teaching field AND pre-approved by the Superintendent. Licensed teachers will be reimbursed for courses taken at a rate of \$200 per graduate hour and \$100 per undergraduate hour.

Tuition expenses will be reimbursed at the rate above for courses with a grade of C or higher. Reimbursement for courses taken within the contract year will be made only after a contract has been signed for the following school year. This payment will be made within the first semester of the new contract.

Section B – Transition to Teach Plan of Study

Any teacher in a Transition to Teach program must file a Plan of Study with the superintendent and provide documentation of enrollment, and adequate progress, within said program. Adequate progress is defined as taking 1 class per semester with a grade of C or higher, OR completing the courses listed on the Plan of Study filed with the district with a grade of C or higher.

ARTICLE VII RESIGNATIONS AND NON-RENEWAL

Section A – Resignations

All teacher contracts of employment will continue with board approval for the next school year unless:

- Notice of intent to terminate the contract is served by the board on, or before, the third (3rd) Friday of May; or
- Notice of intent not to return, on or before, the end of the school year in May by the teacher; or
- Resignation without penalty within fourteen days after the non renewal deadline (3rd Friday of May).

The terms of the contract may be changed at any time by mutual consent of the teacher and the Board of Education (BOE). All contracts shall be binding on both the teacher and the BOE until the teacher has been legally discharged or released by the BOE from his/her contract.

- A teacher may be assessed a fine in the amount of \$1500 for breaking a contract after the non- renewal deadline through June 30th and \$3,000 after July 1.

Section B – Fair Dismissal

Upon notice of intent to terminate a contract by the board, the teacher may use the following procedure regarding fair dismissal:

Step One: A teacher may request a meeting with the board of education by filing a written request. The meeting request may also include a request for copies of any documentation to be reviewed at such meeting.

Step Two: A written request, submitted to the Clerk of the Board, must be received within 10 business days following the notification of non- renewal.

Step Three: The Board of Education will hold a special meeting within 15 days of the teacher's notification of request.

Step Four: During this meeting, the Board of Education will be in review of documents relating to the dismissal. Each party may include representation.

Step Five: The Board of Education will make a final decision within 10 days following the special meeting.

Complaints-Grievance

Any employee may file a complaint with their supervisor concerning a school rule, regulation, policy, or decision that affects the employee.

Step One: The complaint shall be in writing, filed within ten (10) days following the event complained of, and shall specify the basis of the complaint.

Step Two: The supervisor shall meet with the employee and provide a written response within ten (10) days.

Step Three: If the employee disagrees with the decision, the employee may appeal to the Superintendent.

Step Four: The superintendent shall meet with the employee and provide a written response within ten (10) days.

Step five: The employee may appeal to the Board of Education if they disagree with the decision of the Superintendent. The decision of the Board of Education shall be final.

**APPENDIX
2024-2025 & 2025-2026
Certified Salary Schedule**

Year	BS	BS+15	BS+30	BS+45	MS	MS+15	MS+30	MS+45	Ed.S
0	44000	44575	45150	45725	46300	46875	47450	48025	48600
1	44575	45150	45725	46300	46875	47450	48025	48600	49175
2	45150	45725	46300	46875	47450	48025	48600	49175	49750
3	45725	46300	46875	47450	48025	48600	49175	49750	50325
4	46300	46875	47450	48025	48600	49175	49750	50325	50900
5	46875	47450	48025	48600	49175	49750	50325	50900	51475
6	47450	48025	48600	49175	49750	50325	50900	51475	52050
7	48025	48600	49175	49750	50325	50900	51475	52050	52625
8	48600	49175	49750	50325	50900	51475	52050	52625	53200
9	49175	49750	50325	50900	51475	52050	52625	53200	53775
10	49750	50325	50900	51475	52050	52625	53200	53775	54350
11		50900	51475	52050	52625	53200	53775	54350	54925
12		51475	52050	52625	53200	53775	54350	54925	55500
13		52050	52625	53200	53775	54350	54925	55500	56075
14		52625	53200	53775	54350	54925	55500	56075	56650
15		53200	53775	54350	54925	55500	56075	56650	57225
16			54350	54925	55500	56075	56650	57225	57800
17			54925	55500	56075	56650	57225	57800	58375
18			55500	56075	56650	57225	57800	58375	58950
19			56075	56650	57225	57800	58375	58950	59525
20			56650	57225	57800	58375	58950	59525	60100
21				57800	58375	58950	59525	60100	60675
22				58375	58950	59525	60100	60675	61250
23				58950	59525	60100	60675	61250	61825
24				59525	60100	60675	61250	61825	62400
25				60100	60675	61250	61825	62400	62975
26					61250	61825	62400	62975	63550
27					61825	62400	62975	63550	64125
28					62400	62975	63550	64125	64700
29					62975	63550	64125	64700	65275
30					63550	64125	64700	65275	65850
31						64700	65275	65850	66425
32							65850	66425	67000
33								67000	67575
34								67575	68150
35								68150	68725
36									69300
37									69875
38									70450
39									71025
40									71600

Note: Beginning in the 2023-2024 academic year, teachers who are at the bottom of their respective column and have taught in the district for at least 5 years will receive a longevity stipend as follows: 5-9 years, \$500 stipend, years 10+, \$1,000 stipend. This stipend will be based on the financial availability of funding.

Approved by the USD 225 Board of Education on March 18th, 2024.

Supplemental Salaries are figured on a percentage of the base salary on the Certified Salary Schedule. The Board of Education reserves the right to not fill positions, reduce the number of positions, or combine positions filled based on financial availability of funds.

Supplemental Salary Schedule

Position	Percentage
Sports	
HS Head Coach	12%
HS Assistant Coach	8%
JH Head Coach	6%
JH Assistant Coach	4%
Clubs/Activities	
Activities Director	12%
Debate/Forensics	5%
HS Scholar's Bowl	5%
JH Scholar's Bowl	4%
NHS	2%
Powerlifting	6%
Student Council	4%
FFA	12%
Pep Band	5%
Play/Musical	4%
Sr. Class Sponsor	4%
Jr. Class Sponsor	4%
Elementary Testing Coordinator/ESOL	2%
New Teacher Mentor	\$250/per teacher

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**Salary Advancement/Enhancement Request Form
Due by May 1**

Employee's Name (please print)

Please check if you want an official PDC transcript submitted to the board clerk to support this enhancement request. PDC Points _____ divided by 20 = _____ equivalent

Check here and list colleges attended to support this enhancement request:

College: _____ # hrs: _____

College: _____ # hrs: _____

It is the employee's responsibility to contact the college and make sure transcripts arrive by the deadline

Select your current placement and your requested placement.

Current Placement			Requested Placement
Bachelor's	<input type="checkbox"/>	→	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bachelor's +15	<input type="checkbox"/>	→	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bachelor's +30	<input type="checkbox"/>	→	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bachelor's +45	<input type="checkbox"/>	→	<input type="checkbox"/>
Master's	<input type="checkbox"/>	→	<input type="checkbox"/>
Master's +15	<input type="checkbox"/>	→	<input type="checkbox"/>
Master's +30	<input type="checkbox"/>	→	<input type="checkbox"/>
Master's +45	<input type="checkbox"/>	→	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ed.S.	<input type="checkbox"/>	→	<input type="checkbox"/>

Deadline for transcripts – September 1st

This is to declare my intention to complete the required number of in-service training points and or college hours by the applicable deadline to qualify for salary enhancement as approved by the Board of Education. I understand that failure to complete the requirements and to provide official transcripts by the respective classified/certified deadline will disqualify me from salary enhancement for the fiscal year.

Employee's Signature

Date

Transition to Teach Plan of Study

Employee Name: _____

College or University: _____

Program of Study: _____

Anticipated Completion Date: _____

Fall _____	
Course Title	Hours
Total Hours	

Course Title	Hours
Total Hours	

Summer _____	
Course Title	Hours
Total Hours	

Spring _____
