

3.11—LICENSED PERSONNEL PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL LEAVE

Professional Leave

Professional Leave is leave granted for the purpose of enabling an employee to participate in professional activities (e.g., teacher 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 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 or her 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 or designee. 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, 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 (e.g. scholastic audits), the employee shall forfeit his/her daily rate of pay from the District for the time the employee misses. The cost of a substitute, if one is needed, shall be paid by the District.

Personal 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 be able to utilize three (3) days from their accumulated sick leave as personal leave per contract year. The leave may be taken in increments of no less than half day.

Employees shall take personal leave or leave without pay for those absences which are not specifically related to their job duties and do not qualify for other types of leave (for sick leave see Policy 3.8, for professional leave see below).

School Functions, for the purpose of this policy, means:

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

For employees other than the Superintendent, the determination of what activities meet the definition of a school function shall be made by the employee's immediate supervisor or designee. For the Superintendent, the school board of directors shall determine what activities meet the definition of a school function. 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 or her supervisor or designee at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the time of the requested leave. The seventy-two-hour requirement may be waived by the supervisor when the supervisor deems it appropriate. The supervisor or designee has twenty-four (24) hours from submission to approve or deny the requested leave.

Personal leave may not be granted the day before or the day after a holiday, unless deemed appropriate by the superintendent.

Employees who fail to report to work when their request for a personal day has been denied or who have exhausted their allotted personal days, shall lose their daily rate of pay for the day(s) missed (leave without pay). While there are instances where personal circumstances necessitate an employee's absence beyond the allotted days of sick and/or personal leave, any employee who requires leave without pay must receive advance permission (except in medical emergencies and/or as permitted by policy 3.32— LICENSED PERSONNEL FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE) from their immediate supervisor. Failure to report to work without having received permission to be absent is grounds for discipline, up to and including termination.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. §6-17-211

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