

Hamblen County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually in January	Descriptor Term: Teacher Tenure	Descriptor Code: 5.117	Issued Date: 10/10/17
		Rescinds: 5.117	Issued: 04/25/13

1 *General*

2 To attain tenure status,¹ a teacher must: (1) meet tenure eligibility requirements; (2) be renewed and
3 recommended by the director of schools; and (3) receive a majority vote of the board.

4 **TENURE ELIGIBILITY²**

5 Teachers that meet the following requirements are eligible for tenure:

- 6 1. Has a degree from an approved four-year college or any career and technical teacher who has
7 the equivalent amount of training established and is licensed by the state board of education;
8
- 9 2. Holds a valid teacher license issued by the state board of education, based on training covering
10 the subjects or grades taught;
11
- 12 3. Has completed a probationary period of five (5) school years or not less than forty-five (45)
13 months within the last seven-year period, the last two (2) years being employed in a regular
14 teaching position rather than an interim teaching position; and
15
- 16 4. Has received evaluations demonstrating an overall performance effectiveness level of “above
17 expectations” or “significantly above expectations” as provided in the evaluation guidelines
18 adopted by the state board of education, during the last two (2) years of the probationary
19 period.

20 **ACQUISITION OF TENURE STATUS**

21 Once a teacher is eligible for tenure, he/she shall be either recommended by the director of schools for
22 tenure or nonrenewed. If tenure is denied by the board, the teacher shall be dismissed.³

23 The following additional guidelines shall apply:

- 24 1. The director of schools will recommend persons eligible for tenure at a board meeting in ample
25 time to provide notice of non-renewal to each teacher not recommended for tenure within five (5)
26 business days following the last instructional day for the school year.⁴
27
- 28 2. The decision to grant tenure is solely within the discretion of the board.⁵ Only those teachers who
29 receive a majority vote of the membership of the board will be granted tenure.⁶
30
- 31 3. A teacher who is eligible for tenure, but tenure is denied by the board, shall not be rehired beyond
32 the current contract year.⁷

1 TEACHER RETURNING TO EMPLOYMENT

2 A teacher who has acquired tenure status in the school system and later resigns shall serve a two-year
3 probationary period upon reemployment, unless the probationary period is waived by the board upon
4 request of the director of schools. Upon completion of the two-year period, the teacher shall either be
5 recommended by the director of schools for tenure or non-renewed. If tenure is denied by the board, the
6 teacher shall be dismissed.⁷

7 TEACHER TRANSFERRING FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL SYSTEM⁸

8 A tenured or nontenured teacher with five (5) or more years of prior service that transfers from another
9 school system to begin employment in the Hamblen County School System shall serve the regular
10 probationary period. The board, upon the recommendation of the director of schools, may waive the
11 probationary period and grant tenure status or shorten the probationary period.

12 If a nontenured teacher with fewer than five (5) years of service transfers from another school system,
13 such teacher shall not be eligible for tenure status until the teacher has served at least five (5) years when
14 service in both school systems is counted.

15 All tenure decisions made under this section are subject to the requirements concerning overall teacher
16 performance effectiveness levels.

17 TEACHER RETURNING TO PROBATIONARY STATUS⁹

18 Any tenured teacher who receives two (2) consecutive years of evaluations demonstrating an overall
19 performance effectiveness level of “below expectations” or “significantly below expectations” shall be
20 returned to probationary status by the director of schools until the teacher has received two (2)
21 consecutive years of evaluations demonstrating an overall performance effectiveness level of “above
22 expectations” or “significantly above expectations.”

23 When a teacher who has returned to probationary status has received two (2) consecutive years of
24 evaluations demonstrating an overall performance effectiveness level of “above expectations” or
25 “significantly above expectations,” the teacher is again eligible for tenure and shall be either
26 recommended by the director of schools for tenure or nonrenewed; provided, however, that the teacher
27 shall be dismissed if tenure is denied by the board.

28 This section does not apply to teachers who acquired tenure prior to July 1, 2011.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-5-501(11)(A)
2. TCA 49-5-503
3. TCA 49-5-504(b)
4. TCA 49-5-409
5. TCA 49-2-203(a)(1)
6. TCA 49-2-202(g)
7. TCA 49-5-504(d)
8. TCA 49-5-509
9. TCA 49-5-504(e), (f)