

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS  
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC  
(LOCAL)

DEFINITIONS

The term "immediate family" is defined as:

FAMILY

1. Spouse.
2. Son or daughter, including a biological, adopted, or foster child, a son- or daughter-in-law, a stepchild, a legal ward, or a child for whom the employee stands *in loco parentis*.
3. Parent, stepparent, parent-in-law, or other individual who stands *in loco parentis* to the employee.
4. Sibling, stepsibling, and sibling-in-law.
5. Grandparent and grandchild.
6. Any person residing in the employee's household at the time of illness or death.

For purposes of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), the definitions of spouse, parent, son or daughter, and next of kin are found in DECA(LEGAL).

FAMILY  
EMERGENCY

The term "family emergency" shall be limited to disasters and life-threatening situations involving the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family.

LEAVE DAY

A "leave day" for purposes of earning, use, or recording of leave shall mean the number of hours per day equivalent to the employee's usual assignment, whether full-time or part-time.

CATASTROPHIC  
ILLNESS OR INJURY

A catastrophic illness or injury is a severe condition or combination of conditions affecting the mental or physical health of the employee or a member of the employee's immediate family that requires the services of a licensed practitioner for a prolonged period of time and that forces the employee to exhaust all leave time earned by that employee and to lose compensation from the District. Complications resulting from pregnancy shall be treated the same as any other condition.

AVAILABILITY

The District shall make state personal leave and local leave for the current year available for use at the beginning of the school year.

EARNING LOCAL  
LEAVE

An employee shall not earn any local leave when he or she is in unpaid status. An employee using full or proportionate paid leave shall be considered to be in paid status.

DEDUCTIONS

LEAVE WITHOUT  
PAY

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

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LEAVE PRORATION EMPLOYED FOR LESS THAN FULL YEAR	If an employee separates from employment with the District before his or her last duty day of the year, or begins employment after the first duty day, state personal leave and local leave shall be prorated based on the actual time employed.
	If an employee separates from employment before the last duty day of the school year, the employee's final paycheck shall be reduced for:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. State personal leave the employee used beyond his or her pro rata entitlement for the school year; and</li><li>2. Local leave the employee used but had not earned as of the date of separation.</li></ol>
EMPLOYED FOR FULL YEAR	If an employee uses more local leave than he or she earned and remains employed with the District through his or her last duty day, the District shall deduct the cost of the excess leave days from the employee's pay in accordance with administrative regulations.
RECORDING	Leave shall be recorded as follows:
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Leave shall be recorded in half-day increments for all employees.</li><li>2. If the employee is taking intermittent FMLA leave, leave shall be recorded in one-hour increments.</li></ol>
ORDER OF USE	Earned compensatory time shall be used before any available paid state and local leave. [See DEA]
	Available leave shall be used in the order determined by each employee.
	Use of sick leave pool days shall be permitted only after all available state and local leave has been exhausted.
CONCURRENT USE OF LEAVE	When an absent employee is eligible for FMLA leave, the District shall designate the absence as FMLA leave.
	The District shall require the employee to use temporary disability leave and paid leave, including compensatory time, concurrently with FMLA leave.
	An employee receiving workers' compensation income benefits may be eligible for paid or unpaid leave. An absence due to a work-related injury or illness shall be designated as FMLA leave, temporary disability leave, and/or assault leave, as applicable.
MEDICAL CERTIFICATION	An employee shall submit medical certification of the need for leave if:

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1. The employee is absent more than five consecutive workdays because of personal illness or illness in the immediate family;
2. The District requires medical certification due to a questionable pattern of absences or when deemed necessary by the supervisor or Superintendent;
3. The employee requests FMLA leave for the employee's serious health condition or that of a spouse, parent, or child; or
4. The employee requests FMLA leave for military caregiver purposes.

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

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

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STATE PERSONAL  
LEAVE

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

NON-  
DISCRETIONARY  
USE

1. Non-discretionary use of leave shall be for the same reasons and in the same manner as state sick leave accumulated before May 30, 1995. [See DEC(LEGAL)]

Non-discretionary use includes leave related to the birth or placement of a child and taken within the first year after the child's birth, adoption, or foster placement.

DISCRETIONARY  
USE

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

LIMITATIONS  
REQUEST FOR  
LEAVE

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

LOCAL LEAVE  
(SUB DOCK)

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

Local leave shall accumulate to a maximum of 30 leave days.

Local leave earned prior to the 2010–11 school year shall be used according to the terms and conditions of state personal leave;

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however, \$60 per day for certified professionals and \$30 per day for nonprofessional employees shall be deducted for each day of local leave taken. [See STATE PERSONAL LEAVE, above]

Local leave earned beginning in the 2010–11 school year shall be used according to the terms and conditions of state personal leave and shall be taken with no loss of pay. [See STATE PERSONAL LEAVE, above]

BIRTHDAY LEAVE

In addition, all employees shall be granted one paid birthday leave day per fiscal year in accordance with administrative regulations. An employee shall use birthday leave in accordance with appropriate administrative regulations. Birthday leave shall be noncumulative.

BEREAVEMENT LEAVE

All employees shall be eligible to receive up to three bereavement leave days with no loss of pay upon the death of a member of the employee's immediate family. An employee shall provide documentation to determine eligibility in accordance with administrative procedures. Bereavement leave shall be noncumulative.

SICK LEAVE POOL

An employee who has exhausted all paid leave and who suffers from a catastrophic illness or injury or is absent due to the catastrophic illness or injury of a member of the employee's immediate family may request the establishment of a sick leave pool, to which District employees may donate local leave or state personal leave for use by the eligible employee.

If the employee is unable to submit the request, a member of the employee's family or the employee's supervisor may submit the request to establish a sick leave pool.

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

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

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

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APPEAL	All decisions regarding the establishment or implementation of the District's sick leave pool may be appealed in accordance with DGBA(LOCAL), beginning with the Superintendent or designee.
FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD	For purposes of an employee's entitlement to FMLA leave, the 12-month period shall be July 1 through June 30.
COMBINED LEAVE FOR SPOUSES	If both spouses are employed by the District, the District shall not limit FMLA leave for the birth, adoption, or placement of a child, or to care for a parent with a serious health condition, to a combined total of 12 weeks, nor shall the District limit military caregiver leave to a combined total of 26 weeks. [See DECA(LEGAL)]
INTERMITTENT OR REDUCED SCHEDULE LEAVE	The District shall permit use of intermittent or reduced schedule FMLA leave for the care of a newborn child or for the adoption or placement of a child with the employee. [See DECA(LEGAL) for use of intermittent or reduced schedule leave due to a medical necessity.]
CERTIFICATION OF LEAVE	If an employee requests leave, the employee shall provide certification, as required by FMLA regulations, of the need for leave. [See DECA(LEGAL)]
FITNESS-FOR-DUTY CERTIFICATION	If an employee takes FMLA leave due to the employee's own serious health condition, the employee shall provide, before resuming work, a fitness-for-duty certification. If the District will require certification of the employee's ability to perform essential job functions, the District shall provide a list of essential job functions to the employee with the FMLA designation notice.
END OF SEMESTER LEAVE	If a teacher takes leave near the end of the semester, the District may require the teacher to continue leave until the end of the semester. [See DECA(LEGAL), LEAVE AT THE END OF A SEMESTER]
FAILURE TO RETURN	If, at the expiration of FMLA leave, the employee is able to return to work but chooses not to do so, the District may require reimbursement of premiums paid by the District during the leave. [See DECA(LEGAL), RECOVERY OF BENEFIT COST]
TEMPORARY DISABILITY LEAVE	Any full-time employee whose position requires educator certification by the State Board for Educator Certification or by the District shall be eligible for temporary disability leave. The maximum length of temporary disability leave shall be 180 calendar days. [See DBB(LOCAL) for temporary disability leave placement and DEC(LEGAL) for return to active duty.]

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

WORKERS'  
COMPENSATION

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

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

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

COURT  
APPEARANCES

Absences due to compliance with a valid subpoena or for jury duty shall be fully compensated by the District and shall not be deducted from the employee's pay or leave balance.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS  
SELECTION AND ADOPTION

EFAA  
(LOCAL)

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**Note:** For provisions regarding inventory and requisition of instructional materials, see CMD.

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INSTRUCTIONAL  
MATERIALS  
ALLOTMENT TEAM

The District shall establish a team, as needed, to select instructional materials and technological equipment to be purchased with the District's instructional materials allotment. The team shall make selections based upon District instructional needs and in accordance with administrative regulations.

CERTIFICATION OF  
INSTRUCTIONAL  
MATERIALS

The instructional materials allotment team shall ensure that selected materials, in combination with any other materials in use by the District, allow the District to certify that all students are provided with instructional materials that cover the essential knowledge and skills, as required by law. [See EFAA(LEGAL)]

BOARD ACTION

The Board shall approve final selections and ratify the District's certification of instructional materials. Final selections shall be recorded in Board minutes.





ATTENDANCE  
ATTENDANCE ACCOUNTING

FEB  
(LOCAL)

ATTENDANCE  
ACCOUNTING SYSTEM

The Superintendent shall be responsible for maintaining a student attendance accounting system in accordance with statutory and TEA requirements.

ALTERNATE  
RECORDING TIME

When appropriate, the Superintendent shall establish written procedures permitting a campus to specify an alternate time for taking attendance other than the second or fifth instructional hour. Exceptions may be authorized for an entire campus or for a designated group of students at a campus. The alternate time for recording attendance shall be determined in accordance with TEA's *Student Attendance Accounting Handbook*.

PARENTAL CONSENT  
TO LEAVE CAMPUS

The Superintendent shall establish procedures regarding parental consent for a student to leave campus, including procedures for documenting a student's absence. The procedures shall be communicated in the employee and student handbooks.

