

CSBA Sample

Administrative Regulation

Personal Illness/Injury Leave

**Approve CSBA
Sample As Is**

AR 4161.1 (Certificated)
Personnel

Note: The following administrative regulation is subject to collective bargaining. Education Code 44978 provides a minimum of 10 days of personal illness or injury leave (sick leave) per year for certificated employees working five days a week. The Governing Board may allow additional days at its discretion; if it does so, the following paragraph should be revised accordingly.

Note: 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 temporary and substitute employees. Pursuant to Labor Code 246, as amended by AB 304 (Ch. 67, Statutes of 2015), a district may use a different sick leave accrual method which provides for the accrual to be on a regular basis so that an employee accrues at least 24 hours of sick leave or paid time off by the 120th calendar day of his/her employment or each calendar year or 12-month period. 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.

Note: 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: For additional requirements of Labor Code 245-249, see the section titled "Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act Requirements" below. For paid sick leave for temporary and substitute certificated employees, see BP/AR 4121 - Temporary/Substitute Personnel. For sick leave for classified employees, see AR 4261.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave.

Certificated employees employed five school days a week are entitled to 10 days' leave of absence with full pay for personal illness or injury (sick leave), per school year of service. Employees who work less than five school days per week (part-time employees) shall be granted sick leave in proportion to the time they work. However, any part-time employee who is entitled to less than

three days of paid sick leave due to the amount of time worked shall be granted sick leave pursuant to Labor Code 246, if he/she is eligible. (Education Code 44978; Labor Code 245-249)

(cf. 4161/4261/4361 - Leaves)

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

Use of Sick Leave

Certificated 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; quarantine which results from contact with other persons having a contagious disease during the employee's performance of his/her duties; or temporary inability to perform assigned duties because of illness, accident, or quarantine (Education Code 44964)

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

2. Pregnancy, miscarriage, childbirth, and related recovery (Education Code 44965, 44978)

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

3. Personal necessity (Education Code 44981)

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

Note: Optional item #4 below may be revised as desired to specify a different minimum increment for sick leave.

4. Medical and dental appointments, in increments of not less than one hour

5. Industrial accidents or illnesses when leave granted specifically for that purpose has been exhausted (Education Code 44984)

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

Note: Pursuant to Labor Code 246.5, as added by AB 1522 (Ch. 317, Statutes of 2014), paid sick leave may be used for the purposes specified in item #6 below.

***Note: Pursuant to Labor Code 233, as amended by SB 579 (Ch. 802, Statutes of 2015), any district that provides sick leave to its employees is required to permit them to use sick leave, 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, to attend to the illness of their family members as specified in item #6 below. Family members include, but are not limited to, an employee's grandparent, grandchild, and sibling, not just his/her child, parent, spouse, or domestic partner. In addition, the law defines child as a "biological, adopted, or foster child, stepchild, legal ward, or a child to whom the

employee stands in loco parentis."***

Note: For more details of AB 1522 requirements, see section "Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act Requirements" 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. In any calendar year, an employee may use the amount of sick leave he/she would accrue during six months at his/her current rate of entitlement for the following: (Labor Code 233, 246.5)

a. Need of the employee or his/her family member, as defined in Labor Code 245.5, for the diagnosis, care, or treatment of an existing health condition or for preventive care

b. Need of the employee to seek or obtain any relief or medical attention specified in Labor Code 230(c) and/or 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

An employee may take sick leave at any time during the school year, even if credit for sick leave has not yet been accrued. (Education Code 44978)

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.

Unused days of sick leave shall be accumulated from year to year without limitation. (Education Code 44978)

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

At the beginning of each school year, employees shall be notified of the amount of sick leave they have accumulated.

The district shall not require new employees to waive leave accumulated in a previous district. (Education Code 44979, 44980)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 44979-44980, a certificated employee is entitled to have his/her accumulated sick leave transferred with him/her in the circumstances specified in the following optional paragraph.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify any certificated employee who leaves the district after at least one school year of employment that if the employee accepts a certificated position 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 44979, 44980)

Notification of Absence

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

An employee shall notify the district of his/her need to be absent as soon as such need is known, so that substitute services may be secured. 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. If the employee fails to notify the district and the failure results in a substitute being secured, the cost of the substitute shall be deducted from the employee's pay.

(cf. 4121 - Temporary/Substitute Personnel)

Continued Absence After Available Sick Leave Is Exhausted/Differential Pay

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 44977, an employee who is absent for up to five months after exhausting all his/her available sick leave must receive his/her regular salary minus the cost of a substitute. Option 1 below reflects this requirement.

Note: However, Education Code 44983 provides that Education Code 44977 does not apply to those districts that adopt a rule that gives certificated employees 50 percent or more of their regular salary during the period of absence. Option 2 below is for use by districts that choose to specify such a level of compensation; these districts are mandated to adopt a rule to this effect.

OPTION 1:

During each school year, when a certificated employee has exhausted all available sick leave, including all accumulated sick leave, and, due to illness or injury, continues to be absent from his/her duties for an additional period up to five school months, the employee shall receive his/her regular salary minus the actual cost of a substitute to fill the position. If the district has made every reasonable effort to secure the services of a substitute and has been unable to do so, the amount that would have been paid to a substitute shall be deducted from the employee's salary.

An employee shall not be provided more than one five-month period per illness or injury. However, if the school year ends before the five-month period is exhausted, the employee may take the balance of the five-month period in a subsequent school year. (Education Code 44977)

Note: Option 2 below is mandated for use by districts that choose to provide employees at least 50 percent of their regular salary during the period of absence pursuant to Education Code 44983. The following paragraph specifies a percentage of 50 percent and should be modified by districts that have set a higher percentage.

~~OPTION 2:~~

~~After a certificated employee has exhausted all available sick leave, including all accumulated sick leave, and, due to illness or injury, continues to be absent for an additional period up to five months, he/she shall receive 50 percent of his/her regular salary during the additional period of absence.— (Education Code 44983)~~

~~***Note:— The following paragraph is for use by districts that selected either Option 1 or Option 2, and is subject to any conflicting provision in a collective bargaining agreement entered into before January 1, 2016.— Pursuant to Education Code 44977.5, as added by AB 375 (Ch. 400, Statutes of 2015), the district is required to provide differential pay to a certificated employee when he/she has exhausted all available sick leave, including accumulated sick leave, and continues to be absent due to maternity or paternity leave for the birth of the employee's child or placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care (baby bonding), pursuant to Government Code 12945.2 (California Family Rights Act). Such an employee is entitled to receive differential pay for up to 12 weeks.— Among the many questions generated by the new law are whether the 12 weeks differential pay for maternity/paternity leave would be in addition to the five months differential leave pay pursuant to Education Code 44977 (Option 1 above) and whether the law applies to districts that provide their employees at least 50 percent of their regular salary instead of differential pay during such period of absence, as permitted by Education Code 44983 (Option 2 above.)— The following paragraph reflects CSBA's interpretation of the law.— Any district with a question regarding the interpretation to be given to this new law should consult its legal counsel.***~~

~~In addition, during each school year, any certificated employee who has exhausted all available sick leave, including accumulated sick leave, and continues to be absent on account of maternity or paternity leave (baby bonding) pursuant to Government Code 12945.2 shall receive, for up to 12 school weeks, his/her regular salary minus the actual cost of a substitute to fill the position or, if no substitute was employed, the amount that would have been paid had a substitute been employed.— The 12-week period shall be reduced by any period of sick leave, including accumulated sick leave, taken during a period of such maternity or paternity leave.— (Education Code 44977.5)~~

~~***Note: The following paragraph is for use by districts that selected either Option 1 or Option 2.***~~

If a certificated employee is not medically able to resume his/her duties after the five-month period provided pursuant to Education Code 44977, the employee shall be placed either in another position or on a reemployment list. Placement on the reemployment list shall be for 24 months for probationary employees or 39 months for permanent employees and shall begin at the expiration of the five-month period. If during this time the employee becomes medically able, he/she shall be returned to employment in a position for which he/she is credentialed and qualified. (Education Code 44978.1)

(cf. 4116 - Probationary/Permanent Status)

Note: When an employee is absent for a period of more than five months, or is absent for a cause other than illness, Education Code 44977 and 44983 provide that the amount deducted from his/her salary shall be determined according to the rules and regulations adopted by the Board as long as such rules are not in conflict with State Board of Education regulations. If not covered in the district's negotiated agreement, the district may add provisions here reflecting salary deductions for employees absent longer than five months.

Verification Requirements

Note: Education Code 44978 mandates the Board to adopt regulations requiring proof of illness or injury and prescribing the means of verification. However, Education Code 44978 provides that these regulations shall not discriminate against evidence of treatment and the need for treatment by the practice of a well-recognized religion. For verification requirements for employees on leave pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act, see AR 4161.8/4261.8/4361.8 - Family Care and Medical Leave. The following section should be modified to reflect district practice and any procedures which have been specified in negotiated agreements.

Note: Previously, Labor Code 233 authorized a district to apply the same conditions and restrictions placed upon its employees' use of sick leave for their own illness to any use of sick leave for illnesses of an employee's family members. Pursuant to Labor Code 233, as amended by SB 579 (Ch. 802, Statutes of 2015), this authorization no longer exists. As amended, Labor Code 233 requires districts to allow their employees to use sick leave for the purposes specified in Labor Code 246.5, the paid sick leave law. Since the paid sick leave law is silent on requests for verification, and actually requires an employer to provide an employee with paid sick days upon oral or written request, districts should be careful in requiring verification for sick leave used for the purposes specified in Labor Code 246.5 (item #6 above). Though a district is permitted to require verification from an employee who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, pursuant to Labor Code 230 and 230.1, a general insistence on verification could be deemed a violation of Labor Code 246.5. Any district with questions regarding its authority related to verification should consult legal counsel.

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

The Superintendent or designee may require verification 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 further 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 further 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 duty and stipulating any necessary 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 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
- (cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notifications)
- 4. Keep a record documenting the hours worked and paid sick days accrued and used by each eligible employee for three years

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

- 44964 Power to grant leave of absence in case of illness, accident, or quarantine
- 44965 Granting of leaves of absence for pregnancy and childbirth
- 44976 Transfer of leave rights when school is transferred to another district
- 44977 Salary deduction during absence from duties up to five months after sick leave is exhausted
- 44977.5 Salary deduction during absence from duties for maternity or paternity leave up to 12 weeks after sick leave is exhausted
- 44978 Provisions for sick leave of certificated employees
- 44978.1 Inability to return to duty; placement in another position or on reemployment list
- 44979 Transfer of accumulated sick leave to another district
- 44980 Transfer of accumulated sick leave to a county office of education
- 44981 Leave of absence for personal necessity
- 44983 Exception to sick leave when district adopts specific rule
- 44984 Industrial accident or illness
- 44986 Leave of absence for disability allowance applicant

LABOR CODE

- 220 Sections inapplicable to public employees
- 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

234 Absence control policy

245-249 Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act of 2014

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

5601 Transfer of accumulated sick leave

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

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

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 29

1635.1-1635.12 Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008

COURT DECISIONS

Veguez v. Governing Board of Long Beach Unified School District, (2005) 127 Cal.App.4th 406

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