

CSBA Sample

Administrative Regulation

Personal Illness/Injury Leave

**Approve CSBA
Sample As Is**

AR 4261.1 (Classified)

Personnel

Note: The following 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 employed five days a week in both merit and non-merit system districts. The Governing Board may allow more sick leave 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 classified 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 reflects 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 "Short-Term and Substitute Employees" and "Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act Requirements" 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 a 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. However, any part-time employee whose work hours are so few as to entitle him/her to less than 24 hours of paid sick leave per fiscal year shall be granted sick leave pursuant to Labor Code 246, if he/she is eligible. (Education Code 45191; Labor Code 245-249)

(cf. 4161/4261/4361 - Leaves)

Use of Sick Leave

A classified employee 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)

Note: Optional item #4 below may be revised to specify a different minimum increment.

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

5. 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 246.5, as added by AB 1522 (Ch. 317, Statutes of 2014), paid sick leave may also 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 sections titled "Short-Term and

Substitute Employees" and "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, 245.5, 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 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 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 who is terminated after at least one year of employment for any reason unrelated to discipline is entitled to have his/her accumulated sick leave transferred with him/her in certain circumstances. The following paragraph, which provides for the notification of employees as a way to implement this provision, is optional and may be revised to reflect district practice.

The Superintendent or designee shall notify any classified employee whose employment with the district is terminated after at least one calendar year for reasons other than for cause that, if he/she accepts employment in another district, county office of education, or community college district within one year of the termination of employment, he/she shall be entitled to request that the district transfer his/her accumulated sick leave to his/her new employer. (Education Code 45202)

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. 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.

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 2:

Note: Education Code 45196 authorizes, but does not require, a district to annually credit regular classified employees with at least 100 working days of paid sick leave, and to compensate any such employee at 50 percent or more of the employee's regular salary for the remainder of the 100 working days after the employee has exhausted all leaves for which he/she would be entitled to a full salary. Any district that chooses this option is mandated to adopt a rule to that effect. Such districts should note that this option is exclusive of other paid leave, holidays, or vacation. In *California School Employees Association v. Colton Joint Unified School District*, the court ruled that the district's practice of coordinating or combining vacation with the 100 days differential leave contradicts the express provision of Education Code 45196.

Note: The following paragraph may be revised to specify more than 100 working days and/or the level of compensation the district will pay an employee, if it chooses to pay more than 50 percent of the employee's salary.

Each year, each regular classified employee shall be credited with no fewer than 100 working days of paid leave for personal illness or injury, including current year and accumulated days of leave. When the current year and accumulated days at full pay are exhausted, the remainder of the 100

days shall be compensated at 50 percent of the employee's regular salary. Any of the 100 days of leave not used during the year in which they are credited shall be forfeited and shall not accumulate from year to year. This paid leave shall be exclusive of any other paid leave, holidays, vacation, or compensatory time to which the employee may be entitled. (Education Code 45196)

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.

***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 submit 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 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)

Short-Term and Substitute Employees

Note: Pursuant to Labor Code 245-249, as added by AB 1522 (Ch. 317, Statutes of 2014), the district is required to grant a minimum of one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked by an employee who works for 30 days within a year of his/her employment. In implementing this requirement, Labor Code 246, as amended by AB 304 (Ch. 67, Statutes of 2015), permits the district to use any of the options specified below. Option 1 provides for paid leave accrual based on one hour for every 30 hours worked. Option 2 allows an accrual method that provides for a regular accrual basis and ensures that the employee receives 24 hours of paid sick leave by the 120th calendar day of his/her employment. Option 3 is for any district that credits employees with 24 hours of paid sick leave at the beginning of each year and does not allow unused sick leave to carry over to the next year. In addition, pursuant to Labor Code 245.5, as amended by AB 304, retired annuitants who have not reinstated to the applicable public retirement system are excluded from participation in these leave benefit provisions. The district should select the option below which corresponds to its approach under Labor Code 246.

Note: See section below titled "Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act Requirements" for additional details of AB 1522 requirements.

OPTION 3: Except for a retired annuitant who is not reinstated to the retirement system, 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 all the above options.

Any short-term or substitute employee may begin to use accrued paid sick days on the 90th day of his/her employment, after which he/she may use the sick days as they are accrued. (Labor Code 246)

Note: The following paragraph applies to all of the above options and reflects the intent of the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act 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. The following paragraph may be revised to include additional reasons for which short-term or substitute employees may use sick leave, pursuant to district policy or practice. Pursuant to Labor Code 247.5, as amended by AB 304 (Ch. 67, Statutes of 2015), a district is not required to inquire into the purposes for which an employee uses paid leave.

A short-term or substitute employee may use accrued sick leave for absences due to: (Labor Code 246.5)

1. His/her own need or the need of a family member, as defined in Labor Code 245.5, for the diagnosis, care, or treatment of an existing health condition or for preventive care

2. 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

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

(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

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)

(12/14 12/15) 3/16