

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS  
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC  
(LOCAL)

DEFINITIONS

The term "immediate family" is defined as:

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, use, or recording of leave shall mean the number of hours per day equivalent to 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. Complications resulting from pregnancy shall be treated the same as any other condition.

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.

DEDUCTIONS

LEAVE WITHOUT  
PAY

The District shall not approve paid leave for more leave days than have been accumulated in prior years plus leave currently available. Any unapproved absences or absences beyond accumulated and available paid leave shall result in deductions from the employee's pay.

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LEAVE PRORATION EMPLOYED FOR LESS THAN FULL YEAR	<p>If an employee separates from employment with the District before his or her last duty day of the year, or begins employment after the first duty day, state personal leave and local leave shall be prorated based on the actual time employed.</p> <p>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 and local leave the employee used beyond his or her pro rata entitlement for the school year.</p>
RECORDING	<p>Leave shall be recorded as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Leave shall be recorded in half-day increments for all employees.</li><li>2. If the employee is taking intermittent FMLA leave, leave shall be recorded in one-hour increments.</li></ol>
ORDER OF USE	<p>Earned compensatory time shall be used before any available paid state and local leave. [See DEA]</p> <p>Unless an employee requests a different order, available paid state and local leave shall be used in the following order, as applicable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Local leave.</li><li>2. State sick leave accumulated before the 1995–96 school year.</li><li>3. State personal leave.</li></ol>
CONCURRENT USE OF LEAVE	<p>When an absent employee is eligible for FMLA leave, the District shall designate the absence as FMLA leave.</p> <p>Temporary disability leave shall apply after all paid leave and compensatory time is exhausted, and all shall run concurrently with FMLA leave.</p> <p>An employee receiving workers' compensation income benefits may be eligible for paid or unpaid leave. 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.</p>
MEDICAL CERTIFICATION	<p>An employee shall submit medical certification of the need for leave if:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The employee is absent more than three consecutive work-days because of personal illness or illness in the immediate family;</li><li>2. The District requires medical certification due to a questionable pattern of absences or when deemed necessary by the supervisor or Superintendent;</li></ol>

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3. The employee requests FMLA leave for the employee's serious health condition or that of a spouse, parent, or child; or
4. The employee requests FMLA leave for military caregiver purposes.

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

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

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STATE PERSONAL  
LEAVE

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

NON-  
DISCRETIONARY  
USE

1. Non-discretionary 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)]

Non-discretionary 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

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

LIMITATIONS  
REQUEST FOR  
LEAVE

The employee shall submit a written request for discretionary use of state personal leave to the immediate supervisor or designee in advance in accordance with administrative regulations. In deciding whether to approve or deny state personal leave, the supervisor or designee shall not seek or consider the reasons for which an employee requests to use leave. The supervisor or designee shall, however, consider the effect of the employee's absence on the educational program or District operations, as well as the availability of substitutes.

DURATION OF  
LEAVE

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

LOCAL LEAVE

All employees shall earn three paid local leave days per school year in accordance with administrative regulations.

Local leave shall be noncumulative.

Local leave shall be used according to the terms and conditions of state personal leave. [See STATE PERSONAL LEAVE, above]

EXTENDED SICK  
LEAVE

After all available state and local leave days have been exhausted, an employee shall be granted in a school year a maximum of 20 leave days of extended sick leave to be used only for the employ-

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	<p>ee's own catastrophic illness or injury, including pregnancy-related illness or injury.</p> <p>A written request for extended sick leave must be accompanied by medical certification of the illness or injury.</p> <p>The average daily rate of pay of a substitute for the employee's position shall be deducted for each day of extended sick leave taken, whether or not a substitute is employed.</p>
FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE	For purposes of an employee's entitlement to FMLA leave, the 12-month period shall be September 1 through August 31.
TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD	
COMBINED LEAVE FOR SPOUSES	If 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. [See DECA(LEGAL)]
INTERMITTENT OR REDUCED SCHEDULE LEAVE	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. [See DECA(LEGAL) for use of intermittent or reduced schedule leave due to a medical necessity.]
CERTIFICATION OF LEAVE	If an employee requests leave, the employee shall provide certification, as required by FMLA regulations, of the need for leave. [See DECA(LEGAL)]
FITNESS-FOR-DUTY CERTIFICATION	If 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. If the District will require certification of the employee's ability to perform essential job functions, the District shall provide a list of essential job functions to the employee with the FMLA designation notice.
END OF SEMESTER LEAVE	If 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. [See DECA(LEGAL), LEAVE AT THE END OF A SEMESTER]
FAILURE TO RETURN	If, at the expiration of FMLA leave, the employee is able to return to work but chooses not to do so, the District may require reimbursement of premiums paid by the District during the leave. [See DECA(LEGAL), RECOVERY OF BENEFIT COST]
TEMPORARY DISABILITY LEAVE	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

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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.]

An employee's notification of need for extended absence due to  
the employee's own medical condition shall be forwarded to the  
Superintendent or designee as a request for temporary disability  
leave.

WORKERS'  
COMPENSATION

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**Note:** Workers' compensation is not a form of leave. The  
workers' compensation law does not require the continu-  
ation of the District's contribution to health insurance.  
[See CRD(LOCAL) regarding payment of insurance con-  
tribution during employee absences.]

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

An employee eligible for workers' compensation income benefits,  
and not on assault leave, may elect in writing to use paid leave.

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 deduct-  
ed from the employee's pay or leave balance.

**"The following is submitted for approval on 'First Reading'."**

Local Leave  
Retirement  
Benefit

Employees who announce their retirement from Mineola ISD  
prior to the third Monday in March of the retirement year are  
eligible to receive reimbursement for unused accumulated  
local leave days at a rate of \$50 or less per day which is es-  
tablished annually in the school budget prior to the first day of  
school.