

Document Status: Draft Update

Professional Personnel

5:250 Leaves of Absence

Each of the provisions in this policy applies to all professional personnel to the extent that it does not conflict with an applicable collective bargaining agreement, working agreement, or individual employment contract or benefit plan; in the event of a conflict, such provision is severable and the applicable bargaining agreement, working agreement, or individual agreement will control.

Sick Leave, [PRESSPlus1](#) Personal Leave, Leave of Absence Without Pay

Please refer to the applicable collective bargaining agreement(s) or working agreement(s).

Staff members are entitled to use up to 30 days of paid sick leave because of the birth of a child that is not dependent on the need to recover from childbirth. Such days may be used at any time within the 12-month period following the birth of the child. Intervening periods of nonworking days or school not being in session, such as breaks and holidays, do not count towards the 30 working school days. As a condition of paying sick leave beyond the 30 working school days, the Board or Superintendent may require medical certification.

For purposes of adoption, placement for adoption, or acceptance of a child in need of foster care, paid sick leave may be used for reasons related to the formal adoption or the formal foster care process prior to taking custody of the child or accepting the child in need of foster care, and for taking custody of the child or accepting the child in need of foster care. Such leave is limited to 30 days, unless a longer leave is provided in an applicable collective bargaining agreement, and need not be used consecutively once the formal adoption or foster care process is underway. The Board or Superintendent may require that the employee provide evidence that the formal adoption or foster care process is underway.

Family Child Bereavement Leave [PRESSPlus2](#)

State law allows a maximum of 10 unpaid work days for eligible employees (Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, 20 U.S.C. §2601 et seq.) to take family child bereavement leave. The purpose, requirements, scheduling, and all other terms of the leave are governed by the Family Child Bereavement Leave Act. Eligible employees may use family Child bereavement leave, without any adverse employment action, allows for: (1) attendance by the bereaved staff member at the funeral or alternative to a funeral of his or her child a covered family member, which includes an employee's child, stepchild, domestic partner, PRESSPlus3 sibling, parent, mother-in-law, father-in-law, grandchild, grandparent, or stepparent (2) making arrangements necessitated by the death of the staff member's child covered family member, or (3) grieving the death of the staff member's child covered family member, without any adverse employment action, or (4) absence from work due to a Significant Event, PRESSPlus4 which includes: (i) miscarriage, (ii) an unsuccessful round of intrauterine insemination or of an assisted reproductive technology procedure, (iii) a failed adoption match or an adoption that is not finalized because it is contested by another party, (iv) a failed surrogacy agreement, (v) a diagnosis that negatively impacts pregnancy or fertility, or (vi) a still birth. An employee qualifying for leave due to a Significant Event will not be required to identify which specific reason applies to the employee's request.

The leave must be completed within 60 days after the date on which the employee received notice of the death of his or her child the covered family member or the date on which an event under item (4) above occurs. However, in the event of the death of more than one child covered family member in a 12-month period, an employee is entitled to up to a total of six weeks of bereavement leave during the 12-month period, subject to certain restrictions under State and federal law. Other existing forms of leave may be substituted for the leave provided in the Family Child Bereavement Leave Act. This policy does not create any right for an employee to take family child bereavement leave that is inconsistent with the Family Child Bereavement Leave Act.

Sabbatical Leave

Sabbatical leave may be granted in accordance with the School Code.

Leave to Serve as an Election Judge

Any staff member who was appointed to serve as an election judge under State law may, after giving at least 20-days' written notice to the District, be absent without pay for the purpose of serving as an election judge. The staff member is not required to use any form of paid leave to serve as an election judge. No

more than 10% of the District's employees may be absent to serve as election judges on the same Election Day.

Leaves for Service in the Military

Leaves for service in the U.S. Armed Services or any of its reserve components and the National Guard, as well as re-employment rights, will be granted in accordance with State and federal law. A professional staff member hired to replace one in military service does not acquire tenure.

General Assembly Leave

Leaves for service in the General Assembly, as well as re-employment rights, will be granted in accordance with State and federal law. A professional staff member hired to replace one in the General Assembly does not acquire tenure.

Leave for Employment in Department of Defense

The Board may grant teachers a leave of absence to accept employment in a Dept. of Defense overseas school.

School Visitation Leave

An eligible professional staff member is entitled to eight hours during any school year, no more than four hours of which may be taken on any given day, to attend school conferences, behavioral meetings, or academic meetings related to the teacher's child, if the conference or meeting cannot be scheduled during non-work hours. Professional staff members must first use all accrued vacation leave, personal leave, compensatory leave, and any other leave that may be granted to the professional staff member, except sick, and disability leave.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative procedures implementing this policy consistent with the School Visitation Rights Act.

Leaves for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, Gender Violence, or Other Crime of Violence

An unpaid leave from work is available to any staff member who: (1) is a victim of domestic violence, sexual violence, gender violence, or any other crime of violence or (2) has a family or household member who is a victim of such violence whose interests are not adverse to the employee as it relates to the domestic violence, sexual violence, gender violence, or any other crime of violence. The unpaid leave allows the employee to seek medical help, legal

assistance, counseling, safety planning, and other assistance without suffering adverse employment action.

The Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act governs the purpose, requirements, scheduling, and continuity of benefits, and all other terms of the leave. Accordingly, if the District employs at least 50 employees, an employee is entitled to a total of 12 work weeks of unpaid leave during any 12-month period for any one (1) or more of the following reasons:

- A. Seeking medical attention for, or recovering from, physical or psychological injuries caused by domestic or sexual violence to the employee or the employee's family or household member;
- B. Obtaining services from a victim services organization for the employee or the employee's family or household member;
- C. Obtaining psychological or other counseling for the employee or the employee's family or household member;
- D. Participating in safety planning, temporarily or permanently relocating, or taking other actions to increase the safety of the employee or the employee's family or household member from future domestic or sexual violence or ensure economic security; or
- E. Seeking legal assistance or remedies to ensure the health and safety of the employee or the employee's family or household member, including preparing for or participating in any civil or criminal legal proceeding related to or derived from domestic or sexual violence.

Neither the law nor this policy creates a right for an employee to take unpaid leave that exceeds the unpaid leave time allowed under, or is in addition to the unpaid leave time permitted by, the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 ([29 U.S.C. §2601](#) *et seq.*).

COVID-19 Paid Administrative Leave [PRESSPlus5](#)

During any time when the Governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency under 20 ILCS 3305/7, paid administrative leave is available to eligible employees if the District, State or any of its agencies, or the local health department has issued guidance, mandates, or rules related to COVID-19 that restrict an employee from being on District property for a reason outlined in State law.

For an employee to be eligible for COVID-19 paid administrative leave, the employee must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 [PRESSPlus6](#) as defined in

105 ILCS 5/10-20.83 (final citation pending). [Q1](#)

The employee will receive as many days of administrative leave as required to abide by the public health guidance, mandates, and requirements issued by the Ill. Dept. of Public Health, unless a longer period has been negotiated with the exclusive bargaining representative.

As a condition of being granted COVID-19 paid administrative leave, an employee shall provide all documentation necessary to substantiate the employee's eligibility for the leave, as requested by the Superintendent or designee. [PRESSPlus7](#) An employee who is on COVID-19 paid administrative leave will receive the employee's regular rate of pay; the leave will not diminish any other leave or benefits of the employee. Employees may not accrue COVID-19 paid administrative leave.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/10-20.83 (final citation pending), 5/24-6, 5/24-6.1, 5/24-6.2, 5/24-6.3, 5/24-13, and 5/24-13.1.

10 ILCS 5/13-2.5.

105 ILCS 5/24-6, 5/24-6.1, 5/24-6.2, 5/24-6.3, 5/24-13, and 5/24-13.1.

10 ILCS 5/13-2.5, Election Code.

[330 ILCS 61/](#), Service Member Employment and Reemployment Rights Act.

[820 ILCS 147/](#), School Visitation Rights Act.

[820 ILCS 154/](#), Child Bereavement Leave Act.

[820 ILCS 180/](#), Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act.

CROSS REF.: 5:180 (Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity), 5:185 (Family and Medical Leave), 5:330 (Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves)

Questions and Answers:

***Required Question 1. Does the board require fully vaccinated employees to participate in a district COVID-19 testing program?

- No. (Default)
 - Yes. (IASB will add "and participate in the District's COVID-19 testing program" to the end of this sentence.)
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PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. 105 ILCS 5/24-6, amended by P.A. 102-697, requires districts to return sick leave used by a fully vaccinated teacher for a qualifying COVID-19 related reason during the 2021-2022 school year, provided the teacher was "fully vaccinated against COVID-19" by 5-10-22. The law prohibits districts from rescinding the returned sick leave in the event the definition of "fully vaccinated against COVID-19" is later updated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or the Ill. Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) to include recommended booster doses. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 2. Updated in response to the FamilyChild Bereavement Act, 820 ILCS 154/, amended by P.A. 102-1050, eff. 1-1-23, expanding the entitlement to unpaid bereavement leave to *covered family members*, and to include absences related to unsuccessful pregnancies and adoptions. The employer may require reasonable documentation as specified in 105 ILCS 154/10(d), amended by P.A. 102-1050, eff. 1-1-23, but may not require that an employee identify which specific category under item (4) in the first paragraph of this subhead pertains to the leave. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 3. *Domestic partner*, when used to refer to an unmarried employee, includes: (1) the person recognized as the domestic partner of the employee under any domestic partnership or civil union law of a state or political subdivision of a state, or (2) an unmarried adult who is in a committed, personal relationship with the employee, who is not a domestic partner as described in item (1) and who the employee designates as that employee's domestic partner. 820 ILCS 154/5, amended by P.A. 102-1050, eff. 1-1-23. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 4. Note the term *Significant Event* does not appear in the statute; it is included in this policy text as a shorthand term to refer to those events listed in 820 ILCS 154/10(a)(4). **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 5. Required by 105 ILCS 5/10-20.83 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 102-697. Whether some or all of the COVID-19 related reasons listed in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.83(b) and (c) (final citation pending) apply will depend upon current health guidance and/or rules. The law requires that this leave also be provided retroactively to an employee for a qualifying reason *prior* to 4-5-22 if the employee was fully vaccinated by 5-10-22. The law prohibits districts from rescinding the paid leave if the definition of “fully vaccinated against COVID-19” is later updated by the CDC or IDPH to include recommended booster doses.

Consult the board attorney for guidance about whether the board must accommodate an employee’s religion or disability by exempting the employee from the COVID-19 vaccination prerequisite in 105 ILCS 5/10-20.83 (final citation pending), added by P.A. 102-697, and/or if the board and union may agree that this leave will extend to all unvaccinated employees. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires employers to accommodate an employee’s sincere religious objection to an employer vaccination requirement unless doing so would be an “undue hardship” on the employer. 42 U.S.C §2000e(j). Similarly, the Americans with Disabilities Act requires an employer to exempt an employee with a disability (including pregnancy-related disability) from a safety-related standard, such as a vaccination requirement, unless the employee poses a *direct threat* to the health or safety of the employee or others while on the job. 29 C.F.R. §1630.2(r). See also the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission guidance document, *What You Should Know About COVID-19 and the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and Other EEO Laws*, at: www.eeoc.gov/wysk/what-you-should-know-about-covid-19-and-ada-rehabilitation-act-and-other-eeo-laws. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 6. “Fully vaccinated against COVID-19” means: (1) two weeks after receiving the second dose in a two-dose series of a COVID-19 authorized for emergency use, licensed, or otherwise approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), or (2) two weeks after receiving a single dose of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized for emergency use, licensed, or otherwise approved by the FDA. If the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) later revises the definition of “fully vaccinated against COVID-19” to include booster doses, and the Ill. Dept. of Public Health (IDPH) adopts the CDC’s revised definition, then employees will have five weeks after IDPH’s action to receive a booster (if eligible) to remain eligible for COVID-19 paid administrative leave. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.83(g) (final citation pending), added by P.A. 102-697. **Issue 110, October 2022**

PRESSPlus 7. This sentence is optional. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.83(d) (final citation pending), added by P.A. 102-697. It is a best practice for boards to require appropriate documentation to verify employee eligibility for the leave benefit. **Issue 110, October 2022**