

The Board of Fire Commissioners recognizes the necessity to develop programs and mechanisms to enhance the District's and Department's ability to recruit and retain volunteer fire personnel. The Board finds and determines that the Volunteer Tuition Credit Program (VTCP) established by the State of New Jersey, P.L. 1998, c. 145, to be a beneficial tool in enhancing the District's and Department's ability to recruit and retain volunteer personnel.

The VTCP permits volunteer fire service personnel who are active and in good standing, as well as their spouses and dependent children, to receive tuition credit to a county college, county vocational school or county technical institute. The Board shall develop means and methods to inform District and Department personnel about the VTCP and the eligibility and other requirements under the program. The Board shall arrange through the Township implementation procedures to permit District and Department personnel to avail themselves of the benefit.

The Board shall enact rules and regulations, procedures or guidelines and directives to implement or otherwise effectuate the purpose and intent of this Policy and federal, state and local laws, and rules, regulations, procedures, guidelines or directives promulgated thereto, as amended, which were enacted to insure or supplement the intent and purpose of this Policy. Said rules and regulations, procedures or guidelines and directives may be amended or supplemented by the Board as it deems necessary.

This Policy does not modify existing Board policies, procedures, guidelines, rules, regulations or directives and shall be read and construed in conjunction with other Board policies, procedures, guidelines, rules, regulations or directives so that any inconsistencies or ambiguities in this Policy may be resolved by referencing other Board policies, procedures, guidelines, rules, regulations or directives. Any interpretation as to the meaning of this Policy shall not be contrary to federal, state or local laws, or contrary to or inconsistent with the mandated charge of the Board. If any provision paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase set forth in this Policy is for any reason held or determined to be unconstitutional or invalid, same shall not affect the remainder of this Policy.

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:71-78.1, et seq.

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: November 12, 2019

Effective Date: December 9, 2019

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: December 9, 2019

Revised Date: