

- D. This provision shall not be circumvented by calling the document by another title such as: Letter of Informal Discussion, Employee Counseling Record, or Letters of Contact. These types of “minor” corrective memos are to be placed in the employee’s supervisory file, but not in the official personnel file.
- E. The employee shall have the right to submit a rebuttal to any LOI/WID, or any such comment referred to in subsection D above. The rebuttal shall be submitted no later than thirty (30) days after issuance of the LOI/WID to the employee, unless mutually agreed by the Appointing Authority’s authorized representative and the employee or his/her representative. The rebuttal shall be attached to the applicable LOI/WID.

**13.9.17 Letters of Instruction (LOI)/Work Improvement Discussions (WIDs) (Unit 17)**

- A. LOI/WIDs (as well as counseling memos, informal letters of reprimand, letters of warning, etc.) shall contain a specified expiration date, not to exceed one year if there has been no recurring behavior, upon which the employee may request the removal of the same. Upon request to the appointing authority of his/her designee, they shall be removed and destroyed, unless the employee requests the documents be returned to them for their own disposal.
- B. LOI/WIDs shall be issued in a timely fashion, generally within thirty (30) days from when the incident occurred or from date of discovery of the incident that forms the basis for the LOI/WID.
- C. In cases where departmental staff are investigating an employee in a situation which adverse action potentially may follow, and the decision is made to give the employee an LOI/WID, the LOI/WID shall be issued in a timely fashion, generally within thirty (30) days from the decision to give the employee an LOI. This will not prevent the parties from negotiating a formal adverse action down to an LOI/WID.
- D. This provision shall not be circumvented by calling the document by another title such as: Letter of Informal Discussion, Employee Counseling Record, Letters of Contact, or Expectations of Work Performance memos. These types of “minor” corrective memos are to be placed in the employee’s supervisory file, but not in the OPF.

**13.10.1 Education and Training (Unit 1)**

- A. It is the policy of the State to assure quality service to the public by developing the skills and abilities of State employees through training and education activities. These interests are served by having competent employees capable of maintaining productivity, able to adjust to changes in service requirements, and prepared to assume increased responsibilities.
- B. Each State department shall make available at the work site its training policies and, annually, its training course list. Each department shall provide to the Union a copy of its training courses.
- C. Each State department shall be required to complete an annual Individual Development Plan (IDP) for each permanent full-time employee and for PI employees who work seven hundred fifty (750) hours or more annually.
- D. Working within budgetary and workload constraints, each State department, through its annual training plan process, will provide training in handling hostile and threatening behavior.
- E. Employees may request training courses. Training requests shall not be unreasonably denied and the reason for the denial shall be in writing to the employee.
- F. The parties agree that training on rape prevention, sexual harassment awareness, managing assaultive behavior and stress reduction are appropriate subjects for high priority consideration by the appropriate Joint Labor/Management Health and Safety Committees.
- G. The State and the Union recognize that certain benefits accrue to the State and employees through participation in professional job related seminars, conferences and conventions. The State, working within the framework of budgetary and workload constraints, will support such activities.
- H. The State agrees to reimburse employees for expenses incurred as a result of passing training or education courses required by the department to assure adequate performance as specified in the IDP, or increase current job proficiency. When such courses are offered during normal working hours, the employee shall receive his/her regular salary. When such courses are taken outside of normal working hours, an employee in Work Week Group 2 shall be reimbursed in cash or the work hours may be adjusted on an hour-for-hour basis commensurate with the hours necessary to attend classroom instruction. The reimbursement will include:
  1. Tuition and/or registration fees.
  2. Cost of course-related books.

3. Transportation or mileage expenses.
4. Toll and parking fees.
5. Lodging and subsistence expenses.

An employee who does not satisfactorily complete a training or education course required by the department according to the department's predetermined standards shall not be eligible for reimbursement of tuition and other necessary expenses and shall agree to return any advance payment received.

- I. Reimbursement for the above expenses shall be in accordance with article 12 of this Contract.
- J. When assigning or approving an employee for career-related out-service training, the department may establish policies regarding (1) allocation of time with pay (including adjustments of work hours) for assignments during normal working hours, and (2) reimbursement for tuition and other necessary expenses. Except as established by the department, reimbursement should be for fifty percent (50%) of costs incurred. Reimbursement for travel and per diem shall not be allowed for an assignment during non-working hours, except when the appointing power determines that such reimbursement is justified in order to avoid substantial inequity.
- K. The employee or his/her estate shall receive reimbursement for tuition and other necessary expenses, if the training assignment is terminated prior to completion either (1) at the convenience of the State, or (2) because of death, prolonged illness, disability, or other eventuality beyond the control of the employee.
- L. To the extent practicable and within available training resources, the department shall arrange for counseling, education, and training of employees as may be reasonably needed to prepare them for placement in other State civil service positions when their positions have been and are about to be changed substantially or eliminated by automation, technological changes or other management initiated changes.
- M. Each department, upon request of an eligible employee as defined in the subsection concerning Class A and Class B Driver's Licenses, will make available any information prepared by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) covering the commercial driver's license examination.

### **13.10.3 Education and Training (Unit 3)**

- A. The State agrees to reimburse Unit 3 employees for expenses incurred as a result of satisfactorily completing training or education courses required by a department to assure adequate performance. Such reimbursement shall be limited to:
  1. Tuition and/or registration fees;
  2. Cost of course-required books;
  3. Transportation or mileage expenses;
  4. Toll and parking fees;
  5. Lodging and subsistence expenses.

Where applicable, reimbursement rates for the above expenses shall be in accordance with article 12, section 12.1 of this Contract.
- B. If the State agrees with a Unit 3 employee's participation in nonrequired career-related training, the State may reimburse to employees for up to fifty percent (50%) of tuition, fees, and books, not to exceed department limits after the employee has satisfactorily completed the course. Travel, per diem, and miscellaneous expenses are not reimbursable. Normally, attendance will be on the employee's own time.
- C. Advance Application – An employee may receive reimbursement for tuition or other necessary expenses only if application is made prior to enrollment in an out-service training program or when the employer has requested the employee attend.
- D. Incomplete Assignment
  1. General
 

An employee who does not satisfactorily complete an out-service assignment shall not be eligible for reimbursement of tuition and other necessary expenses and shall agree to return any advance payment received.
  2. Exceptions
 

The employee or his/her estate shall receive reimbursement for tuition and other necessary expenses:

    - a. At the convenience of the State provided that the training facility reports satisfactory performance by the employee during the assignment; or