

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

**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.

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

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 Certification

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

1. The employee is absent more than five consecutive workdays because of personal illness or illness in the immediate family;
2. The District requires medical certification due to a questionable pattern of absences or when deemed necessary by the supervisor or Superintendent; or
3. 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.

Local Leave

Each full-time employee shall earn paid local leave days per school year in accordance with the following:

Duty schedule	Local leave days earned
Up to 187 days (10.0 months)	5.0
197 days (10.5 months)	5.5
207 days (11.0 months)	6.0
217 days (11.5 months)	6.5
227 days or more (12.0 months)	7.0

Accumulation of local leave shall be based on the number of days in the employee's annual duty schedule. When unused local leave is combined with accumulated state leave, the total shall not exceed one-half of the total number of days in the employee's annual duty schedule.

Local leave shall be used according to the terms and conditions of state sick leave accumulated before the 1995–96 school year, except that an employee may donate local leave to a sick leave pool. [See DEC(LEGAL)]

Sick Leave Pool

An employee who has exhausted all paid leave as well as any applicable compensatory time 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 may request the establishment of a sick leave pool, to which District employees may donate local leave for use by the eligible employee.

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

The Superintendent shall develop regulations for the implementation of the sick leave pool that address the following:

1. Procedures to request the establishment of a sick leave pool;

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2. The maximum number of days an employee may donate to a sick leave pool;
3. The maximum number of days per school year an eligible employee may receive from a sick leave pool; and
4. The return of unused days to donors.

Appeal

An employee may appeal a decision regarding the establishment or implementation of the District's sick leave pool in accordance with DGBA(LOCAL), beginning with the Superintendent or appropriate administrator.

Peace Officers

Mental Health
Leave

A District peace officer who experiences a traumatic event in the scope of employment shall be granted a maximum of three 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 a peace officer may use mental health leave;
2. Procedures for requesting mental health leave and maintaining the anonymity of the requestor;
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:

1. Continuation of all employment benefits and compensation for the duration of the leave; and
2. Other procedures deemed necessary for administering this provision.

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Special Leave of Absence

A District employee with at least five years of service with the District may be granted a one-year special leave of absence. Each request shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

An employee shall submit an application stating the nature of the leave and purposes for which leave is requested. If the request for leave is granted, it shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. The special leave of absence shall be granted for no more than one year.
2. Upon return, the employee shall be reinstated any accumulated leave that was available as of the beginning of the employee's leave of absence.
3. Reassignment, if available, shall be made to the same position held at the time the leave of absence was granted.

By March 1 of the year of the leave of absence, the employee on leave must state in written form his or her intention to return to the District. Such statements must be sent by certified mail with a return receipt requested. The employee shall return to the position to which he or she was assigned at the time of the leave of absence, if a position is available. Otherwise, the employee shall be considered an excess employee with placement at another District location. Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action, including termination of employment. [See DF series]

Board Resolution for Emergency Closure Leave

The Board shall adopt a resolution or take other Board action to establish the purpose and parameters for emergency closure leave.

Family and Medical Leave

FMLA leave shall run concurrently with applicable paid leave and compensatory time, as applicable.

Note: See DECA(LEGAL) for provisions addressing FMLA.

Twelve-Month Period

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.

Combined Leave for Spouses

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.

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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.
Certification of Leave	When an employee requests leave, the employee shall provide certification, in accordance with FMLA regulations, of the need for leave.
Fitness-for-Duty Certification	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.
Leave at the End of Semester	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.
Temporary Disability Leave	<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>
Workers' Compensation	<hr/> <p>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.</p> <hr/> <p>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>
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 Separation**

The following leave provisions shall apply to state and local leave accumulated beginning on September 28, 1992, the original effective date of this program and applicable provisions, below.

An employee who separates from employment with the District shall be eligible for payment for accumulated state and local leave under the following conditions:

1. The employee's separation from employment is voluntary, i.e., the employee is retiring or resigning and is not being discharged, terminated, or nonrenewed.
2. The employee provides advance written notice of intent to separate from employment. Contract employees must provide written notice at least 45 calendar days before the last day of instruction. Noncontract employees must provide written notice at least two weeks before the last day of employment.
3. If retiring, the employee has at least five consecutive years of employment with the District.
4. If resigning, the employee has at least 20 consecutive years of employment with the District.

Payment for accumulated leave shall be computed at one-half the daily rate at the time of retirement or resignation times the number of accumulated leave days, which shall not exceed one-half the number of working days in an annual contract.

The computation of accumulated leave benefit shall be based on the employee's current salary schedule. No benefits shall exceed a teacher salary schedule adopted by the Board for that year.

In order to receive payment for accumulated leave, retirement or resignation must occur at the end of the employee's contract or work year, or when retirement is necessitated by a medical disability as approved by the Teacher Retirement System (TRS). Exceptions must receive approval from the Superintendent.

Upon the death of an employee, these benefits shall be payable to his or her heirs.