

Medford School District 549C

Code: GCBDA/GDBDA
Adopted: 1/22/18
Revised/Readopted: 5/06/19; 11/16/23; xx/xx/xx
Orig. Code(s): GCBDA/GDBDA

Family Medical Leave

When applicable, the district will comply with the provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the Oregon Family Leave Act (OFLA), the Oregon Military Family Leave Act (OMFLA), Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (PFMLI) and other applicable provisions of state and federal law, Board policies and collective bargaining agreements regarding family medical leave.

In order for an employee to be eligible for the benefits under FMLA, the employee must have been employed by the district for at least 12 months, have worked at least 1,250 hours during the past 12-month period, and worked **eds** at a worksite that employs 50 **or more** district employees within 75 miles of the worksite.

Generally, in order for an employee to be eligible for the benefits under OFLA, the employee must work an average of 25 hours or more per week during the 180 calendar days immediately prior to the first day of the start of the requested leave. ~~For parental leave purposes, an employee becomes eligible upon completing at least 180 calendar days immediately preceding the date on which the parental leave begins; there is no minimum average number of hours worked per week.~~ Special requirements apply during public health emergencies.

OMFLA applies to employees who work an average of at least 20 hours per week; there is no minimum number of days worked when determining an employee's eligibility for OMFLA.

PMFLI is generally available to district employees who have earned \$1,000 in subject wages or taxable income during the alternate or base years¹, contributed to the PMFLI fund in the alternate or base years and are otherwise eligible.² **PFMLI can be taken for family leave, medical leave or safe leave.**³

~~Federal and state leave entitlements generally run concurrently.~~

The superintendent or designee will develop administrative regulations as necessary for the implementation of the provisions of both federal and state law.

END OF POLICY

¹ The wages are not required to have been earned for work in the district.

² See OAR 471-070-1010 for additional information.

³ Time to effectuate the legal process for the placement of a child in foster care or a child being adopted qualifies for PFMLI starting January 1, 2025. Until then, leave is available through OFLA.

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.507](#)
[ORS 657B.010](#)
[ORS 657B.025](#)

[ORS 659A.090](#)
[ORS 659A.093](#)
[ORS 659A.096](#)

[ORS 659A.099](#)
[ORS 659A.150 - 659A.186](#)
[OAR 839-009-0200 - 0320](#)

~~Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213; 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2017); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2017).~~
Family and Medical Leave Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 2601-2654; 5 U.S.C. §§ 6381-6387 (~~2012~~2018); Family and Medical Leave Act, 29 C.F.R. Part 825 (~~2017~~2023).
Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12133 (2018); 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (~~2019~~2023); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (~~2019~~2023).
Escriba v. Foster Poultry Farms, Inc. 743 F.3d 1236 (9th Cir. 2014).
~~Senate Bill 999 (2023).~~
Senate Bill 1515 (2024).

~~Cross-Reference(s):~~

~~GCBDD/GDBDD—Sick Time~~

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In order for an employee to be eligible for the benefits under FMLA, the employee must have been employed by the district for at least 12 months, have worked at least 1,250 hours during the past 12-month period, and works at a worksite that employs 50 or more district employees within 75 miles of the worksite.

Generally, in order for an employee to be eligible for the benefits under OFLA, the employee must work an average of 25 hours or more per week during the 180 calendar days immediately prior to the first day of the start of the requested leave. Special requirements apply during public health emergencies.

OMFLA applies to employees who work an average of at least 20 hours per week; there is no minimum number of days worked when determining an employee's eligibility for OMFLA.

PMFLI is generally available to district employees who have earned \$1,000 in subject wages or taxable income during the alternate or base years¹, contributed to the PMFLI fund in the alternate or base years and are otherwise eligible.² PFMLI can be taken for family leave, medical leave or safe leave.³

The superintendent or designee will develop administrative regulations as necessary for the implementation of the provisions of both federal and state law.

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Escriba v. Foster Poultry Farms, Inc. 743 F.3d 1236 (9th Cir. 2014).

Senate Bill 1515 (2024).

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Revised/Reviewed: 5/06/19; 1/09/20; 12/17/20;
3/17/22

Federal Leave

Coverage

The federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) applies to districts with 50 or more employees within 75 miles of the employee's work site, based on employment during each working day during any of the 20 or more workweeks in the calendar year in which the leave is to be taken, or in the calendar year preceding the year in which the leave is to be taken. The 50 employee test does not apply to educational institutions for determining employee eligibility.

The Oregon Family Leave Act (OFLA) and the Oregon Military Family Leave Act (OMFLA) applies to districts that employ 25 or more part-time or full-time employees in Oregon, based on employment during each working day during any of the 20 or more workweeks in the calendar year in which the leave is to be taken, or in the calendar year immediately preceding the year in which the leave is to be taken.

Employee Eligibility

FMLA applies to employees who have worked for the district for at least 12 months (not necessarily consecutive) and worked for at least 1,250 hours during the 12-month period immediately preceding the start of the leave.

An employee who has previously qualified for and has taken some portion of FMLA leave may request additional FMLA leave within the same leave year. In such instances, the employee need not requalify as an eligible employee, if the additional leave applied for is in the same leave year and for the same condition.

OFLA applies to employees who work an average of 25 hours or more per week during the 180 calendar days or more immediately prior to the first day of the start of the requested leave.¹ For parental leave purposes, an employee becomes eligible upon completing at least 180 days immediately preceding the date on which the parental leave begins. There is no minimum average number of hours worked per week when determining employee eligibility for parental leave.

An employee of a covered employer is eligible to take leave for purposes of OFLA during a period of time covered by a public health emergency except:

1. An employee who worked for the covered employer for fewer than 30 days immediately before the date on which the family leave would commence; or

¹ The requirements of OFLA do not apply to any employer offering eligible employees a nondiscriminatory cafeteria plan, as defined by section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, which provides as one of its options employee leave at least as generous as the leave required by OFLA.

2. An employee who worked for the covered employer for an average of fewer than 25 hours per week in the 30 days immediately before the date on which the family leave would commence.

An employee of a covered employer is eligible to take leave for purposes of OFLA if the employee:

1. Separates from employment with the covered employer, irrespective of any reason:
 - a. Is eligible to take leave OFLA at the time the employee separates; and
 - b. Is reemployed by the covered employer within 180 days of separation from employment; or
3. Is eligible to take OFLA leave:
 - a. At the beginning of a temporary cessation of scheduled hours of 180 days or less; and
 - b. Returns to work at the end of the temporary cessation of scheduled hours of 180 days or less.

Any OFLA leave taken by the employee within any one-year period continues to count against the length of time of OFLA leave the employee is entitled. The amount of time that an employee is deemed to have worked for a covered employer prior to a break in service due to a separation from employment or a temporary cessation of scheduled hours shall be restored to the employee when the employee is reemployed by the employer within 180 days of separation from employment or when the employee returns to work at the end of the temporary cessation of scheduled hours of 180 days or less.

An employee who has previously qualified for and has taken some portion of OFLA leave, may request additional OFLA leave within the same leave year. In such instances, the employee must requalify as an eligible employee for each additional leave requested unless one of the following exceptions apply:

1. A female employee who has taken 12 weeks of pregnancy disability leave need not requalify leave in the same leave year for any other purpose;
4. An employee who has taken 12 weeks of parental leave need not requalify to take an additional 12 weeks in the same leave year for sick child leave; and
5. An employee granted leave for a serious health condition for the employee or a family member need not requalify if additional leave is taken in this leave year for the same reason.

OMFLA applies to employees who work an average of at least 20 hours per week. There is no minimum number of days worked when determining employee eligibility for OMFLA.

In determining if an employee has been employed for the preceding 180 calendar days, when applicable, the employer must consider days, e.g., paid or unpaid, an employee is maintained on payroll for any part of a work week. Full-time public school teachers who have been maintained on payroll by a district for 180 consecutive calendar days are thereafter deemed to have been employed for an average of at least 25 hours per week during the 180 days immediately preceding the start date of the OFLA leave. This provision is eligible for rebuttal if for example, the employee was on a nonpaid sabbatical.

In determining average workweek, the employer must count the actual hours worked using the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) guidelines.

Qualifying Reason

Eligible employees may access FMLA leave for the following reasons:

1. Serious health condition of the employee or the employee's covered family member:
 - a. Inpatient care;
 - b. Continuing treatment;
 - c. Chronic conditions;
 - d. Permanent, long-term or terminal conditions;
 - e. Multiple treatments;
 - f. Pregnancy and prenatal care.
6. Parental leave² (separate from eligible leave as a result of a child's serious health condition):
 - a. Bonding with and the care for the employee's newborn (within 12 months following birth);
 - b. Bonding with and the care for a newly adopted or newly placed foster child under the age of 18 (within 12 months of placement);
 - c. Care for a newly adopted or newly placed foster child over 18 years of age who is incapable of self-care because of a physical or mental impairment (within 12 months of placement);
 - d. Time to effectuate the legal process required for placement of a foster child or the adoption of a child.
7. Military Caregiver Leave: leave for the care for spouse, son, daughter or next-of-kin who is a covered servicemember/veteran with a serious injury or illness;
8. Qualifying Exigency Leave: leave arising out of the foreign deployment of the employee's spouse, son, daughter or parent.

Eligible employees may access OFLA for the following reasons:

1. Serious health condition of the employee or the employee's covered family member:
 - a. Inpatient care;
 - b. Continuing treatment;
 - c. Chronic conditions;
 - d. Permanent, long-term or terminal conditions;
 - e. Multiple treatments;
 - f. Pregnancy and prenatal care.
9. Parental leave (separate from eligible leave as a result of the child's serious health condition):
 - a. Bonding with and the care for the employee's newborn (within 12 months following birth);
 - b. Bonding with and the care for a newly adopted or newly placed foster child under the age of 18 (within 12 months of placement);

² Parental leave must be taken in one continuous block of time within 12 months of the triggering event.

- c. Care for a newly adopted or newly placed foster child over 18 years of age who is incapable of self-care because of a physical or mental impairment (within 12 months of placement);
 - d. Time to effectuate the legal process required for placement of a foster child or the adoption of a child.
10. Sick Child Leave: leave for non-serious health conditions of the employee's child. For OFLA, sick child leave includes absence to care for an employee's child whose school or child care provider has been closed³ in conjunction with a statewide public health emergency declared by a public health official.⁴
 11. Bereavement Leave: leave related to the death of a covered family member.⁵
 12. Eligible employees may access OMFLA for the purpose of spending time with a spouse or same-gender domestic partner who is in the military and has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty, or who has been deployed during a period of military conflict.
 13. The eligibility of an employee who takes multiple leaves for different qualified reasons during the same district designated leave period may be reconfirmed at the start of each qualified leave requested.

Definitions

1. Family member:
 - a. For the purposes of FMLA, "family member" means:
 - (1) Spouse⁶;
 - (2) Parent;
 - (3) Child; or
 - (4) Persons who are "in loco parentis".
 - b. For the purposes of OFLA, "family member" means:
 - (1) Spouse;

³ "Closure" for the purpose of sick child leave during a statewide public health emergency declared by a public health official means a closure that is ongoing, intermittent, or recurring and restricts physical access to the child's school or child care provider. OAR 839-009-0210(4).

⁴ The district may request verification of the need for sick child leave due to a closure during a statewide emergency. Verification may include:

1. The name of the child being cared for;
2. The name of the school or child care provider that has closed or become unavailable; and
3. A statement from the employee that no other family member of the child is willing and able to care for the child. With the care of a child older than 14, a statement that special circumstances exist requiring the employee to provide care to the child during daylight hours.

⁵ Bereavement leave under OFLA must be completed within 60 days of when the employee received notice of the death.

⁶ "Spouse" means individuals in a marriage, including "common law" marriage and same-sex marriage. For OFLA, spouse also includes same-sex individuals with a Certificate of Registered Domestic Partnership.

- (2) Registered, same-gender domestic partner;
- (3) Parent;
- (4) Parent-in-law;
- (5) Parent of employee's registered, same-gender domestic partner;
- (6) Child;
- (7) Child of employee's registered, same-gender domestic partner;
- (8) Grandchild;
- (9) Grandparent; or
- (10) Persons who are "in loco parentis".

14. Child:

- a. For the purposes of FMLA, "child" means a biological, adopted or foster child, a stepchild, a legal ward or a child of a person standing "in loco parentis", who is either under the age of 18, or who is 18 years of age or older and who is incapable of self-care because of a physical or mental impairment.
- b. For the purposes of Military Caregiver Leave and Qualifying Exigency Leave under FMLA, "child" means the employee's son or daughter on covered active duty regardless of that child's age.
- c. For the purposes of OFLA, "child" means a biological, adopted, foster child or stepchild of the employee, the child of the employee's same-gender domestic partner, or a child with whom the employee is or was in a relationship of "in loco parentis".
- d. For the purposes of parental and sick child leave under OFLA, the child must be under the age of 18 or an adult dependent child substantially limited by a physical or mental impairment.

15. In loco parentis:

- a. For the purposes of FMLA, "in loco parentis" means persons with day-to-day responsibility to care for and financially support a child, or, in the case of an employee, who had such responsibility for the employee when the employee was a child. A biological or legal relationship is not necessary.
- b. For the purposes of OFLA, "in loco parentis" means person in the place of the parent having financial or day-to-day responsibility for the care of a child. A legal or biological relationship is not required.

16. Next of kin:

For the purposes of FMLA and Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA, "next of kin" means the nearest blood relative other than the servicemember's spouse, parent, son or daughter in the following order of priority (unless otherwise designated in writing by the servicemember):

- a. Blood relatives who have been granted legal custody of the servicemember by court decree or statutory provisions;
- b. Brothers or sisters;
- c. Grandparents;
- d. Aunts and uncles; and
- e. First cousins.

17. Covered servicemembers:

For the purposes of Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA, “covered servicemember” means a current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is receiving medical treatment, recuperation or therapy, or is in outpatient status, or is on the temporary disability retired list for a serious injury or illness.

18. Covered veteran:

For the purposes of Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA, “covered veteran” means a veteran who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation or therapy for a serious injury or illness provided they were:

- a. A member of the Armed Forces (including a member of the National Guard or Reserves);
- b. Discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable; and
- c. Discharged within the five-year period before the eligible employee first takes FMLA, Military Caregiver Leave.

19. Public health emergency:

For OFLA a public health emergency means;

- a. A public health emergency declared under ORS 433.441.
- b. An emergency declared under ORS 401.165 if related to a public health emergency as defined in ORS 433.442.

Leave Period

For the purposes of calculating an employee’s leave period, the district will use a “rolling” 12-month period measured backward from the date the employee uses any family and medical leave. The same method for calculating the 12-month period for FMLA and OFLA leave entitlement shall be used for all employees. However, in all instances, the leave period for the purposes of OMFLA and Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA shall be dependent on the start of any such leave regardless of the district’s designated 12-month leave period described above.

Leave Duration

For the purposes of FMLA, an eligible employee is generally entitled to a total of 12 weeks of qualified leave during the district’s designated leave period⁷. Spouses who work for the district may be limited to a combined 12 weeks of FMLA leave during the district’s designated leave period when the purpose of the leave is for the birth of a child or to care for a child after birth, placement of an adopted or foster child or the care for an adopted or foster child after placement, or to care for the employee’s parent’s serious medical

⁷ An eligible employee taking Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA is entitled to up to 26 weeks of leave in the 12-month period beginning with the first day of such leave and regardless of any FMLA leave taken previously during the district’s leave period. However, once the 12-month period begins for the purposes of Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA, any subsequent FMLA qualified leave, regardless of reason for such leave, will count toward the employee’s 26-week entitlement under Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA.

condition. Except in specific and unique instances, all qualified leave under FMLA counts toward an employee's leave entitlement within the district's designated leave period.

For the purposes of OFLA, an eligible employee is generally entitled to a total of 12 weeks of qualified leave during the district's designated leave period. However, an eligible employee is entitled to an additional, full 12 weeks of parental leave during the district's designated leave period following the birth of a child regardless of how much OFLA qualified leave the employee has taken prior to the birth of such child during the district's designated leave period. Likewise, an employee who uses the full 12 weeks of parental leave during the district designated leave period, will be entitled to an additional 12 weeks of sick child leave under OFLA during the district's designated leave period for the purpose of caring for a child(ren) with a non-serious health condition requiring home care.⁸ Unlike FMLA, OFLA does not combine the leave entitlement for spouses working for the district. However, under OFLA, family members who work for the district may be restricted from taking concurrent OFLA qualified leave.⁹

For the purposes of OMFLA, an eligible employee is entitled to 14 days of leave per call or order to active duty or notification of a leave from deployment. When an employee also meets the eligibility requirements of OFLA, the duration of the OMFLA leave counts toward that employee's leave entitlement during the district's designated leave period.

Except as otherwise noted above, qualified leave under FMLA and OFLA for an eligible employee will run concurrently during the district's designated leave period.

For the purpose of tracking the number of leave hours an eligible employee is entitled and/or has used during each week of the employee's leave, leave entitlement is calculated by multiplying the number of hours the eligible employee normally works per week by 12¹⁰. If an employee's schedule varies from week-to-week, a weekly average of the hours worked over the 12 weeks worked prior to the beginning of the leave period shall be used for calculating the employee's normal workweek¹¹. If an employee takes intermittent or reduced work schedule leave, only the actual number of hours of leave taken may be counted toward the 12 weeks of leave to which the employee is entitled.

Intermittent Leave

With the exception of parental leave which must be taken in one continuous block of time, an eligible employee is permitted under FMLA and OFLA to take intermittent leave for any qualifying reason.

⁸ Sick child leave under OFLA need not be provided if another family member, including a noncustodial biological parent, is willing and able to care for the child.

⁹ Exceptions to the ability to require family members from taking OFLA qualified leave at different times are when 1) employee is caring for the other employee who has a serious medical condition; 2) one employee is caring for a child with a serious medical condition when the other employee is suffering a serious medical condition; 3) each family member is suffering a serious medical condition; 4) each family member wants to take Bereavement Leave under OFLA; and 5) the employer allows the family members to take concurrent leave.

¹⁰ For example, an employee normally employed to work 30 hours per week is entitled to 12 times 30 hours, or a total of 360 hours of leave.

¹¹ For example, an employee working an average of 25 hours per week is entitled to 12 times 25 hours, or a total of 300 hours of leave.

Intermittent leave is taken in multiple blocks of time (i.e., hours, days, weeks, etc.) rather than in one continuous block of time and/or requires a modified or reduced work schedule. For OFLA this includes but not limited to sick child leave taken requiring an altered or reduced work schedule because the intermittent or recurring closure of a child's school or child care provider due to a statewide public health emergency declared by a public health official.

When an employee is eligible for OFLA leave, but not FMLA leave, the employer:

1. May allow an exempt employee, as defined by state and federal law, with accrued paid time off to take OFLA leave in blocks of less than a full day; but
20. May not reduce the salary of an employee who is taking intermittent leave when they do not have accrued paid leave available. To do so would result in the loss of exemption under state law.

An employee's FMLA and/or OFLA intermittent leave time is determined by calculating the difference between the employee's normal work schedule and the number of hours the employee actually works during the leave period. The result of such calculation is credited against the eligible employee's leave entitlement.

Holidays or days in which the district is not in operation, are not counted against the eligible employee's intermittent OFLA leave period unless the employee was scheduled and expected to work on any such day.

Alternate Work Assignment

The district may transfer an employee recovering from a serious health condition to an alternate position which accommodates the serious health condition provided:

1. The employee accepts the position voluntarily and without coercion;
21. The transfer is temporary, lasts no longer than necessary and has equivalent pay and benefits;
22. The transfer is compliant with any applicable collective bargaining agreement;
23. The transfer is compliant with state and federal law, including but not limited to the protections provided for in FMLA and/or OFLA; and
24. The transfer is not used to discourage the employee from taking FMLA and/or OFLA leave for a serious health condition or to create a hardship for the employee.

The district may transfer an eligible employee who is on a foreseeable intermittent FMLA and/or OFLA leave to another position with the same or different duties to accommodate the leave, provided:

1. The employee accepts the transfer position voluntarily and without coercion;
25. The transfer is temporary, lasts no longer than necessary and has equivalent pay and benefits;
26. The transfer is compliant with any applicable collective bargaining agreements;

27. The transfer is compliant with state and federal law, including but not limited to the protections provided for in FMLA and/or OFLA;
28. The transfer to an alternate position is used only when there is no other reasonable option available that would allow the employee to use intermittent leave or reduced work schedule; and
29. The transfer is not used to discourage the employee from taking intermittent or reduced work schedule leave, or to create a hardship for the employee.

If an eligible employee is transferred to an alternative position, and as a result the employee works fewer hours than the employee was working in the original position, the employee's FMLA and/or OFLA leave time is determined by calculating the difference between the employee's normal work schedule and the number of hours the employee actually works during the leave period. The result of such calculation is credited against the eligible employee's leave entitlement.

When an employee is transferred to alternate position as described above but such transfer does not result in a reduced schedule, time worked in any such alternate position shall not be considered for the purpose of FMLA and/or OFLA leave. An employee working in an alternate position retains the right to return to the employee's original position unless all FMLA and/or OFLA leave taken in that leave year plus the period of time worked in the alternate position exceeds 12 weeks.

Special Rules for School Employees

For the purposes of FMLA, "instructional employee" means those whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group or an individual setting. Athletic coaches, driving instructors and special education assistants, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired, are included in this definition. This definition does not apply to teacher assistants or aides who do not have as their principal job actual teaching or instructing, counselors, psychologist, curriculum specialists, cafeteria workers, maintenance workers or bus drivers.

For the purposes of OFLA, "school employee" means employees employed principally as instructors in public kindergartens, elementary schools, secondary schools or education service districts.

FMLA and/or OFLA leave that is taken for a period that ends with the school year and begins with the next semester is considered consecutive rather than intermittent. In any such situation, the eligible school employee will receive any benefits during the break period that employees would normally receive if they had been working at the end of the school year.

1. Foreseeable Intermittent Leave Exceeding 20 Percent of Working Days

When the qualified leave is foreseeable, will encompass more than 20 percent of the eligible school employee's regular work schedule during the leave period, and the purpose of such leave is to care for a family member with a serious medical condition, for a servicemember with a serious medical condition or because of the employee's own serious medical condition, the district may require the eligible school employee to:

- a. Take leave for a period or periods of a particular duration, not greater than the duration of the planned treatment; or

- b. Temporarily transfer the eligible school employee to an alternate position for which the employee is qualified, which has equivalent pay and benefits and which better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the employee's original position.

30. Limitation on Leave Near the End of the School Year

When an eligible school employee requests leave near the end of the school year, the district may require the following:

- a. When the qualified leave begins more than five weeks before the end of the school year:
 - (1) For the purposes of FMLA leave, the eligible school employee may be required to continue taking leave until the end of the school year provided:
 - (a) The leave will last at least three weeks; and
 - (b) The employee would return to work during the three-week period before the end of the term.
 - (2) For the purposes of OFLA leave, if the reason for the leave is because of the eligible school employee's own serious health condition, the eligible school employee may be required to remain in leave until the end of the school year, provided:
 - (a) The leave will last at least three weeks; and
 - (b) The employee's return to work would occur within three weeks of the end of the school year.
- b. For the purposes of FMLA and/or OFLA leave, when the qualified leave begins within five weeks of the end of the school year and the purpose of such leave is parental leave, for the serious health condition of a family member or for the serious health condition of a servicemember, the eligible school employee may be required to remain on leave until the end of the school year provided:
 - (1) The leave will last more than two weeks; and
 - (2) The employee would return to work during the two-week period before the end of the school year.
- c. For the purposes of FMLA and/or OFLA leave, when the qualified leave begins within three weeks of the end of the school year and the purpose of such leave is parental leave, for the serious health condition of a family member or for the serious health condition of a servicemember, the eligible school employee may be required to remain on leave until the end of the school year provided the length of the leave will last more than five working days.

If the district requires an eligible school employee to remain on leave until the end of the school year as described above, additional leave required by the employer until the end of the school year shall not count against the eligible school employee's leave entitlement.

Paid/Unpaid Leave

FMLA and OFLA do not require the district to pay an eligible employee who is on a qualified leave. Subject to any related provisions in any applicable collective bargaining agreement, the district requires the eligible employee to use any available accrued sick leave, vacation or personal leave days (or other available paid time established by Board policy(ies) and/or collective bargaining agreement) in the order specified by the district and before taking FMLA and/or OFLA leave without pay during the leave period.

The district will notify the eligible employee that the requested leave has been designated as FMLA and/or OFLA leave and, if required by the district, that available accrued paid leave shall be used during the leave period. In the event the district is aware of an OFLA or FMLA qualifying exigency, the district shall notify the eligible employee of its intent to designate the leave as such regardless of whether a request has been made by the eligible employee. Such notification will be given to the eligible employee prior to the commencement of the leave or within two working days of the employee's notice of an unanticipated or emergency leave, whichever is sooner.

When the district does not have sufficient information to make a determination of whether the leave qualifies as FMLA or OFLA leave, the district will provide the required notice promptly when the information is available but no later than two working days after the district has received the information. Oral notices will be confirmed in writing no later than the following payday. If the payday is less than one week after the oral notice is given, written notice will be provided no later than the subsequent payday.

Eligible employees who request OMFLA leave shall not be required to use any available accrued paid time off during the OMFLA leave period.

Benefits and Insurance

When an eligible employee returns to work following a FMLA or OFLA qualified leave, the employee must be reinstated to the same position the employee held when the leave commenced, or to an equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay and other terms and conditions of employment.

During an OFLA qualified leave an eligible employee does not accrue seniority or other benefits that would have accrued while the employee was working, unless the terms of a collective bargaining agreement, other agreement or other employer's policy provide otherwise.¹² The eligible employee is also subject to layoff to the same extent similarly situated employees not taking OFLA leave are subject unless the terms of an applicable collective bargaining agreement, other agreement or the district's policies provide otherwise.

For the purposes of FMLA and OFLA, the district will continue to pay the employer portion of the eligible employee's group health insurance contribution (if applicable) during the qualified leave period. The eligible employee is required to pay the employee portion of any such group health insurance contribution as a condition of continued coverage.

For the purposes of FMLA qualified leave, the district's obligation to maintain the employee's group health insurance coverage will cease if the employee's contribution is remitted more than 30 calendar days late. The district will provide written notice that the premium payment is more than 30 calendar days late. Such notice will be provided within 15 calendar days before coverage is to cease.

¹² See also ORS 342.934(4)(d) in reduction force situations.

For the purposes of OMFLA, the eligible employee is entitled to a continuation of benefits.

Fitness-for-Duty Certification

Prior to the reinstatement of an employee following a leave which was the result of the employee's own serious health condition, the district may require the employee to obtain and present a Fitness-for-Duty Certification. The certification will specifically address the employee's ability to perform the essential functions of the employee's job as they relate to the health condition that was the reason for the leave. If the district is going to require a fitness-for-duty certification upon return to work, the district must notify the employee of such requirement when the leave is designated as FMLA and/or OFLA leave. Failure to provide the certification may result in a delay or denial of reinstatement.

For the purposes of FMLA qualified leave, any costs associated with obtaining the fitness-for-duty certification shall be borne by the employee.

For the purposes of OFLA qualified leave, any out-of-pocket costs associated with obtaining the fitness-for-duty certification shall be borne by the district.

If the leave is qualified under both FMLA and OFLA, any out-of-pocket costs associated with obtaining the fitness-for-duty certification shall be borne by the district.

Application

Under federal and state law, an eligible employee requesting FMLA and/or OFLA leave shall provide at least 30 days' notice prior to the leave date if the leave is foreseeable. The notice shall be written and include the anticipated start date, duration and reasons for the requested leave. When appropriate, the eligible employee must make a reasonable effort to schedule treatment, including intermittent leave and reduced leave, so as not to unduly disrupt the operation of the district.

The district may request additional information to determine that the requested leave qualifies as FMLA and/or OFLA leave. The district may designate the employee as provisionally on FMLA and/or OFLA leave until sufficient information is received to properly make a determination. An eligible employee able to give advance notice of the need to take FMLA and/or OFLA leave must follow the employer's known, reasonable and customary procedures for requesting any kind of leave.

For the purposes of FMLA, if advance notice is not possible, an employee eligible for FMLA leave must provide notice as soon as practicable. "As soon as practicable," for the purpose of FMLA leave, means the employee must comply with the employer's normal call-in procedures except in limited and under unique circumstances. Failure of an employee to provide the required notice for FMLA leave may result in the district delaying the employee's leave up to 30 days after the notice is ultimately given.

For the purposes of OFLA, an eligible employee is required to provide oral or written notice within 24 hours of commencement of the leave in unanticipated or emergency leave situations. The employee may designate a family member or friend to notify the district during that period of time. Failure of an employee to provide the required notice for leave covered by OFLA may result in the district deducting up to three weeks from

the employee's unused OFLA leave in that one-year leave period. The employee may be subject to disciplinary action for not following the district's notice procedures.

When an employee fails to give advance notice for both the FMLA and OFLA above, the district must choose the remedy that is most advantageous to the employee.

In all cases, proper documentation must be submitted no later than three working days following the employee's return to work.

Medical Certification

The district may require an eligible employee to provide medical documentation, when appropriate, to support the stated reason for such leave, other than to care for a child who requires home care due to the closure of the child's school or child care provider as a result of a public health emergency. The district will provide written notification to an employee of this requirement within five working days of the employee's request for leave. If the employee provides less than 30 days' notice, the employee is required to submit such medical certification no later than 15 calendar days after receipt of the district's notification that medical certification is required.

The district may request re-certification of a condition when the minimum duration of a certification expires if continued leave is requested. If the certification does not indicate a duration or indicates that it is ongoing, the district may request re-certification at least every six months in connection with an absence.

Under federal law, a second medical opinion may be required whenever the district has reason to doubt the validity of the initial medical opinion. The health care provider may be selected by the district. The provider shall not be employed by the district on a regular basis. Should the first and second medical certifications differ, a third opinion may be required. The district and the employee will mutually agree on the selection of the health care provider for a third medical certification. The third opinion will be final. Second and third opinions and the actual travel expenses for an employee to obtain such opinions will be paid for by the district.

Second and Third Opinions

For the purposes of FMLA, the district may designate a second health care provider, but that person cannot be utilized by the district on a regular basis except in rural areas where health care is extremely limited. If the opinions of the employee's and the district's designated health care provider(s) differ, the district may require a third opinion at the district's expense. The third health care provider must be designated or approved jointly by the employee and the district. This third opinion shall be final and binding.

1. For the purposes of OFLA, and except for leave related to sick child leave under OFLA, the district may require the employee to obtain a second opinion from a health care provider designated by the district. If the first and second verifications conflict, the employer may require the two health care providers to jointly designate a third health care provider for the purpose of providing a verification. This third verification shall be final and binding.

Notification

Any notice required by federal and state laws explaining employee rights and responsibilities will be posted in all staff rooms and the district office. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the designated administrator.

Record Keeping/Posted Notice

The district will maintain all records as required by federal and state laws including dates leave is taken by employees, identified separately from other leave; hours/days of leave; copies of general and specific notices to employees, including Board policy(ies) and regulations; premium payments of employee health benefits while on leave and records of any disputes with employees regarding granting of leave.

Medical documentation will be maintained separately from personnel files as confidential medical records.

The district will post notice of FMLA¹³ and OFLA¹⁴ leave requirements.

Federal vs. State Law

Both federal and state law contain provisions regarding leave for family illness. Federal regulations state an employer must comply with both laws; that the federal law does not supersede any provision of state law that provides greater family leave rights than those established pursuant to federal law; and that OFLA and FMLA leave entitlements run concurrently. State law requires that FMLA and OFLA leave entitlements run concurrently when possible.

For example, due to differences in regulations, an eligible employee who takes OFLA leave after 180 days of employment, but before they are eligible for FMLA leave, is still eligible to take a full 12 workweeks of FMLA leave after meeting FMLA's eligibility requirements. Thereafter, any eligible leave period will run concurrently, when appropriate.

¹³ Poster available at <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/fmla/posters>.

¹⁴ Poster available at <https://www.oregon.gov/boli/employers/pages/required-worksite-postings.aspx>.

Medford School District 549C

Code: GCBDA/GDBDA-AR(1)
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Family and Medical Leave *

Employee Eligibility

FMLA benefits are available to employees who have been employed by the district for at least 12 months, have worked at least 1,250 hours during the past 12-month period and work at a worksite that employs 50 district employees within 75 miles of the worksite.

An employee who has previously qualified for and has taken some portion of FMLA leave may request additional FMLA leave within the same leave year. In such instances, the employee may not need to requalify as an eligible employee.

Generally, in order for an employee to be eligible for the benefits under OFLA, the employee must work an average of 25 hours or more per week during the 180 calendar days¹ immediately prior to the first day of the start of the requested leave.²

An employee is eligible to take leave for any purposes of OFLA during a period of time covered by a public health emergency except:

1. An employee who has worked for the district for fewer than 30 days immediately before the date on which the family leave would commence; or
2. An employee who has worked for the district for an average of fewer than 25 hours per week in the 30 days immediately before the date on which the family leave would commence.

An employee of the district is eligible to take leave for purposes of OFLA if the employee:

1. Separates from employment with the district, irrespective of any reason:
 - a. Is eligible to take leave OFLA at the time the employee separates; and
 - b. Is reemployed by the district within 180 days of separation from employment; or
2. Is eligible to take OFLA leave:
 - a. At the beginning of a temporary cessation of scheduled hours of 180 days or less; and
 - b. Returns to work at the end of the temporary cessation of scheduled hours of 180 days or less.

¹ Thirty days during a declared public health emergency.

² The requirements of OFLA do not apply to any employer offering eligible employees a nondiscriminatory cafeteria plan, as defined by section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, which provides as one of its options employee leave at least as generous as the leave required by OFLA.

Any OFLA leave taken by the employee within any one-year period continues to count against the length of time of OFLA leave the employee is entitled. The amount of time that an employee is deemed to have worked for the district prior to a break in service due to a separation from employment or a temporary cessation of scheduled hours shall be restored to the employee when the employee is reemployed by the district within 180 days of separation from employment or when the employee returns to work at the end of the temporary cessation of scheduled hours of 180 days or less.

When an employee requests OFLA leave, or when the district acquires knowledge that an employee's leave may be for a purpose that constitutes OFLA leave, the district will notify the employee of the employee's eligibility to take OFLA leave within five business days, absent extenuating circumstances. Whether an employee is an "eligible employee" as defined in OAR 839-009-0210 is determined, a notice must be provided, at the commencement of the first instance of each purpose for leave listed in OAR 839-009-0240 during the OFLA leave year. If an employee is an "eligible employee" as defined in OAR 839-009-0210 for the purpose listed in OAR 839-009-0240, the employee's eligibility for that purpose does not change during the applicable 12-month period. In addition:

1. An employee taking, in any order, some or all of 12 weeks of OFLA pregnancy disability leave and some or all of 12 weeks of OFLA leave for any other purpose, need not requalify each time the employee takes OFLA leave within the same leave year;
2. An employee who has taken 2 weeks of OFLA child placement leave need not requalify for up to an additional 12 weeks of leave within the same leave year when used for the purposes of OFLA sick child leave;
3. An employee unable to work because of a disabling compensable injury³ need not requalify under OAR 839-009-0210 in order to use OFLA leave following a period the employee is off work due to the compensable injury.

In determining if an employee has been employed for the preceding 180 calendar days under OFLA, the district must consider days, paid or unpaid, an employee is maintained on payroll.

Leave under the Oregon Military Family Leave Act (OMFLA) applies to employees who work an average of at least 20 hours per week. There is no minimum number of days worked when determining employee eligibility for OMFLA.

In determining average workweek, under FMLA and OFLA, the employer must count the actual hours worked using the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) guidelines.

Qualifying Reason

Eligible employees may access FMLA leave entitlements for the following reasons:

³ As defined in ORS 656.005.

1. Serious health condition of the employee or the employee's covered family member. "Serious health condition" means an illness, injury, impairment or physical or mental condition that involves inpatient care⁴ or continuing treatment by a health care provider⁵.
2. Parental leave⁶ (separate from eligible leave as a result of a child's serious health condition):
 - a. Bonding with and caring for the employee's newborn child (within 12 months following birth);
 - b. Bonding with and caring for a newly adopted child or newly placed child in foster care under the age of 18 (within 12 months of placement);
 - c. Caring for a newly adopted child or newly placed child in foster care 18 years of age or older who is incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability (within 12 months of placement);
 - d. Time to effectuate the legal process required for placement of a child in foster care or the adoption of a child.
3. Military caregiver leave: leave for the care for spouse, child or next-of-kin who is a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness;
4. Qualifying exigency leave: leave arising out of deployment to a foreign country of the employee's spouse, child or parent who is a military member on active duty or call to covered active duty status.

Eligible employees may access OFLA leave entitlements for the following reasons:

1. Pregnancy disability leave: leave taken by an employee for their own disability related to pregnancy, including pregnancy termination or childbirth, whether the disability occurs before, during or after the birth of the child or for prenatal care, including fertility or infertility treatment.
2. Sick child leave: leave taken to care for an employee's child suffering from an illness, injury, or condition that requires home care. Under OFLA, sick child leave includes leave to care for an employee's child whose school or child care provider has been closed⁷ in conjunction with a statewide public health emergency declared by a public health official.⁸

⁴ "Inpatient care" means an overnight stay in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical facility, including any period of incapacity or any subsequent treatment in connection with such inpatient care. See 29 CFR § 825.114.

⁵ "Continuing treatment" includes incapacity and treatment, pregnancy or prenatal care, chronic conditions, permanent or long-term conditions, conditions requiring multiple treatments, and absences attributable to incapacity. See 29 CFR § 815.115.

⁶ Parental leave must be taken in one continuous block of time within 12 months of the triggering event.

⁷ "Closure" (OAR 839-009-0210(5)) for the purpose of sick child leave during a statewide public health emergency declared by a public health official means a closure that is ongoing, intermittent, or recurring and restricts physical access to the child's school or child care provider as defined in OAR 839-009-0210(4).

⁸ The district may request verification of the need for sick child leave under OFLA due to a closure during a statewide public health emergency. Verification may include:

1. The name of the child being cared for;
2. The name of the school or child care provider that has closed or become unavailable;
3. A statement from the employee that no other family member of the child is willing and able to care for the child; and

3. Bereavement leave: leave taken to deal with the death of a covered family member and includes leave taken to attend the funeral or alternative to a funeral of the family member, to make arrangements necessitated by the death of the family member, or to grieve the death of the family member.⁹

Eligible employees may also access OMFLA under OFLA for the purpose of spending time with a spouse or domestic partner who is in the military and has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty, or who has been deployed during a period of military conflict.

Definitions

1. Family member:
 - a. For the purposes of FMLA, “family member” means:
 - (1) Spouse¹⁰;
 - (2) Parent¹¹;
 - (3) Child; or
 - (4) Persons who are “in loco parentis.”
 - b. For the purposes of OFLA, “family member” means an eligible employee’s:
 - (1) Spouse or domestic partner;
 - (2) Child or the child’s spouse or domestic partner;
 - (3) Parent or the parent’s spouse or domestic partner;
 - (4) Sibling or stepsibling, or the sibling’s or stepsibling’s spouse or domestic partner;
 - (5) Grandparent or the grandparent’s spouse or domestic partner;
 - (6) Grandchild or the grandchild’s spouse or domestic partner; or
 - (7) Any individual related by blood or affinity whose close association with an eligible employee is the equivalent of a family relationship.¹²

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4. With the care of a child older than 14, a statement that special circumstances exist requiring the employee to provide care to the child during daylight hours.

⁹ Bereavement leave under OFLA must be completed within 60 days of the date the employee received notice of the death. The notice of the death of a family member may be by any means and from any source.

¹⁰ “Spouse” means individuals in a marriage, including “common law” marriage and same-sex marriage.

¹¹ “Parent” means a biological, adoptive, step or foster parent, or any other individual who stood “in loco parentis” to the employee when the employee was a child as defined herein. This does not include parents “in law.”

¹² “Affinity” means a relationship for which there is a significant personal bond that, when examined under the totality of the circumstances, is like a family relationship. This bond may be demonstrated by, but is not limited to the following factors, with no single factor being determinative:

1. Shared personal financial responsibility, including shared leases, common ownership of real or personal property, joint liability for bills or beneficiary designations;
2. Emergency contact designation of the employee by the other individual in the relationship or the emergency contact designation of the other individual in the relationship by the employee;
3. The expectation to provide care because of the relationship or the prior provision of care;
4. Cohabitation and its duration and purpose;

2. Child:

- a. For the purposes of FMLA, “child” means the eligible employee’s biological or adopted child, a child the employee is fostering, a stepchild, a legal ward or a child of a person standing “in loco parentis”, who is either under the age of 18, or who is 18 years of age or older and who is incapable of self-care because of a physical or mental disability.
- b. For the purposes of Military Caregiver Leave and Qualifying Exigency Leave under FMLA, “child” means the employee’s child on covered active duty regardless of that child’s age.
- c. For the purposes of OFLA, “child” means the eligible employee’s biological or adopted child, a child the employee is fostering, a stepchild, the child of the employee’s spouse or domestic partner, or a child with whom the employee is or was in a relationship of “in loco parentis.”
- d. For the purposes of child placement leave and sick child leave only under OFLA, the child must be under the age of 18 or an adult dependent child substantially limited by a physical or mental impairment.

3. In loco parentis:

- a. For the purposes of FMLA, “in loco parentis” means persons with day-to-day responsibility to care for or financially support a child, or, in the case of an employee, who had such responsibility for the employee when the employee was a child. A biological or legal relationship is not necessary.
- b. For the purposes of OFLA, “in loco parentis” means person in the place of the parent, having financial or day-to-day responsibility for the care of a child. A legal or biological relationship is not required.

4. Next of kin:

For the purposes of FMLA , “next of kin” means the nearest blood relative other than the covered servicemember’s spouse, parent or child in the following order of priority (unless otherwise designated in writing by the servicemember):

- a. Blood relatives who have been granted legal custody of the covered servicemember by court decree or statutory provisions;
- b. Siblings;
- c. Grandparents;
- d. Siblings of parents and their spouses; and
- e. First cousins.

5. Covered servicemembers:

For the purposes of FMLA, “covered servicemember” means a current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary

5. Geographic proximity; and

6. Any other factor that demonstrates the existence of a family-like relationship.

disability retired list for a serious injury or illness; or a covered veteran who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a serious injury or illness.

6. Covered veteran:

For the purposes of FMLA, “covered veteran” means an individual who was:

- a. A member of the Armed Forces (including a member of the National Guard or Reserves);
- b. Discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable; and
- c. Discharged within the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered veteran.

7. Public health emergency:

For OFLA a “public health emergency” means;

- a. A public health emergency declared under ORS 433.441.
- b. An emergency declared under ORS 401.165 if related to a public health emergency as defined in ORS 433.442.

Leave Period

For the purposes of calculating an employee’s leave period for FMLA, the district will use a “rolling” 12-month period measured backward from the date the employee uses any FMLA leave.

For the purposes of calculating an employee’s leave period for OFLA, the district will use a period of 52 consecutive weeks beginning on the Sunday immediately preceding the date on which family leave commences.

The methods for calculating the leave period for FMLA or OFLA leave entitlement shall be used for all employees.

The leave period for the purposes of Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA shall be dependent on the start of any such leave regardless of the district’s designated leave period described above.

Leave Duration

For the purposes of FMLA, an eligible employee is generally entitled to a total of 12 weeks of qualified leave during the district’s designated leave period (12-month period)¹³. Spouses who work for the district and are eligible for FMLA leave may be limited to a combined total of 12 weeks of FMLA leave during the district’s designated leave period when the purpose of the leave is for:

1. Birth of a child or to care for a child after birth;

¹³ An eligible employee taking Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA is entitled to up to 26 weeks of leave in the 12-month period beginning with the first day of such leave and regardless of any FMLA leave taken previously during the district’s leave period. However, once the 12-month period begins for the purposes of Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA, any subsequent FMLA qualified leave, regardless of reason for such leave, will count toward the employee’s 26-week entitlement under Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA.

2. Placement of an adopted child or child in foster care, the care for an adopted child or child in foster care after placement; or
3. Care of the employee's parent with a serious medical condition.

Except in specific and unique instances, all qualified leave under FMLA counts toward an employee's leave entitlement within the designated leave period.

For the purposes of OFLA, an eligible employee is generally entitled to a total of up to 12 weeks of OFLA leave, for sick child leave and bereavement leave, during the designated leave period. An eligible employee is entitled to a total of two weeks of bereavement leave upon the death of each family member of the employee within a leave year, except that the eligible employee may not take more than four weeks of bereavement leave within a leave year.

An employee may also be entitled to take a total of 12 weeks of OFLA pregnancy disability leave within the same leave year.

Under OFLA, the employee may use all or part of the 12 weeks of sick child or bereavement leave and all or part of the 12 weeks of pregnancy disability leave in any order.

Unlike FMLA, OFLA does not combine the leave entitlement when two or more family members work for the district. Under OFLA, family members who work for the district may be restricted from taking concurrent OFLA qualified leave.¹⁴

For the purposes of OMFLA, an eligible employee is entitled to 14 days of leave per call or order to active duty or notification of a leave from deployment. When an employee also meets the eligibility requirements of OFLA, the duration of the OMFLA leave counts toward that employee's leave entitlement during the designated leave period.

Qualified leave under FMLA and OFLA for an eligible employee will run concurrently during the designated leave period if for the same qualifying reason. Qualified leave under FMLA will run concurrently with other qualified leave covered under Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (PFMLI) and/or available sick leave under ORS 653.601 - 653.661 for eligible employees. Qualified leave under OFLA may also run concurrently with leave taken under the sick leave law in ORS 653.601 - 653.661 if for the same qualifying reason, but not concurrent with PFMLI.

For the purpose of tracking the number of leave hours an eligible employee is entitled and/or has used during each week of the employee's leave, leave entitlement is calculated by multiplying the number of hours the eligible employee normally works per week by 12¹⁵. If an employee's schedule varies from week-to-week, a weekly average of the hours worked over the 12 months worked prior to the beginning of

¹⁴ Exceptions to the ability to require family members to take OFLA qualified leave at different times are when one employee needs to care for a child for a purpose described in ORS 659A.159 (1)(a) while another employee is taking pregnancy disability leave or, one or more of the employees is taking bereavement leave.

¹⁵ For example, an employee normally employed to work 30 hours per week is entitled to 12 times 30 hours, or a total of 360 hours of leave.

the leave period shall be used for calculating the employee's normal workweek¹⁶. If an employee takes intermittent or reduced work schedule leave, only the actual number of hours of leave taken may be counted toward the 12 weeks of leave to which the employee is entitled.

Holidays which occur within the week taken as FMLA may be counted against FMLA entitlement.¹⁷ However, for leave taken in increments of less than one week, holidays in which employees generally are not expected to report do not count against the employees FMLA leave entitlement.

Under OFLA, days in which the district is not in operation, are not counted toward intermittent or reduced work schedule OFLA leave.

Intermittent Leave

With the exception of parental leave under FMLA which must be taken in one continuous block of time, an eligible employee is permitted under FMLA or OFLA to take intermittent leave for any qualifying reason.

Intermittent leave is taken in separate periods of time (i.e., hours, days, weeks, etc.), rather than in one continuous period of time, and/or requiring an altered or reduced work schedule. For OFLA this includes but is not limited to sick child leave taken requiring an altered or reduced work schedule because the intermittent or recurring closure of a child's school or child care provider due to a statewide public health emergency declared by a public health official.

When an exempt employee is eligible for both OFLA and FMLA leave, and the employee takes intermittent leave in blocks of less than one day, if done in accordance with 29 CFR § 825.206, the district may reduce the employee's salary for the part-day absence without the loss of the employee's exempt status in accordance with OAR 839-020-0004(32).

An employee's FMLA and/or OFLA intermittent leave time is determined by calculating the difference between the employee's normal work schedule and the number of hours the employee actually works during the leave period. The result of such calculation is credited against the eligible employee's leave entitlement.

Alternate Work Assignment

Under FMLA, the district may transfer an employee taking intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment to an alternate position for which the employee is qualified and which better accommodates an employee's recovery from a serious health condition, a serious health condition of a spouse, parent, son, or daughter, or a serious injury of illness of a covered servicemember. However, the district may not transfer the employee to an alternative position in order to discourage the employee from taking leave or otherwise work a hardship on the employee.

Under FMLA, when an employee who is taking leave intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule and

¹⁶ For example, an employee working an average of 25 hours per week is entitled to 12 times 25 hours, or a total of 300 hours of leave.

¹⁷ See 29 CFR § 825.200(h).

has been transferred to an alternative position no longer needs to continue on leave and is able to return to full-time work, the employee will be placed in the same or equivalent job as the job they left when the leave commenced. An employee may not be required to take more leave than necessary to address the circumstance that precipitated the need for leave.

Under OFLA, the district may transfer an employee on intermittent OFLA leave or reduced work schedule into an alternate position with the same or different duties to accommodate leave, provided:

1. The employee accepts the position voluntarily and without coercion;
2. The transfer is temporary, lasts no longer than necessary to accommodate the leave and has equivalent pay and benefits;
3. The transfer is compliant with any applicable collective bargaining agreement, as well as with state and federal law;
4. The transfer to an alternate position is used only when there is no other reasonable option available that would allow the employee to use intermittent leave or reduced work schedule; and
5. The transfer is not used to discourage the employee from taking leave or to create a hardship for the employee.

Under OFLA, an employee transferred to an alternate position for the purpose of a reduced work schedule must be returned to the employee's former position when the employee notifies the employer that the employee is ready to return to the former position at the end of the alternate duty leave.

The district may transfer an eligible employee to an alternate position that accommodates OFLA pregnancy disability leave provided:

1. The employee accepts the transfer position voluntarily and without coercion;
2. The transfer is temporary, lasts no longer than necessary and has equivalent pay and benefits;
3. The transfer is compliant with any applicable collective bargaining agreements, as well as with state and federal law;
4. The transfer is not used to discourage the employee from taking OFLA leave or to create a hardship for the employee.

Under OFLA, if an eligible employee is transferred to an alternative position and as a result the employee works fewer hours than the employee worked in the original position, the employee's OFLA leave time is determined by calculating the difference between the number of hours the employee worked in the original position and the number of hours the employee actually works in the alternative position.

An employee is not on OFLA leave if the employee has been transferred – as provided for in OAR 839-009-0245 (5) – to an alternate position for the purpose of alternate work duties that the employee is able to perform within the limitations of the employee's pregnancy disability, but not requiring a reduced workweek. An employee working in an alternate position retains the right to return to the employee's

original position at any time during the employee's OFLA leave. This does not impair the right of an employee to a reasonable accommodation or the application of any other state or federal law.

Special Rules for School Employees

For the purposes of FMLA, "instructional employee" means those whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group or an individual setting. Athletic coaches, driving instructors and special education assistants, such as interpreters¹⁸ for the hearing impaired, are included in this definition. This definition does not include teacher assistants or aides who do not have as their principal job actual teaching or instructing, auxiliary personnel such as counselors, psychologists, curriculum specialists, cafeteria workers, maintenance workers or bus drivers.

FMLA leave that is taken for a period that ends with the school year and begins with the next semester is considered consecutive rather than intermittent. The period during the summer vacation when the employee would not have been required to report for duty is not counted against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement. In any such situation, the eligible instructional employee will receive any benefits during the break period that employees would normally receive if they had been working at the end of the school year.

1. Foreseeable Intermittent Leave Exceeding 20 Percent of Working Days

When the qualified leave is foreseeable, will encompass more than 20 percent of the eligible instructional employee's regular work schedule during the leave period, and the purpose of such leave is to care for a family member with a serious medical condition, for a covered servicemember or for the employee's own serious medical condition, the district may require the eligible instructional employee to choose either to:

- a. Take leave for a period or periods of a particular duration, not greater than the duration of the planned treatment; or
- b. Temporarily transfer to an available alternate position for which the employee is qualified, which has equivalent pay and benefits and which better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the employee's regular position.

If an instructional employee does not give required notice of foreseeable FMLA leave to be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule, the district may require the employee to take leave of a particular duration, or to transfer temporarily to an alternative position. Alternatively, the district may require the employee to delay the taking of leave until the notice provision is met.

2. Limitation on Leave Near the End of the Term¹⁹

When an eligible instructional employee requests leave near the end of the term, the district may require the following:

¹⁸ 29 CFR 825.600(c) uses "signers."

¹⁹ "Academic term" means the school semester, which typically ends near the end of the calendar year and the end of spring each school year. In no case may a school have more than two academic terms or semesters each year for purposes of FMLA. 29 CFR § 825.602(b)

- a. When the qualified leave begins more than five weeks before the end of the term, the district may require the employee to continue taking leave until the end of the term if:
 - (1) The leave will last at least three weeks; and
 - (2) The employee would return to work during the three-week period before the end of the term.

- b. When the qualified leave begins during a five-week period before the end of the term and the purpose of such leave is parental leave, for the serious health condition of a family member or to care for a covered servicemember, the eligible instructional employee may be required by the district to remain on leave until the end of the term if:
 - (1) The leave will last more than two weeks; and
 - (2) The employee would return to work during the two-week period before the end of the term.

- c. When the qualified leave begins within three weeks of the end of the term and the purpose of such leave is parental leave, for the serious health condition of a family member or to care for a covered servicemember, the eligible instructional employee may be required to remain on leave until the end of the term if the length of the leave will last more than five working days.

If the district requires an eligible instructional employee to remain on leave until the end of the term as described above, additional leave required by the district until the end of the school term shall not count against the eligible instructional employee's leave entitlement.

For the purposes of OFLA leave, if an employee²⁰ begins a period of bereavement leave during the three-week period before the end of the term and the duration of the leave is greater than five working days, the district may require the employee continue on family leave until the end of the term.

Paid/Unpaid Leave

FMLA and OFLA do not require the district to pay an eligible employee who is on a qualified leave. Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (PFMLI) leave taken via Paid Leave Oregon or an equivalent plan will run concurrently with FMLA and leave available under ORS 653.601 - 653.661 when taken for the same purpose. An employee may elect to use any available accrued paid leave including personal, sick or vacation leave during the leave period. The total combined amount received by using accrued leave and PFMLI may exceed the employee's full wage replacement during the period of leave. The district will notify the eligible employee when the requested leave has been designated as FMLA or OFLA leave and ask the employee about the use of available accrued paid leave.

Eligible employees taking OMFLA leave are entitled to use available accrued paid time off during the OMFLA leave period.

Benefits and Insurance

²⁰ Applies only to an employee who is employed principally in an instructional capacity by the district.

When an eligible employee returns to work following a FMLA-, OFLA- or OMFLA-qualified leave, the employee must be reinstated to the same position the employee held when the leave commenced, or to an equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay and other terms and conditions of employment.

During an OFLA qualified leave an eligible employee does not accrue seniority or other benefits that would have accrued while the employee was working, unless the terms of a collective bargaining agreement, other agreement or other district policy provide otherwise.²¹ The eligible employee is also subject to layoff to the same extent similarly situated employees not taking OFLA leave are subject unless the terms of an applicable collective bargaining agreement, other agreement or the district's policies provide otherwise.

For the purposes of FMLA and OFLA, the district will continue to pay the employer portion of the eligible employee's group health insurance contribution (if applicable) during the qualified leave period. The eligible employee is required to pay the employee portion of any such group health insurance contribution as a condition of continued coverage.

For the purposes of FMLA qualified leave, the district's obligation to maintain the employee's group health insurance coverage will cease if the employee's contribution is remitted more than 30 calendar days late. The district will provide written notice that the premium payment is more than 30 calendar days late. Such notice will be provided within 15 calendar days before coverage is to cease.

For the purposes of OMFLA, the eligible employee is entitled to a continuation of benefits.

Fitness-for-Duty Verification

For purposes of FMLA, prior to the reinstatement of an employee following a leave which was the result of the employee's own serious health condition, the district may require the employee to obtain and present a Fitness-for-Duty Certification. If the district is going to require a Fitness-for-Duty Certification upon return to work, the district must notify the employee of such requirement when the leave is designated as FMLA leave and that failure to provide the certification may result in a delay or denial of reinstatement. Any costs associated with obtaining the certification shall be borne by the employee.

Application

For purposes of FMLA, an eligible employee requesting FMLA leave shall provide at least 30 days' notice prior to the leave date if the leave is foreseeable. The notice shall be written and include the anticipated start date, duration and reasons for the requested leave. When appropriate, the eligible employee must make a reasonable effort to schedule treatment, including intermittent leave and reduced leave, so as not to unduly disrupt the operation of the district. An eligible employee able to give advance notice of the need to take FMLA leave must follow the district's known, reasonable and customary procedures for requesting any kind of leave.

For purposes of OFLA, an eligible employee shall provide at least 30 days' written notice of the need for foreseeable leave before starting family leave. An employee may commence family leave without prior

²¹ See also ORS 342.934(4)(d) in reduction force situations.

notice in the event of: an unexpected illness, injury or condition of a child of the employee that requires home care; the death of a family member; or an illness, injury or condition related to the employee's own pregnancy or childbirth that disables the employee from performing any available job duties offered by the district. If an employee commences leave without prior notice as allowed above, the employee must give oral notice²² to the employer within 24 hours of the commencement of the leave and must provide the written notice within three days after returning to work. Failure of an employee to provide the required notice for leave may result in the district deducting up to three weeks from the employee's unused OFLA leave in that one-year leave period. The employee may be subject to disciplinary action for not following the district's notice procedures.

The district may request additional information²³ to determine the requested leave qualifies as FMLA or OFLA leave. The district may designate the employee as provisionally on FMLA or OFLA leave until sufficient information is received to properly make a determination. An eligible employee able to give advance notice of the need to take leave must follow the district's known, reasonable and customary procedures for requesting any kind of leave.

For the purposes of FMLA, if advance notice is not possible, an employee eligible for FMLA leave must provide notice as soon as practicable. "As soon as practicable," for the purpose of FMLA leave, means as soon as both possible and practical, taking into account all of the facts and circumstances in the individual case. In most situations, as soon as practicable will be within one business day of an employee becoming aware of the need. Failure of an employee to provide the required notice for FMLA leave may result in the district delaying the employee's leave up to 30 days after the notice is ultimately given.²⁴

For the purposes of OFLA, if an eligible employee is taking leave in an unforeseeable situation, an employee must give oral or written notice²⁵ within 24 hours before or after commencement of the leave. In all cases, proper documentation must be submitted no later than three working days following the employee's return to work.

For purposes of OMFLA, an employee must provide the district with notice of the intention to take leave within five business days of receiving official notice of an impending call or order to active duty or of a leave from deployment.

Verification

Under FMLA, the district may require an eligible employee to provide medical certification, when appropriate²⁶, to support the stated reason for such leave. In most cases, the district will provide written notification to an employee of this requirement within five working days of the employee's request for leave. The employee is required to submit such medical certification no later than 15 calendar days after

²² Oral notice may be given by any other person on behalf of the employee taking the leave.

²³ Except in cases to verify OFLA bereavement leave unless the district requires the use of an attestation form for purposes of determining affinity.

²⁴ See 29 CFR § 825.304.

²⁵ Notice may be given by any other person on behalf of the employee taking the leave.

²⁶ Medical verification is not allowed in every situation. Review current laws and guidance for more information.

receipt of the district's notification that medical certification is required, unless not practicable. Any additional certifications, including second and third opinions, will be in accordance with applicable law.

Under OFLA, the district may require an eligible employee to provide medical verification, when appropriate²⁷, to support the stated reason for qualifying OFLA leave. The district will provide written notification to an employee of this requirement and state the consequences for failure to provide the requested medical verification. If the employee gives advance written notice of foreseeable leave, the district may require the employee to provide medical verification for OFLA leave before the leave starts. If the employee begins unforeseeable OFLA leave without prior notice, the employee is required to submit such medical verification within 15 calendar days after receipt of the district's request for medical verification. The employee may be subject to disciplinary action for not providing the requested medical verification.

For the purposes of OFLA qualified leave, costs associated with obtaining the medical verification shall be borne by the district, or be paid as otherwise allowed by law. The district will not delay the use of qualifying OFLA leave when medical verification is not received before the commencement of unforeseeable leave. The district may not require an employee to obtain a second opinion.

Under OFLA, the district may request verification for the need for leave to care for a child who requires home care due to the closure of the child's school or child care provider as a result of a public health emergency. A request for verification may include a request for:

1. The name of the child requiring home care;
2. The name of the school or child care provider that is subject to the closure;
3. A statement from the employee that no other family member of the child is willing and able to care for the child; and
4. A statement that special circumstances exist that require the employee to provide home care for the child during the day, if the child is older than 14 years of age.

Posted Notice

The district will post the Bureau of Labor and Industries Family Leave notice in each building or worksite in an area that is accessible to and regularly frequented by employees.²⁸ The district will also post a notice explaining the provisions of FMLA and providing information concerning the procedures for filing complaints.²⁹

²⁷ Medical verification is not allowed in every situation. Review current laws and guidance for more information. (OAR 839-009-0260)

²⁸ https://www.oregon.gov/boli/employers/Documents/BOLI_Printable_FamilyMedLv.pdf; electronic posting is not sufficient to satisfy this requirement, but may be used to supplement the physical posting.

²⁹ <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WHD/legacy/files/fmlaen.pdf>; electronic posting is sufficient as long as it is posted prominently where it can be readily seen by employees and applicants for employees. The poster and the text must be large enough to be easily read and contain fully legible text.

Record Keeping

The district will maintain all records as required by federal and state laws including dates leave is taken by employees, identified separately from other leave; hours/days of leave; copies of general and specific notices to employees, including Board policy(ies) and regulations; premium payments of employee health benefits while on leave and records of any disputes with employees regarding granting of leave.

Medical documentation will be maintained separately from personnel files as confidential medical records.

Federal vs. State Law

Both federal and state law contain provisions for family and medical leave. Federal regulations state an employer must comply with all leave laws; that the federal law does not supersede any provision of state law that provides greater family or medical leave rights than those established pursuant to federal law; and if leave qualifies for FMLA and OFLA leave, the leave used counts against the employee's entitlement under both laws. State law requires that FMLA and OFLA or other state leave entitlements run concurrently when for the same purpose.

Medford School District 549C

Code: GCBDA/GDBDA-AR(1)
Revised/Reviewed: xx/xx/xx

Family and Medical Leave *

Employee Eligibility

FMLA benefits are available to employees who have been employed by the district for at least 12 months, have worked at least 1,250 hours during the past 12-month period and work at a worksite that employs 50 district employees within 75 miles of the worksite.

An employee who has previously qualified for and has taken some portion of FMLA leave may request additional FMLA leave within the same leave year. In such instances, the employee may not need to requalify as an eligible employee.

Generally, in order for an employee to be eligible for the benefits under OFLA, the employee must work an average of 25 hours or more per week during the 180 calendar days¹ immediately prior to the first day of the start of the requested leave.²

An employee is eligible to take leave for any purposes of OFLA during a period of time covered by a public health emergency except:

1. An employee who has worked for the district for fewer than 30 days immediately before the date on which the family leave would commence; or
2. An employee who has worked for the district for an average of fewer than 25 hours per week in the 30 days immediately before the date on which the family leave would commence.

An employee of the district is eligible to take leave for purposes of OFLA if the employee:

1. Separates from employment with the district, irrespective of any reason:
 - a. Is eligible to take leave OFLA at the time the employee separates; and
 - b. Is reemployed by the district within 180 days of separation from employment; or
2. Is eligible to take OFLA leave:
 - a. At the beginning of a temporary cessation of scheduled hours of 180 days or less; and

¹ Thirty days during a declared public health emergency.

² The requirements of OFLA do not apply to any employer offering eligible employees a nondiscriminatory cafeteria plan, as defined by section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, which provides as one of its options employee leave at least as generous as the leave required by OFLA.

- b. Returns to work at the end of the temporary cessation of scheduled hours of 180 days or less.

Any OFLA leave taken by the employee within any one-year period continues to count against the length of time of OFLA leave the employee is entitled. The amount of time that an employee is deemed to have worked for the district prior to a break in service due to a separation from employment or a temporary cessation of scheduled hours shall be restored to the employee when the employee is reemployed by the district within 180 days of separation from employment or when the employee returns to work at the end of the temporary cessation of scheduled hours of 180 days or less.

When an employee requests OFLA leave, or when the district acquires knowledge that an employee's leave may be for a purpose that constitutes OFLA leave, the district will notify the employee of the employee's eligibility to take OFLA leave within five business days, absent extenuating circumstances. Whether an employee is an "eligible employee" as defined in OAR 839-009-0210 is determined, a notice must be provided, at the commencement of the first instance of each purpose for leave listed in OAR 839-009-0240 during the OFLA leave year. If an employee is an "eligible employee" as defined in OAR 839-009-0210 for the purpose listed in OAR 839-009-0240, the employee's eligibility for that purpose does not change during the applicable 12-month period. In addition:

1. An employee taking, in any order, some or all of 12 weeks of OFLA pregnancy disability leave and some or all of 12 weeks of OFLA leave for any other purpose, need not requalify each time the employee takes OFLA leave within the same leave year;
2. An employee who has taken 2 weeks of OFLA child placement leave need not requalify for up to an additional 12 weeks of leave within the same leave year when used for the purposes of OFLA sick child leave;
3. An employee unable to work because of a disabling compensable injury³ need not requalify under OAR 839-009-0210 in order to use OFLA leave following a period the employee is off work due to the compensable injury.

In determining if an employee has been employed for the preceding 180 calendar days under OFLA, the district must consider days, paid or unpaid, an employee is maintained on payroll.

Leave under the Oregon Military Family Leave Act (OMFLA) applies to employees who work an average of at least 20 hours per week. There is no minimum number of days worked when determining employee eligibility for OMFLA.

In determining average workweek, under FMLA and OFLA, the employer must count the actual hours worked using the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) guidelines.

Qualifying Reason

Eligible employees may access FMLA leave entitlements for the following reasons:

³ As defined in ORS 656.005.

1. Serious health condition of the employee or the employee's covered family member. "Serious health condition" means an illness, injury, impairment or physical or mental condition that involves inpatient care⁴ or continuing treatment by a health care provider⁵.
2. Parental leave⁶ (separate from eligible leave as a result of a child's serious health condition):
 - a. Bonding with and caring for the employee's newborn child (within 12 months following birth);
 - b. Bonding with and caring for a newly adopted child or newly placed child in foster care under the age of 18 (within 12 months of placement);
 - c. Caring for a newly adopted child or newly placed child in foster care 18 years of age or older who is incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability (within 12 months of placement);
 - d. Time to effectuate the legal process required for placement of a child in foster care or the adoption of a child.
3. Military caregiver leave: leave for the care for spouse, child or next-of-kin who is a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness;
4. Qualifying exigency leave: leave arising out of deployment to a foreign country of the employee's spouse, child or parent who is a military member on active duty or call to covered active duty status.

Eligible employees may access OFLA leave entitlements for the following reasons:

1. Pregnancy disability leave: leave taken by an employee for their own disability related to pregnancy, including pregnancy termination or childbirth, whether the disability occurs before, during or after the birth of the child or for prenatal care, including fertility or infertility treatment.
2. Sick child leave: leave taken to care for an employee's child suffering from an illness, injury, or condition that requires home care. Under OFLA, sick child leave includes leave to care for an employee's child whose school or child care provider has been closed⁷ in conjunction with a statewide public health emergency declared by a public health official.⁸

⁴ "Inpatient care" means an overnight stay in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical facility, including any period of incapacity or any subsequent treatment in connection with such inpatient care. See 29 CFR § 825.114.

⁵ "Continuing treatment" includes incapacity and treatment, pregnancy or prenatal care, chronic conditions, permanent or long-term conditions, conditions requiring multiple treatments, and absences attributable to incapacity. See 29 CFR § 815.115.

⁶ Parental leave must be taken in one continuous block of time within 12 months of the triggering event.

⁷ "Closure" (OAR 839-009-0210(5)) for the purpose of sick child leave during a statewide public health emergency declared by a public health official means a closure that is ongoing, intermittent, or recurring and restricts physical access to the child's school or child care provider as defined in OAR 839-009-0210(4).

⁸ The district may request verification of the need for sick child leave under OFLA due to a closure during a statewide public health emergency. Verification may include:

1. The name of the child being cared for;
2. The name of the school or child care provider that has closed or become unavailable;
3. A statement from the employee that no other family member of the child is willing and able to care for the child; and

3. Bereavement leave: leave taken to deal with the death of a covered family member and includes leave taken to attend the funeral or alternative to a funeral of the family member, to make arrangements necessitated by the death of the family member, or to grieve the death of the family member.⁹

Eligible employees may also access OMFLA under OFLA for the purpose of spending time with a spouse or domestic partner who is in the military and has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty, or who has been deployed during a period of military conflict.

Definitions

1. Family member:
 - a. For the purposes of FMLA, “family member” means:
 - (1) Spouse¹⁰;
 - (2) Parent¹¹;
 - (3) Child; or
 - (4) Persons who are “in loco parentis.”
 - b. For the purposes of OFLA, “family member” means an eligible employee’s:
 - (1) Spouse or domestic partner;
 - (2) Child or the child’s spouse or domestic partner;
 - (3) Parent or the parent’s spouse or domestic partner;
 - (4) Sibling or stepsibling, or the sibling’s or stepsibling’s spouse or domestic partner;
 - (5) Grandparent or the grandparent’s spouse or domestic partner;
 - (6) Grandchild or the grandchild’s spouse or domestic partner; or
 - (7) Any individual related by blood or affinity whose close association with an eligible employee is the equivalent of a family relationship.¹²

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4. With the care of a child older than 14, a statement that special circumstances exist requiring the employee to provide care to the child during daylight hours.

⁹ Bereavement leave under OFLA must be completed within 60 days of the date the employee received notice of the death. The notice of the death of a family member may be by any means and from any source.

¹⁰ “Spouse” means individuals in a marriage, including “common law” marriage and same-sex marriage.

¹¹ “Parent” means a biological, adoptive, step or foster parent, or any other individual who stood “in loco parentis” to the employee when the employee was a child as defined herein. This does not include parents “in law.”

¹² “Affinity” means a relationship for which there is a significant personal bond that, when examined under the totality of the circumstances, is like a family relationship. This bond may be demonstrated by, but is not limited to the following factors, with no single factor being determinative:

1. Shared personal financial responsibility, including shared leases, common ownership of real or personal property, joint liability for bills or beneficiary designations;
2. Emergency contact designation of the employee by the other individual in the relationship or the emergency contact designation of the other individual in the relationship by the employee;
3. The expectation to provide care because of the relationship or the prior provision of care;

2. Child:

- a. For the purposes of FMLA, “child” means the eligible employee’s biological or adopted child, a child the employee is fostering, a stepchild, a legal ward or a child of a person standing “in loco parentis”, who is either under the age of 18, or who is 18 years of age or older and who is incapable of self-care because of a physical or mental disability.
- b. For the purposes of Military Caregiver Leave and Qualifying Exigency Leave under FMLA, “child” means the employee’s child on covered active duty regardless of that child’s age.
- c. For the purposes of OFLA, “child” means the eligible employee’s biological or adopted child, a child the employee is fostering, a stepchild, the child of the employee’s spouse or domestic partner, or a child with whom the employee is or was in a relationship of “in loco parentis.”
- d. For the purposes of child placement leave and sick child leave only under OFLA, the child must be under the age of 18 or an adult dependent child substantially limited by a physical or mental impairment.

3. In loco parentis:

- a. For the purposes of FMLA, “in loco parentis” means persons with day-to-day responsibility to care for or financially support a child, or, in the case of an employee, who had such responsibility for the employee when the employee was a child. A biological or legal relationship is not necessary.
- b. For the purposes of OFLA, “in loco parentis” means person in the place of the parent, having financial or day-to-day responsibility for the care of a child. A legal or biological relationship is not required.

4. Next of kin:

For the purposes of FMLA, “next of kin” means the nearest blood relative other than the covered servicemember’s spouse, parent or child in the following order of priority (unless otherwise designated in writing by the servicemember):

- a. Blood relatives who have been granted legal custody of the covered servicemember by court decree or statutory provisions;
- b. Siblings;
- c. Grandparents;
- d. Siblings of parents and their spouses; and
- e. First cousins.

5. Covered servicemembers:

For the purposes of FMLA, “covered servicemember” means a current member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary

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4. Cohabitation and its duration and purpose;
 5. Geographic proximity; and
 6. Any other factor that demonstrates the existence of a family-like relationship.

disability retired list for a serious injury or illness; or a covered veteran who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a serious injury or illness.

6. Covered veteran:

For the purposes of FMLA, “covered veteran” means an individual who was:

- a. A member of the Armed Forces (including a member of the National Guard or Reserves);
- b. Discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable; and
- c. Discharged within the five-year period prior to the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered veteran.

7. Public health emergency:

For OFLA a “public health emergency” means;

- a. A public health emergency declared under ORS 433.441.
- b. An emergency declared under ORS 401.165 if related to a public health emergency as defined in ORS 433.442.

Leave Period

For the purposes of calculating an employee’s leave period for FMLA, the district will use a “rolling” 12-month period measured backward from the date the employee uses any FMLA leave.

For the purposes of calculating an employee’s leave period for OFLA, the district will use a period of 52 consecutive weeks beginning on the Sunday immediately preceding the date on which family leave commences.

The methods for calculating the leave period for FMLA or OFLA leave entitlement shall be used for all employees.

The leave period for the purposes of Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA shall be dependent on the start of any such leave regardless of the district’s designated leave period described above.

Leave Duration

For the purposes of FMLA, an eligible employee is generally entitled to a total of 12 weeks of qualified leave during the district’s designated leave period (12-month period)¹³. Spouses who work for the district and are eligible for FMLA leave may be limited to a combined total of 12 weeks of FMLA leave during the district’s designated leave period when the purpose of the leave is for:

¹³ An eligible employee taking Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA is entitled to up to 26 weeks of leave in the 12-month period beginning with the first day of such leave and regardless of any FMLA leave taken previously during the district’s leave period. However, once the 12-month period begins for the purposes of Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA, any subsequent FMLA qualified leave, regardless of reason for such leave, will count toward the employee’s 26-week entitlement under Military Caregiver Leave under FMLA.

1. Birth of a child or to care for a child after birth;
2. Placement of an adopted child or child in foster care, the care for an adopted child or child in foster care after placement; or
3. Care of the employee's parent with a serious medical condition.

Except in specific and unique instances, all qualified leave under FMLA counts toward an employee's leave entitlement within the designated leave period.

For the purposes of OFLA, an eligible employee is generally entitled to a total of up to 12 weeks of OFLA leave, for sick child leave and bereavement leave, during the designated leave period. An eligible employee is entitled to a total of two weeks of bereavement leave upon the death of each family member of the employee within a leave year, except that the eligible employee may not take more than four weeks of bereavement leave within a leave year.

An employee may also be entitled to take a total of 12 weeks of OFLA pregnancy disability leave within the same leave year.

Under OFLA, the employee may use all or part of the 12 weeks of sick child or bereavement leave and all or part of the 12 weeks of pregnancy disability leave in any order.

Unlike FMLA, OFLA does not combine the leave entitlement when two or more family members work for the district. Under OFLA, family members who work for the district may be restricted from taking concurrent OFLA qualified leave.¹⁴

For the purposes of OMFLA, an eligible employee is entitled to 14 days of leave per call or order to active duty or notification of a leave from deployment. When an employee also meets the eligibility requirements of OFLA, the duration of the OMFLA leave counts toward that employee's leave entitlement during the designated leave period.

Qualified leave under FMLA and OFLA for an eligible employee will run concurrently during the designated leave period if for the same qualifying reason. Qualified leave under FMLA will run concurrently with other qualified leave covered under Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (PFMLI) and/or available sick leave under ORS 653.601 - 653.661 for eligible employees. Qualified leave under OFLA may also run concurrently with leave taken under the sick leave law in ORS 653.601 - 653.661 if for the same qualifying reason, but not concurrent with PFMLI.

For the purpose of tracking the number of leave hours an eligible employee is entitled and/or has used during each week of the employee's leave, leave entitlement is calculated by multiplying the number of hours the eligible employee normally works per week by 12¹⁵. If an employee's schedule varies from

¹⁴ Exceptions to the ability to require family members to take OFLA qualified leave at different times are when one employee needs to care for a child for a purpose described in ORS 659A.159 (1)(a) while another employee is taking pregnancy disability leave or, one or more of the employees is taking bereavement leave.

¹⁵ For example, an employee normally employed to work 30 hours per week is entitled to 12 times 30 hours, or a total of 360 hours of leave.

week-to-week, a weekly average of the hours worked over the 12 months worked prior to the beginning of the leave period shall be used for calculating the employee's normal workweek¹⁶. If an employee takes intermittent or reduced work schedule leave, only the actual number of hours of leave taken may be counted toward the 12 weeks of leave to which the employee is entitled.

Holidays which occur within the week taken as FMLA may be counted against FMLA entitlement.¹⁷ However, for leave taken in increments of less than one week, holidays in which employees generally are not expected to report do not count against the employees FMLA leave entitlement.

Under OFLA, days in which the district is not in operation, are not counted toward intermittent or reduced work schedule OFLA leave.

Intermittent Leave

With the exception of parental leave under FMLA which must be taken in one continuous block of time, an eligible employee is permitted under FMLA or OFLA to take intermittent leave for any qualifying reason.

Intermittent leave is taken in separate periods of time (i.e., hours, days, weeks, etc.), rather than in one continuous period of time, and/or requiring an altered or reduced work schedule. For OFLA this includes but is not limited to sick child leave taken requiring an altered or reduced work schedule because the intermittent or recurring closure of a child's school or child care provider due to a statewide public health emergency declared by a public health official.

When an exempt employee is eligible for both OFLA and FMLA leave, and the employee takes intermittent leave in blocks of less than one day, if done in accordance with 29 CFR § 825.206, the district may reduce the employee's salary for the part-day absence without the loss of the employee's exempt status in accordance with OAR 839-020-0004(32).

An employee's FMLA and/or OFLA intermittent leave time is determined by calculating the difference between the employee's normal work schedule and the number of hours the employee actually works during the leave period. The result of such calculation is credited against the eligible employee's leave entitlement.

Alternate Work Assignment

Under FMLA, the district may transfer an employee taking intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment to an alternate position for which the employee is qualified and which better accommodates an employee's recovery from a serious health condition, a serious health condition of a spouse, parent, son, or daughter, or a serious injury of illness of a covered servicemember. However, the district may not transfer the employee to an alternative position in order to discourage the employee from taking leave or otherwise work a hardship on the employee.

¹⁶ For example, an employee working an average of 25 hours per week is entitled to 12 times 25 hours, or a total of 300 hours of leave.

¹⁷ See 29 CFR § 825.200(h).

Under FMLA, when an employee who is taking leave intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule and has been transferred to an alternative position no longer needs to continue on leave and is able to return to full-time work, the employee will be placed in the same or equivalent job as the job they left when the leave commenced. An employee may not be required to take more leave than necessary to address the circumstance that precipitated the need for leave.

Under OFLA, the district may transfer an employee on intermittent OFLA leave or reduced work schedule into an alternate position with the same or different duties to accommodate leave, provided:

1. The employee accepts the position voluntarily and without coercion;
2. The transfer is temporary, lasts no longer than necessary to accommodate the leave and has equivalent pay and benefits;
3. The transfer is compliant with any applicable collective bargaining agreement, as well as with state and federal law;
4. The transfer to an alternate position is used only when there is no other reasonable option available that would allow the employee to use intermittent leave or reduced work schedule; and
5. The transfer is not used to discourage the employee from taking leave or to create a hardship for the employee.

Under OFLA, an employee transferred to an alternate position for the purpose of a reduced work schedule must be returned to the employee's former position when the employee notifies the employer that the employee is ready to return to the former position at the end of the alternate duty leave.

The district may transfer an eligible employee to an alternate position that accommodates OFLA pregnancy disability leave provided:

1. The employee accepts the transfer position voluntarily and without coercion;
2. The transfer is temporary, lasts no longer than necessary and has equivalent pay and benefits;
3. The transfer is compliant with any applicable collective bargaining agreements, as well as with state and federal law;
4. The transfer is not used to discourage the employee from taking OFLA leave or to create a hardship for the employee.

Under OFLA, if an eligible employee is transferred to an alternative position and as a result the employee works fewer hours than the employee worked in the original position, the employee's OFLA leave time is determined by calculating the difference between the number of hours the employee worked in the original position and the number of hours the employee actually works in the alternative position.

An employee is not on OFLA leave if the employee has been transferred – as provided for in OAR 839-009-0245 (5) – to an alternate position for the purpose of alternate work duties that the employee is able to perform within the limitations of the employee’s pregnancy disability, but not requiring a reduced workweek. An employee working in an alternate position retains the right to return to the employee’s original position at any time during the employee’s OFLA leave. This does not impair the right of an employee to a reasonable accommodation or the application of any other state or federal law.

Special Rules for School Employees

For the purposes of FMLA, “instructional employee” means those whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group or an individual setting. Athletic coaches, driving instructors and special education assistants, such as interpreters¹⁸ for the hearing impaired, are included in this definition. This definition does not include teacher assistants or aides who do not have as their principal job actual teaching or instructing, auxiliary personnel such as counselors, psychologists, curriculum specialists, cafeteria workers, maintenance workers or bus drivers.

FMLA leave that is taken for a period that ends with the school year and begins with the next semester is considered consecutive rather than intermittent. The period during the summer vacation when the employee would not have been required to report for duty is not counted against the employee’s FMLA leave entitlement. In any such situation, the eligible instructional employee will receive any benefits during the break period that employees would normally receive if they had been working at the end of the school year.

1. Foreseeable Intermittent Leave Exceeding 20 Percent of Working Days

When the qualified leave is foreseeable, will encompass more than 20 percent of the eligible instructional employee’s regular work schedule during the leave period, and the purpose of such leave is to care for a family member with a serious medical condition, for a covered servicemember or for the employee’s own serious medical condition, the district may require the eligible instructional employee to choose either to:

- a. Take leave for a period or periods of a particular duration, not greater than the duration of the planned treatment; or
- b. Temporarily transfer to an available alternate position for which the employee is qualified, which has equivalent pay and benefits and which better accommodates recurring periods of leave than the employee’s regular position.

If an instructional employee does not give required notice of foreseeable FMLA leave to be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule, the district may require the employee to take leave of a particular duration, or to transfer temporarily to an alternative position. Alternatively, the district may require the employee to delay the taking of leave until the notice provision is met.

¹⁸ 29 CFR 825.600(c) uses “signers.”

2. Limitation on Leave Near the End of the Term¹⁹

When an eligible instructional employee requests leave near the end of the term, the district may require the following:

- a. When the qualified leave begins more than five weeks before the end of the term, the district may require the employee to continue taking leave until the end of the term if:
 - (1) The leave will last at least three weeks; and
 - (2) The employee would return to work during the three-week period before the end of the term.
- b. When the qualified leave begins during a five-week period before the end of the term and the purpose of such leave is parental leave, for the serious health condition of a family member or to care for a covered servicemember, the eligible instructional employee may be required by the district to remain on leave until the end of the term if:
 - (1) The leave will last more than two weeks; and
 - (2) The employee would return to work during the two-week period before the end of the term.
- c. When the qualified leave begins within three weeks of the end of the term and the purpose of such leave is parental leave, for the serious health condition of a family member or to care for a covered servicemember, the eligible instructional employee may be required to remain on leave until the end of the term if the length of the leave will last more than five working days.

If the district requires an eligible instructional employee to remain on leave until the end of the term as described above, additional leave required by the district until the end of the school term shall not count against the eligible instructional employee's leave entitlement.

For the purposes of OFLA leave, if an employee²⁰ begins a period of bereavement leave during the three-week period before the end of the term and the duration of the leave is greater than five working days, the district may require the employee continue on family leave until the end of the term.

Paid/Unpaid Leave

FMLA and OFLA do not require the district to pay an eligible employee who is on a qualified leave. Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (PFMLI) leave taken via Paid Leave Oregon or an equivalent plan will run concurrently with FMLA and leave available under ORS 653.601 - 653.661 when taken for the same purpose. An employee may elect to use any available accrued paid leave including personal, sick or vacation leave during the leave period. The total combined amount received by using accrued leave and

¹⁹ "Academic term" means the school semester, which typically ends near the end of the calendar year and the end of spring each school year. In no case may a school have more than two academic terms or semesters each year for purposes of FMLA. 29 CFR § 825.602(b)

²⁰ Applies only to an employee who is employed principally in an instructional capacity by the district.

PFMLI may exceed the employee's full wage replacement during the period of leave. The district will notify the eligible employee when the requested leave has been designated as FMLA or OFLA leave and ask the employee about the use of available accrued paid leave.

Eligible employees taking OMFLA leave are entitled to use available accrued paid time off during the OMFLA leave period.

Benefits and Insurance

When an eligible employee returns to work following a FMLA-, OFLA- or OMFLA-qualified leave, the employee must be reinstated to the same position the employee held when the leave commenced, or to an equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay and other terms and conditions of employment.

During an OFLA qualified leave an eligible employee does not accrue seniority or other benefits that would have accrued while the employee was working, unless the terms of a collective bargaining agreement, other agreement or other district policy provide otherwise.²¹ The eligible employee is also subject to layoff to the same extent similarly situated employees not taking OFLA leave are subject unless the terms of an applicable collective bargaining agreement, other agreement or the district's policies provide otherwise.

For the purposes of FMLA and OFLA, the district will continue to pay the employer portion of the eligible employee's group health insurance contribution (if applicable) during the qualified leave period. The eligible employee is required to pay the employee portion of any such group health insurance contribution as a condition of continued coverage.

For the purposes of FMLA qualified leave, the district's obligation to maintain the employee's group health insurance coverage will cease if the employee's contribution is remitted more than 30 calendar days late. The district will provide written notice that the premium payment is more than 30 calendar days late. Such notice will be provided within 15 calendar days before coverage is to cease.

For the purposes of OMFLA, the eligible employee is entitled to a continuation of benefits.

Fitness-for-Duty Verification

For purposes of FMLA, prior to the reinstatement of an employee following a leave which was the result of the employee's own serious health condition, the district may require the employee to obtain and present a Fitness-for-Duty Certification. If the district is going to require a Fitness-for-Duty Certification upon return to work, the district must notify the employee of such requirement when the leave is designated as FMLA leave and that failure to provide the certification may result in a delay or denial of reinstatement. Any costs associated with obtaining the certification shall be borne by the employee.

Application

²¹ See also ORS 342.934(4)(d) in reduction force situations.

For purposes of FMLA, an eligible employee requesting FMLA leave shall provide at least 30 days' notice prior to the leave date if the leave is foreseeable. The notice shall be written and include the anticipated start date, duration and reasons for the requested leave. When appropriate, the eligible employee must make a reasonable effort to schedule treatment, including intermittent leave and reduced leave, so as not to unduly disrupt the operation of the district. An eligible employee able to give advance notice of the need to take FMLA leave must follow the district's known, reasonable and customary procedures for requesting any kind of leave.

For purposes of OFLA, an eligible employee shall provide at least 30 days' written notice of the need for foreseeable leave before starting family leave. An employee may commence family leave without prior notice in the event of: an unexpected illness, injury or condition of a child of the employee that requires home care; the death of a family member; or an illness, injury or condition related to the employee's own pregnancy or childbirth that disables the employee from performing any available job duties offered by the district. If an employee commences leave without prior notice as allowed above, the employee must give oral notice²² to the employer within 24 hours of the commencement of the leave and must provide the written notice within three days after returning to work. Failure of an employee to provide the required notice for leave may result in the district deducting up to three weeks from the employee's unused OFLA leave in that one-year leave period. The employee may be subject to disciplinary action for not following the district's notice procedures.

The district may request additional information²³ to determine the requested leave qualifies as FMLA or OFLA leave. The district may designate the employee as provisionally on FMLA or OFLA leave until sufficient information is received to properly make a determination. An eligible employee able to give advance notice of the need to take leave must follow the district's known, reasonable and customary procedures for requesting any kind of leave.

For the purposes of FMLA, if advance notice is not possible, an employee eligible for FMLA leave must provide notice as soon as practicable. "As soon as practicable," for the purpose of FMLA leave, means as soon as both possible and practical, taking into account all of the facts and circumstances in the individual case. In most situations, as soon as practicable will be within one business day of an employee becoming aware of the need. Failure of an employee to provide the required notice for FMLA leave may result in the district delaying the employee's leave up to 30 days after the notice is ultimately given.²⁴

For the purposes of OFLA, if an eligible employee is taking leave in an unforeseeable situation, an employee must give oral or written notice²⁵ within 24 hours before or after commencement of the leave. In all cases, proper documentation must be submitted no later than three working days following the employee's return to work.

²² Oral notice may be given by any other person on behalf of the employee taking the leave.

²³ Except in cases to verify OFLA bereavement leave unless the district requires the use of an attestation form for purposes of determining affinity.

²⁴ See 29 CFR § 825.304.

²⁵ Notice may be given by any other person on behalf of the employee taking the leave.

For purposes of OMFLA, an employee must provide the district with notice of the intention to take leave within five business days of receiving official notice of an impending call or order to active duty or of a leave from deployment.

Verification

Under FMLA, the district may require an eligible employee to provide medical certification, when appropriate²⁶, to support the stated reason for such leave. In most cases, the district will provide written notification to an employee of this requirement within five working days of the employee's request for leave. The employee is required to submit such medical certification no later than 15 calendar days after receipt of the district's notification that medical certification is required, unless not practicable. Any additional certifications, including second and third opinions, will be in accordance with applicable law.

Under OFLA, the district may require an eligible employee to provide medical verification, when appropriate²⁷, to support the stated reason for qualifying OFLA leave. The district will provide written notification to an employee of this requirement and state the consequences for failure to provide the requested medical verification. If the employee gives advance written notice of foreseeable leave, the district may require the employee to provide medical verification for OFLA leave before the leave starts. If the employee begins unforeseeable OFLA leave without prior notice, the employee is required to submit such medical verification within 15 calendar days after receipt of the district's request for medical verification. The employee may be subject to disciplinary action for not providing the requested medical verification.

For the purposes of OFLA qualified leave, costs associated with obtaining the medical verification shall be borne by the district, or be paid as otherwise allowed by law. The district will not delay the use of qualifying OFLA leave when medical verification is not received before the commencement of unforeseeable leave. The district may not require an employee to obtain a second opinion.

Under OFLA, the district may request verification for the need for leave to care for a child who requires home care due to the closure of the child's school or child care provider as a result of a public health emergency. A request for verification may include a request for:

1. The name of the child requiring home care;
2. The name of the school or child care provider that is subject to the closure;
3. A statement from the employee that no other family member of the child is willing and able to care for the child; and
4. A statement that special circumstances exist that require the employee to provide home care for the child during the day, if the child is older than 14 years of age.

²⁶ Medical verification is not allowed in every situation. Review current laws and guidance for more information.

²⁷ Medical verification is not allowed in every situation. Review current laws and guidance for more information. (OAR 839-009-0260)

Posted Notice

The district will post the Bureau of Labor and Industries Family Leave notice in each building or worksite in an area that is accessible to and regularly frequented by employees.²⁸ The district will also post a notice explaining the provisions of FMLA and providing information concerning the procedures for filing complaints.²⁹

Record Keeping

The district will maintain all records as required by federal and state laws including dates leave is taken by employees, identified separately from other leave; hours/days of leave; copies of general and specific notices to employees, including Board policy(ies) and regulations; premium payments of employee health benefits while on leave and records of any disputes with employees regarding granting of leave.

Medical documentation will be maintained separately from personnel files as confidential medical records.

Federal vs. State Law

Both federal and state law contain provisions for family and medical leave. Federal regulations state an employer must comply with all leave laws; that the federal law does not supersede any provision of state law that provides greater family or medical leave rights than those established pursuant to federal law; and if leave qualifies for FMLA and OFLA leave, the leave used counts against the employee's entitlement under both laws. State law requires that FMLA and OFLA or other state leave entitlements run concurrently when for the same purpose.

²⁸ https://www.oregon.gov/boli/employers/Documents/BOLI_Printable_FamilyMedLv.pdf; electronic posting is not sufficient to satisfy this requirement, but may be used to supplement the physical posting.

²⁹ <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/WHD/legacy/files/fmlaen.pdf>; electronic posting is sufficient as long as it is posted prominently where it can be readily seen by employees and applicants for employees. The poster and the text must be large enough to be easily read and contain fully legible text.

Medford School District 549C

Code: GCBDC/GDBDC
Adopted: 11/15/18
Revised/Readopted: 5/06/19; xx/xx/xx
Orig. Code(s): GCBDC/GDBDC

Domestic Violence, Harassment, Sexual Assault, **Bias**, Stalking Leave (**Safe Leave**)*

Definitions

- ~~1. “Covered employer” means an employer who employs six or more individuals in the state of Oregon for each working day through each of 20 or more calendar work weeks in the year in which the eligible employee takes leave to address domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault or stalking or in the year immediately preceding the year in which an eligible employee takes leave for domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, or stalking. —~~
- ~~2. “Eligible employee” means an employee who is a victim of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, or stalking or is the parent or guardian of a minor child or dependent who is a victim of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, or stalking. —~~
- ~~3. “Protective order” means an order authorized by Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 30.866, 107.095(1)(c), 107.700 to 107.735, 124.005 to 124.040 or 163.730 to 163.750 or any other order that restrains an individual from contact with an eligible employee or the employee’s minor child or dependent. —~~
- ~~4. “Victim of domestic violence” means an individual who has been a victim of abuse as defined by ORS 107.705; or any other individual designated as a victim of domestic violence by rule adopted under ORS 659A.805. —~~
- ~~5. “Victim of harassment” means an individual against whom harassment has been committed as describe in ORS 166.065 and any other individual designated as a victim of harassment by rule adopted under ORS 659A.805. —~~
- ~~6. “Victim of sexual assault” means an individual against whom a sexual offense has been committed as described in ORS 163.467 or 163.525 or any other individual designated as a victim of sexual assault by rule adopted under ORS 659A.805. —~~
- ~~7. “Victim of stalking” means an individual against whom stalking has been committed as described in ORS 163.732 or an individual designated as a victim of stalking by rule adopted under ORS 695A.805 or an individual who has obtained a court’s stalking protective order or a temporary court’s stalking protective order under ORS 30.866. —~~
- ~~8. “Victim services provider” means a prosecutor-based victim assistance program or a nonprofit program offering safety planning, counseling, support or advocacy related to domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault or stalking. —~~

When applicable, the district will comply with the provisions of protected leave identified in ORS 659A.272 to address domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking.

★ The district (covered employer¹) shall allow an eligible employee² to take reasonable leave from employment for any of the following reasons:

1. To seek legal or law enforcement assistance or remedies to ensure the health and safety of the employee or the employee's minor child or dependent, including preparing for and participating in protective order proceedings or other civil or criminal legal proceedings related to domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking.
2. To seek medical treatment for or to recover from injuries caused by domestic violence or sexual assault to, harassment, or stalking of, or the commission of a bias crime against the eligible employee or the employee's minor child or dependent.
3. To obtain, or to assist a minor child or dependent in obtaining counseling from a licensed mental health professional related to an experience of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking.
4. To obtain services from a victim services provider for the eligible employee or the eligible employee's minor child or dependent; or
5. To relocate³ or take steps to secure an existing home to ensure health and safety of the eligible employee or the employee's minor child or dependent.

The district may limit the amount of leave if the eligible employee's leave creates an undue hardship on the district.

The district shall not deny leave to an eligible employee or discharge, threaten to discharge, demote, suspend an employee or in any manner discriminate or retaliate against an employee with regards to promotion, compensation or other terms, conditions or privileges of employment as a result of taking such leave because the employee makes inquiries about, applies for, or takes such leave.

The eligible employee shall give the district reasonable advanced notice of the employee's intention to take leave unless giving advance notice is not feasible.

The district may require the eligible employee to provide certification of the following:

¹ "Covered employer" means an employer who employs six or more individuals in the State of Oregon for each working day during each of 20 or more calendar workweeks in the year in which an eligible employee takes leave to address domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias or stalking, or in the year immediately preceding the year in which an eligible employee takes leave to address domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias or stalking.

² "Eligible employee" means an employee who is a victim of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias or stalking or is the parent or guardian of a minor child or dependent who is a victim of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias or stalking.

³ "Relocate" is described in OAR 839-009-0345 (5).

1. The employee or **employee's** minor child or dependent is a victim of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, **bias**, or stalking; and
2. The leave is taken for one of the identified purposes in this policy.

The eligible employee shall provide a certification within a reasonable time after receiving the district's request for the certification.

Sufficient certification to support a request for such leave includes ~~any of the following~~:

1. A copy of a report from law enforcement, ~~if available, or a case number~~, indicating the **eligible** employee or **the employee's minor** child or dependent was a victim of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, **bias**, or stalking;
2. A copy of a protective order or other evidence from a court, administrative agency or attorney that the **eligible** employee appeared in or ~~was~~ **is** preparing for a civil **or** criminal ~~or~~ administrative proceeding related to domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, **bias**, or stalking; ~~and/or~~
3. Documentation from an attorney, law enforcement officer, health care professional, licensed mental professional or counselor, member of the clergy, **employee of the Department of Justice division providing victim and survivor services** or a victim services provider that the **eligible** employee **or the employee's minor** child or dependent was undergoing **treatment or** counseling, obtaining services or relocating as a result of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, **bias**, or stalking.

All records and information kept by the district regarding the employee's leave ~~under ORS 659A.270 - 659A.285~~, including the ~~fact the employee has requested or obtaining of obtained such leave~~ **is** are confidential and may not be released without the expressed permission of the employee unless otherwise required by law. This information will be kept in a file separate from the employee's personnel file.

~~The district may require periodic verification of the employee's eligibility for leave status.~~ The employee may use ~~all~~ any paid accrued leave, including ~~personal, sick leave, and~~ vacation leave **or any other paid leave offered by the district**. The ~~employee district~~ may choose the order in which paid accrued leave is to be used when more than one type of paid leave is available **consistent with Board policies, any applicable collective bargaining agreement or other agreement**.

Definitions

1. "Protective order" means an order authorized by ORS 30.866, 107.095 (1)(c), 107.700 to 107.735, 124.005 to 124.040, 163.730 to 163.750 or 163.760 to 163.777 or any other order that restrains an individual from contact with an eligible employee or the employee's minor child or dependent.
2. "Victim of bias" means an individual who has been a victim of a bias crime as defined in ORS 147.380; or any other individual designated as a victim of bias by rule adopted under ORS 659A.805.
3. "Victim of domestic violence" means an individual who has been a victim of abuse, as defined in ORS 107.705; or any other individual designated as a victim of domestic violence by rule adopted under ORS 659A.805.

4. “Victim of harassment” means an individual against whom harassment has been committed as described in ORS 166.065; or any other individual designated as a victim of harassment by rule adopted under ORS 659A.805.
5. “Victim of sexual assault” means an individual against whom a sexual offense has been committed as described in ORS 163.305 to 163.467, 163.472 or 163.525; or any other individual designated as a victim of sexual assault by rule adopted under ORS 659A.805.
6. “Victim of stalking” means an individual against whom stalking has been committed as described in ORS 163.732; an individual designated as a victim of stalking by rule adopted under ORS 659A.805; or an individual who has obtained a court’s stalking protective order or a temporary court’s stalking protective order under ORS 30.866.
7. “Victim services provider” means a prosecutor-based victim assistance program or a nonprofit program offering safety planning, counseling, support or advocacy related to domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias or stalking.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 192.355\(38\)](#)

[ORS 659A.270 - 659A.290](#)

[OAR 839-009-0325 - 0365](#)

Medford School District 549C

Code: GCBDC/GDBDC
Adopted: 11/15/18
Revised/Readopted: 5/06/19; xx/xx/xx
Orig. Code(s): GCBDC/GDBDC

Domestic Violence, Harassment, Sexual Assault, Bias, Stalking Leave (Safe Leave)*

When applicable, the district will comply with the provisions of protected leave identified in ORS 659A.272 to address domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking.

The district (covered employer¹) shall allow an eligible employee² to take reasonable leave from employment for any of the following reasons:

1. To seek legal or law enforcement assistance or remedies to ensure the health and safety of the employee or the employee's minor child or dependent, including preparing for and participating in protective order proceedings or other civil or criminal legal proceedings related to domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking.
2. To seek medical treatment for or to recover from injuries caused by domestic violence or sexual assault to, harassment, or stalking of, or the commission of a bias crime against the eligible employee or the employee's minor child or dependent.
3. To obtain, or to assist a minor child or dependent in obtaining counseling from a licensed mental health professional related to an experience of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking.
4. To obtain services from a victim services provider for the eligible employee or the eligible employee's minor child or dependent; or
5. To relocate³ or take steps to secure an existing home to ensure health and safety of the eligible employee or the employee's minor child or dependent.

The district may limit the amount of leave if the eligible employee's leave creates an undue hardship on the district.

¹ "Covered employer" means an employer who employs six or more individuals in the State of Oregon for each working day during each of 20 or more calendar workweeks in the year in which an eligible employee takes leave to address domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias or stalking, or in the year immediately preceding the year in which an eligible employee takes leave to address domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias or stalking.

² "Eligible employee" means an employee who is a victim of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias or stalking or is the parent or guardian of a minor child or dependent who is a victim of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias or stalking.

³ "Relocate" is described in OAR 839-009-0345 (5).

The district shall not deny leave to an eligible employee or discharge, threaten to discharge, demote, suspend or in any manner discriminate or retaliate against an employee with regards to promotion, compensation or other terms, conditions or privileges of employment because the employee makes inquiries about, applies for, or takes such leave.

The eligible employee shall give the district reasonable advanced notice of the employee's intention to take leave unless giving advance notice is not feasible.

The district may require the eligible employee to provide certification of the following:

1. The employee or employee's minor child or dependent is a victim of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking; and
2. The leave is taken for one of the identified purposes in this policy.

The eligible employee shall provide a certification within a reasonable time after receiving the district's request for the certification.

Sufficient certification to support a request for such leave includes:

1. A copy of a report from law enforcement indicating the eligible employee or the employee's minor child or dependent was a victim of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking;
2. A copy of a protective order or other evidence from a court, administrative agency or attorney that the eligible employee appeared in or is preparing for a civil or criminal administrative proceeding related to domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking; or
3. Documentation from an attorney, law enforcement officer, health care professional, licensed mental professional or counselor, member of the clergy, employee of the Department of Justice division providing victim and survivor services or a victim services provider that the eligible employee or the employee's minor child or dependent was undergoing treatment or counseling, obtaining services or relocating as a result of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking.

All records and information kept by the district regarding the employee's leave under ORS 659A.270 - 659A.285, including the fact the employee has requested or obtained such leave are confidential and may not be released without the expressed permission of the employee unless otherwise required by law. This information will be kept in a file separate from the employee's personnel file.

The employee may use any paid accrued leave, including sick leave, vacation leave or any other paid leave offered by the district. The district may choose the order in which paid accrued leave is to be used when more than one type of paid leave is available consistent with Board policies, any applicable collective bargaining agreement or other agreement.

Definitions

1. “Protective order” means an order authorized by ORS 30.866, 107.095 (1)(c), 107.700 to 107.735, 124.005 to 124.040, 163.730 to 163.750 or 163.760 to 163.777 or any other order that restrains an individual from contact with an eligible employee or the employee’s minor child or dependent.
2. “Victim of bias” means an individual who has been a victim of a bias crime as defined in ORS 147.380; or any other individual designated as a victim of bias by rule adopted under ORS 659A.805.
3. “Victim of domestic violence” means an individual who has been a victim of abuse, as defined in ORS 107.705; or any other individual designated as a victim of domestic violence by rule adopted under ORS 659A.805.
4. “Victim of harassment” means an individual against whom harassment has been committed as described in ORS 166.065; or any other individual designated as a victim of harassment by rule adopted under ORS 659A.805.
5. “Victim of sexual assault” means an individual against whom a sexual offense has been committed as described in ORS 163.305 to 163.467, 163.472 or 163.525; or any other individual designated as a victim of sexual assault by rule adopted under ORS 659A.805.
6. “Victim of stalking” means an individual against whom stalking has been committed as described in ORS 163.732; an individual designated as a victim of stalking by rule adopted under ORS 659A.805; or an individual who has obtained a court’s stalking protective order or a temporary court’s stalking protective order under ORS 30.866.
7. “Victim services provider” means a prosecutor-based victim assistance program or a nonprofit program offering safety planning, counseling, support or advocacy related to domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias or stalking.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 192.355\(38\)](#)

[ORS 659A.270 - 659A.290](#)

[OAR 839-009-0325 - 0365](#)

Medford School District 549C

Code: GCBDC/GDBDC-AR
Revised/Reviewed: 11/15/18; 5/06/19; xx/xx/xx
Orig. Code(s): GCBDC/GDBDC-AR

Request for Domestic Violence, Harassment, Sexual Assault, Bias or Stalking Leave

~~Where~~ When the need for the leave may be anticipated, a written request for leave under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 659A.270-659A.285 shall be made at least 30 days prior to the date the requested leave is to begin ~~unless giving advance notice is not feasible. In emergency situations~~ When it is not feasible, oral or written notice as soon as practical is allowed.

Name of ~~Eligible~~-Employee _____

Department _____ Title _____

Effective Date of the Leave _____

Status: Full-time Part-time Temporary Hire Date _____ ~~Length of Service~~ _____

The requested leave is for:

- Myself
- ~~My~~ A minor child or dependent for which I am a parent or guardian

The leave is for:

- To seek legal or law enforcement assistance or remedies to ensure the health and safety of the eligible employee or the eligible employee's minor child or dependent, including preparing for and participating in protective order proceedings or other civil or criminal legal proceedings related to domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking.
- To seek medical treatment for or to recover from injuries caused by domestic violence or sexual assault to, harassment, ~~sexual assault~~ or stalking ~~for~~ of or the commission of a bias crime against the eligible employee or the eligible employee's minor child or dependent.
- To obtain or to assist the eligible employee's minor child or dependent in obtaining counseling from a licensed mental health professional related to an experience of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking.
- To obtain services from a victim services provider for the eligible employee or the eligible employee's minor child or dependent.

- To relocate¹ or take steps to secure an existing home to ensure the health and safety of the eligible employee or the eligible employee’s minor child or dependent.

The following has been ~~provided by the employee~~ to certify the need for the requested leave:

- A copy of a report from law enforcement indicating ~~that the eligible employee myself or the eligible employee’s~~ my minor child or dependent ~~was is~~ a victim ~~or alleged victim~~ of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, ~~bias~~, or stalking.
- A copy of a protective order or ~~any other order that restrains an individual from contact with an eligible employee or the employee’s minor child or dependent~~, other evidence from a court, administrative agency or attorney that ~~the eligible employee I or my minor child or dependent~~ appeared in or is preparing for a civil or criminal ~~administrative~~ proceeding related to domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, ~~bias~~, or stalking ~~or other order authorized by ORS 30.866, 107.095(1)(c), 107.700 to 107.735, 124.005 to 120.040 or 163.730 to 163.750.~~
- Documentation from an attorney, law enforcement officer, health care professional, licensed mental health professional or counselor, member of the clergy, ~~employee of the Department of Justice division providing victim and survivor services or victim services provider with or from whom the eligible employee or the eligible employee’s~~ that I or my minor child or dependent is receiving services.

~~I am required to use any accrued paid leave, including personal and sick leave or accrued vacation leave before taking OFLA leave without pay. I may select the order in which the paid leave is used for the OFLA leave period.~~

I understand that I may use accrued paid leave, including personal and sick leave, or accrued vacation leave or any other paid leave that is offered by the district.

If my request for a leave is approved, ~~it is my understanding~~ I understand that without an authorized extension when the need for an extension could be anticipated, I must report to duty on the first workday following the date my leave is scheduled to end. ~~I understand that failure to do so will constitute unequivocal notice of my intent not to return to work and the district may terminate my employment.~~ I understand if I am unable to return to work following the period of authorized leave, I will notify ~~my employer~~ the district as soon as practical and provide any required information which will allow ~~my employer~~ the district to determine my eligibility for an extension of leave.

I authorize the district to deduct from my paychecks ~~or seek to recover any employee contributions for health insurance premiums, life insurance or long term disability insurance~~ amounts paid for insurance coverage by the district on my behalf which remain unpaid after my leave, consistent with state law.

Signature of Employee: _____ Date: _____

¹ “Relocate” is described in OAR 839-009-0345 (5).

Medford School District 549C

Code: GCBDC/GDBDC-AR
Revised/Reviewed: 11/15/18; 5/06/19; xx/xx/xx
Orig. Code(s): GCBDC/GDBDC-AR

Request for Domestic Violence, Harassment, Sexual Assault, Bias or Stalking Leave

When the need for the leave may be anticipated, a written request for leave under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 659A.270-659A.285 shall be made at least 30 days prior to the date the requested leave is to begin unless giving advance notice is not feasible. When it is not feasible, oral or written notice as soon as practical is allowed.

Name of Employee _____

Department _____ Title _____

Effective Date of the Leave _____

Status: Full-time Part-time Temporary Hire Date _____

The requested leave is for:

- Myself
- A minor child or dependent for which I am a parent or guardian

The leave is for:

- To seek legal or law enforcement assistance or remedies to ensure the health and safety of the eligible employee or the eligible employee's minor child or dependent, including preparing for and participating in protective order proceedings or other civil or criminal legal proceedings related to domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking.
- To seek medical treatment for or to recover from injuries caused by domestic violence or sexual assault, harassment or stalking of or the commission of a bias crime against the eligible employee or the eligible employee's minor child or dependent.
- To obtain or to assist the eligible employee's minor child or dependent in obtaining counseling from a licensed mental health professional related to an experience of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking.
- To obtain services from a victim services provider for the eligible employee or the eligible employee's minor child or dependent.

- To relocate¹ or take steps to secure an existing home to ensure the health and safety of the eligible employee or the eligible employee's minor child or dependent.

The following has been to certify the need for the requested leave:

- A copy of a report from law enforcement indicating myself or my minor child or dependent is a victim of domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking.
- A copy of a protective order or other evidence from a court, administrative agency or attorney that I or my minor child or dependent appeared in or is preparing for a civil or criminal administrative proceeding related to domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking.
- Documentation from an attorney, law enforcement officer, health care professional, licensed mental health professional or counselor, member of the clergy, employee of the Department of Justice division providing victim and survivor services or victim services provider that I or my minor child or dependent is receiving services.

I understand that I may use accrued paid leave, including personal and sick leave, or accrued vacation leave or any other paid leave that is offered by the district.

If my request for a leave is approved, I understand that without an authorized extension when the need for an extension could be anticipated, I must report to duty on the first workday following the date my leave is scheduled to end. I understand if I am unable to return to work following the period of authorized leave, I will notify the district as soon as practical and provide any required information which will allow the district to determine my eligibility for an extension of leave.

I authorize the district to deduct from my paychecks or seek to recover amounts paid for insurance coverage by the district on my behalf which remain unpaid after my leave, consistent with state law.

Signature of Employee: _____ Date: _____

¹ "Relocate" is described in OAR 839-009-0345 (5).

Medford School District 549C

Code: GCBDD/GDBDD
Adopted: 2/23/16
Revised/Readopted: 5/06/19, xx/xx/xxxx
Orig. Code(s): GCBDD/GDBDD

Sick Time

“Employee” means an individual who ~~is employed by the district and who is paid on an hourly, stipend or salary basis, and for whom withholding is required under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 316.162-316.221~~ renders personal services at a fixed rate to the district if the district either pays or agrees to pay for personal services or permits the individual to perform personal services. The definition does not include volunteers or independent contractors.

Employees qualify to begin earning and accruing sick time on the first day of employment with the district ~~and are eligible to use sick time beginning on the 91st calendar day of employment with the district and may use sick time as it is accrued.~~

The district ~~employs 10 or more employees and therefore~~ shall allow an eligible employee to access up to 40 hours of paid sick time per year. Paid sick time shall accrue at the rate of at least one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours the employee works, or 1-1/3 hours for every 40 hours the employee works.

The employee may carry up to 40 hours of unused sick time from one year to the subsequent year. An employee is limited to accruing no more than 80 hours of sick time per school year. An employee is limited to using no more than 40 hours of sick time per school year.

Sick time shall be taken in hourly increments except for substitutes who must take sick time in 4 or 8 hour increments (1/2 day or 1 full day). Sick time may be used for the employee’s or a family member’s¹ mental or physical illness, injury or health condition, need for medical diagnosis, care or treatment of a mental or physical illness, injury or health condition or need for preventive care, or for reasons consistent with ~~the~~ ~~qualifying~~ Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), ~~Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (PFMLI)~~ or Oregon Family Leave Act (OFLA). Sick time may also be used in the event of a public health emergency ~~or for leave to address domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking under ORS 659A.272.~~

The use of sick time may not lead to, or result in, an adverse employment action against the employee.

The district reserves the right, after ~~an employee uses sick time for more than~~ three consecutive ~~scheduled workdays of absence~~, or if misuse is suspected, to require ~~proof of personal illness or injury from an employee verification or certification in accordance with law of the need for the sick time, including a medical examination by a physician chosen and verification or certification² paid for by the district.~~ ~~An If~~

¹ “Family member” is defined by the Oregon Family Leave Act (OFLA).

² In the case of need for leave under ORS 659A.272, the district may not require the verification or certification to explain the nature of the illness or details related to the domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, bias, or stalking, which necessitates the use of sick time.

an employee ~~refusing to submit to such an examination~~ fails to provide verification or certification or fails to provide other evidence as required by the district, ~~the employee~~ shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

When the reason for sick time is consistent with FMLA~~/, PFMLI or OFLA~~ leave, ~~the~~ sick time leave and ~~the qualifying FMLA~~/, PFMLI or OFLA~~~~ leave may run concurrently, if applicable.

When the reason for sick time is consistent with ORS 332.507, the sick time and leave pursuant to ORS 332.507 may run concurrently, if applicable.

If the reason for sick time is a foreseeable absence, the district ~~may~~ requires ~~the an~~ employee to provide advance notice of ~~their the~~ intention to use sick time ~~within~~ 10 days ~~of prior to when~~ the requested sick time ~~is to begin~~ or as soon as ~~otherwise~~ practicable. When ~~the an~~ employee uses sick time for a foreseeable absence, the employee shall take reasonable effort to schedule the sick time in a manner that does not unduly disrupt the operations of the district (e.g., grading deadlines, in-service training, mandatory meetings). Substitutes are expected to decline assignments for days of a foreseeable absence.

If the reason for sick time is unforeseeable, such as an emergency, accident or sudden illness, the employee shall notify the district as soon as possible before the assigned shift or as soon as practicable in the event of an emergency.

The district shall establish a standard process to track the eligibility for sick time of a substitute.

Nothing in this policy impacts the district's sick leave obligation under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 332.507.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.507](#)
[ORS 342.545](#)

[ORS 342.610](#)
[ORS 653.601 to -653.661](#)

[ORS 659A.150 to -659A.186](#)
[OAR 839-007-0020 - 0065](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act ~~of 1990~~/~~Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act~~, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213(2018); 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (20~~1623~~); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (20~~1623~~).

Family and Medical Leave Act ~~of 1993~~, 29 U.S.C. §§ 2601-2654 (20~~1218~~); Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, 29 C.F.R. Part 825 (20~~1623~~).

~~Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008.~~

Cross Reference(s):

ACA - Americans with Disabilities Act
GBDA - Mother Friendly Workplace
GCBDA/GDBDA - Family Medical Leave

Medford School District 549C

Code: GCBDD/GDBDD
Adopted: 2/23/16
Revised/Readopted: 5/06/19; xx/xx/xxxx
Orig. Code(s): GCBDD/GDBDD

Sick Time

“Employee” means an individual who renders personal services at a fixed rate to the district if the district either pays or agrees to pay for personal services or permits the individual to perform personal services. The definition does not include volunteers or independent contractors.

Employees qualify to begin earning and accruing sick time on the first day of employment with the district and are eligible to use sick time beginning on the 91st calendar day of employment with the district and may use sick time as it is accrued.

The district employs 10 or more employees and therefore shall allow an eligible employee to access up to 40 hours of paid sick time per year. Paid sick time shall accrue at the rate of at least one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours the employee works, or 1-1/3 hours for every 40 hours the employee works.

The employee may carry up to 40 hours of unused sick time from one year to the subsequent year. An employee is limited to accruing no more than 80 hours of sick time per school year. An employee is limited to using no more than 40 hours of sick time per school year.

Sick time shall be taken in hourly increments except for substitutes who must take sick time in 4 or 8 hour increments (1/2 day or 1 full day). Sick time may be used for the employee’s or a family member’s¹ mental or physical illness, injury or health condition, need for medical diagnosis, care or treatment of a mental or physical illness, injury or health condition or need for preventive care, or for reasons consistent with qualifying Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA), Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (PFMLI) or Oregon Family Leave Act (OFLA). Sick time may also be used in the event of a public health emergency or for leave to address domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking under ORS 659A.272.

The use of sick time may not lead to, or result in, an adverse employment action against the employee.

The district reserves the right, after an employee uses sick time for more than three consecutive scheduled workdays, or if misuse is suspected, to require verification or certification in accordance with law of the need for the sick time, including a medical verification or certification² paid for by the district. If an employee fails to provide verification or certification or fails to provide other evidence as required by the district, the employee shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

¹ “Family member” is defined by the Oregon Family Leave Act (OFLA).

² In the case of need for leave under ORS 659A.272, the district may not require the verification or certification to explain the nature of the illness or details related to the domestic violence, sexual assault, harassment, bias, or stalking, which necessitates the use of sick time.

When the reason for sick time is consistent with FMLA, PFMLI or OFLA leave, sick time leave and qualifying FMLA, PFMLI or OFLA leave may run concurrently, if applicable.

When the reason for sick time is consistent with ORS 332.507, the sick time and leave pursuant to ORS 332.507 may run concurrently, if applicable.

If the reason for sick time is a foreseeable absence, the district requires an employee to provide advance notice of the intention to use sick time 10 days prior to when the requested sick time is to begin or as soon as otherwise practicable. When an employee uses sick time for a foreseeable absence, the employee shall take reasonable effort to schedule the sick time in a manner that does not unduly disrupt the operations of the district (e.g., grading deadlines, in-service training, mandatory meetings). Substitutes are expected to decline assignments for days of a foreseeable absence.

If the reason for sick time is unforeseeable, such as an emergency, accident or sudden illness, the employee shall notify the district as soon as possible before the assigned shift or as soon as practicable in the event of an emergency.

The district shall establish a standard process to track the eligibility for sick time of a substitute.

Nothing in this policy impacts the district's sick leave obligation under Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 332.507.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.507](#)
[ORS 342.545](#)

[ORS 342.610](#)
[ORS 653.601 to -653.661](#)

[ORS 659A.150 to -659A.186](#)
[OAR 839-007-0020 - 0065](#)

Americans with Disabilities Act/Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101-12213(2018); 29 C.F.R. Part 1630 (2023); 28 C.F.R. Part 35 (2023).

Family and Medical Leave Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 2601-2654 (2018); Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, 29 C.F.R. Part 825 (2023).

Cross Reference(s):

ACA - Americans with Disabilities Act
GBDA - Mother Friendly Workplace
GCBDA/GDBDA - Family Medical Leave

Medford School District 549C

Code: GCBDF/GDBDF
 Adopted: xx/xx/xx

Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance *

The district participates in Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (PFMLI) and Paid Leave Oregon¹. This includes submitting employee and employer contributions to the Oregon Employment Department (“Department”) as required by state law.² The district does not administer PFMLI or Paid Leave Oregon. All applications and related questions should be directed to the Department.

Definitions

1. “Family leave” means leave from work taken by a covered individual:
 - a. To care for and bond with a child during the first year after the child’s birth or during the first year after the placement of the child through foster care or adoption; or
 - b. ³To effectuate the legal process required for placement of a foster child or the adoption of a child; or
 - c. To care for a family member with a serious health condition.
2. “Family leave” does not mean:
 - a. Leave described in Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 659A.159(1)(a) (i.e., care for a child who is suffering from an illness, injury or condition that requires home care or who requires home care due to closure of the child’s school or child care provider as a result of a public health emergency) except for leave to care for a child who requires home care due to an illness, injury or condition that is a serious health condition;
 - b. Leave described in ORS 659A.159(1)(b) (death of a family member); or
 - c. Leave authorized under ORS 659A.093 (leave for spouses of members of the military upon deployment or call to active duty).
3. “Family member” means:
 - a. The spouse of a covered individual;
 - b. A child or the child’s spouse or domestic partner;
 - c. A parent or the parent’s spouse or domestic partner;
 - d. A sibling or stepsibling of a covered individual or the sibling’s or stepsibling’s spouse or domestic partner;

¹ Paid Leave Oregon is the program developed by the Oregon Employment Department to administer Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance.

² The overall contribution will be determined by the Department director, and is initially set at 1 percent (up to \$132,900). *For districts with 25 or more employees:* The employer contribution is 40 percent and the employee contribution is 60 percent of this amount. The amount will be set annually by November 15. See ORS 657B.150.

³ This provision becomes effective on January 1, 2025.

- e. A grandparent of a covered individual or the grandparent’s spouse or domestic partner;
 - f. A grandchild of a covered individual or the grandchild’s spouse or domestic partner;
 - g. The domestic partner of a covered individual; or
 - h. Any individual related by blood or affinity whose close association with a covered individual is the equivalent of a family relationship.
4. “Medical leave” means leave from work taken by a covered individual that is made necessary by the individual’s own serious health condition.
5. “Safe leave” means leave related to domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking and relocation for health and safety reasons as provided in ORS 659A.272.

“Serious health condition” means:

- a. An illness, injury, impairment or physical or mental condition that requires inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility;
- b. An illness, disease or condition that in the medical judgement of the treating health care provider poses an imminent danger of death, is terminal in prognosis with a reasonable possibility of death in the near future, or requires constant care;
- c. Any period of disability due to pregnancy, or period of absence for prenatal care; or
- d. Any period of absence for the donation of a body part, organ or tissue, including preoperative or diagnostic services, surgery, post-operative treatment and recovery.

Eligibility

1. To be eligible for Paid Leave Oregon benefits, an individual must:
- a. Be an employee of the district⁴;
 - b. Earn at least \$1,000 in the base or alternate base year⁵;
 - c. Contribute to Paid Leave Oregon in accordance with state law;
 - d. Experience an event qualifying the employee for:
 - (1) Family leave;
 - (2) Medical leave; or
 - (3) Safe leave.
 - e. Submit an application to Department;
 - f. Have not exceeded maximum paid leave in the active benefit year; and
 - g. Have no current disqualifications⁶.

Leave

⁴ PFMLI is a state-wide benefit, and not unique to the district. An eligible individual does not need to be an employee of the district in order to be eligible for PFMLI, but this policy only applies to employees of the district.

⁵ Pay could come from another Oregon employer.

⁶ Disqualifications may include eligibility for Workers’ Compensation or Unemployment or determination of a willful false statement or failure to report a material fact in order to obtain benefits. See OAR 471-070-1010(1)(h).

Paid Leave Oregon can be used for family leave, medical leave or safe leave. Up to 12 weeks of paid leave can be taken per benefit year.⁷ Leave can be taken in one-day increments and can be consecutive or nonconsecutive.

Any family leave or medical leave taken under Paid Leave Oregon must be taken concurrently with any leave taken by an eligible employee under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-3, FMLA) for the same purposes. Leave taken under Paid Leave Oregon is in addition to, and may not be taken concurrently with, any leave taken pursuant to ORS 659A.150 - 659A.186 (Oregon Family Leave Act (OFLA)).

The district will maintain an employee's existing health benefits while the employee is using leave. The employee will be required to pay the employee's contribution to premiums.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 657B](#)

[ORS 659A.162](#)

[OAR 471-070](#)

[Senate Bill 1515](#) (2024).

⁷ In some pregnancy-related situations (e.g., pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition), employees may be able to take two additional weeks, for a total of 14 weeks per benefit year.

Medford School District 549C

Code: GCBDF/GDBDF
Adopted: xx/xx/xx

Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance *

The district participates in Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (PFMLI) and Paid Leave Oregon¹. This includes submitting employee and employer contributions to the Oregon Employment Department (“Department”) as required by state law.² The district does not administer PFMLI or Paid Leave Oregon. All applications and related questions should be directed to the Department.

Definitions

1. “Family leave” means leave from work taken by a covered individual:
 - a. To care for and bond with a child during the first year after the child’s birth or during the first year after the placement of the child through foster care or adoption; or
 - b. ³To effectuate the legal process required for placement of a foster child or the adoption of a child; or
 - c. To care for a family member with a serious health condition.
2. “Family leave” does not mean:
 - a. Leave described in Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 659A.159(1)(a) (i.e., care for a child who is suffering from an illness, injury or condition that requires home care or who requires home care due to closure of the child’s school or child care provider as a result of a public health emergency) except for leave to care for a child who requires home care due to an illness, injury or condition that is a serious health condition;
 - b. Leave described in ORS 659A.159(1)(b) (death of a family member); or
 - c. Leave authorized under ORS 659A.093 (leave for spouses of members of the military upon deployment or call to active duty).
3. “Family member” means:
 - a. The spouse of a covered individual;
 - b. A child or the child’s spouse or domestic partner;
 - c. A parent or the parent’s spouse or domestic partner;

¹ Paid Leave Oregon is the program developed by the Oregon Employment Department to administer Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance.

² The overall contribution will be determined by the Department director, and is initially set at 1 percent (up to \$132,900). *For districts with 25 or more employees:* The employer contribution is 40 percent and the employee contribution is 60 percent of this amount. The amount will be set annually by November 15. See ORS 657B.150.

³ This provision becomes effective on January 1, 2025.

- d. A sibling or stepsibling of a covered individual or the sibling's or stepsibling's spouse or domestic partner;
 - e. A grandparent of a covered individual or the grandparent's spouse or domestic partner;
 - f. A grandchild of a covered individual or the grandchild's spouse or domestic partner;
 - g. The domestic partner of a covered individual; or
 - h. Any individual related by blood or affinity whose close association with a covered individual is the equivalent of a family relationship.
4. "Medical leave" means leave from work taken by a covered individual that is made necessary by the individual's own serious health condition.
5. "Safe leave" means leave related to domestic violence, harassment, sexual assault, bias, or stalking and relocation for health and safety reasons as provided in ORS 659A.272.

"Serious health condition" means:

- a. An illness, injury, impairment or physical or mental condition that requires inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility;
- b. An illness, disease or condition that in the medical judgement of the treating health care provider poses an imminent danger of death, is terminal in prognosis with a reasonable possibility of death in the near future, or requires constant care;
- c. Any period of disability due to pregnancy, or period of absence for prenatal care; or
- d. Any period of absence for the donation of a body part, organ or tissue, including preoperative or diagnostic services, surgery, post-operative treatment and recovery.

Eligibility

1. To be eligible for Paid Leave Oregon benefits, an individual must:
 - a. Be an employee of the district⁴;
 - b. Earn at least \$1,000 in the base or alternate base year⁵;
 - c. Contribute to Paid Leave Oregon in accordance with state law;
 - d. Experience an event qualifying the employee for:
 - (1) Family leave;
 - (2) Medical leave; or
 - (3) Safe leave.
 - e. Submit an application to Department;
 - f. Have not exceeded maximum paid leave in the active benefit year; and
 - g. Have no current disqualifications⁶.

⁴ PFMLI is a state-wide benefit, and not unique to the district. An eligible individual does not need to be an employee of the district in order to be eligible for PFMLI, but this policy only applies to employees of the district.

⁵ Pay could come from another Oregon employer.

⁶ Disqualifications may include eligibility for Workers' Compensation or Unemployment or determination of a willful false statement or failure to report a material fact in order to obtain benefits. See OAR 471-070-1010(1)(h).

Leave

Paid Leave Oregon can be used for family leave, medical leave or safe leave. Up to 12 weeks of paid leave can be taken per benefit year.⁷ Leave can be taken in one-day increments and can be consecutive or nonconsecutive.

Any family leave or medical leave taken under Paid Leave Oregon must be taken concurrently with any leave taken by an eligible employee under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-3, FMLA) for the same purposes. Leave taken under Paid Leave Oregon is in addition to, and may not be taken concurrently with, any leave taken pursuant to ORS 659A.150 - 659A.186 (Oregon Family Leave Act (OFLA)).

The district will maintain an employee's existing health benefits while the employee is using leave. The employee will be required to pay the employee's contribution to premiums.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 657B](#)

[ORS 659A.162](#)

[OAR 471-070](#)

[Senate Bill 1515](#) (2024).

⁷ In some pregnancy-related situations (e.g., pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition), employees may be able to take two additional weeks, for a total of 14 weeks per benefit year.

Medford School District 549C

Code: GCBDF/GDBDF-AR
Revised/Reviewed: xx/xx/xx

Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (PFMLI) *

Application

Employees may submit applications for Paid Leave Oregon¹ to the Oregon Employment Department (“Department”).² Applications may be submitted up to 30 days prior to the start of the leave and up to 30 days after the start of the leave.³ The Department may require verification from the employee.⁴ The Department will make all decisions regarding acceptance and denial of an application, including determining the amount of the benefit.⁵ The district cannot accept, file, process or make decisions on applications.

An employee may appeal an approval or denial of claim, the amount of a weekly benefit or a disqualification from receipt of benefits to the Department in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 657B.410 and Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 471-070-8005.

Employee Notice to District

If the leave is foreseeable⁶, the employee must provide the district with written notice⁷ at least 30 calendar days prior to the leave. If the leave is not foreseeable⁸ the employee must give oral notice to the district

¹ “Paid Leave Oregon” means the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance program described in ORS 657B.

² For application requirements see Oregon Administrative Regulation (OAR) 471-070-1100. Applications can be submitted at <https://frances.oregon.gov/> to the Employment Department through the Paid Leave Oregon program.

³ Exceptions may be granted when the applicant can demonstrate good cause for late submission.

⁴ See verification requirements in OAR 471-070-1110 - OAR 471-070-1130.

⁵ The benefit may be less than the employee’s salary. See ORS 657B.050.

⁶ Examples of foreseeable leave include, but are not limited to, an expected birth, planned placement of a child, or a scheduled medical treatment for a serious health condition of the eligible employee or a family member of the eligible employee. See OAR 471-070-1310.

⁷ Written notice includes, but is not limited to, handwritten or typed notices, and electronic communication such as text messages and email.

⁸ Leave circumstances that are not foreseeable include, but are not limited to, an unexpected serious health condition of the eligible employee or a family member of the eligible employee, a premature birth, an unexpected adoption, an unexpected foster placement by or with the eligible employee, or for safe leave.

within 24 hours of the start of the leave, and must provide written notice within 3 days after the start of leave.⁹ The district requests as much advance notice as possible.

The notice must include:

1. The employee's first and last name;
2. Type of leave;
3. Explanation of the need for leave; and
4. Anticipated timing and duration of leave, including if it is continuous or intermittent.

Notice need only be given one time, but the employee shall notify the district as soon as practicable if dates of scheduled leave change, are extended, or were initially unknown. This notice does not need to mention PFMLI or Paid Leave Oregon to satisfy the notice requirements. Notice may be provided by another party on behalf of the employee in accordance with state law.

Failure to comply with these notice requirements may result in a penalty imposed by the Department. The Department may reduce the amount of the benefit by 25 percent in accordance with OAR 471-070-1310(10).

Concurrent Use of District-Provided Paid Leave

The employee will be allowed to use available district-provided paid leave (e.g., sick, vacation or otherwise) for days that Paid Leave Oregon is received. The total combined amount received by using accrued leave and Paid Leave Oregon may exceed the employee's full wage replacement during the period of leave.

Example: The Department determines that the rate of pay will be 75 percent of the employee's regular salary. The employee will be allowed to use available district-provided paid leave (sick, vacation or otherwise), subject to any applicable collective bargaining agreement or other agreement for days Paid Leave Oregon benefits are received. The employee will be able to choose how much other paid leave to use (which may result in the employee receiving more than 100 percent of their typical salary).

Return to Work

Upon completion of leave, the employee is entitled to return to the position held in the district prior to the leave, if that position still exists and if the employee had been employed in the district for 90 days prior to taking leave.¹⁰

⁹ An eligible employee who takes safe leave shall give the employer reasonable advance notice of the individual's intention to take safe leave, unless giving the advance notice is not feasible. If other leave also applies, notice requirements for those types of leave may also apply.

¹⁰ If the employee's leave also qualifies for FMLA protection, see also Board policy GCBDA/GDBDA and its accompanying administrative regulations.

Communications Between the District and the Department

Upon receipt of an application or update in information from a district employee for Paid Leave Oregon, the Department will notify the district. The district may provide additional information to the Department within 10 days. This information may include, but is not limited to, information about the employee's notice to the district or verification of the employee's continued employment with the district. If the district does not report such information to the Department, the Department will proceed using available information. The district can provide additional information to the Department as it becomes available.

If the Department requests additional information from the district, the district will respond within 10 calendar days.

Once the Department has issued a decision regarding an application submitted by an employee of the district, the Department will notify the district regarding the approval or denial and any applicable dates and periods of leave.

District Notice to Employees

At the time of hire and each time the policy or procedure changes, the district must provide notice to employees. This notice must be in the language that the employer typically uses to communicate with employees and will include:

1. The right of an eligible employee to claim and receive family and medical leave insurance benefits;
2. The procedure for filing a claim for benefits;
3. That an eligible employee must provide notice to the district before the employee commences leave, and a description of the penalties for failure to comply with the notice requirements;
4. The right of an eligible employee to job protection and benefits continuation;
5. The right of an eligible employee to appeal a decision or determination made by the Department director;
6. That discrimination and retaliatory personnel actions against an employee for inquiring about the PFMLI or Paid Leave Oregon program, giving notification of leave under the program, taking leave under the program or claiming PFMLI or Paid Leave Oregon benefits are prohibited;
7. The right of an employee to bring a civil action or to file a complaint for violation of ORS 657B.060 or 657B.070; and
8. That any health information related to family leave, medical leave or safe leave provided to the district by an employee is confidential and may not be released without the permission of the employee unless state or federal law or a court order permits or requires disclosure.¹¹

¹¹ Paid Leave Oregon has provided a model notice, <https://paidleave.oregon.gov/DocumentsForms/Paid-Leave-ModelNotice-Poster-EN.pdf>.

The district will display the Department's notice poster in an area that is accessible to and regularly frequented by employees in each building or worksite. The district will provide this notice poster to employees working remotely by hand delivery, regular mail or through an electronic delivery method at the time of hire or assignment to remote work.

District Filings

The district will file the Oregon Quarterly Tax Report, the Oregon Employee Detail Report and any other reports required by law. If the district fails to submit required filings or report, or fails to pay all required contributions, the district may be penalized in accordance with OAR 471-070-8520.

Employee Protections

No employee or prospective employee will be discriminated or retaliated against for inquiring about PFMLI or Paid Leave Oregon, giving notification of leave under Paid Leave Oregon, taking such leave or claiming such benefits. Eligible employees have a right to file a complaint and/or bring a civil action for violations of ORS 657B.060 or ORS 657B.070.

Any health information related to family leave, medical leave or safe leave provided to the district by an employee is confidential and may not be released without the permission of the employee unless state or federal law or a court order permits or requires disclosure.

Medford School District 549C

Code: GCBDF/GDBDF-AR
Revised/Reviewed: xx/xx/xx

Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance (PFMLI) *

Application

Employees may submit applications for Paid Leave Oregon¹ to the Oregon Employment Department (“Department”).² Applications may be submitted up to 30 days prior to the start of the leave and up to 30 days after the start of the leave.³ The Department may require verification from the employee.⁴ The Department will make all decisions regarding acceptance and denial of an application, including determining the amount of the benefit.⁵ The district cannot accept, file, process or make decisions on applications.

An employee may appeal an approval or denial of claim, the amount of a weekly benefit or a disqualification from receipt of benefits to the Department in accordance with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 657B.410 and Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 471-070-8005.

Employee Notice to District

If the leave is foreseeable⁶, the employee must provide the district with written notice⁷ at least 30 calendar days prior to the leave. If the leave is not foreseeable⁸ the employee must give oral notice to the district

¹ “Paid Leave Oregon” means the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance program described in ORS 657B.

² For application requirements see Oregon Administrative Regulation (OAR) 471-070-1100. Applications can be submitted at <https://frances.oregon.gov/> to the Employment Department through the Paid Leave Oregon program.

³ Exceptions may be granted when the applicant can demonstrate good cause for late submission.

⁴ See verification requirements in OAR 471-070-1110 - OAR 471-070-1130.

⁵ The benefit may be less than the employee’s salary. See ORS 657B.050.

⁶ Examples of foreseeable leave include, but are not limited to, an expected birth, planned placement of a child, or a scheduled medical treatment for a serious health condition of the eligible employee or a family member of the eligible employee. See OAR 471-070-1310.

⁷ Written notice includes, but is not limited to, handwritten or typed notices, and electronic communication such as text messages and email.

⁸ Leave circumstances that are not foreseeable include, but are not limited to, an unexpected serious health condition of the eligible employee or a family member of the eligible employee, a premature birth, an unexpected adoption, an unexpected foster placement by or with the eligible employee, or for safe leave.

within 24 hours of the start of the leave, and must provide written notice within 3 days after the start of leave.⁹ The district requests as much advance notice as possible.

The notice must include:

1. The employee's first and last name;
2. Type of leave;
3. Explanation of the need for leave; and
4. Anticipated timing and duration of leave, including if it is continuous or intermittent.

Notice need only be given one time, but the employee shall notify the district as soon as practicable if dates of scheduled leave change, are extended, or were initially unknown. This notice does not need to mention PFMLI or Paid Leave Oregon to satisfy the notice requirements. Notice may be provided by another party on behalf of the employee in accordance with state law.

Failure to comply with these notice requirements may result in a penalty imposed by the Department. The Department may reduce the amount of the benefit by 25 percent in accordance with OAR 471-070-1310(10).

Concurrent Use of District-Provided Paid Leave

The employee will be allowed to use available district-provided paid leave (e.g., sick, vacation or otherwise) for days that Paid Leave Oregon is received. The total combined amount received by using accrued leave and Paid Leave Oregon may exceed the employee's full wage replacement during the period of leave.

Example: The Department determines that the rate of pay will be 75 percent of the employee's regular salary. The employee will be allowed to use available district-provided paid leave (sick, vacation or otherwise), subject to any applicable collective bargaining agreement or other agreement for days Paid Leave Oregon benefits are received. The employee will be able to choose how much other paid leave to use (which may result in the employee receiving more than 100 percent of their typical salary).

Return to Work

Upon completion of leave, the employee is entitled to return to the position held in the district prior to the leave, if that position still exists and if the employee had been employed in the district for 90 days prior to taking leave.¹⁰

⁹ An eligible employee who takes safe leave shall give the employer reasonable advance notice of the individual's intention to take safe leave, unless giving the advance notice is not feasible. If other leave also applies, notice requirements for those types of leave may also apply.

¹⁰ If the employee's leave also qualifies for FMLA protection, see also Board policy GCBDA/GDBDA and its accompanying administrative regulations.

Communications Between the District and the Department

Upon receipt of an application or update in information from a district employee for Paid Leave Oregon, the Department will notify the district. The district may provide additional information to the Department within 10 days. This information may include, but is not limited to, information about the employee's notice to the district or verification of the employee's continued employment with the district. If the district does not report such information to the Department, the Department will proceed using available information. The district can provide additional information to the Department as it becomes available.

If the Department requests additional information from the district, the district will respond within 10 calendar days.

Once the Department has issued a decision regarding an application submitted by an employee of the district, the Department will notify the district regarding the approval or denial and any applicable dates and periods of leave.

District Notice to Employees

At the time of hire and each time the policy or procedure changes, the district must provide notice to employees. This notice must be in the language that the employer typically uses to communicate with employees and will include:

1. The right of an eligible employee to claim and receive family and medical leave insurance benefits;
2. The procedure for filing a claim for benefits;
3. That an eligible employee must provide notice to the district before the employee commences leave, and a description of the penalties for failure to comply with the notice requirements;
4. The right of an eligible employee to job protection and benefits continuation;
5. The right of an eligible employee to appeal a decision or determination made by the Department director;
6. That discrimination and retaliatory personnel actions against an employee for inquiring about the PFMLI or Paid Leave Oregon program, giving notification of leave under the program, taking leave under the program or claiming PFMLI or Paid Leave Oregon benefits are prohibited;
7. The right of an employee to bring a civil action or to file a complaint for violation of ORS 657B.060 or 657B.070; and
8. That any health information related to family leave, medical leave or safe leave provided to the district by an employee is confidential and may not be released without the permission of the employee unless state or federal law or a court order permits or requires disclosure.¹¹

¹¹ Paid Leave Oregon has provided a model notice,
<https://paidleave.oregon.gov/DocumentsForms/Paid-Leave-ModelNotice-Poster-EN.pdf>.

The district will display the Department's notice poster in an area that is accessible to and regularly frequented by employees in each building or worksite. The district will provide this notice poster to employees working remotely by hand delivery, regular mail or through an electronic delivery method at the time of hire or assignment to remote work.

District Filings

The district will file the Oregon Quarterly Tax Report, the Oregon Employee Detail Report and any other reports required by law. If the district fails to submit required filings or report, or fails to pay all required contributions, the district may be penalized in accordance with OAR 471-070-8520.

Employee Protections

No employee or prospective employee will be discriminated or retaliated against for inquiring about PFMLI or Paid Leave Oregon, giving notification of leave under Paid Leave Oregon, taking such leave or claiming such benefits. Eligible employees have a right to file a complaint and/or bring a civil action for violations of ORS 657B.060 or ORS 657B.070.

Any health information related to family leave, medical leave or safe leave provided to the district by an employee is confidential and may not be released without the permission of the employee unless state or federal law or a court order permits or requires disclosure.

Medford School District 549C

Code: IGDK
Adopted/Readopted: 5/07/91; 1/22/20; xx/xx/xx
Orig. Code: IGDK

Nonschool-Sponsored Study and Athletic Tours/Trips/Competitions

The school district does not sponsor, endorse or financially contribute to the variety of outside-sponsored study and athletic tours/trips/competitions available to students.

The district does not recruit for, or have input into, the selection of non-school sponsored programs, many of which are not open to all students. Such tours, trips, and competitions are under the sole auspice and control of the sponsoring organizations/groups. As such, the sponsoring organizations/groups are not agents of the district.

Students who raise funds for their personal participation in such activities may not raise monies for such travel as a representative of the school. The school district or individual school name may not be used unless the communication clearly identifies the sponsor as a group other than the school. Students may not use school vehicles, equipment, supplies, materials or facilities in conjunction with such trips or their related fund raising or group meetings [except upon the prior approval of the students' building principal as provided in IGDK-AR.](#)

Staff members are prohibited from using their school contact with students during instructional time to advertise or recruit for summer or other holiday travel. School staff will not advise parents regarding selection of such trips or tours for their students. The office or other designated areas may contain pamphlets to assist parents who have questions about selection of such a tour.

Parents are advised to consider carefully the activities that are available to their students. Parents and outside sponsors have an obligation to ensure that patrons of the district do not assume such activities are school sponsored or funded.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 244.040](#)

[ORS 332.107](#)

[ORS 339.880](#)

[OAR 581-021-0045](#)

Davidson v. Or. Gov't Ethics Comm'n, 300 Or. 415 (1985).

Medford School District 549C

Code: IGDK
Adopted/Readopted: 5/07/91; 1/22/20; xx/xx/xx
Orig. Code: IGDK

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Staff members are prohibited from using their school contact with students during instructional time to advertise or recruit for summer or other holiday travel. School staff will not advise parents regarding selection of such trips or tours for their students. The office or other designated areas may contain pamphlets to assist parents who have questions about selection of such a tour.

Parents are advised to consider carefully the activities that are available to their students. Parents and outside sponsors have an obligation to ensure that patrons of the district do not assume such activities are school sponsored or funded.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 244.040](#)

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Davidson v. Or. Gov't Ethics Comm'n, 300 Or. 415 (1985).

Medford School District 549C

Code: IGDK-AR
Revised/Reviewed: 4/18/00; 01/09/20; xx/xx/xx
Orig. Code: IGDK-AR

Nonschool-Sponsored Study and Athletic Tours/Trips/Competitions

1. Staff Member Responsibilities

- a. Staff members planning a non-school sponsored tour, trip, or competition involving Medford School District students must inform his/her building principal.
- b. Staff members are prohibited from using their contact with students during instructional time to advertise or recruit for summer or other holiday non-school sponsored tour, trip, or competition.
- c. Staff members may only use the school office or other designated areas to advertise or recruit for summer or other holiday non-school sponsored tour, trip, or competition.
- d. Staff members are prohibited from using school equipment, supplies, materials, and facilities to promote or organize non-school sponsored tours, trips, and competitions. (Exception: Staff members may use school facilities outside of the normal school day under certain circumstances. See policy code KG-R, Use of District Facilities). **Notwithstanding the foregoing, Medford School District coaches who volunteer to support a middle school state athletic competition (which are non-school sponsored competitions) may, upon the prior written approval of the building principal, use school athletic uniforms to the extent reasonably necessary to support students who are competing in state level competitions including, but not limited to, a coaching shirt that includes the school's name. Building principals may not grant approval for student use of school equipment including, but not limited to, safety equipment such as pads, helmets and other headgear, during any such non-school sponsored competitions.**
- e. Staff members will not advise parents regarding parental selection of non-school sponsored tours, trips, and competitions for their youngsters.
- f. Staff members promoting and/or organizing a non-school sponsored tour, trip, or competition will send a letter to the parents of the interested students explaining that the proposed activity is privately sponsored and is in no way associated with nor endorsed by the Medford School District.

2. Principal Responsibilities

- a. Advise staff members in writing of their responsibilities in promoting and organizing a non-school sponsored tour, trip, or competition **including, but not limited to: (i) any responsibilities regarding the use of school athletic uniforms if approval to use such items is granted as provided in Section 1.d, above; and (ii) the responsibility not to allow the use of other school equipment, supplies, materials, and facilities during any non-school sponsored tours, trips, and competitions.**
- b. Ensure that policy IGDK, "Non-School Sponsored Study & Athletic Tours/Trips/Competition" and IGDK-AR are enforced.
- c. Allow pamphlets or other literature on non-school sponsored tours, trips, or competitions to be made available in the office or other designated areas to assist parents who have questions about selection of such activities, provided prior approval is given by the building principal.

- d. Lists of student names and addresses are not to be provided to any individual agency or organization promoting or organizing non-school sponsored tours, trips, or competitions.

3. Student Responsibilities

- a. Students raising money for non-school sponsored study and athletic tours, trips, or competitions may not use the school district or individual school name unless the communication clearly identifies the sponsor as a group other than the school.
- b. Students may not use school vehicles, equipment, supplies, materials or facilities in conjunction with such tours, trips, or competitions or their related fund raising or group meetings. *Notwithstanding the foregoing, middle school students representing their school in a middle school level state or postseason athletic competition (which are non-school sponsored competitions) that requires students to represent their school may, upon the prior written approval of the building principal as provided in Section 1.d, above, be permitted to use school athletic uniforms to the extent reasonably necessary to support participation in the competition. Students may not use other school equipment including, but not limited to, safety equipment such as pads, helmets and other headgear, during any such non-school sponsored competitions.*
- c. Students should inform their parents if the tour, trip, or competition is not school-sponsored.

4. Parent Responsibilities

- a. Parents are advised to consider carefully the activities that are available to their sons and daughters.
- b. Parents and outside sponsors have an obligation to ensure that patrons of the district do not assume such activities are school sponsored or funded.
- c. *For middle school state level athletic competitions, which are non-school sponsored events, parents shall be informed that approval for the use of school athletic uniforms in connection with such competition does not, in any way, constitute an endorsement or sponsorship of the competition by the District and that the activity remains under the sole auspice and control of the sponsoring organization/group. Therefore: (i) the District is not responsible or liable for any injury/accident to the student that may occur in conjunction with the non-school sponsored activity when wearing the school's athletic uniform; and (ii) parents shall be solely responsible for obtaining or otherwise providing, at the parents' cost and expense, any necessary safety equipment required for their student to participate in the non-school sponsored activity.*

Medford School District 549C

Code: IGDK-AR
Revised/Reviewed: 4/18/00; 01/09/20; xx/xx/xx
Orig. Code: IGDK-AR

Nonschool-Sponsored Study and Athletic Tours/Trips/Competitions

1. Staff Member Responsibilities

- a. Staff members planning a non-school sponsored tour, trip, or competition involving Medford School District students must inform his/her building principal.
- b. Staff members are prohibited from using their contact with students during instructional time to advertise or recruit for summer or other holiday non-school sponsored tour, trip, or competition.
- c. Staff members may only use the school office or other designated areas to advertise or recruit for summer or other holiday non-school sponsored tour, trip, or competition.
- d. Staff members are prohibited from using school equipment, supplies, materials, and facilities to promote or organize non-school sponsored tours, trips, and competitions. (Exception: Staff members may use school facilities outside of the normal school day under certain circumstances. See policy code KG-R, Use of District Facilities). Notwithstanding the foregoing, Medford School District coaches who volunteer to support a middle school state athletic competition (which are non-school sponsored competitions) may, upon the prior written approval of the building principal, use school athletic uniforms to the extent reasonably necessary to support students who are competing in state level competitions including, but not limited to, a coaching shirt that includes the school's name. Building principals may not grant approval for student use of school equipment including, but not limited to, safety equipment such as pads, helmets and other headgear, during any such non-school sponsored competitions.
- e. Staff members will not advise parents regarding parental selection of non-school sponsored tours, trips, and competitions for their youngsters.
- f. Staff members promoting and/or organizing a non-school sponsored tour, trip, or competition will send a letter to the parents of the interested students explaining that the proposed activity is privately sponsored and is in no way associated with nor endorsed by the Medford School District.

2. Principal Responsibilities

- a. Advise staff members in writing of their responsibilities in promoting and organizing a non-school sponsored tour, trip, or competition including, but not limited to: (i) any responsibilities regarding the use of school athletic uniforms if approval to use such items is granted as provided in Section 1.d, above; and (ii) the responsibility not to allow the use of other school equipment, supplies, materials, and facilities during any non-school sponsored tours, trips, and competitions.
- b. Ensure that policy IGDK, "Non-School Sponsored Study & Athletic Tours/Trips/Competition" and IGDK-AR are enforced.

- c. Allow pamphlets or other literature on non-school sponsored tours, trips, or competitions to be made available in the office or other designated areas to assist parents who have questions about selection of such activities, provided prior approval is given by the building principal.
- d. Lists of student names and addresses are not to be provided to any individual agency or organization promoting or organizing non-school sponsored tours, trips, or competitions.

3. Student Responsibilities

- a. Students raising money for non-school sponsored study and athletic tours, trips, or competitions may not use the school district or individual school name unless the communication clearly identifies the sponsor as a group other than the school.
- b. Students may not use school vehicles, equipment, supplies, materials or facilities in conjunction with such tours, trips, or competitions or their related fund raising or group meetings. Notwithstanding the foregoing, middle school students representing their school in a middle school level state or postseason athletic competition (which are non-school sponsored competitions) that requires students to represent their school may, upon the prior written approval of the building principal as provided in Section 1.d, above, be permitted to use school athletic uniforms to the extent reasonably necessary to support participation in the competition. Students may not use other school equipment including, but not limited to, safety equipment such as pads, helmets and other headgear, during any such non-school sponsored competitions.
- c. Students should inform their parents if the tour, trip, or competition is not school-sponsored.

4. Parent Responsibilities

- a. Parents are advised to consider carefully the activities that are available to their sons and daughters.
- b. Parents and outside sponsors have an obligation to ensure that patrons of the district do not assume such activities are school sponsored or funded.
- c. For middle school state level athletic competitions, which are non-school sponsored events, parents shall be informed that approval for the use of school athletic uniforms in connection with such competition does not, in any way, constitute an endorsement or sponsorship of the competition by the District and that the activity remains under the sole auspice and control of the sponsoring organization/group. Therefore: (i) the District is not responsible or liable for any injury/accident to the student that may occur in conjunction with the non-school sponsored activity when wearing the school's athletic uniform; and (ii) parents shall be solely responsible for obtaining or otherwise providing, at the parents' cost and expense, any necessary safety equipment required for their student to participate in the non-school sponsored activity.

Medford School District 549C

Code: IIA-AR(1)
Revised/Reviewed: xx/xx/xx

Instructional Materials

Core Instructional Materials¹

The Board selects core instructional materials. The responsibility to ensure procedures on selection and recommendations for core instructional materials are followed rests with the superintendent. The responsibility for coordinating the distribution of core instructional materials to classes also rests with the superintendent. It is the principal's responsibility to implement and maintain the core instructional materials, and teachers are expected to use selected core instructional materials in the classroom.

Materials selection committees will be appointed by the administration at the time necessary adoption areas are determined. The committee will review the materials and the general criteria for materials selection and provide a recommendation to the superintendent. The superintendent may make changes to the recommendation and shall submit a recommendation(s) to the Board for adoption prior to use.

If the district chooses to adopt core instructional materials which are not on the state-approved list, the rules outlined in OAR 581-022-2350 will apply.

Supplemental Instructional Materials²

The responsibility for evaluating and selecting supplemental instructional materials is delegated to teachers, principals, librarians, and/or others, as determined appropriate, who may collaborate as part of the process. **Materials must be in line with state standards.** Other authoritative matter experts may be included when practicable, as determined by the district.

1. Materials will contain suitable readability levels and support the district's adopted curriculum content.
2. Recommendations for selection may be solicited from staff and may include students.
3. Donated materials will be evaluated using the district's selection criteria and will be accepted or rejected based on those criteria.

¹ "Core instructional material," sometimes referred to as basal, means any organized system, which constitutes the major instructional vehicle for a given course of study, or any part thereof. Core instructional materials may include adaptive or personalized learning programs, digital textbooks and print textbooks and are adopted and paid for by the district. Core instructional materials may include such instructional materials as a hardbound or a softbound book or books, or sets or kits of print and non-print materials, including electronic and internet or web-based materials or media.

² "Supplemental instructional materials" means instructional materials used as part of the course of study, which are not part of the core instructional materials. They contain materials to supplement and/or differentiate core instruction and are generally teacher selected. These materials are not adopted by the Board. Materials required or assigned to be used as part of a class may be considered supplemental instructional materials, regardless of the source or location of the material.

4. Selection is an ongoing process which should include the removal of materials which no longer meet the selection criteria and the replacement of lost and worn materials still of educational value.

School Library Materials³

1. In selecting materials for the school library or media center, a librarian, under supervision of the principal, will evaluate the existing collection and the curriculum needs. The librarian will consult reputable, professionally prepared selection aids and other professional sources. Materials will contain suitable readability levels.
2. Recommendations for selection may be solicited from staff and students.
3. Donated materials will be evaluated using the established selection criteria and will be accepted or rejected based on those criteria.
4. Selection is an ongoing process which should include the removal of materials which no longer meet the selection criteria and the replacement of lost and worn materials still of educational value.

Classroom Library Materials⁴

1. When selecting materials for a classroom library, the teacher may consult staff and/or accept recommendations from staff and students.
2. Donated materials will be evaluated and may be accepted or rejected by the teacher.
3. Selection is an ongoing process which should include the removal of materials which no longer meet the selection criteria.

³ “School library materials” means materials that are kept in the school library for student selection and use. The use of these materials may not be required for a particular class, but they may be selected by students to use. These may include books, media, newspapers, magazines, videos, websites, or databases, including in digital or print, etc. These materials are not adopted by the Board.

⁴ “Classroom library materials” means materials that are kept in the classroom for student selection and use. The use of these materials is not required for the class, but they may be selected by students to use. These may include books, media, newspapers, magazines, videos, etc. These materials are not adopted by the Board.

Medford School District 549C

Code: IIA-AR(1)
Revised/Reviewed: xx/xx/xx

Instructional Materials

Core Instructional Materials¹

The Board selects core instructional materials. The responsibility to ensure procedures on selection and recommendations for core instructional materials are followed rests with the superintendent. The responsibility for coordinating the distribution of core instructional materials to classes also rests with the superintendent. It is the principal's responsibility to implement and maintain the core instructional materials, and teachers are expected to use selected core instructional materials in the classroom.

Materials selection committees will be appointed by the administration at the time necessary adoption areas are determined. The committee will review the materials and the general criteria for materials selection and provide a recommendation to the superintendent. The superintendent may make changes to the recommendation and shall submit a recommendation(s) to the Board for adoption prior to use.

If the district chooses to adopt core instructional materials which are not on the state-approved list, the rules outlined in OAR 581-022-2350 will apply.

Supplemental Instructional Materials²

The responsibility for evaluating and selecting supplemental instructional materials is delegated to teachers, principals, librarians, and/or others, as determined appropriate, who may collaborate as part of the process. Materials must be in line with state standards. Other authoritative matter experts may be included when practicable, as determined by the district.

1. Materials will contain suitable readability levels and support the district's adopted curriculum content.
2. Recommendations for selection may be solicited from staff and may include students.
3. Donated materials will be evaluated using the district's selection criteria and will be accepted or rejected based on those criteria.

¹ "Core instructional material," sometimes referred to as basal, means any organized system, which constitutes the major instructional vehicle for a given course of study, or any part thereof. Core instructional materials may include adaptive or personalized learning programs, digital textbooks and print textbooks and are adopted and paid for by the district. Core instructional materials may include such instructional materials as a hardbound or a softbound book or books, or sets or kits of print and non-print materials, including electronic and internet or web-based materials or media.

² "Supplemental instructional materials" means instructional materials used as part of the course of study, which are not part of the core instructional materials. They contain materials to supplement and/or differentiate core instruction and are generally teacher selected. These materials are not adopted by the Board. Materials required or assigned to be used as part of a class may be considered supplemental instructional materials, regardless of the source or location of the material.

4. Selection is an ongoing process which should include the removal of materials which no longer meet the selection criteria and the replacement of lost and worn materials still of educational value.

School Library Materials³

1. In selecting materials for the school library or media center, a librarian, under supervision of the principal, will evaluate the existing collection and the curriculum needs. The librarian will consult reputable, professionally prepared selection aids and other professional sources. Materials will contain suitable readability levels.
2. Recommendations for selection may be solicited from staff and students.
3. Donated materials will be evaluated using the established selection criteria and will be accepted or rejected based on those criteria.
4. Selection is an ongoing process which should include the removal of materials which no longer meet the selection criteria and the replacement of lost and worn materials still of educational value.

Classroom Library Materials⁴

1. When selecting materials for a classroom library, the teacher may consult staff and/or accept recommendations from staff and students.
2. Donated materials will be evaluated and may be accepted or rejected by the teacher.
3. Selection is an ongoing process which should include the removal of materials which no longer meet the selection criteria.

³ “School library materials” means materials that are kept in the school library for student selection and use. The use of these materials may not be required for a particular class, but they may be selected by students to use. These may include books, media, newspapers, magazines, videos, websites, or databases, including in digital or print, etc. These materials are not adopted by the Board.

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Medford School District 549C

Code: IKF
Adopted: 4/21/81
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Graduation Requirements**

The Board will establish graduation requirements for awarding of a high school diploma, a modified diploma, an extended diploma and ~~an alternative certificate~~ a certificate of attendance which meet or exceed state requirements.

A student may satisfy graduation requirements in less than four years. The district will award a diploma to a student fulfilling graduation requirements in less than four years if consent is given by the student's parent or guardian or by the student if the student is 18 years of age or older or emancipated.

If the district requires diploma requirements beyond the state requirements, the district shall grant a waiver for those requirements to any student who, at any time from grade 9 to 12, was:

1. ~~A foster child~~ In foster care¹;
2. ~~Homeless~~ Experiencing houselessness²;
3. A runaway;
4. A child in a military family covered by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children;
5. A child of a migrant worker; ~~or~~
6. Enrolled in the Youth Corrections Education Program or the Juvenile Detention Education Program; ~~or~~
7. Enrolled in an approved recovery school under ORS 336.680³.

¹ As defined in ORS 30.297.

² See OAR 581-022-2000 for additional information.

³ Applies to high school diplomas awarded on or after January 1, 2026.

For any student identified above, the district shall accept any credits earned by the student in an educational program⁴ in this state, applying those credits toward the state requirements for a diploma if the credits satisfied those requirements in that educational program in this state.

Diploma

A high school diploma will be awarded to students in grades 9 through 12 who complete a minimum of 24 credits which include at least:

1. Three credits in mathematics (shall include one unit at the Algebra I level and two units that are at a level higher than Algebra I);
2. Four credits in English/language arts⁵ (shall include the equivalent of one unit in written composition);
3. Three credits in science;
4. Three credits in social sciences (~~including shall include 0.5 unit of US civics⁶ credit in addition to at least 2.5 units of credit aligned to the Oregon State Board adopted standards for US and world history, civics , geography, economics, or personal finance and financial literacy⁷~~);
5. ~~One-half credit of higher education and career path skills⁸~~;
6. ~~One-half credit of personal financial education⁹~~;
7. One credit in health education;
8. One credit in physical education (credit may also be earned through athletic participation or equivalent activities that are approved by a school administrator in advance);

⁴ “Educational program in this state” means an educational program that is provided by a school district, a public charter school, ~~an approved recovery school (applies to diplomas awarded on or after January 1, 2026)~~, the Youth Corrections Education Program or the Juvenile Detention Program, or funded as provided by ORS 343.243 for students in a long term care or treatment facility described in ORS 343.96~~21~~ or a hospital identified in ORS 343.261.

⁵ “Language arts” includes reading, writing and other communications in any language, including English.

⁶ Civics becomes a half-credit requirement beginning on January 1, 2026 (ORS 329.451).

⁷ This requirement is replaced with a one-half credit of personal financial education requirement for students who were first enrolled in grade 9 during the 2023-2024 school year or first enrolled in grade 9 in any subsequent school year.

⁸ Higher education and career path skills becomes a one-half credit graduation requirement for students who were first enrolled in grade 9 during the 2023-2024 school year or first enrolled in grade 9 in any subsequent school year (a requirement for a high school diploma awarded on or after January 1, 2027; a district may request a one-year waiver in accordance with law).

⁹ Personal finance education becomes a one-half credit graduation requirement for students who were first enrolled in grade 9 during the 2023-2024 school year or first enrolled in grade 9 in any subsequent school year (a requirement for a high school diploma awarded on or after January 1, 2027; a district may request a one-year waiver in accordance with law).

9. Three credits in career and technical education, the arts or world languages¹⁰ (units shall be earned in any one or a combination).

The district shall offer students credit options provided the method for obtaining such credits as described in the student's personal education plan (including the ability to earn dual credit, credit through internships and externships) as long as the credit earned meets requirements described in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 581-022-2025.

A diploma with honors is available to those students who are seeking to challenge themselves academically. This program will prepare students for their post-secondary education by providing rigorous coursework along with the opportunity to earn college credit. Students who wish to pursue a diploma with honors are strongly encouraged to begin taking Advanced Placement or honors courses their freshman year and must confirm their intentions with their counselor at the start of their junior year. To earn this designation on a diploma, a student must earn a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher, complete the statewide assessments, and earn nine or more credits in advanced placement or honors courses, or in other courses designated in the course guide as qualifying for the honors designation. Requirements must be met by the end of the 4th quarter of a student's graduation year. The student must also meet the district guidelines for a high school diploma.

To receive a diploma, in addition to credit requirements outlined ~~in OAR 581-022-2000~~ above, a student must:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills of reading, writing, and applying mathematics in a variety of settings;
2. Develop an education plan and build an education profile;
3. Demonstrate extended application of standards through a collection of evidence (or include evidence in existing collection(s)); and
4. Participate in career-related learning experiences.

Modified Diploma

A modified diploma will be awarded only to students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards adopted by the State Board of Education for a high school diploma while receiving reasonable modifications and accommodations. A modified diploma may only be awarded to a student who meets the eligibility criteria below and other criteria, if applicable, outlined in OAR 581-022-2010(3):

1. The student ~~H~~has a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers; or
2. The student ~~H~~has a documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement.

¹⁰ "World language" includes sign language, heritage language and languages other than a student's primary language.

Having met the above eligibility criteria, a modified diploma will be awarded to students who, while in grade nine through completion of high school, complete 24 credits ~~which shall~~ with at least 13 of those credits to include:

1. Three credits in English/language arts;
2. Two credits in mathematics;
3. Two credits in science;
4. Two credits in social sciences (including history, civics, geography, economics, or personal finance);
5. One-half credit in personal financial education¹¹;
6. One-half credit in higher education and career path skills¹²;
7. One credit in health education;
8. One credit in physical education (credit may also be earned through athletic participation or equivalent activities that are approved by a school administrator in advance);
9. One credit in career technical education, the arts or world languages (units may be earned in any one or a combination).

Students may earn additional credits to earn a modified diploma pursuant to OAR 581-022-2010. In addition to credit requirements as outlined in OAR 581-022-2010, a student must:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills of reading, writing and apply mathematics in a variety of settings¹³;
2. Develop an education plan and build an education profile; and
3. Demonstrate extended application of standards through a collection of evidence (or include evidence in existing collection(s)).

A student must also demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills with reasonable modifications and accommodations.

Districts may make modifications to the assessment for students who seek a modified diploma when the following conditions are met:

1. For a student on an individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan, any modifications to work samples must be consistent with the requirements established in the IEP or 504 plan.

¹¹ This unit of credit applies to all students who are awarded a modified diploma on or after January 1, 2027.

¹² This unit of credit applies to all students who are awarded a modified diploma on or after January 1, 2027.

¹³ The State Board of Education has waived this requirement in Essential Skills for students graduating through the 2027-2028 school year.

Modifications include practices and procedures that compromise the intent of the assessment through a change in ~~learning expectations the achievement level, construct, or content that is to be measured, grade level standard, or~~ measured outcome of the assessment. This means that IEP or 504 school teams responsible for approving modifications for a student's assessment may adjust the administration of the assessment and/or the assessment's achievement standard. ~~The IEP or 504 team must inform the student's parent that the use of a modification on an assessment will result in an invalid assessment;~~

2. For a student not on an IEP or 504 plan, any modifications to work samples must have been provided to the student during their instruction in the content area to be assessed and in the year in which the student is being assessed, and modifications must be approved by the school team that is responsible for monitoring the student's progress toward the modified diploma.

Students not on an IEP or a Section 504 Plan may not receive a modified Oregon State assessment.

A student's school team (~~which must include an adult student, parent/guardian of the student~~) shall decide ~~that if~~ a student ~~should~~ will work toward a modified diploma no earlier than the end of grade six and no later than two years before the student's anticipated exit from high school.

A student's school team may decide to revise a modified diploma decision.

A student's school team may decide that a student who was not previously working toward a modified diploma should work toward one when the student is less than two years from anticipated exit from high school if the documented history has changed.

~~Beginning in grade five or beginning after a documented history to qualify for a modified diploma, the district shall annually provide to the parents or guardians of the student, information about the availability and requirements of a modified diploma.~~

~~For students with a documented history as described above, the district shall annually provide the parents or guardians of students, beginning in grade five or after such documented history has been established, the following:~~

1. ~~Information about the availability of high school diplomas, modified diplomas and the requirements for such diplomas; and~~
2. ~~A disclosure that students awarded a certificate of attendance will not be counted as a high school graduate in any reporting for the State or district and that such students awarded a certificate of attendance may not indicate they received a high school diploma on applications for employment, military service, financial aid, admittance to an institution of higher education or any other purpose.~~

Essential Skills

The district will allow English Language Learner (ELL) students to demonstrate proficiency in all required Essential Skills in the student's language of origin ~~for a high school diploma or a modified diploma.~~

The district will develop procedures to provide assessment options as described in the ~~Test Administration~~ *Local Performance Assessment Manual*, in the ELL student's language of origin, and will develop

procedures to ensure that locally scored assessment options administered in an ELL student's language of origin are scored by a qualified rater.

Essential Skills Appeal

The district will establish an appeal process in the event of an appeal for the denial of a diploma based on the Essential Skills graduation requirement. The district will retain student work samples and student performance data to ensure that sufficient evidence is available in the event of an appeal.

Extended Diploma

An extended diploma will be awarded only to students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards adopted by the State Board of Education for a **high school** diploma while receiving **reasonable** modifications and accommodations. To be eligible for an extended diploma, a student must:

1. While in grade nine through completion of high school, complete 12 credits, which may not include more than ~~six~~ **6** credits in a self-contained special education classroom and will include:
 - a. Two credits in mathematics;
 - b. Two credits in English/language arts;
 - c. Two credits in science;
 - d. Three credits in history, geography, economics or civics;
 - e. One credit in health;
 - f. One credit in physical education and (credit may also be earned through athletic participation or equivalent activities that are approved by school administrator in advance);
 - g. One credit in the arts or a world language; **and**
2. Have a documented history of:
 - a. An inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers;
 - b. A medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement; or
 - c. A change in the student's ability to participate in grade level activities as a result of a serious illness or injury that occurred after grade eight.

~~Beginning in grade five or beginning after a documented history to qualify for an extended diploma, the district shall annually provide to the parents or guardians of the student, information about the availability and requirements of an extended diploma. For students with a documented history, the district shall annually provide the parents or guardians of such students, beginning in grade five or after such documented history has been established, the following:~~

1. ~~Information about the availability of high school diplomas, modified diplomas and the requirements for such diplomas; and~~
2. ~~A disclosure that students awarded a certificate of attendance will not be counted as a high school graduate in any reporting for the state or district and that such students awarded a certificate of~~

attendance may not indicate they received a high school diploma on applications for employment, military service, financial aid, admittance to an institution of higher education or any other purpose.

Alternative Certificates

~~Alternative certificates will be awarded to students who do not satisfy the requirements for a diploma, a modified diploma, or an extended diploma if the students meet minimum requirements established by the district.~~

~~Beginning in grade five or beginning after a documented history to qualify for an alternative certificate, the district shall annually provide to the parents or guardians of the student, information about the availability and requirements of an alternative certificate.~~

Certificate of Attendance

A certificate of attendance¹⁴ will be awarded to students who:

1. Have maintained regular full-time attendance¹⁵ for at least four years beginning in grade nine;
2. Do not satisfy requirements for a high school diploma, modified diploma or extended diploma; and
3. Have a documented history¹⁶.

For students with a documented history¹⁷, the district shall annually provide the parents or guardians of such students, beginning in grade five or after such a documented history has been established, the following:

1. Information about the availability of high school diplomas, modified diplomas and the requirements for the diplomas; and
2. A disclosure that students awarded a certificate of attendance will not be counted as a high school graduate in any required reporting for the State or district and that such students awarded a certificate of attendance may not indicate they received a high school diploma on applications for employment, military service, financial aid, admittance to an institution of higher education or any other purpose.

Other District Responsibilities

¹⁴ A student who began grade 9 before July 1, 2020, may be awarded an alternative certificate if the student satisfies the requirements for an alternative certificate which are in effect on the day before July 1, 2024.

¹⁵ “Regular full-time attendance” means not being absent for more than 10 percent of school days that the student is enrolled in a school year. See OAR 581-020-0631 for definition of chronic absenteeism. Excused absences are considered absences for this purpose.

¹⁶ “Documented history” means evidence in the cumulative record and education plans of a student that demonstrates the inability over time to maintain grade level achievement even with appropriate modifications and accommodations.

¹⁷ “Documented history” means evidence in the cumulative record and education plans of a student that demonstrates the inability over time to maintain grade level achievement even with appropriate modifications and accommodations.

The district will ensure that all students have onsite access to the appropriate resources and courses to achieve a high school diplomas, a modified diplomas, an and extended diplomas; or an alternative certificate at each high school in the district. The district will provide developmentally appropriate literacy instruction to all students until graduation.

The district may not deny a student the opportunity to pursue a diploma with more stringent requirements than a modified diploma or an extended diploma for the sole reason the student who has the documented history listed under the above modified diploma or extended diploma requirements outlined above the opportunity to pursue a diploma with more stringent requirements, for the sole reason the student has the document history.

The district may award a modified diploma or an extended diploma to a student only upon the written consent of a student who is an emancipated minor or who has reached the age of 18 (adult student) at the time the modified or extended diploma is awarded, or the student's parent or guardian. The district shall must receive the written consent during the school year in which the modified diploma or the extended diploma is awarded.

A student shall have the opportunity to satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, an extended diploma or an alternative certificate a certificate of attendance in either the later of 4 years after starting the ninth grade 9, or until the student reaches the age of 21 years if the student is entitled to a public education until the age of 21 under state or federal law.

A student may satisfy complete the requirements for a modified diploma, an extended diploma or an alternative certificate a certificate of attendance in less than four years but not less than three years. To satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, an extended diploma or an alternative certificate a certificate of attendance in less than four 4 years, the student's parent or guardian or a student who is emancipated or has reached the age of 18 must provide written consent which clearly states the parent, guardian or student is waiving the fourth year and/or years until the student reaches the age of 21. A copy of the consent will be forwarded to the district superintendent who will annually report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction the number of such consents.

A student who qualifies to receive or receives a modified diploma, an extended diploma, or an alternative certificate a certificate of attendance shall have the option of participating in a high school graduation ceremony with the student's class.

A student who receives a modified diploma, an extended diploma, or an alternative certificate a certificate of attendance shall have access to instructional hours, hours of transition services and hours of other services that are designed to meet the unique needs of the student and. When added together, the district will provide a total number of hours of instruction and services to the student that equals at least the total number of instructional hours that are is required to be provided to students who are attending a public high school. The district may not unilaterally decrease the total number of hours of instruction and services to which the student has access regardless of the age of the student.

The district will award to students with disabilities a document certifying successful completion of program requirements. No document issued to students with disabilities educated in full or in part in a special education program shall indicate that the document is issued by such a program. When a student

who has an IEP completes high school, the district will give the student an individualized summary of performance.

Eligible students with disabilities are entitled to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) until the age of 21, even if they have earned a modified diploma, an extended diploma, ~~an alternative certificate a certificate of attendance~~ or completion of a General Education Development document. The continuance of services for students with disabilities for a modified diploma, extended diploma or ~~alternative certificate certificate of attendance~~ is contingent on the IEP team determining the student's continued eligibility and special education services are needed.

Students and their parents will be notified of graduation and diploma requirements.

The district may not deny a diploma to a student who has opted out of statewide assessments if the student is able to satisfy all other requirements for the diploma. Students who opt-out will need to meet the Essential Skills graduation requirement using another approved assessment option. Students may opt-out of the Oregon ~~State Assessment or alternate Oregon Extended Assessment~~ statewide assessments in ~~language arts and/or mathematics~~ by completing the Oregon Department of Education's Opt-out Form¹⁸ and submitting the form to the district.

The district will issue a high school diploma ~~pursuant to Oregon law (ORS 332.114)~~ to a veteran if the veteran resides within the boundaries of the district or is an Oregon resident and attended a high school of the district, or to a deceased veteran, upon request from a representative of the veteran, if the deceased veteran resided within the boundaries of the district at the time of death or was an Oregon resident at the time of death and attended a high school of the district.

The district shall establish conduct and discipline consequences for student-initiated test impropriety. The act of student-initiated test impropriety is prohibited. A student that participates in an act of student-initiated test impropriety will be subject to discipline. "Student-initiated test impropriety" means student conduct that is inconsistent with the *Test Administration Manual* or accompanying guidance; or results in a score that is invalid.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

¹⁸ Oregon Department of Education page for: [30-day notice and opt-out form](#)

[ORS 329.007](#)
[ORS 329.045](#)
[ORS 329.451](#)
[ORS 329.479](#)
[ORS 332.107](#)
[ORS 332.114](#)
[ORS 336.585](#)
[ORS 336.590](#)

[ORS 339.115](#)
[ORS 339.505](#)
[ORS 343.295](#)

[OAR 581-021-0009](#)
[OAR 581-022-0102](#)
[OAR 581-022-2000](#)
[OAR 581-022-2005](#)

[OAR 581-022-2010](#)
[OAR 581-022-2015](#)
[OAR 581-022-2020](#)
[OAR 581-022-2025](#)
[OAR 581-022-2030](#)
[OAR 581-022-2115](#)
[OAR 581-022-2120](#)
[OAR 581-022-2505](#)

Test Administration Manual, published by the OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Certificates for School Completion: Questions and Answers Related to the Implementation of SB 992, published by the OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Cross Reference(s):

IKFB - Graduation Exercises
IL - Assessment Program

Medford School District 549C

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Graduation Requirements**

The Board will establish graduation requirements for awarding of a high school diploma, a modified diploma, an extended diploma and a certificate of attendance which meet or exceed state requirements.

A student may satisfy graduation requirements in less than four years. The district will award a diploma to a student fulfilling graduation requirements in less than four years if consent is given by the student's parent or guardian or by the student if the student is 18 years of age or older or emancipated.

If the district requires diploma requirements beyond the state requirements, the district shall grant a waiver for those requirements to any student who, at any time from grade 9 to 12, was:

1. In foster care¹;
2. Experiencing houselessness²;
3. A runaway;
4. A child in a military family covered by the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children;
5. A child of a migrant worker;
6. Enrolled in the Youth Corrections Education Program or the Juvenile Detention Education Program;
or
7. Enrolled in an approved recovery school under ORS 336.680³.

¹ As defined in ORS 30.297.

² See OAR 581-022-2000 for additional information.

³ Applies to high school diplomas awarded on or after January 1, 2026.

For any student identified above, the district shall accept any credits earned by the student in an educational program⁴ in this state, applying those credits toward the state requirements for a diploma if the credits satisfied those requirements in that educational program in this state.

Diploma

A high school diploma will be awarded to students in grades 9 through 12 who complete a minimum of 24 credits which include at least:

1. Three credits in mathematics (shall include one unit at the Algebra I level and two units that are at a level higher than Algebra I);
2. Four credits in English/language arts⁵ (shall include the equivalent of one unit in written composition);
3. Three credits in science;
4. Three credits in social sciences (shall include 0.5 unit of US civics⁶ credit in addition to at least 2.5 units of credit aligned to the Oregon State Board adopted standards for US and world history, geography, economics, and financial literacy⁷);
5. One-half credit of higher education and career path skills⁸;
6. One-half credit of personal financial education⁹;
7. One credit in health education;
8. One credit in physical education (credit may also be earned through athletic participation or equivalent activities that are approved by a school administrator in advance);

⁴ “Educational program in this state” means an educational program that is provided by a school district, a public charter school, an approved recovery school (applies to diplomas awarded on or after January 1, 2026), the Youth Corrections Education Program or the Juvenile Detention Program, or funded as provided by ORS 343.243 for students in a long term care or treatment facility described in ORS 343.961 or a hospital identified in ORS 343.261.

⁵ “Language arts” includes reading, writing and other communications in any language, including English.

⁶ Civics becomes a half-credit requirement beginning on January 1, 2026 (ORS 329.451).

⁷ This requirement is replaced with a one-half credit of personal financial education requirement for students who were first enrolled in grade 9 during the 2023-2024 school year or first enrolled in grade 9 in any subsequent school year.

⁸ Higher education and career path skills becomes a one-half credit graduation requirement for students who were first enrolled in grade 9 during the 2023-2024 school year or first enrolled in grade 9 in any subsequent school year (a requirement for a high school diploma awarded on or after January 1, 2027; a district may request a one-year waiver in accordance with law).

⁹ Personal finance education becomes a one-half credit graduation requirement for students who were first enrolled in grade 9 during the 2023-2024 school year or first enrolled in grade 9 in any subsequent school year (a requirement for a high school diploma awarded on or after January 1, 2027; a district may request a one-year waiver in accordance with law).

9. Three credits in career and technical education, the arts or world languages¹⁰ (units shall be earned in any one or a combination).

The district shall offer students credit options provided the method for obtaining such credits as described in the student's personal education plan (including the ability to earn dual credit, credit through internships and externships) as long as the credit earned meets requirements described in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 581-022-2025.

A diploma with honors is available to those students who are seeking to challenge themselves academically. This program will prepare students for their post-secondary education by providing rigorous coursework along with the opportunity to earn college credit. Students who wish to pursue a diploma with honors are strongly encouraged to begin taking Advanced Placement or honors courses their freshman year and must confirm their intentions with their counselor at the start of their junior year. To earn this designation on a diploma, a student must earn a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher, complete the statewide assessments, and earn nine or more credits in advanced placement or honors courses, or in other courses designated in the course guide as qualifying for the honors designation. Requirements must be met by the end of the 4th quarter of a student's graduation year. The student must also meet the district guidelines for a high school diploma.

To receive a diploma, in addition to credit requirements outlined above, a student must:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills of reading, writing, and applying mathematics in a variety of settings;
2. Develop an education plan and build an education profile;
3. Demonstrate extended application of standards through a collection of evidence (or include evidence in existing collection(s)); and
4. Participate in career-related learning experiences.

Modified Diploma

A modified diploma will be awarded only to students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards adopted by the State Board of Education for a high school diploma while receiving reasonable modifications and accommodations. A modified diploma may only be awarded to a student who meets the eligibility criteria below and other criteria, if applicable, outlined in OAR 581-022-2010(3):

1. The student has a documented history of an inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers; or
2. The student has a documented history of a medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement.

¹⁰ "World language" includes sign language, heritage language and languages other than a student's primary language.

Having met the above eligibility criteria, a modified diploma will be awarded to students who, while in grade nine through completion of high school, complete 24 credits with at least 13 of those credits to include:

1. Three credits in English/language arts;
2. Two credits in mathematics;
3. Two credits in science;
4. Two credits in social sciences (including history, civics, geography, economics, or personal finance);
5. One-half credit in personal financial education¹¹;
6. One-half credit in higher education and career path skills¹²;
7. One credit in health education;
8. One credit in physical education (credit may also be earned through athletic participation or equivalent activities that are approved by a school administrator in advance);
9. One credit in career technical education, the arts or world languages (units may be earned in any one or a combination).

Students may earn additional credits to earn a modified diploma pursuant to OAR 581-022-2010. In addition to credit requirements as outlined in OAR 581-022-2010, a student must:

1. Demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills of reading, writing and apply mathematics in a variety of settings¹³;
2. Develop an education plan and build an education profile; and
3. Demonstrate extended application of standards through a collection of evidence (or include evidence in existing collection(s)).

A student must also demonstrate proficiency in the Essential Skills with reasonable modifications and accommodations.

Districts may make modifications to the assessment for students who seek a modified diploma when the following conditions are met:

¹¹ This unit of credit applies to all students who are awarded a modified diploma on or after January 1, 2027.

¹² This unit of credit applies to all students who are awarded a modified diploma on or after January 1, 2027.

¹³ The State Board of Education has waived this requirement in Essential Skills for students graduating through the 2027-2028 school year.

1. For a student on an individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 plan, any modifications to work samples must be consistent with the requirements established in the IEP or 504 plan. Modifications include practices and procedures that compromise the intent of the assessment through a change in the achievement level, construct, or measured outcome of the assessment. This means that IEP or 504 school teams responsible for approving modifications for a student's assessment may adjust the administration of the assessment and/or the assessment's achievement standard. The IEP or 504 team must inform the student's parent that the use of a modification on an assessment will result in an invalid assessment;
2. For a student not on an IEP or 504 plan, any modifications to work samples must have been provided to the student during their instruction in the content area to be assessed and in the year in which the student is being assessed, and modifications must be approved by the school team that is responsible for monitoring the student's progress toward the modified diploma.

Students not on an IEP or a Section 504 Plan may not receive a modified Oregon State assessment.

A student's school team (which must include an adult student, parent/guardian of the student) shall decide if a student will work toward a modified diploma no earlier than the end of grade six and no later than two years before the student's anticipated exit from high school.

A student's school team may decide to revise a modified diploma decision.

A student's school team may decide that a student who was not previously working toward a modified diploma should work toward one when the student is less than two years from anticipated exit from high school if the documented history has changed.

For students with a documented history as described above, the district shall annually provide the parents or guardians of students, beginning in grade five or after such documented history has been established, the following:

1. Information about the availability of high school diplomas, modified diplomas and the requirements for such diplomas; and
2. A disclosure that students awarded a certificate of attendance will not be counted as a high school graduate in any reporting for the State or district and that such students awarded a certificate of attendance may not indicate they received a high school diploma on applications for employment, military service, financial aid, admittance to an institution of higher education or any other purpose.

Essential Skills

The district will allow English Language Learner (ELL) students to demonstrate proficiency in all required Essential Skills in the student's language of origin for a high school diploma or a modified diploma.

The district will develop procedures to provide assessment options as described in the *Local Performance Assessment Manual*, in the ELL student's language of origin, and will develop procedures to ensure that locally scored assessment options administered in an ELL student's language of origin are scored by a qualified rater.

Essential Skills Appeal

The district will establish an appeal process in the event of an appeal for the denial of a diploma based on the Essential Skills graduation requirement. The district will retain student work samples and student performance data to ensure that sufficient evidence is available in the event of an appeal.

Extended Diploma

An extended diploma will be awarded only to students who have demonstrated the inability to meet the full set of academic content standards adopted by the State Board of Education for a high school diploma while receiving reasonable modifications and accommodations. To be eligible for an extended diploma, a student must:

1. While in grade nine through completion of high school, complete 12 credits, which may not include more than 6 credits in a self-contained special education classroom and will include:
 - a. Two credits in mathematics;
 - b. Two credits in English/language arts;
 - c. Two credits in science;
 - d. Three credits in history, geography, economics or civics;
 - e. One credit in health;
 - f. One credit in physical education and (credit may also be earned through athletic participation or equivalent activities that are approved by school administrator in advance);
 - g. One credit in the arts or a world language; and
2. Have a documented history of:
 - a. An inability to maintain grade level achievement due to significant learning and instructional barriers;
 - b. A medical condition that creates a barrier to achievement; or
 - c. A change in the student's ability to participate in grade level activities as a result of a serious illness or injury that occurred after grade eight.

For students with a documented history, the district shall annually provide the parents or guardians of such students, beginning in grade five or after such documented history has been established, the following:

1. Information about the availability of high school diplomas, modified diplomas and the requirements for such diplomas; and
2. A disclosure that students awarded a certificate of attendance will not be counted as a high school graduate in any reporting for the state or district and that such students awarded a certificate of attendance may not indicate they received a high school diploma on applications for employment, military service, financial aid, admittance to an institution of higher education or any other purpose.

Certificate of Attendance

A certificate of attendance¹⁴ will be awarded to students who:

1. Have maintained regular full-time attendance¹⁵ for at least four years beginning in grade nine;
2. Do not satisfy requirements for a high school diploma, modified diploma or extended diploma; and
3. Have a documented history¹⁶.

For students with a documented history¹⁷, the district shall annually provide the parents or guardians of such students, beginning in grade five or after such a documented history has been established, the following:

1. Information about the availability of high school diplomas, modified diplomas and the requirements for the diplomas; and
2. A disclosure that students awarded a certificate of attendance will not be counted as a high school graduate in any required reporting for the State or district and that such students awarded a certificate of attendance may not indicate they received a high school diploma on applications for employment, military service, financial aid, admittance to an institution of higher education or any other purpose.

Other District Responsibilities

The district will ensure that all students have onsite access to the appropriate resources and courses to achieve high school diplomas, modified diplomas, and extended diplomas at each high school in the district. The district will provide developmentally appropriate literacy instruction to all students until graduation.

The district may not deny a student who has the documented history listed under the modified diploma or extended diploma requirements outlined above the opportunity to pursue a diploma with more stringent requirements, for the sole reason the student has the document history.

The district may award a modified diploma or an extended diploma to a student only upon the written consent of a student who is an emancipated minor or who has reached the age of 18 (adult student) at the time the modified or extended diploma is awarded, or the student's parent or guardian. The district must receive the written consent during the school year in which the modified diploma or the extended diploma is awarded.

¹⁴ A student who began grade 9 before July 1, 2020, may be awarded an alternative certificate if the student satisfies the requirements for an alternative certificate which are in effect on the day before July 1, 2024.

¹⁵ "Regular full-time attendance" means not being absent for more than 10 percent of school days that the student is enrolled in a school year. See OAR 581-020-0631 for definition of chronic absenteeism. Excused absences are considered absences for this purpose.

¹⁶ "Documented history" means evidence in the cumulative record and education plans of a student that demonstrates the inability over time to maintain grade level achievement even with appropriate modifications and accommodations.

¹⁷ "Documented history" means evidence in the cumulative record and education plans of a student that demonstrates the inability over time to maintain grade level achievement even with appropriate modifications and accommodations.

A student shall have the opportunity to satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, an extended diploma or a certificate of attendance in either the later of 4 years after starting grade 9, or until the student reaches the age of 21 years if the student is entitled to a public education until the age of 21 under state or federal law.

A student may complete the requirements for a modified diploma, an extended diploma or a certificate of attendance in less than four years but not less than three years. To satisfy the requirements for a modified diploma, an extended diploma or a certificate of attendance in less than 4 years, the student's parent or guardian or a student who is emancipated or has reached the age of 18 must provide written consent which clearly states the parent, guardian or student is waiving the fourth year and/or years until the student reaches the age of 21. A copy of the consent will be forwarded to the district superintendent who will annually report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction the number of such consents.

A student who qualifies to receive or receives a modified diploma, an extended diploma, or a certificate of attendance shall have the option of participating in a high school graduation ceremony with the student's class.

A student who receives a modified diploma, an extended diploma, or a certificate of attendance shall have access to instructional hours, hours of transition services and hours of other services that are designed to meet the unique needs of the student. When added together, the district will provide a total number of hours of instruction and services to the student that equals at least the total number of instructional hours that is required to be provided to students who are attending a public high school. The district may not unilaterally decrease the total number of hours of instruction and services to which the student has access regardless of the age of the student.

The district will award to students with disabilities a document certifying successful completion of program requirements. No document issued to students with disabilities educated in full or in part in a special education program shall indicate that the document is issued by such a program. When a student who has an IEP completes high school, the district will give the student an individualized summary of performance.

Eligible students with disabilities are entitled to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) until the age of 21, even if they have earned a modified diploma, an extended diploma, a certificate of attendance or completion of a General Education Development document. The continuance of services for students with disabilities for a modified diploma, extended diploma or certificate of attendance is contingent on the IEP team determining the student's continued eligibility and special education services are needed.

Students and their parents will be notified of graduation and diploma requirements.

The district may not deny a diploma to a student who has opted out of statewide assessments if the student is able to satisfy all other requirements for the diploma. Students who opt-out will need to meet the Essential Skills graduation requirement using another approved assessment option. Students may opt-out of the Oregon statewide assessments in language arts and/or mathematics by completing the Oregon Department of Education's Opt-out Form¹⁸ and submitting the form to the district.

¹⁸ Oregon Department of Education page for: [30-day notice and opt-out form](#)

The district will issue a high school diploma to a veteran if the veteran resides within the boundaries of the district or is an Oregon resident and attended a high school of the district, or to a deceased veteran, upon request from a representative of the veteran, if the deceased veteran resided within the boundaries of the district at the time of death or was an Oregon resident at the time of death and attended a high school of the district.

The district shall establish conduct and discipline consequences for student-initiated test impropriety. The act of student-initiated test impropriety is prohibited. A student that participates in an act of student-initiated test impropriety will be subject to discipline. “Student-initiated test impropriety” means student conduct that is inconsistent with the *Test Administration Manual* or accompanying guidance; or results in a score that is invalid.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 329.007](#)
[ORS 329.045](#)
[ORS 329.451](#)
[ORS 329.479](#)
[ORS 332.107](#)
[ORS 332.114](#)
[ORS 336.585](#)
[ORS 336.590](#)

[ORS 339.115](#)
[ORS 339.505](#)
[ORS 343.295](#)

[OAR 581-021-0009](#)
[OAR 581-022-0102](#)
[OAR 581-022-2000](#)
[OAR 581-022-2005](#)

[OAR 581-022-2010](#)
[OAR 581-022-2015](#)
[OAR 581-022-2020](#)
[OAR 581-022-2025](#)
[OAR 581-022-2030](#)
[OAR 581-022-2115](#)
[OAR 581-022-2120](#)
[OAR 581-022-2505](#)

Test Administration Manual, published by the OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Certificates for School Completion: Questions and Answers Related to the Implementation of SB 992, published by the OREGON DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Cross Reference(s):

IKFB - Graduation Exercises
IL - Assessment Program

Medford School District 549C

Code: IKFB
Adopted: 6/04/18
Revised/Readopted: 6/17/19; 9/21/23, xx/xx/xxxx
Orig. Code: IKFB

Graduation Exercises

The Board believes that completion of the requirements for a diploma, a modified diploma, an extended diploma or ~~an alternative certificate~~ a certificate of attendance from public schools is an achievement that improves the community as well as the individual. The Board wishes to recognize this achievement in a publicly celebrated graduation exercise.

Accordingly, appropriate graduation programs may be planned by the high school principals on the date approved by the district. Students may be provided an opportunity to participate in the planning and conduct of the graduation program. However, final plans shall be subject to approval of the building principal.

The school's valedictorian(s), salutatorian(s) or others, at the discretion of the building principal or designee, may be permitted to speak as part of the district's planned graduation program. All speeches will be reviewed and approved in advance by the building principal or designee.

All students in good standing¹ who have successfully completed the requirements for a high school diploma, qualify to receive or receives a modified diploma, an extended diploma or ~~an alternative certificate~~ a certificate of attendance may participate in graduation exercises.

A student shall be allowed to wear a dress uniform issued to the student by a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces if the student:

1. Qualifies to receive a high school diploma, a modified diploma, an extended diploma or ~~an alternative certificate~~ a certificate of attendance; and
2. Has completed basic training for, and is an active member of, a branch of the U.S. Armed Forces.

~~Graduating students will be allowed to wear Native American¹ or other items of cultural significance².~~

END OF POLICY

¹ Native American items of cultural significance means items or objects that are traditionally associated with a Native American or that have religious or cultural significance to a Native American.

² The district may prohibit an item or object that: a) is likely to cause a substantial disruption of, or material interference with the graduation ceremony, or b) replaces a cap or gown customarily worn at a graduation ceremony.

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 329.451](#)
[ORS 332.107](#)
[ORS 332.112](#)
[ORS 339.505](#)
[ORS 343.295](#)

[ORS 659.850](#)
[ORS 329.451](#)
[ORS 332.107](#)
[ORS 339.505](#)
[ORS 343.295](#)

[OAR 581-021-0050](#)
[OAR 581-021-0055](#)
[OAR 581-021-0060](#)
[OAR 581-022-2000](#)
[OAR 581-022-2010](#)
[OAR 581-022-2015](#)
[OAR 581-022-2020](#)
[OAR 581-022-2505](#)

31 OR. ATTY. GEN. OP. 428 (1964)

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1683 (2018); Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance, 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (2020).

Kay v. David Douglas Sch. Dist. No. 40, 1987); cert. den., 484 U.S. 1032 (1988).

Doe v. Madison Sch. Dist. No. 321, 177 F.3d 789 (9th Cir. 1999).

Lee v. Weisman, 505 U.S. 577 (1992).

Hazelwood Sch. Dist. v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).

Medford School District 549C

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Legal Reference(s):

<u>ORS 329.451</u>	<u>ORS 659.850</u>	<u>OAR 581-021-0050</u>
<u>ORS 332.107</u>	<u>ORS 329.451</u>	<u>OAR 581-021-0055</u>
<u>ORS 332.112</u>	<u>ORS 332.107</u>	<u>OAR 581-021-0060</u>
<u>ORS 339.505</u>	<u>ORS 339.505</u>	<u>OAR 581-022-2000</u>
<u>ORS 343.295</u>	<u>ORS 343.295</u>	<u>OAR 581-022-2010</u>

OAR 581-022-2015
OAR 581-022-2020
OAR 581-022-2505

31 OR. ATTY. GEN. OP. 428 (1964)

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1683 (2018); Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex in Education Programs or Activities Receiving Federal Financial Assistance, 34 C.F.R. Part 106 (2020).

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Doe v. Madison Sch. Dist. No. 321, 177 F.3d 789 (9th Cir. 1999).

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