

MOVED FROM FDAC(LOCAL)

STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The College District may permit a temporary leave of absence for a student due to a mental health condition. The leave of absence will be at the request of the student.

PURPOSE

MENTAL HEALTH LEAVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Mental Health Leave Review Committee (hereafter referred to as the "Committee") shall consider a request for a student's temporary leave of absence due to a mental health condition. The Committee shall be comprised of the associate dean of counseling and career services or designee, the dean of student development or designee, the registrar or designee, the chair of the Strategies of Behavioral Intervention (SOBI) or designee, and the chair of the Discipline Appeals Task Force or designee.

VOLUNTARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A student who wishes to take a temporary leave of absence from the College District due to a mental health condition shall contact the dean of student development's office at the campus where he or she is predominately enrolled to request the appropriate form. The student shall complete and return the form to the dean of student development's office within three academic calendar days of receiving the form.

The Committee shall approve a student's request for a voluntary leave of absence due to a mental health condition in accordance with the following:

1. The student's explanation for the requested temporary leave of absence; or
2. The student's submission of appropriate documentation from a licensed medical or mental health-care provider stating that it is in the best interest of the student to take a temporary leave of absence from the College District for a specified period of time.

REFUNDS

Determination of tuition payment refunds shall be made on a case-by-case basis at the sole discretion of the vice president of student development.

REENTRY PROVISIONS

The College District shall require a student with a mental health condition who has taken a voluntary leave of absence to demonstrate his or her fitness to return to the College District. A student shall contact the dean of student development's office at the campus where he or she is predominately enrolled one semester prior to the date of the end of the leave period. Decisions regarding whether to allow a student to return to the College District shall be determined by the Committee as follows:

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1. The Committee shall require documentation from a licensed medical or mental health-care provider stating that the student is able to return with or without accommodations.
2. The Committee may seek a second opinion from an independent licensed medical or mental health-care provider not affiliated with the College District.
3. The Committee shall consider whether reasonable accommodations will allow the student to meet academic standards and remain safely in school.
4. The Committee may deny a student's request to return if it is determined the student will be unable, upon return, to safely remain at the College District, even with reasonable accommodations.
5. Pursuant to College District policy, if the leave of absence lasts longer than two full semesters (i.e., fall and spring), the student shall be required to reapply for admittance since the leave of absence shall no longer be considered temporary.

APPEALS

The student may appeal the denial of reentry to the vice president of student development.