

Gravenstein Union School District

Administrative Regulation

CLASSIFIED Personal Illness/Injury Leave

AR 4261.1

Personnel

***Note: The following optional administrative regulation is subject to collective bargaining. Twelve days of paid personal illness or injury leave (sick leave) per year is the minimum prescribed by Education Code 45191 for classified employees in both merit and non-merit system districts. The Governing Board may allow additional days at its discretion; if it does so, the following paragraph should be revised accordingly. ***

***Note: Effective July 1, 2015, Labor Code 245-249 (the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act), as added by AB 1522 (Ch. 317, Statutes of 2014), require districts to grant a minimum of one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked to their employees who work for 30 days within a year of their employment, including classified employees. Additional requirements of Labor Code 245-249 include, but are not limited to, display of a poster containing specified information at every workplace, provision of each employee's sick leave balance on his/her wage statements, and maintenance of leave usage documentation for three years. The provisions of Labor Code 245-249 are very broad and only district employees covered by a valid collective bargaining agreement may be exempted from them, if the collective bargaining agreement expressly provides paid sick leave in an amount equal to or exceeding the amount of leave required pursuant to Labor Code 246, includes final and binding arbitration of disputes regarding the application of the paid sick days provisions, and provides premium wage rates for all overtime hours worked and a regular hourly rate of pay of not less than 30 percent more than the state minimum wage rate. Since many districts may not satisfy all the conditions for this exemption, this administrative regulation has been drafted to include the requirements of Labor Code 245-249. Any district whose collective bargaining agreement meets all the conditions for exemption may modify this administrative regulation accordingly. ***

***Note: See sections titled "Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act Requirements" and "Short-Term and Substitute Employees" below for more details of AB 1522 requirements. For sick leave for certificated employees, see AR 4161.1/4361.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave. ***

Classified employees employed five days per week are entitled to 12 days leave of absence, with full pay, for personal illness or injury (sick leave) per fiscal year. Employees who work less than a full fiscal year or fewer than five days a week (part-time employees) shall be granted sick leave in proportion to the time they work, except when the sick leave will be less than the district grants short-term or substitute employees pursuant to Labor Code 246. (Education Code 45191; Labor Code 245-249)

(cf. 4161/4261/4361 - Leaves)

Classified employees may use sick leave for absences due to:

1. Accident or illness, whether or not the absence arises out of or in the course of employment, or by quarantine which results from contact with other persons having a contagious disease during the employee's performance of his/her duties (Education Code 45199)

2. Pregnancy, childbirth, and recovery (Education Code 45193)

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

3. Personal necessity as specified in Education Code 45207

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

4. Industrial accident or illness when leave granted specifically for that purpose has been exhausted (Education Code 45192)

(cf. 4261.11 - Industrial Accident/Illness Leave)

***Note: Pursuant to Labor Code 233, any employer who provides sick leave for employees must permit them to use sick leave in any calendar year to attend to the illness of their child, parent, spouse, domestic partner, or domestic partner's child, in an amount not less than the sick leave that would be accrued during six months at the employee's then current rate of entitlement (e.g., six days accrued during six months for full-time classified employees, unless the district has established an amount that is higher than the legal minimum). Classified employees also may use sick leave for personal necessity, including the serious illness of a member of the employee's immediate family pursuant to Education Code 45207; see AR 4161.2/4261.2/4361.2 - Personal Leaves. Districts are cautioned to consult legal counsel regarding the possible interaction of sick leave and personal necessity leave provisions in the Education Code and Labor Code. ***

5. Illness of the employee's child, parent, spouse, domestic partner, or domestic partner's child for up to the amount of leave that would be accrued during six months for personal illness or injury (Labor Code 233)

***Note: Pursuant to Labor Code 246.5, as added by AB 1522 (Ch. 317, Statutes of 2014), paid sick leave may also be used for the purposes specified in items #7 and #8 below. Labor Code 245.5, as added by AB 1522, defines "family member" for the purpose of item #7 to include a registered domestic partner, grandparent, and sibling. Item #8 applies only to employees who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. For more details of AB 1522 requirements, see sections titled "Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act Requirements" and "Short-Term and Substitute Employees" below. For additional information about leaves for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, see AR 4161.2/4261.2/4361.2 - Personal Leaves. ***

6. Diagnosis, care, or treatment of an existing health condition of, or preventive care for, the employee or his/her family member as defined in Labor Code 245.5 (Labor Code 246.5)

7. Need of the employee to obtain or seek any relief or medical attention specified in Labor Code 230(c) and 230.1(a) for the health, safety, or welfare of the employee, or his/her child, when the employee has been a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking (Labor Code 246.5)

An employee may take leave for personal illness or injury at any time during the year, even if credit for such leave has not yet been accrued. However, a new full-time classified employee shall not be entitled to more than six days of sick leave until he/she has completed six months of active service with the district. (Education Code 45191)

Unused days of sick leave shall be accumulated from year to year without limitation. (Education Code 45191)

***Note: The following paragraph is optional. ***

An employee shall reimburse the district for any unearned sick leave used as of the date of his/her termination.

The district shall not require newly employed classified employees to waive leave accumulated in a previous district. However, if the employee's previous employment was terminated for cause, the transfer of the accumulated leave shall be made only if approved by the Governing Board. (Education Code 45202)

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 45202, a classified employee is entitled to have accumulated sick leave transferred with him/her in the circumstances specified in the following optional paragraph. ***

The Superintendent or designee shall notify any classified employee who leaves the district after at least one school year of employment that if the employee accepts employment in another district, county office of education, or community college district within one year, he/she may request that the district transfer his/her accumulated sick leave to the new employer. (Education Code 45202)

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

Notification of Absence

***Note: The following optional section may be revised to reflect district practice. ***

An employee shall notify the Superintendent or the designated manager or supervisor of his/her need to be absent as soon as such need is known so that the services of a substitute may be secured as necessary. This notification shall include an estimate of the expected duration of absence. If the absence becomes longer than estimated, the employee shall so notify the district. If the duration of absence becomes shorter than estimated, the employee shall notify the district not later than three o'clock in the afternoon of the day preceding the day on which he/she intends to return to work.

Continued Absence After Available Sick Leave Is Exhausted/Differential Pay

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 45196, a district is authorized to pay any employee who has exhausted his/her paid leaves his/her salary minus the actual pay received by a substitute for the remainder of a five-month absence to which the employee is entitled (Option 1 below). Alternatively, such an employee may be compensated at 50 percent or more of his/her salary for up to 100 working days, regardless of whether or not a substitute is hired (Option 2 below). ***

***Note: Districts that maintain a catastrophic leave program for their classified employees should specify how the program will affect the differential leave pay to which the employee may be entitled. ***

OPTION 1:

***Note: In 53 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen.111 (1970), the Attorney General clarified that a classified employee is entitled to a total period of five months, commencing with the first day of illness, during which the amount deducted from his/her salary may not exceed the sum which is actually paid a substitute. This five-month period runs concurrently with any other paid leave. After the employee has exhausted all paid leaves, he/she is entitled to differential pay for the balance of the five-month period. ***

***Note: In California School Employees Association v. Tustin Unified School District, the court ruled that a district could deduct from the absent employee's salary only the cost of an outside substitute employee, not the cost of existing classified employee(s) working additional hours to fill the position during the absence. ***

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 45196, the amount paid to a substitute must be less than the absent employee's salary unless the Board has adopted a salary schedule for substitutes. ***

A classified employee who has exhausted all paid leaves, including sick leave, shall for the remainder of the five-month period of absence to which he/she is entitled, receive his/her salary minus the actual amount paid a substitute to fill the employee's position during his/her absence. (Education Code 45196)

The five-month period shall commence on the first day of the leave of absence and shall run concurrently with any other paid leave.

Extension of Leave

***Note: Pursuant to Education Code 45195, the following extension of leave may be either paid or unpaid, and the Board may grant full pay for the full 18 months' allowable absence, if desired. ***

A permanent employee who is absent because of a personal illness or injury and who has exhausted all available sick leave, vacation, compensatory overtime, and any other paid leave shall be so notified, in writing, and offered an opportunity to request additional leave. The Board may grant the employee additional leave, paid or unpaid, for a period not to exceed six months and may renew this leave for two additional six-month periods or for lesser periods. The total additional leave granted shall not exceed 18 months. (Education Code 45195)

(cf. 4216 - Probationary/Permanent Status)

If the employee is still unable to resume his/her duties after all available paid and unpaid leaves have been exhausted, the employee shall be placed on a reemployment list for a period of 39 months. If during this time the employee becomes able to resume the duties of his/her position, he/she shall be offered reemployment in the first vacancy in the classification of his/her previous assignment. During the 39 months, the employee's reemployment shall take preference over all other applicants except those laid off for lack of work or lack of funds, in which case the employee shall be ranked according to his/her seniority. (Education Code 45195)

Verification Requirements

***Note: Education Code 45191 mandates the Board to adopt regulations that require proof of illness or injury and prescribe the means of verification. However, Education Code 45191 provides that these regulations shall not discriminate against evidence of treatment and the need for treatment by the practice of a well-recognized religion. The following section should be modified to reflect district practice and any procedures that have been specified in negotiated agreements. ***

After any absence due to illness or injury, the employee shall submit a completed and signed district absence form to his/her immediate supervisor.

The Superintendent or designee may, at any time, require additional written verification by the employee's physician or medical practitioner. Such verification shall be required whenever an employee's absence record shows chronic absenteeism or a pattern of absences immediately before or after weekends and/or holidays or whenever available evidence clearly indicates that an absence is not related to illness or injury.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee may require an employee to visit a physician selected by the district, at district expense, in order to receive a report on the medical condition of the employee. The report shall include a statement as to the employee's need for additional leave of absence and a prognosis as to when the employee will be able to return to work. If the report concludes that the employee's condition does not warrant continued absence, the Superintendent or designee may, after giving notice to the employee, deny the request for additional leave.

***Note: 42 USC 2000ff-1, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, and its implementing regulations, 29 CFR 1635.1-1635.12, specify that it is unlawful for a district to request, require, or purchase an employee's or his/her family member's individual genetic information except in complying with the medical certification requirements for family care and medical leave purposes or with the employee's prior written authorization. See AR 4161.8/4261.8/4361.8 - Family Care and Medical Leave. Pursuant to 29 CFR 1635.9, any such information received by the district must be kept confidential as specified below. ***

Any district request for additional verification by an employee's physician or a district-selected physician shall be in writing and shall specify that the report to be submitted to the district should not contain the employee's genetic information.

Any genetic information received by the district on behalf of an employee shall be treated as a confidential medical record, maintained in a file separate from the employee's personnel file, and shall not be disclosed except in accordance with 29 CFR 1635.9.

Before returning to work, an employee who has been absent for surgery, hospitalization, or extended medical treatment may be asked to submit a letter from his/her physician stating that he/she is able to return to work and stipulating any recommended restrictions or limitations.

(cf. 4032 - Reasonable Accommodation)

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

Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act Requirements

***Note: Pursuant to Labor Code 245-249, as added by AB 1522 (Ch. 317, Statutes of 2014), all employers, including those that provide paid time off to their employees under existing policy or other law, must comply with the requirements specified in the following section. Pursuant to Labor Code 248.5, noncompliance with the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act could result in enforcement action against the employer, including the imposition of civil and monetary penalties. Any district with questions regarding the applicability of this new law should consult its legal counsel. ***

No employee, including a short-term or substitute employee, shall be denied the right to use accrued sick days and the district shall not in any manner discriminate or retaliate against an employee for using or attempting to use sick leave, filing a complaint with the Labor Commissioner, or alleging district violation of Labor Code 245-249.

To ensure the district's compliance with Labor Code 245-249, the Superintendent or designee shall:

1. At a conspicuous location in each workplace, display a poster on paid sick leave that includes the following information:
 - a. That an employee is entitled to accrue, request, and use paid sick days
 - b. The amount of sick days provided by Labor Code 245-249
 - c. The terms of use of paid sick days
 - d. That discrimination or retaliation against an employee for requesting or using sick leave is prohibited by law and an employee has the right to file a complaint with the Labor Commissioner if the district discriminates or retaliates against him/her
2. Provide at least 24 hours or three days of paid sick leave to each eligible employee to use per year and allow eligible employees to use accrued sick leave upon reasonable request
3. Provide eligible employees written notice, on their pay stub or other document issued

with their pay check, of the amount of paid sick leave they have available

4. Keep a record documenting the hours worked and paid sick days accrued and used by each eligible employee for three years

Short-Term and Substitute Employees

***Note: In addition to the requirements specified above, Labor Code 245-249, as added by AB 1522 (Ch. 317, Statutes of 2014), requires a district to either (1) allow short-term and substitute employees to carry over accrued paid sick leave to the following year up to a maximum of 48 hours or 6 work days, in which case the district must track the amount of sick leave earned by each employee, or (2) grant 24 hours of paid sick leave to each such employee at the beginning of each year, in which case no sick leave carries over to the following year. Districts should select the option below which corresponds to their approach under Labor Code 246. ***

OPTION 2: Any short-term or substitute employee who works for 30 or more days within a year of his/her employment shall be credited with 24 hours of paid sick leave for that year. Unused sick leave shall not carry over to the following year of employment. (Labor Code 246)

***Note: The following paragraph applies to both options and reflects the intent of the legislature in enacting the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act, including to enable California workers to address their own and their family's health needs and to provide them with economic security when they need to take time off work for reasons of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. ***

A short-term or substitute employee may use accrued sick leave for absences due any condition specified in item #7 or #8 above. (Labor Code 246.5)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

45103 Substitute employees

45190 Leaves of absence and vacations

45191 Leaves of absence for illness and injury

45193 Leave of absence for pregnancy (re use of sick leave under certain circumstances)

45195 Additional leave for nonindustrial accident or illness; reemployment preference

45196 Salary; deductions during sick leave

45202 Transfer of accumulated sick leave and other benefits

LABOR CODE

230 Jury duty; legal actions by domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking victims, right to time off

230.1 Employers with 25 or more employees; domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking victims, right to time off

233 Illness of child, parent, spouse or domestic partner

245-249 Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act of 2014

COURT DECISIONS

California School Employees Association v. Colton Joint Unified School District, (2009) 170 Cal.App.4th 957

California School Employees Association v. Tustin Unified School District, (2007) 148
Cal.App.4th 510
ATTORNEY GENERAL OPINIONS
53 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 111 (1970)
(3/02 7/07) 12/14

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