

8.7—PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LEAVE

For the district to function efficiently and have the necessary personnel present to effect a high achieving learning environment, employee absences need to be kept to a minimum. The district acknowledges that there are times during the school year when employees have personal business that needs to be addressed during the school day. Each full-time employee shall receive two (2) days of personal leave per contract year. The leave may be taken in increments of no less than ½ day (.5) and no more than three (3) consecutive school days (Friday and Monday are consecutive school days). Although personal leave may be taken for personal or family issues, including trips, vacations, etc., any additional consecutive days must be approved by the superintendent. (Only those requests for additional personal leave that are unplanned and out of the control of the employee will be considered for approval. This does not include requests for vacations, cruises, etc.)

Employees shall take personal leave or leave without pay for those absences which are not due to attendance at school functions related to their job duties and do not qualify for other types of leave (for sick leave see Policy 8.5, for professional leave see below).

“School functions”, for the purposes of this policy, means:

1. Athletic or academic events related to a public school district; and
2. Meetings and conferences related to education.

The determination of what activities meet the definition of a school function shall be made by the employee’s immediate supervisor or designee. In no instance shall paid leave in excess of allotted vacation days and/or personal days be granted to an employee who is absent from work while receiving remuneration from another source as compensation for the reason for their absence.

Any employee desiring to take personal leave may do so by making a written request to his/her supervisor at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the time of the requested leave. The twenty-four hour requirement may be waived by the supervisor when the supervisor deems it appropriate.

Failure to report to work when personal leave has been denied is grounds for discipline, up to and including termination. If extreme personal circumstances necessitate an employee’s absence beyond the allotted sick and/or personal leave, an employee may be granted leave without pay, charged at the employee’s daily pay rate, after obtaining advanced permission from his/her immediate supervisor (except in medical emergencies and/or as permitted by policy 8.23—CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE).

Personal leave accumulates from one contract year to the next to a maximum of five (5) days in a contract year. On July 1 of each school year, accumulated personal leave in excess of five (5) days shall be moved into the employee’s accrued sick leave.

Personal leave may not be taken the day before or the day after a holiday or school vacation day.

Professional Leave

“Professional Leave” is leave granted for the purpose of enabling an employee to participate in professional activities (e.g., workshops or serving on professional committees) which can serve to improve the school District’s instructional program or enhances the employee’s ability to perform his duties. Professional leave will also be granted when a school District’s employee is subpoenaed for a matter arising out of the employee’s employment with the school District. Any employee seeking professional leave must make a written request to his immediate supervisor, setting forth the information necessary for the supervisor to make an informed decision. The supervisor’s decision is subject to review and overruling by the superintendent. Budgeting concerns and the potential benefit for the District’s students will be taken into consideration in reviewing a request for professional leave.

Applications for professional leave should be made as soon as possible following the employee’s discerning a need for such leave, but, in any case, no less than two (2) weeks before the requested leave is to begin, if possible.

If the employee does not receive or does not accept remuneration for his/her participation in the professional leave activity and a substitute is needed for the employee, the District shall pay the full cost of the substitute. If the employee receives and accepts remuneration for his/her participation in the professional leave activity, the employee shall forfeit his/her daily rate of pay from the District for the time the employee misses.

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