Catastrophic Leave Program

The Governing Board recognizes that district employees may desire to assist other employees who have an urgent need for a leave of absence but do not have sufficient accrued leave to cover their absence. The Superintendent or designee shall establish a catastrophic leave program by which employees may donate accrued vacation and/or sick leave credits, which shall be placed into a pool for use by eligible employees.

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

The district's policy and procedures regarding catastrophic leave shall be included in the employee handbook. The Superintendent or designee may notify employees annually, or more frequently if the need arises, of the process for donating leave for this purpose.

An employee may apply to use donated leave credits in accordance with the accompanying administrative regulation when he/she has exhausted all applicable paid leaves of absence and a catastrophic illness or injury incapacitates the employee or a member of his/her family for an extended period of time. (Education Code 44043.5)

(cf. 4161/4261/4361 - Leaves)
(cf. 4161.1/4361.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave)
(cf. 4161.8/4261.8/4361.8 - Family Care and Medical Leave)
(cf. 4261.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave)

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
44043.5 Catastrophic leave
44977 Salary deduction during sick leave, certificated employees
44978 Sick leave, certificated employees
44983 Compensation during leave, certificated employees
45190-45191 Sick leave and vacation, classified employees
45196 Salary deductions during sick leave, classified employees
LABOR CODE
245-249 Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act

Adopted: 12/18/02
Amended: 8/20/08, 2/12/20
Personnel

Catastrophic Leave Program

Donations to Catastrophic Leave Program

An employee who chooses to donate accrued vacation and/or sick leave credits to the district's catastrophic leave program shall provide written notice to the Superintendent or designee of the amount and type of leave he/she wishes to donate. The Superintendent or designee shall review the donor's available leave and transfer the leave credits to a district pool of leave credits designated for this purpose.

Donations shall be at a minimum of eight hours, and in hour increments thereafter. (Ed. Code 44043.5)

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

Employees should be cautious in making large donations of leave that they may need for their own use in the future.

Requests for Catastrophic Leave

A full-time or part-time employee may apply to their bargaining unit to use paid leave from the catastrophic leave program if he/she earns paid time off but has exhausted all his/her accrued paid leave and needs to take time off from work for an extended period of time due to his/her or a family member's catastrophic illness or injury. If the employee is incapacitated, a family member or caretaker may apply on his/her behalf.

(cf. 4161/4261/4361 - Leaves)
(cf. 4161.1/4361.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave)
(cf. 4161.8/4261.8/4361.8 - Family Care and Medical Leave)
(cf. 4261.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave)

The employee shall provide verification of the illness or injury. (Education Code 44043.5)

Verification shall be made by means of a letter, dated and signed by the individual's health care provider, indicating the incapacitating nature and probable duration of the illness or injury.

Employees receiving compensation under worker's compensation provisions are not eligible to receive leave from the catastrophic leave program until exhausting such benefit.

(cf. 4157.1/4257.1/4357.1 - Work-Related Injuries)

An employee who is the recipient of donated leave credits shall use those credits within 12 consecutive months. (Education Code 44043.5)

If donated leave credits are not used by the employee within 12 consecutive months, the credits shall be returned to the pool of catastrophic leave for use by other eligible employees.
Catastrophic Leave Program (Cont.)

An employee who receives catastrophic leave shall use any leave credits that he/she continues to accrue on a monthly basis before receiving paid leave pursuant to this program. (Education Code 44043.5)

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Amended: 8/20/08, 2/12/20