

**AGENDA ITEM  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
AGENDA**

<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Workshop</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Regular</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Special</b>
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- (A)  **Report Only**  **Recognition**

**Presenter(s):**

**Briefly describe the subject of the report or recognition presentation.**

- (B)  **Action Item**

**SAMUEL MIJARES, SUPERINTENDENT**

**Presenter(s): JESUS ARTURO COSTILLA, EXEC. DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Briefly describe the action required.**

Consider and take action on the request to revise Board Policy DEC Local Compensation and Benefits Leaves and Absences as per TASB.

- (C) **Funding source: Identify the source of funds if any are required.**

- (D) **Clarification: Explain any questions or issues that might be raised regarding this item.**

**PROPOSED REVISIONS (See pg. 4)**

**Leave  
Administration**

The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations addressing employee leaves and absences to implement the provisions of this policy.

**Definitions**

The term "immediate family" is defined as:

**Immediate Family**

1. Spouse.
2. Son or daughter, including a biological, adopted, or foster child, a son- or daughter-in-law, a stepchild, a legal ward, or a child for whom the employee stands *in loco parentis*.
3. Parent, stepparent, parent-in-law, or other individual who stands *in loco parentis* to the employee.
4. Sibling, stepsibling, and sibling-in-law.
5. Grandparent and grandchild.
6. Any person residing in the employee's household at the time of illness or death.

For purposes of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the definitions of spouse, parent, son or daughter, and next of kin are found in DECA(LEGAL).

**Family Emergency**

The term "family emergency" shall be limited to disasters and life-threatening situations involving the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family.

**Leave Day**

A "leave day" for purposes of earning, using, or recording leave shall mean the number of hours per day equivalent to the employee's usual assignment, whether full-time or part-time.

**School Year**

A "school year" for purposes of earning, using, or recording leave shall mean the term of the employee's annual employment as set by the District for the employee's usual assignment, whether full-time or part-time.

**Catastrophic Illness  
or Injury**

A catastrophic illness or injury is a severe condition or combination of conditions affecting the mental or physical health of the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family that requires the services of a licensed practitioner for a prolonged period of time and that forces the employee to exhaust all leave time earned by that employee and to lose compensation from the District. Such conditions typically require prolonged hospitalization or recovery or are expected to result in disability or death. Conditions relating to pregnancy or childbirth shall be considered catastrophic if they meet the requirements of this paragraph.

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**Note:** For District contribution to employee insurance during leave, see CRD(LOCAL).

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**Availability**

The District shall make state personal leave and local leave for the current year available for use at the beginning of the school year.

**State Leave Proration**

If an employee separates from employment with the District before his or her last duty day of the school year or begins employment after the first duty day of the school year, state personal leave shall be prorated based on the actual time employed.

If an employee separates from employment before the last duty day of the school year, the employee's final paycheck shall be reduced for state personal leave the employee used beyond his or her pro rata entitlement for the school year.

**Medical Excuse**

An employee shall submit medical excuse of the need for leave if the employee is absent more than five consecutive workdays because of personal illness or illness in the immediate family.

**Medical Certification**

An employee shall submit medical certification of the need for leave if:

1. The District requires medical certification due to a questionable pattern of absences or when deemed necessary by the supervisor or Superintendent; or
2. The employee requests FMLA leave for the employee's serious health condition; a serious health condition of the employee's spouse, parent, or child; or for military caregiver leave.

In each case, medical certification shall be made by a health-care provider as defined by the FMLA. [See DECA(LEGAL)]

**State Personal Leave**

The Board requires employees to differentiate the manner in which state personal leave is used.

**Nondiscretionary Use**

Nondiscretionary use of leave shall be for the same reasons and in the same manner as state sick leave accumulated before May 30, 1995. [See DEC(LEGAL)]

Nondiscretionary use includes leave related to the birth or placement of a child and taken within the first year after the child's birth, adoption, or foster placement.

**Discretionary Use**

Discretionary use of leave is at the individual employee's discretion, subject to limitations set out below.

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*Request for  
Leave*

In deciding whether to approve or deny a request for discretionary use of state personal leave, the supervisor shall not seek or consider the reasons for which an employee requests to use leave. The supervisor shall, however, consider the duration of the requested absence in conjunction with the effect of the employee's absence on the educational program and District operations, as well as the availability of substitutes.

Discretionary use of state personal leave shall not exceed three consecutive workdays.

**Local Leave**

Each employee shall earn five, six, or seven paid local leave days per school year based on the number of months of service required for the position and in accordance with administrative regulations.

Local leave shall accumulate without limit.

Local leave shall be used according to the terms and conditions of state personal leave. [See State Personal Leave, above]

**Mental Health Leave**

A District peace officer who experiences a traumatic event in the scope of employment shall be granted a maximum of ten days of mental health leave per traumatic event. Such leave shall be provided in accordance with administrative regulations and shall not be deducted from the employee's pay or leave balance.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations regarding mental health leave that address the following:

1. Circumstances or reasons under which an eligible employee may use mental health leave;
2. Procedures for requesting mental health leave and maintaining the anonymity of the requester;
3. The administrator authorized to approve requests for mental health leave; and
4. Other procedures deemed necessary for administering this provision.

**Quarantine Leave**

A District peace officer shall be granted quarantine leave when ordered by the local health authority or the peace officer's supervisor to quarantine or isolate due to possible or known exposure to a communicable disease while on duty. Such leave shall be provided in accordance with administrative regulations and shall not be deducted from the employee's pay or leave balance.

The Superintendent shall develop regulations regarding quarantine leave that address the following:

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1. Continuation of all employment benefits and compensation for the duration of the leave;
2. Reimbursement for reasonable costs related to the quarantine; and
3. Other procedures deemed necessary for administering this provision.

**Line of Duty Illness  
or Injury Leave of  
Absence**

Following a leave of absence with full pay as required by law, the District shall not extend the leave of absence for a police officer's line of duty illness or injury. In accordance with law, the police officer may use accumulated leave.

**Local Sick Leave  
Transfer Program**

An employee who has exhausted all paid leave and who suffers from a catastrophic illness or injury or is absent due to the catastrophic illness or injury of a member of the employee's immediate family, that is, spouse, child, parent, or sibling, may request the establishment of a local sick leave transfer program, to which District employees may donate only local leave for use by the eligible employee.

If the employee is unable to submit the request, a member of the employee's family or the employee's supervisor may submit the request for transferred days.

The local sick leave transfer program shall cease to exist when the employee no longer needs leave for the purpose requested, uses the maximum number of days allowed under the program, or exhausts all leave days donated to the employee under the local sick leave transfer program.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop regulations for the implementation of the sick leave transfer program that address the following:

1. Procedures to request the establishment of a sick leave transfer program;
2. The maximum number of days an employee may donate to a sick leave transfer program;
3. The maximum number of days per school year an eligible employee may receive from a sick leave transfer program; and
4. The return of unused days to donors.

**Appeal**

All decisions regarding the establishment or implementation of the District's sick leave transfer program may be appealed in accordance with DGBA(LOCAL), beginning with the Superintendent or designee.

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<b>Family and Medical Leave</b>	<p>FMLA leave shall run concurrently with applicable paid leave and compensatory time, as applicable.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Note:</b> See DECA(LEGAL) for provisions addressing FMLA.</p> <hr/>
Twelve-Month Period	<p>For purposes of an employee's entitlement to FMLA leave, the 12-month period shall be measured backward from the date an employee uses FMLA leave.</p>
Combined Leave for Spouses	<p>When both spouses are employed by the District, the District shall limit FMLA leave for the birth, adoption, or placement of a child, or to care for a parent with a serious health condition, to a combined total of 12 weeks. The District shall limit military caregiver leave to a combined total of 26 weeks.</p>
Intermittent or Reduced Schedule Leave	<p>The District shall not permit use of intermittent or reduced schedule FMLA leave for the care of a newborn child or for the adoption or placement of a child with the employee.</p>
Certification of Leave	<p>When an employee requests leave, the employee shall provide certification, in accordance with FMLA regulations, of the need for leave.</p>
Fitness-for-Duty Certification	<p>In accordance with administrative regulations, when an employee takes FMLA leave due to the employee's own serious health condition, the employee shall provide, before resuming work, a fitness-for-duty certification.</p>
Leave at the End of Semester	<p>When a teacher takes leave near the end of the semester, the District may require the teacher to continue leave until the end of the semester.</p>
<b>Temporary Disability Leave</b>	<p>Any full-time employee whose position requires educator certification by the State Board for Educator Certification or by the District shall be eligible for temporary disability leave. The maximum length of temporary disability leave shall be 180 calendar days. [See DBB(LOCAL) for temporary disability leave placement and DEC(LEGAL) for return to active duty.]</p> <p>An employee's notification of need for extended absence due to the employee's own medical condition shall be forwarded to the Superintendent as a request for temporary disability leave.</p> <p>The District shall require the employee to use temporary disability leave and paid leave, including any compensatory time, concurrently with FMLA leave.</p>

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**Workers'  
Compensation**

**Note:** Workers' compensation is not a form of leave. The workers' compensation law does not require the continuation of the District's contribution to health insurance.

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An absence due to a work-related injury or illness shall be designated as FMLA leave, temporary disability leave, and/or assault leave, as applicable.

**No Paid Leave  
Offset**

The District shall not permit the option for paid leave offset in conjunction with workers' compensation income benefits. [See CRE]

**Court Appearances**

Absences due to compliance with a valid subpoena or for jury duty shall be fully compensated by the District and shall not be deducted from the employee's pay or leave balance.

**Payment for  
Accumulated Leave  
Upon Retirement**

The following leave provisions shall apply to local leave accumulated beginning on the original effective date of this program, the 2023-24 school year.

The employee shall receive payment for each day of accumulated local leave at one-half of the employee's daily rate. If the employee is reemployed with the District, days for which the employee received payment shall not be available to that employee.

The rate established by the Board shall be in effect until the Board adopts a new rate. Any changes to the rate shall apply beginning with the school year following the adoption of the rate change.

Eligibility requirements for an employee receiving payment for accumulated leave upon retirement can be found in administrative regulations.

**Payment for  
Accumulated Leave  
Upon Separation**

The following leave provisions shall apply to local leave accumulated beginning on the original effective date of this program, the 2023-24 school year.

The employee shall receive payment for each day of accumulated local leave at one-half of the employee's daily rate. If the employee is reemployed with the District, days for which the employee received payment shall not be available to that employee.

The rate established by the Board shall be in effect until the Board adopts a new rate. Any changes to the rate shall apply beginning with the school year following the adoption of the rate change.

Eligibility requirements for an employee receiving payment for accumulated leave upon separation can be found in administrative regulations.