

All Personnel

SP 4157(a)

4257

EMPLOYEE SAFETY

4357

The County Superintendent is committed to maximizing employee safety and believes that workplace safety is every employee's responsibility. Working conditions and equipment shall comply with standards prescribed by federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

(cf. 0450 - Comprehensive Safety Plan)

No employee shall be required or permitted to be in any place of employment which is unsafe or unhealthful. (Labor Code 6402)

The County Superintendent or designee expects all employees to use safe work practices and, to the extent possible, correct any unsafe conditions which may occur. If an employee is unable to correct an unsafe condition, he/she shall immediately report the problem to the County Superintendent or designee.

The County Superintendent or designee shall promote safety and correct any unsafe work practices through education and enforcement.

(cf. 4117.4 - Dismissal)

(cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

The County Superintendent or designee shall establish and implement a written injury and illness prevention program in accordance with law. (Labor Code 6401.7) (IIPP)

(cf. 3514 - Environmental Safety)

(cf. 3514.1 - Hazardous Substances)

(cf. 3516 - Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness Plan)

(cf. 4119.41/4219.41/4319.41 - Employees with Infectious Disease)

(cf. 4119.42/4219.42/4319.42 - Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens)

(cf. 4119.43/4219.43/4319.43 - Universal Precautions)

(cf. 4157.2/4257.2/4357.2 - Ergonomics)

(cf. 4158/4258/4358 - Employee Security)

The County Superintendent or designee shall ensure the ready availability of first aid materials at Santa Clara County Office of Education workplaces and shall make effective provisions, in advance, for prompt medical treatment in the event of an employee's serious injury or illness. (8 CCR 3400)

No employee shall be discharged or discriminated against for making complaints, instituting proceedings, or testifying with regard to employee safety or health or for participating in any occupational health and safety committee established pursuant to Labor Code 6401.7. (Labor Code 6310)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

EMPLOYEE SAFETY (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

32030-32034 *Eye safety*

32225-32226 *Communications devices in classrooms*

32280-32289 *School safety plans*

44984 *Required rules for industrial accident and illness leave of absence*

GOVERNMENT CODE

3543.2 *Scope of bargaining*

LABOR CODE

3300 *Definitions*

6305 *Occupational safety and health standards; special order*

6310 *Retaliation for filing complaint prohibited*

6400-6413.5 *Responsibilities and duties of employers and employees, especially:*

6401.7 *Injury and illness prevention program*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 8

3203 *Injury and illness prevention program*

3400 *Medical services and first aid*

5095-5100 *Control of noise exposure*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 29

1910.95 *Noise standards*

All Personnel

SP 4157.1

4257.1

WORK-RELATED INJURIES

4357.1

The County Superintendent desires to provide Santa Clara County Office of Education employees with insurance and workers' compensation benefits in accordance with law. The County Superintendent or designee shall develop an efficient claims handling process in order to reduce costs and facilitate employee recovery.

(cf. 3320 - Claims and Actions Against the SCCOE)

(cf. 4032 - Reasonable Accommodation)

(cf. 4113.4/4213.4/4313.4 - Temporary Modified/Light-Duty Assignment)

(cf. 4154/4254/4354 - Health and Welfare Benefits)

(cf. 4157/4257/4357 - Employee Safety)

(cf. 4157.2/4257.2/4357.2 - Ergonomics)

(cf. 4161.11/4361.11 - Industrial Accident/Illness Leave)

(cf. 4261.11 - Industrial Accident/Illness Leave)

An employee shall report any work-related injury or illness to his/her supervisor as soon as practicable. Upon learning of an injury, a supervisor shall promptly report the incident to the County Superintendent or designee and the insurance carrier as appropriate.

The County Superintendent or designee shall ensure that every new employee is notified of his/her right to receive workers' compensation if injured at work and that injured employees are given notice of rights in accordance with law.

The County Superintendent or designee shall ensure that notifications regarding workers' compensation are posted in accordance with law.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

44984 Industrial accident and illness leaves, certificated employees

45192 Industrial accident and illness leaves, classified employees

LABOR CODE

3200-4855 Workers' compensation, especially:

3550-3553 Employee notice

3600-3605 Conditions of liability

3760 Report of injury to insurer

4600 Provision of medical and hospital treatment by employer

4906 Disclosures and statements

5400-5413 Notice of injury or death

6409.1 Reports

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 8

15596 Notice of employee rights

All Personnel

SP 4159

4259

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

4359

The County Superintendent recognizes that Santa Clara County Office of Education employees may have problems which can have detrimental effects upon job performance and student safety. The County Superintendent encourages employees to seek help when such problems exist and to take advantage of the resources that are available to assist them.

Employees shall have confidential access to information about the SCCOE employee assistance program. This information shall be available to all employees and their spouses and dependents.

(cf. 3513.3 - Tobacco-Free Schools)
(cf. 4020 - Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace)
(cf. 5131.62 - Tobacco)

Management and supervisory staff shall be knowledgeable about the SCCOE employee assistance program and may counsel employees about the program, as appropriate.

Participation in the assistance program shall not jeopardize an employee's employment or career advancement, nor will it protect the employee from disciplinary action for substandard job performance.

(cf. 4032 - Reasonable Accommodation)
(cf. 4115 - Evaluation/Supervision)
(cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
(cf. 4161/4261/4361 - Leaves)
(cf. 4161.1/4261.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave)
(cf. 4161.8/4261.8/4361.8 - Family Care and Medical Leave)
(cf. 4161.9/4261.9/4361.9 - Catastrophic Leave Program)
(cf. 4215 - Evaluation/Supervision)
(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
(cf. 4315 - Evaluation/Supervision)
(cf. 4361.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35160 Authority of governing board
35160.1 Broad authority of school districts
44962 Leaves of absence for certificated employees
44964 Power to grant leaves of absence for accident, illness or quarantine
45190-45209 Resignations and leaves of absence for classified employees

GOVERNMENT CODE

8355 Certification to contracting or granting agency; requisites

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

104420 Providing information re: smoking cessation program

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 41

701-707 Drug-Free Workplace Act

All Personnel

SP 4161(a)

LEAVES

4261

4361

The Santa Clara County Office of Education shall provide for paid and unpaid leaves of absence for employees in accordance with law, SCCOE policy, administrative regulation, collective bargaining agreements, and merit system rules, as applicable.

(cf. 4141/4241 - Collective Bargaining Agreement)

(cf. 4161.9/4261.9/4361.9 - Catastrophic Leave Program)

The SCCOE recognizes the following justifiable reasons for employee absence:

1. Personal illness or injury

(cf. 4161.1/4361.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave)

(cf. 4261.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave)

2. Industrial accident or illness

(cf. 4161.11/4361.11 - Industrial Accident/Illness Leave)

(cf. 4261.11 - Industrial Accident/Illness Leave)

3. Family care and medical leave

(cf. 4161.8/4261.8/4361.8 - Family Care and Medical Leave)

4. Military service

(cf. 4161.5/4261.5/4361.5 - Military Leave)

5. Personal necessity and personal emergencies

(cf. 4161.2/4261.2/4361.2 - Personal Leaves)

6. Disability leave for employees in accordance with Education Code 44986

7. Vacations for classified staff and certificated management staff, as applicable

8. Sabbaticals for purposes of study or training related to the employee's job duties

(cf. 4161.3 - Professional Leaves)

(cf. 4261.3 - Professional Leaves)

9. Attendance at work-related meetings and staff development opportunities

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4331 - Staff Development)

LEAVES (continued)

10. Compulsory leave

(cf. 4118 - Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

Long-Term Leaves

With County Superintendent approval, an employee may receive a leave of absence, without pay and without accruing seniority or service credit, for a period of up to one school year. Applications for long-term leave shall be made in writing and shall state the purpose for which leave is requested. All long-term leave agreements shall be in writing and shall state the terms and conditions of the leave, including the conditions governing the employee's return.

At the end of a long-term leave, the employee shall be reinstated to a similar position as that held at the time leave was granted, unless otherwise agreed upon.

The County Superintendent shall consider any written request by an employee to return to work prior to the expiration date of the leave.

Administrative and Supervisory Personnel

Administrative and supervisory employees who are not subject to the bargaining agreement for employees shall generally be entitled to those leave provisions provided in the bargaining agreement for other employees unless otherwise specified in individual contract, memorandums of understanding, SCCOE policy, administrative regulation, or law.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

LEAVES (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

22850-22856 Pension benefits, STRS members on military leave

44018 Compensation for employees on active military duty

44036-44037 Leaves of absence for judicial and official appearances

44043.5 Catastrophic leave

44800 Effect of active military service on status of employees

44842 Failure to provide notice or to report to work

44940 Sex offenses and narcotic offenses; compulsory leave of absence

44962-44988 Leaves of absence (certificated)

45059 Employee ordered to active military/naval duty, computation of salary

45190-45210 Leaves of absence (classified)

FAMILY CODE

297-297.5 Registered domestic partner rights, protections and benefits

GOVERNMENT CODE

3543.1 Release time for representatives of employee organizations

3543.2 Scope of representation

12945.1-12945.2 California Family Rights Act

20990-21013 Pension benefits, PERS members on military leave

LABOR CODE

230-230.2 Leaves for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or specified felonies

230.3 Leave for emergency personnel

230.4 Leave for volunteer firefighters

230.8 Leave to visit child's school

233 Illness of child, parent, spouse or domestic partner

MILITARY AND VETERANS CODE

395-395.9 Military leave

395.10 Leave when spouse on leave from military deployment

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

2601-2654 Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 38

4301-4334 Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994

All Personnel

AR 4161

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LEAVES

4361

Failure to Return to Service After Leave (See ACE/CTA Contract)

In the case of a certificated employee who was on leave of absence for 20 or more consecutive working days after April 30 of the previous school year, the SCCOE may terminate the employment of such an employee if all of the following circumstances exist: (Education Code 44842)

1. The employee fails to report for duty, without good cause, at the beginning of the school year after having notified the County Superintendent of his/her intention to remain in service with the Santa Clara County Office of Education in accordance with Education Code 44842.
2. The SCCOE had specifically notified the employee, at least five days in advance, of the time and place at which the employee was to report to work.
3. The employee did not request or was not granted a leave of absence authorized by the County Superintendent.

(cf. 4112.1 - Contracts)

In any such case, the SCCOE may terminate the employee's employment on the day following 20 consecutive days of absence. (Education Code 44842)

(cf. 4117.4 - Dismissal)

Use of Leaves by Classified Employees

A classified employee may interrupt or terminate vacation leave in order to begin another type of paid leave without a return to active service, as long as the employee provides adequate notice and relevant supporting information regarding the basis for such interruption or termination. (Education Code 45200)

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

The County Superintendent or designee may grant a leave of absence of up to one year to certificated employees for the purpose of permitting study or travel which will benefit the schools and students of the SCCOE. (Education Code 44966)

(cf. 4161/4261/4361 - Leaves)

To be eligible for a leave of absence for these purposes, the employee must have served in the SCCOE for at least seven consecutive years preceding the leave. No more than one such leave of absence shall be granted in each seven-year period. No other types of leaves shall be considered a break in service for purposes of meeting this requirement and the period of such absence shall not be included as service in computing the seven consecutive years of service required for a professional leave. (Education Code 44967)

The County Superintendent or designee may require that such leaves of absence be taken in separate six-month periods or separate quarters as long as the total leave is completed within three years. Any period of service by the employee between the separate periods of leave shall comprise a part of the service required for a subsequent leave of absence. (Education Code 44966)

Every employee granted a leave of absence for these purposes may be required to perform such services during the leave as the Board and employee agree upon in writing. (Education Code 44968)

Compensation during the leave shall be paid in the manner authorized by Education Code 44969 and 44970.

Unless the employee agrees in writing with the County Superintendent or designee not to receive compensation during the leave, the employee shall receive such compensation during the leave as the County Superintendent or designee and employee agree upon in writing, which shall be not less than the difference between the employee's salary and the salary of a substitute employee. In lieu of such a difference, the Board may pay one-half of the salary of the employee or any additional amount up to and including the full salary of the employee. (Education Code 44968, 44968.5)

As a condition to being granted such leave, the employee shall agree in writing to render service in the SCCOE following his/her return for a period equal to twice the period of the leave. (Education Code 44969)

At the end of the leave, the employee shall be reinstated in the position he/she held when the leave was granted. (Education Code 44973)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

PROFESSIONAL LEAVES (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

44966-44973 Leaves of absence for study or travel

All Personnel

AR 4161.5(a)

4261.5

MILITARY LEAVE

4361.5

Military leave shall be granted in accordance with applicable state and federal law to employees performing military duties on a voluntary or involuntary basis in a uniformed service, including active duty, active duty for training, initial active duty for training, inactive duty training, full-time National Guard duty, examination to determine fitness for duty, and performance of funeral honors duty. (Education Code 44800; Military and Veterans Code 395, 395.01, 395.02, 395.05, 395.1, 395.2, 395.9; 38 USC 4301, 4303, 4316)

(cf. 4161/4261/4361 - Leaves)

An employee who needs to be absent from the SCCOE to fulfill his/her military service shall provide advance written or verbal notice to the County Superintendent or designee, unless the giving of such notice is precluded by military necessity or is otherwise impossible or unreasonable. (38 USC 4312; 20 CFR 1002.85, 1002.86)

Salary/Compensation

An employee shall receive his/her salary or compensation for the first 30 days of any one absence for military leave or during one fiscal year, under any of the following conditions:

1. Active Military Training or Exercises: The employee is granted a temporary military leave of absence to engage in ordered military duty for purposes of active military training, encampment, naval cruises, special exercises, or like activity as a member of the reserve corps or force of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard, or Naval Militia, provided that: (Military and Veterans Code 389, 395, 395.01)
 - a. He/she has been employed by the Santa Clara County Office of Education for at least one year immediately prior to the day the military leave begins.
 - b. The ordered duty does not exceed 180 days, including time involved in going to and returning from such duty.
2. Active Military Duty: The employee is on military leave, other than a temporary military leave, to engage in active military duty as a member of the reserve corps or force of the United States Armed Forces, the National Guard, or the Naval Militia, provided that he/she has been employed by the SCCOE for at least one year immediately prior to the day the military leave begins. (Military and Veterans Code 389, 395.02)
3. War or Other Emergency: The employee, however long employed by the SCCOE, is a member of the National Guard who is engaged in military or naval duty during a state of extreme emergency as declared by the Governor, or during such time as the National Guard may be on active duty in situations described in Military and Veterans Code 146, including travel time to and from such duty. (Military and Veterans Code 395.05)

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MILITARY LEAVE (continued)

4. **Inactive Duty Training:** The employee is a member of the reserve corps or force of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard, or Naval Militia who is engaged in temporary inactive duty training, provided that he/she has been employed by the SCCOE for at least one year immediately prior to the day the military leave begins and the ordered duty does not exceed 180 days, including time involved in going to and returning from such duty.

In determining the length of SCCOE employment when necessary to determine eligibility for compensation for military leave, all recognized military service performed during and prior to SCCOE employment shall be included.

For classified employees, 30 days' compensation shall be one month's salary. For certificated employees, 30 days' compensation shall be one-tenth of the employee's annual salary. (Education Code 45059)

Certificated employees shall not be entitled to compensation during non-teaching, non-paying months of the year.

During the period of military leave, an employee may, upon his/her own request, use any vacation or similar paid leave accrued before the commencement of the military leave. The SCCOE shall not require the employee to use such leave. (38 USC 4316; 20 CFR 1002.153)

Benefits

An employee may elect to continue his/her health plan coverage during the military leave. The maximum period of coverage for the employee and his/her dependents shall be either 24 months from the beginning of the leave or until the day after the employee fails to apply for or return to employment, whichever is less. (38 USC 4317; 20 CFR 1002.164)

An employee on military leave may be required to pay the employee cost, if any, of any funded benefit to the extent that other employees on leave are so required. (38 USC 4316)

An employee absent for 30 days or fewer shall not be required to pay more than the employee share for such coverage. An employee absent for 31 days or more may be required to pay not more than 102 percent of the full premium under the plan. (38 USC 4317; 20 CFR 1002.166)

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MILITARY LEAVE (continued)

Vacation and Sick Leave Accrual

An employee on temporary military leave under the conditions described in item #1 Active Military Training or Exercises, in the section entitled "Salary/Compensation" above, shall continue to accrue the same vacation, sick leave, and holiday privileges to which he/she would otherwise be entitled if not absent. (Military and Veterans Code 395)

(cf. 4161.1/4361.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave)
(cf. 4261.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave)

An employee on military leave who is serving in active duty in time of war, national emergency, or United Nations military or police operation shall not accrue sick leave or vacation leave during the period of such leave. (Military and Veterans Code 395.1)

However, an employee who is a National Guard member on active duty as described in item #3 War or Other Emergency, in the section entitled "Salary/Compensation" above, shall not suffer any loss or diminution of vacation or holiday privileges because of his/her leave of absence. (Military and Veterans Code 395.05)

Pension Plan Service Credit

Pension plan service credit and vesting shall continue during an employee's military leave as though no break in service had occurred. Payment of employer and employee contributions shall be made in accordance with law for members of the State Teachers' Retirement System or Public Employees' Retirement System. (Education Code 22850-22856; Government Code 20990-21013)

Employment Status

Absence for military leave shall not affect the classification of any certificated employee. In the case of a certificated probationary employee, the period of such absence shall not count as part of the service required to obtain permanent status, but shall not be construed as a break in the continuity of service for any purpose. (Education Code 44800)

(cf. 4116 - Probationary/Permanent Status)

Reinstatement Rights

At the conclusion of the military duty, an employee shall be promptly reinstated in the position held at the beginning of the leave, at the salary to which he/she would otherwise have been entitled, except under the conditions noted below. (Education Code 44800; Military and Veterans Code 395, 395.2; 38 USC 4304, 4313; 20 CFR 1002.180-1002.181)

MILITARY LEAVE (continued)

(cf. 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment)

(cf. 4031 - Complaints Concerning Discrimination in Employment)

Any employee who performs active military duty in time of war, national emergency, or United Nations military or police operation has a right to return to his/her position within six months of an honorable discharge or placement on inactive duty. Reinstatement rights shall not be extended to any such employee who fails to return within 12 months after the first date upon which he/she could terminate or could cause to be terminated his/her active service. (Education Code 44800; Military and Veterans Code 395.1)

When an employee has been on military leave for reasons other than war or national emergency, the time frame for reinstatement shall depend on the length of military service as follows: (38 USC 4312; 20 CFR 1002.115, 1002.118)

1. For a leave of 30 days or fewer, the employee shall report for duty no later than the beginning of the first full work day following the completion of military service, provided the employee has a period of eight hours to rest following transportation to his/her residence.
2. For a leave of 31-180 days, the employee shall submit a written or verbal application for reinstatement not later than 14 days after the completion of military service.
3. For a leave of more than 180 days, the employee shall submit a written or verbal application for reinstatement within 90 days after the completion of military service.

In cases where reporting within the periods specified in items #1 and #2 above is impossible or unreasonable through no fault of the employee, he/she shall report as soon as possible after the expiration of the period. (38 USC 4312; 20 CFR 1002.115, 1002.117)

An employee who is hospitalized for, or convalescing from, an illness or injury incurred in or aggravated during the performance of military service shall report for duty or submit an application for reinstatement at the end of the period that is necessary to recover from such illness or injury, but no more than two years after the completion of military service unless circumstances beyond the employee's control make reporting within the two-year period impossible or unreasonable. (38 USC 4312; 20 CFR 1002.116)

(cf. 4032 - Reasonable Accommodation)

Upon receiving an application for reinstatement, the Superintendent or designee shall reinstate the employee as soon as practicable under the circumstances of his/her case, but within a time period not to exceed two weeks, absent unusual circumstances. (20 CFR 1002.181)

MILITARY LEAVE (continued)

If the employee's previous position has been abolished, he/she shall be reinstated in a position of like seniority, status, and pay, if such position exists, or to a comparable vacant position for which he/she is qualified. (Military and Veterans Code 395, 395.1; 38 USC 4313; 20 CFR 1002.192)

An employee failing to apply for reinstatement within the appropriate period does not automatically forfeit his/her rights, but shall be subject to the Board's rules governing unexcused absences. (38 USC 4312)

The Superintendent or designee may elect not to reinstate an employee following military leave if any of the following conditions exists:

1. The SCCOE's circumstances have so changed as to make such re-employment impossible or unreasonable, such as a reduction in force that would have included the employee. (38 USC 4312; 20 CFR 1002.139)
2. The accommodation, training, or effort described in 38 USC 4313(a)(3), (a)(4), or (b)(2)(B) would impose an undue hardship on the SCCOE as defined in 20 CFR 1002.5 or 1002.198. (38 USC 4312; 20 CFR 1002.139)
3. The employee's position was for a brief, nonrecurrent period and there was no reasonable expectation that such employment will continue indefinitely or for a significant period. (38 USC 4312; 20 CFR 1002.139)
4. The employee's cumulative length of absence and length of all previous military leave while employed with the SCCOE exceeds five years, excluding those training and service obligations specified in 38 USC 4312(c). (38 USC 4312; 20 CFR 1002.99-1002.103)
5. The employee was separated from military service with a disqualifying discharge or under other than honorable conditions. (Military and Veterans Code 395.1; 20 USC 4304, 4312; 20 CFR 1002.134-1002.138)

Notices

The Superintendent or designee shall provide employees a notice of the rights, benefits, and obligations of employees granted military leave and of the SCCOE under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA), 38 USC 4301-4334. (38 USC 4334)

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MILITARY LEAVE (continued)

This requirement may be met by posting the notice where the SCCOE customarily places notices for employees. (38 USC 4334)

(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - *Employee Notifications*)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

22850-22856 *Pension benefits, STRS members on military leave*

44018 *Compensation for employees on active military duty*

44800 *Effect of active military service on status of employees*

45059 *Employee ordered to military/naval duty - computation of salary*

GOVERNMENT CODE

18540 *Definition of armed forces*

18540.3 *Recognized military service*

20990-21013 *Pension benefits, PERS members on military leave*

MILITARY AND VETERANS CODE

146 *Events justifying calling of militia into active service*

389 *Definitions; temporary military leave*

394 *Nondiscrimination based on military service*

395-395.9 *Military leave*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 38

4301-4334 *Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 20

1002.1-1002.314 *Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994*

COURT DECISIONS

Wright v. City of Santa Clara (1989) 213 Cal. App.3d 1503

Bowers v. San Buenaventura (1977) 75 Cal. App.3d 65

ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS

77 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 209 (1994)

69 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 185 (1986)

63 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 924 (1978)

19 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 132 (1952)

18 *Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen.* 178 (1951)

All Personnel

AR 4161.8(a)

4261.8

FAMILY CARE AND MEDICAL LEAVE

4361.8

The Santa Clara County Office of Education shall not interfere with, restrain, or deny the exercise of any right for family care and medical leave provided to an eligible employee, as defined below, under the law. In addition, the SCCOE shall not discharge or discriminate against any employee for opposing any practice made unlawful by, or because of, his/her involvement in any inquiry or proceeding related to the family care and medical leave. (29 USC 2615; Government Code 12945.2)

(cf. 4030 - Nondiscrimination in Employment)

Definitions

Any word or phrase defined below shall have the same meaning throughout this administrative regulation except where otherwise specifically defined.

Child means a biological, adopted, or foster child; a stepchild; a legal ward; or a child of a person standing in loco parentis as long as the child is under 18 years of age or an adult dependent child. (29 USC 2611; Government Code 12945.2)

Eligible employee means an employee who has been employed with the SCCOE for at least 12 months and who has at least 1,250 hours of service with the SCCOE during the previous 12-month period. (29 USC 2611; 29 CFR 825.110; Government Code 12945.2)

Parent means a biological, foster, or adoptive parent; a stepparent; a legal guardian; or another person who stood in loco parentis to the employee when the employee was a child. Parent does not include a spouse's parents. (29 USC 2611; 29 CFR 825.122; Government Code 12945.2; 2 CCR 7297.0)

Serious health condition means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves either of the following: (29 USC 2611; 29 CFR 825.113, 825.114, 825.115; Government Code 12945.2)

1. Inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential health care facility
2. Continuing treatment or continuing supervision by a health care provider, including one or more of the following:
 - a. A period of incapacity of more than three consecutive full days
 - b. Any period of incapacity or treatment for such incapacity due to a chronic serious health condition
 - c. For purposes of leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), any period of incapacity due to pregnancy or for prenatal care

FAMILY CARE AND MEDICAL LEAVE (continued)

- d. Any period of incapacity which is permanent or long term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective
- e. Any period of absence to receive multiple treatments, including recovery, by a health care provider

Spouse means a partner in marriage as defined in Family Code 300 or 1 USC 7. In addition, for purposes of rights under the California Family Rights Act (CFRA), a registered domestic partner shall have the same rights, protections, and benefits as a spouse and protections provided to a spouse's child shall also apply to a child of a registered domestic partner. (1 USC 7; 29 CFR 825.122; Family Code 297.5, 300; 2 CCR 7297.0)

Eligibility

The SCCOE shall grant family care and medical leave to eligible employees for the following reasons: (29 USC 2612; 29 CFR 825.112; Family Code 297.5; Government Code 12945.2)

1. Because of the birth of a child of the employee or placement of a child with the employee in connection with the employee's adoption or foster care of the child
2. To care for the employee's child, parent, or spouse with a serious health condition
3. Because of the employee's own serious health condition that makes him/her unable to perform one or more essential functions of his/her position, except that CFRA leave shall not cover an employee's disability on account of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions
4. Because of any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, child, or parent is a covered military member on covered active duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty)
5. To care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness if the employee is the spouse, child, parent, or next of kin, as defined, of the servicemember

In addition to FMLA leave for disability on account of a pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions pursuant to item #3 above, a female employee disabled by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions may be entitled to take leave for a reasonable period of time, not to exceed four months. (Government Code 12945)

FAMILY CARE AND MEDICAL LEAVE (continued)

Terms of Leave

An eligible employee shall be entitled to a total of 12 work weeks of family care and medical leave during any 12-month period, except in the case of leave to care for a covered servicemember as provided under "Military Caregiver Leave" below. (29 USC 2612; Government Code 12945.2)

This 12-month period shall be a rolling period measured backward from the date an employee uses any family care and medical leave, as defined in 29 CFR 825.200. (29 CFR 825.200)

Leave taken pursuant to the CFRA shall run concurrently with leave taken pursuant to the FMLA, except in the following circumstances:

1. Leave taken to care for a registered domestic partner or a child of a domestic partner. Such leave shall count as leave under the CFRA only. (Family Code 297.5)
2. Leave taken for disability on account of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. FMLA leave taken for these purposes shall run concurrently with the California pregnancy disability leave granted pursuant to Government Code 12945. CFRA leave related to the birth of a child shall not commence until the expiration of the pregnancy disability leave. (Government Code 12945, 12945.2; 2 CCR 7297.6)

(cf. 4161.1/4361.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave)

(cf. 4261.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave)

Leave taken for the birth or placement of a child must be concluded within the 12-month period beginning on the date of the birth or placement of the child. Such leave does not need to be taken in one continuous period of time. The basic minimum duration of the leave for birth or placement of a child shall be two weeks. However, the SCCOE shall grant a request for leave of less than two weeks' duration on any two occasions. (29 USC 2612; 2 CCR 7297.3)

If both parents of a child work for the SCCOE, their family care and medical leave related to the birth or placement of the child shall be limited to a combined total of 12 weeks. This restriction shall apply whether or not the parents are married, not married, or registered domestic partners. (29 USC 2612; Government Code 12945.2)

AR 4161.8(d)
4261.8
4361.8

FAMILY CARE AND MEDICAL LEAVE (continued)

Use/Substitution of Paid Leave

During the period of family care and medical leave or pregnancy disability leave, the employee may elect to use his/her accrued vacation leave, other accrued time off, or any other paid or unpaid time off negotiated with the SCCOE. If the leave is because of the employee's own serious health condition, the employee may use accrued sick leave pursuant to the collective bargaining agreement and/or SCCOE policy. (29 USC 2612; Government Code 12945.2)

(cf. 4141/4241 - Collective Bargaining Agreement)
(cf. 4161/4261/4361 - Leaves)

Intermittent Leave/Reduced Leave Schedule

Leave related to the serious health condition of the employee or his/her child, parent, or spouse may be taken intermittently or on a reduced leave schedule when medically necessary, as determined by the health care provider of the person with the serious health condition. However, the SCCOE may limit leave increments to the shortest period of time that the SCCOE's payroll system uses to account for absences or use of leave. (29 USC 2612; 2 CCR 7297.3)

If an employee needs intermittent leave or leave on a reduced work schedule that is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment for the employee or a family member, the SCCOE may require the employee to transfer temporarily to an available alternative position. This alternative position must have equivalent pay and benefits, the employee must be qualified for the position, and the position must better accommodate recurring periods of leave than the employee's regular job. Transfer to an alternative position may include altering an existing job to better accommodate the employee's need for intermittent leave or a reduced leave schedule. (29 USC 2612; 2 CCR 7297.3)

(cf. 4113.4/4213.4/4313.4 - Temporary Modified/Light-Duty Assignment)

Request for Leave

An employee shall provide at least verbal notice sufficient to make the SCCOE aware that he/she needs family care and medical leave and the anticipated timing and duration of the leave. The employee need not expressly assert or mention FMLA/CFRA to satisfy this requirement; however, he/she must state the reason the leave is needed (e.g., birth of child, medical treatment). If more information is necessary to determine whether the employee is eligible for family care and medical leave, the County Superintendent or designee shall inquire further and obtain the necessary details of the leave to be taken. (2 CCR 7297.4)

FAMILY CARE AND MEDICAL LEAVE (continued)

Based on the information provided by the employee, the County Superintendent or designee shall designate the leave, paid or unpaid, as FMLA/CFRA qualifying leave and shall give notice of such designation to the employee. (2 CCR 7297.4)

When the need for the leave is foreseeable based on an expected birth, placement for adoption or foster care, or planned medical treatment for a serious health condition of the employee or a family member, the employee shall provide the SCCOE with at least 30 days advance notice before the leave. The employee shall consult with the SCCOE and make a reasonable effort to schedule, subject to the health care provider's approval, any planned medical treatment or supervision so as to minimize disruption to SCCOE operations. (Government Code 12945.2; 2 CCR 7297.4)

When the 30 days notice is not practicable because of a lack of knowledge of approximately when leave will be required to begin, a change in circumstances, or a medical emergency, the employee shall provide the SCCOE with notice as soon as practicable. (2 CCR 7297.4)

Certification of Health Condition

At the time of the employee's request for leave for his/her own or his/her child's, parent's, or spouse's serious health condition, or within five business days of the request, the County Superintendent or designee shall request that the employee provide certification by a health care provider of the need for leave. Upon receiving the SCCOE's request, the employee shall provide the certification within 15 days, unless either the Superintendent or designee provides additional time or it is not practicable under the particular circumstances, despite the employee's diligent, good faith efforts. (29 CFR 825.305; 2 CCR 7297.4)

The certification shall include the following: (29 USC 2613; Government Code 12945.2; 2 CCR 7297.0)

1. The date on which the serious health condition began
2. The probable duration of the condition
3. If the employee is requesting leave to care for a child, parent, or spouse with a serious health condition, both of the following:
 - a. Statement that the serious health condition warrants the participation of a family member to provide care during a period of the treatment or supervision of the child, parent, or spouse

FAMILY CARE AND MEDICAL LEAVE (continued)

- b. Estimated amount of time the health care provider believes the employee needs to care for the child, parent, or spouse
4. If the employee is requesting leave because of his/her own serious health condition, a statement that due to the serious health condition, he/she is unable to work at all or is unable to perform one or more essential functions of his/her job
5. If the employee is requesting leave for intermittent treatment or is requesting leave on a reduced leave schedule for planned medical treatment, a statement of the medical necessity for the leave, the dates on which treatment is expected to be given, the duration of such treatment, and the expected duration of the leave

The County Superintendent or designee shall not request any genetic information, as defined in 42 USC 2000ff, from any employee or his/her family member except as necessary to comply with a certification requirement for FMLA/CFRA leave purposes or with the prior written authorization of the employee. Any such genetic information received by the SCCOE shall be kept confidential in accordance with law. (42 USC 2000ff-1, 2000ff-5)

When an employee has provided sufficient medical certification to enable the SCCOE to determine whether the employee's leave request is FMLA-eligible, the County Superintendent or designee shall notify the employee within five business days whether the leave is FMLA-eligible. The County Superintendent or designee may also retroactively designate leave as FMLA/CFRA as long as there is no individualized harm to the employee. (29 CFR 825.301)

If the County Superintendent or designee doubts the validity of a certification that accompanies a request for leave for the employee's own serious health condition, he/she may require the employee to obtain a second opinion from a SCCOE-approved health care provider, at SCCOE expense. If the second opinion is contrary to the first, the County Superintendent or designee may require the employee to obtain a third medical opinion from a third health care provider approved by both the employee and the SCCOE, again at SCCOE expense. The opinion of the third health care provider shall be final and binding. (29 USC 2613; Government Code 12945.2)

If additional leave is needed when the time estimated by the health care provider expires, the SCCOE may require the employee to provide recertification in the manner specified in items #1-5 above. (29 USC 2613; Government Code 12945.2)

FAMILY CARE AND MEDICAL LEAVE (continued)

Fitness for Duty Upon Return to Work

Upon expiration of leave taken for his/her own serious health condition, an employee shall present certification from his/her health care provider that he/she is able to resume work.

(cf. 4112.4/4212.4/4312.4 - Health Examinations)

The certification from the employee's health care provider shall address the employee's ability to perform the essential functions of his/her job.

Rights to Reinstatement and Maintenance of Benefits

Upon granting an employee's request for family care and medical leave, the County Superintendent or designee shall guarantee to reinstate the employee in the same or a comparable position when the leave ends. (29 USC 2614; Government Code 12945.2)

However, the SCCOE may refuse to reinstate an employee returning from leave to the same or a comparable position if all of the following apply: (29 USC 2614; Government Code 12945.2)

1. The employee is a salaried "key employee" who is among the highest paid 10 percent of those SCCOE employees who are employed within 75 miles of the employee's worksite.
2. The refusal is necessary to prevent substantial and grievous economic injury to SCCOE operations.
3. The SCCOE informs the employee of its intent to refuse reinstatement at the time it determines that the refusal is necessary, and the employee fails to immediately return to service.

(cf. 4117.3 - Personnel Reduction)

(cf. 4217.3 - Layoff/Rehire)

During the period when an employee is on family care and medical leave, he/she shall maintain his/her status with the SCCOE and the leave shall not constitute a break in service for purposes of longevity, seniority under any collective bargaining agreement, or any employee benefit plan. (29 USC 2614; Government Code 12945.2)

FAMILY CARE AND MEDICAL LEAVE (continued)

For a period of 12 work weeks, the SCCOE shall continue to provide an eligible employee on family care and medical leave the group health plan coverage that was in place before he/she took the leave. The employee shall reimburse the SCCOE for premiums paid during the family care and medical leave if he/she fails to return to SCCOE employment after the expiration of the leave and the failure is for any reason other than the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a serious health condition or other circumstances beyond his/her control. (29 USC 2614; 29 CFR 825.213; Government Code 12945.2)

(cf. 4154/4254/4354 - Health and Welfare Benefits)

In addition, during the period when an employee is on family care and medical leave, he/she shall be entitled to continue to participate in other employee benefit plans including life insurance, short-term or long-term disability insurance, accident insurance, pension and retirement plans, and supplemental unemployment benefit plans to the same extent and under the same conditions as apply to an unpaid leave taken for any other purpose. However, for purposes of pension and retirement plans, the SCCOE shall not be required to make plan payments for an employee during the leave period and the leave period shall not be counted for purposes of time accrued under the plan. (Government Code 12945.2)

Military Family Leave Resulting from Qualifying Exigencies

An eligible employee may take up to 12 work weeks of unpaid leave during the 12-month period established by the SCCOE while a covered military member is on covered active duty or call to covered active duty status for one or more qualifying exigencies. (29 USC 2612)

Covered military member means an employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent on covered active duty or call to covered active duty status. (29 CFR 825.126)

Covered active duty means duty during the deployment of a member of the regular Armed Forces to a foreign country or duty during the deployment of a member of the National Guard or Reserves to a foreign country under a call or order to active duty. (29 USC 2611)

Qualifying exigencies include time needed to: (29 CFR 825.126)

1. Address issues arising from short notice deployment (up to seven calendar days from the date of receipt of call or order of short notice deployment)
2. Attend military events and related activities, such as any official ceremony or family assistance program related to the active duty or call to active duty status

FAMILY CARE AND MEDICAL LEAVE (continued)

3. Arrange childcare or attend school activities arising from the active duty or call to active duty, such as arranging for alternative childcare, enrolling or transferring a child to a new school, or attending meetings
4. Make or update financial and legal arrangements to address a covered military member's absence
5. Attend counseling provided by someone other than a health care provider
6. Spend time (up to five days of leave per instance) with a covered military member who is on short-term temporary rest and recuperation leave during deployment
7. Attend to certain post-deployment activities, such as arrival ceremonies or reintegration briefings
8. Address any other event that the employee and SCCOE agree is a qualifying exigency

The employee shall provide the County Superintendent or designee with notice of the need for the qualifying exigency leave as soon as practicable, regardless of how far in advance such leave is foreseeable. (29 CFR 825.302)

An employee who is requesting such leave for the first time shall provide the Superintendent or designee with a copy of the covered military member's active duty orders, or other documentation issued by the military, and the dates of the service. In addition, the employee shall provide the County Superintendent or designee with certification of the qualifying exigency necessitating the leave. The certification shall contain the information specified in 29 CFR 825.309.

The employee's qualifying exigency leave may be taken on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule basis. (29 CFR 825.302)

During the period of qualified exigency leave, the SCCOE's rule regarding an employee's use of his/her accrued vacation leave and any other accrued paid or unpaid time off, as specified in "Use/Substitution of Paid Leave" above, shall apply.

Military Caregiver Leave

The SCCOE shall grant up to a total of 26 work weeks of leave during a single 12-month period, measured forward from the first date of leave taken, to an eligible employee to care for a covered servicemember with a serious illness or injury. In order to be eligible for such

FAMILY CARE AND MEDICAL LEAVE (continued)

military caregiver leave, an employee must be the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of the covered servicemember. This 26-week period is not in addition to, but rather is inclusive of, the 12 work weeks of leave that may be taken for other FMLA qualifying reasons. (29 USC 2611, 2612; 29 CFR 825.127)

Covered servicemember may be either: (29 USC 2611)

1. A 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 disability retired list for a serious injury or illness
2. A veteran who, within the five years preceding his/her undergoing of medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a serious injury or illness, was a member of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves

Son or daughter of a covered servicemember means the biological, adopted, or foster child, stepchild, legal ward, or a child of any age for whom the covered servicemember stood in loco parentis. (29 CFR 825.127)

Parent of a covered servicemember means the covered servicemember's biological, adopted, step or foster parent, or any other individual who stood in loco parentis to the covered servicemember (except "parents in law"). (29 CFR 825.127)

Next of kin means the nearest blood relative to the covered servicemember, or as designated in writing by the covered servicemember. (29 USC 2611, 2612)

Outpatient status means the status of a member of the Armed Forces assigned to a military medical treatment facility as an outpatient or a unit established for the purpose of providing command and control of members of the Armed Forces receiving medical care as outpatients. (29 USC 2611; 29 CFR 825.127)

Serious injury or illness means: (29 USC 2611; 29 CFR 825.127)

1. For a member of the Armed Forces, an injury or illness incurred or aggravated by the member's service in the line of duty while on active duty in the Armed Forces that may render the member medically unfit to perform the duties of the member's office, grade, rank, or rating

FAMILY CARE AND MEDICAL LEAVE (continued)

2. For a veteran, an injury or illness incurred or aggravated by the member's service in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces, including the National Guard or Reserves, that manifested itself before or after the member became a veteran

The employee shall provide reasonable and practicable notice of the need for the leave in accordance with the procedures in the section entitled "Request for Leave" above.

An employee requesting leave to care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness shall provide the County Superintendent or designee with certification from an authorized health care provider of the servicemember that contains the information specified in 29 CFR 825.310.

The leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced schedule when medically necessary. An employee taking military caregiver leave in combination with other leaves pursuant to this administrative regulation shall be entitled to a combined total of 26 work weeks of leave during a single 12-month period. When both spouses work for the SCCOE and both wish to take such leave, the spouses are limited to a maximum combined total of 26 work weeks during a single 12-month period. (29 USC 2612)

During the period of military caregiver leave, the SCCOE's rule regarding an employee's use of his/her accrued vacation leave and other accrued paid or unpaid time off, as specified in "Use/Substitution of Paid Leave" above, shall apply.

Notifications

The County Superintendent or designee shall provide the following notifications about state and federal law related to FMLA/CFRA:

1. **General Notice:** Information explaining the provisions of the FMLA/CFRA and employee rights and obligations shall be posted in a conspicuous place on SCCOE premises, or electronically, and shall be included in employee handbooks. (29 USC 2619; 2 CCR 7297.9)

The general notice shall also explain an employee's obligation to provide the County Superintendent or designee with at least 30 days notice of the need for the leave, when the need for the leave is reasonably foreseeable. (2 CCR 7297.4)

FAMILY CARE AND MEDICAL LEAVE (continued)

2. **Eligibility Notice:** When an employee requests leave or when the County Superintendent or designee acquires knowledge that an employee's leave may be for an FMLA/CFRA qualifying reason, the County Superintendent or designee shall, within five business days, provide notification to the employee of his/her eligibility to take such leave. (29 CFR 825.300)

3. **Rights and Responsibilities Notice:** Each time the eligibility notice is provided to an employee, the County Superintendent or designee shall provide written notification explaining the specific expectations and obligations of the employee, including any consequences for a failure to meet those obligations. Such notice shall include, as appropriate: (29 CFR 825.300)
 - a. A statement that the leave may be designated and counted against the employee's annual FMLA/CFRA leave entitlement and the appropriate 12-month entitlement period, if qualifying
 - b. Any requirements for the employee to furnish medical certification of a serious health condition, serious injury or illness, or qualifying exigency arising out of active duty or call to active duty status and the consequences of failing to provide the certification
 - c. The employee's right to substitute paid leave, whether the SCCOE will require substitution of paid leave, conditions related to any substitution, and the employee's entitlement to take unpaid leave if the employee does not meet the conditions for paid leave
 - d. Any requirements for the employee to make any premium payments to maintain health benefits, the arrangement for making such payments, and the possible consequences of failure to make payments on a timely basis
 - e. If applicable, the employee's status as a "key employee," potential consequence that restoration may be denied following the FMLA leave, and explanation of the conditions required for such denial
 - f. The employee's right to maintenance of benefits during the leave and restoration to the same or an equivalent job upon return from leave
 - g. The employee's potential liability for health insurance premiums paid by the SCCOE during the employee's unpaid FMLA leave should the employee not return to service after the leave

FAMILY CARE AND MEDICAL LEAVE (continued)

Any time the information provided in the above notice changes, the County Superintendent or designee shall, within five business days of his/her receipt of an employee's first notice of need for leave, provide the employee with a written notice referencing the prior notice and describing any changes to the notice. (29 CFR 825.300)

4. **Designation Notice:** When the County Superintendent or designee has information (e.g., sufficient medical certification) to determine whether the leave qualifies as FMLA/CFRA leave, he/she shall, within five business days, provide written notification designating the leave as FMLA/CFRA qualifying or, if the leave will not be so designated, the reason for that determination. (29 CFR 825.300)

If the amount of leave needed is known, the notice shall include the number of hours, days, or weeks that will be counted against the employee's FMLA/CFRA entitlement. If it is not possible to provide that number at the time of the designation notice, notification shall be provided of the amount of leave counted against the employee's entitlement upon request by the employee and at least once in every 30-day period if leave was taken in that period. (29 CFR 825.300)

If the SCCOE requires paid leave to be substituted for unpaid family care and medical leave, the notice shall so specify. If the SCCOE requires an employee to present a fitness-for-duty certification that addresses the employee's ability to perform the essential functions of the job, the notice shall also specify that requirement.

Any time the information provided in the designation notice changes, the Superintendent or designee shall, within five business days, provide the employee with written notice referencing the prior notice and describing any changes to the notice. (29 CFR 825.300)

Records

The County Superintendent or designee shall maintain records pertaining to an individual employee's use of family care and medical leave in accordance with law. (29 USC 2616; 42 USC 2000ff-1; 29 CFR 825.500; Government Code 12946)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

AR 4161.8(n)
4261.8
4361.8

FAMILY CARE AND MEDICAL LEAVE (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

44965 *Granting of leaves of absence for pregnancy and childbirth*

FAMILY CODE

297-297.5 *Rights, protections and benefits under law; registered domestic partners*

300 *Validity of marriage*

GOVERNMENT CODE

12940 *Unlawful employment practices*

12945 *Pregnancy; childbirth or related medical condition; unlawful practice*

12945.1-12945.2 *California Family Rights Act*

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2

7291.2-7291.16 *Sex discrimination: pregnancy and related medical conditions*

7297.0-7297.11 *Family care leave*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 1

7 *Definition of marriage, spouse*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

2601-2654 *Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

2000ff-1-2000ff-11 *Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 29

825.100-825.800 *Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993*

COURT DECISIONS

Faust v. California Portland Cement Company, (2007) 150 Cal.App.4th 864

Tellis v. Alaska Airlines, (9th Cir., 2005) 414 F.3d 1045

All Personnel

SP 4161.9

4261.9

CATASTROPHIC LEAVE PROGRAM

4361.9

When a catastrophic illness or injury incapacitates an employee or a member of his/her family for an extended period of time and the employee has exhausted all paid leaves of absence, other employees may donate sick leave credits to that employee under the specific requirements of the Santa Clara County Office of Education's catastrophic leave program.

Donations made under the catastrophic leave program shall be strictly voluntary.

(cf. 4161/4261/4361 - Leaves)

(cf. 4161.1/4361.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave)

(cf. 4261.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

44043.5 *Catastrophic leave*

All Personnel

AR 4161.9

4261.9

CATASTROPHIC LEAVE PROGRAM

4361.9

When an employee or a member of his/her family experiences a catastrophic illness or injury which requires the employee to take time off from work for an extended period of time, and the employee has exhausted all available sick leave and other paid time off, he/she may request donations of sick leave credits. (Education Code 44043.5)

In making such a request, the employee shall provide verification of the catastrophic injury or illness. (Education Code 44043.5)

Verification shall be made by means of a letter, dated and signed by the sick or injured person's physician, indicating the incapacitating nature and probable duration of the illness or injury.

Upon determination that the employee is unable to work due to his/her own or a family member's catastrophic illness or injury, any other employee, upon written notice to the County Superintendent or designee, may donate and/or sick leave credits to the requesting employee. Donations shall be in one day increments to a sick leave bank. (Education Code 44043.5)

To ensure that employees retain sufficient accrued sick leave to meet their own needs, donors shall not reduce their accumulated sick leave to fewer than 10 hours.

All transfers of eligible leave credit shall be irrevocable. (Education Code 44043.5)

The County Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all donations are confidential.

The employee who is the recipient of the donated leave credits shall use those credits until end of work year.

If donated credits are not used by the employee, the credits shall be placed in a pool that will be available to the next eligible employee who requests catastrophic leave.