

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.

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.

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.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

Leave Proration
*Employed for
Less Than Full
Year*

If an employee separates from employment before the last duty day of the school year, the employee's final paycheck shall be reduced for:

1. State personal leave the employee used beyond his or her pro rata entitlement for the school year; and
2. Local leave the employee used but had not earned as of the date of separation.

*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 in half-day increments for all employees.

Order of Use

Earned compensatory time shall be used before any available paid state and local leave. [See DEAB]

Unless an employee requests a different order, available paid state and local leave shall be used in the following order, as applicable:

1. Local leave.
2. State sick leave accumulated before the 1995–96 school year.
3. State personal leave.

Use of sick leave pool days shall be permitted only after all available state and local leave have been exhausted.

**Concurrent Use of
Leave**

The District shall require the employee to use paid leave, including compensatory time, concurrently with temporary disability 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 temporary disability leave and/or assault leave, as applicable.

Medical Certification

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

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

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

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

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)]

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

Limitations

Request for
Leave

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

Duration of
Leave

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

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

Paraprofessional/auxiliary employees shall earn three 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 shall be used according to the terms and conditions of state personal leave. [See STATE PERSONAL LEAVE, above]

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 only local 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.

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.

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.]

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

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.]

An absence due to a work-related injury or illness shall be designated as 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.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
LEAVES AND ABSENCES

DEC
(LOCAL)

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.