

ARTICLE XII

LEAVES AND ABSENCES

1.0 Leave and Absence Defined: A leave is an authorized absence from active service granted to probationary or permanent employees, for a specified purpose and period of time, with the right to return to active service unless the employee's service would have otherwise been terminated. All other employees, except for those excluded in Section 2.0 below may qualify for absences but not leaves. Leaves are either "permissive" or "mandatory." As to permissive leaves, the term "may" is used and the District retains discretion as to whether they are to be granted, and as to the starting and ending dates of the leave. As to mandatory leaves the term "shall" is used and the District has no discretion as to whether the leave is to be granted to a qualified employee. The term "formal leave" refers to any leave of more than twenty days in duration. Formal leaves must be applied for in writing using the District form.

1.1 Employees who are on unpaid leaves and employees who exhaust their paid benefits while on paid leave are not eligible for District-paid health and welfare benefits while in unpaid status. As an exception, employees on approved unpaid Family Care and Medical Leave/Absence are eligible for District-paid benefits provided they are otherwise eligible for such benefits as provided in Section 24.8 of this Article. Also, employees in unpaid status may arrange for continuance of benefits under Article XVI, Section 9.0 COBRA. In addition, employees in unpaid status will have their assignment basis changed from annualized to un-annualized (pay as you work). Such changes may result in employees having been paid salary for which they are not eligible based on service provided. To avoid this, employees may request that their assignment basis be changed in advance of the start of the school year.

2.0 General Eligibility Provisions: Probationary and permanent employees shall be eligible for certain paid and unpaid leaves. Other employees serving under written contracts of employment may qualify for such leaves if provided for in their contracts. All other employees, including substitutes, may qualify for certain paid or unpaid absences with no right to return, but are not eligible for leaves except for family care and medical leave, if eligible.

2.1 Subject to the restrictions specified in Article XIX, a day-to-day substitute or temporary employee may be paid for certain absences as specified in this Article, provided the employee was serving and not released at the close of the working day immediately preceding the day for which paid absence is requested; and the paid absence shall cease with either the return to service of the absent employee whom the day-to-day substitute was replacing or with the end of the projected assignment, whichever occurs first. However, such restrictions shall not apply in the case pregnancy disability (Section 10.2) or industrial injury absences (Section 13), or family care and medical leave Family Care and Medical Leave/California Family Rights Act (Section 24).

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

3.0 Rights Upon Return: Any employee returning from the leaves listed in this section of one calendar year or less shall be returned to the location from which leave was taken, except that the employee may be transferred pursuant to Article XI, Transfers, if such a transfer would have been made had the employee been on duty. Such return rights are limited to the following leaves:

- a. illness
- b. industrial injury
- c. reduced workload
- d. pregnancy
- e. exchange
- f. sabbatical
- g. family care and medical leave of 60 working days or less
- h. any leave in which the employee was replaced by a substitute teacher (including a contract pool teacher working in a substitute capacity)
 - i. childcare leave immediately following pregnancy leave, birth or adoption, but only for the balance of the semester or track, e.g., (July 1-December 31 and January 1-June 30) in which the childcare leave commenced; and only if the combined pregnancy leave and childcare leave does not exceed two semesters. As an exception that the childcare leave must immediately follow pregnancy leave, birth, or adoption for return rights, the family care and medical leave may interrupt that sequence. However, each leave must immediately follow the other and the childcare leave will be granted only for the balance of the semester or track in which the childcare leave commenced. In addition, the combination of the leaves shall not exceed two semesters.

Employees returning from leaves other than as provided above may be subject to transfer pursuant to Article XI.

4.0 Restrictions: An unpaid leave or absence may not be converted to a paid leave or absence, except in the case of pregnancy disability as provided in Section 10.2 of this Article. No employee shall be eligible for a permissive leave from the District who has had three semesters of permissive leave during the six semesters immediately preceding the requested leave, except as provided in Section 11.0, 17.0 and 21.0. For purposes of this Section, 65 working days per semester on leave shall constitute a semester on leave. The Superintendent may, in his sole discretion, grant a waiver from this limit, for

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

one semester. For Early Education Centers and other employees not assigned on the usual semester basis, the semester period shall be computed as being one-half of the normal annual assignment and the 65 working days shall be proportionately adjusted.

5.0 Application: Applications for permissive leaves of absence must be submitted on or before the dates established by this Article. Exceptions may be made in the sole discretion of the District. Applications for informal permissive absences not to exceed five days shall be submitted for approval to the immediate administrator. Applications for informal permissive absences in excess of five days shall be made to the immediate administrator and must be approved by the appropriate Local District Administrator or branch/division head.

5.1 For continuous programs (Year-round, Early Education Centers, etc.), the deadline for leave applications, unless otherwise provided, shall be April 15 for all leaves commencing during the period July 1 through December 31 and November 15 for all leaves commencing during the period January 1 through June 30.

6.0 Notification Requirements: Unless otherwise provided in this Article, an employee who intends to be absent for 20 working days or less must make every reasonable effort to notify the appropriate substitute office not later than 6:30 a.m. on the day of absence and notify the school or section to which assigned not later than 30 minutes before the schedule begins on the day of absence. Hourly rate employees must notify the school or center not later than one hour before the employee's class meets. When the absence is to be for one day only, employees may, when reporting the absence to the school or center, also give notice on intended return for the following day. All other employees returning to service must notify the school or section at least one hour before the end of the regular working day on the day before the day of anticipated return. If such notification is not given and both the employee and substitute report for duty, it is only the substitute who is entitled to work and be paid. Notification requirements for an approved ~~family care and medical leave~~ Family Care and Medical Leave/California Family Rights Act shall be in accordance with Section 24.4 24.6 of this Article and Government Code Section 12945.2.

7.0 Cancellation of Leave: A request by an employee for cancellation of a leave or for cancellation of a request for a leave shall be granted unless an employee other than a day-to-day substitute has been assigned to fill the employee's position at the site. Exceptions may be made in the sole discretion of the District. The appropriate required credential or permit held at the time the leave was granted must be maintained, or the leave terminates and the employee is subject to termination. The employee shall be so notified.

8.0 Expiration of Leave: Two calendar months before the expiration of a leave for one semester or more, and upon reasonable notice from the District, the employee must notify the Personnel Office of an intention to return, or request an extension of leave, if eligible. Failure by the employee to

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

give such notice, or to report to duty as directed after having given such notice, shall be considered abandonment of position and resignation from service. An exception to this provision or requirement shall be made if it was impossible for the employee to give the required notice. In the case of an early return from family care and medical leave, if the employee informs the District of a desire for early return the District will, if feasible, return the employee to service within two working days after the employee notifies the District of the request to return.

8.1 Return from Leave - Medical Review Committee: An employee not approved to return from a leave by the District Medical Director may appeal to a Medical Review Committee. The committee shall be comprised of a District physician, a physician selected and compensated by UTLA, and a third physician who shall be selected by the two physicians and compensated equally by the District and UTLA. A majority decision by the Medical Review Committee shall be final and binding.

9.0 Bereavement (Paid): An employee is entitled to a paid leave of absence from the District, not to exceed three (3) days, on account of the death of an member of the employee's immediate qualified family member as defined below. Employees must provide documentation within thirty (30) days from the first day of leave, if requested. Bereavement leave may be taken consecutively or intermittently so long as the leave commences and is completed within three (3) months from the qualifying family members' date of death, and the leave/absence commences within ten calendar days of the death. If more than one such death occurs simultaneously, the leaves may be taken consecutively. If out of state travel is required and requested, an additional two (2) days shall be granted. Employees not traveling out of state may elect to take an additional two (2) days of bereavement utilizing personal necessity, vacation, or unpaid leave. The immediate family qualified family member is defined as the following relatives of the employee:

- a. Spouse or for purposes of this Leaves Article only, a cohabitant who is the equivalent of a spouse cohabitant who is the equivalent of a spouse, or domestic partner;
- b. Parent (includes in-law, step and foster parent, and parent of cohabitant who is the equivalent of spouse);
- c. Grandparent (includes in-law, step, and a grandparent of cohabitant who is the equivalent of spouse);
- d. Child (includes son/daughter-in-law, step and foster child, and child of cohabitant who is the equivalent of spouse);
- e. Grandchild (includes grandchild of spouse, step grandchildren, and grandchildren of cohabitant who is the equivalent of spouse);
- f. Brother Sibling:

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

g. Sister

h.g. Any relative living in the employee's immediate household;

h. Designated person (District employees are limited to one designated person per 12-month period. The employee may identify the designated person when the employee requests a leave for family care, medical, bereavement, and/or kin care.)

10.0 Pregnancy and Related Disability (Paid and Unpaid):

10.1 Paid Disability Absence: For that period of time during which the employee (including temporaries and substitutes) is physically or mentally disabled and unable to perform her their regular duties due to pregnancy, miscarriage, childbirth and recovery there from, or if the employee's job would cause undue risk to the employee or the completion of a successful pregnancy, she they shall be permitted to utilize her their illness absence pursuant to Section 12.0 of this Article. Employees may take up to 18 workweeks of protected leave under the Pregnancy Disability Leave (PDL) and if eligible, may also be entitled to take 12 workweeks of protected time under FMLA and/or CFRA.

10.2 Optional Unpaid Portion: A pregnant employee in active status shall, upon request, be granted an unpaid pregnancy leave (or, in the case of substitutes or temporaries, an unpaid absence) and still qualify for paid absence during the period of disability. This is the only exception to the general rule that paid leaves may only be taken from active status.

10.3 Physician Certifications: A pregnant employee shall be permitted to continue on active duty until such date as she and her their physician determines that she they must be absent herself due to pregnancy disability, provided that she can and does continue to perform the full duties and responsibilities of her position. The District will engage in the interactive process to ensure the pregnant employee can stay in active duty as long as possible with or without a reasonable accommodation. The District may require employee must also supply to provide to the District her their physician's certification as to the beginning and ending dates of actual pregnancy-related disability for which paid illness absence is claimed, and her their physician's release to return to active duty. District forms for such certifications, and application forms, shall be available at each site.

10.4 Parental Leave: In accordance with California Education Code section 44977.5, an eligible employee may take leave for reason of the birth of a child of the employee, or the placement of a child with an employee in connection with the adoption or foster care of the child by the employee. To be eligible for the leave, an employee does not have to have worked 1,250 hours in the previous 12 months, but must have been employed for 12 months by the District.

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

- a. While on parental leave, an employee must use all his/her their accumulated illness/sick leave for a period of up to twelve workweeks. Once the employee has exhausted his/her their accumulated illness/sick leave, for the remainder of the twelve workweek period, the employee will receive 50% of his/her their salary.
- b. An employee shall not be provided more than one 12-week period per parental leave. If a school year terminates before the 12-week period is exhausted, the employee may take the balance of the 12-week period in the subsequent school year.
- c. The aggregate amount of parental leave taken pursuant to this Section and Section 12945.2 of the Government Code shall not exceed 12 workweeks in a 12-month period.
- d. Parental leave taken pursuant to this Section shall run concurrently with parental leave taken pursuant to the FMLA and CFRA.
- e. Substitute and temporary employees are not eligible for parental leave.

11.0 Child Care (Unpaid): An unpaid leave shall be granted to a permanent employee to care for such employee's own (including adopted) child of under five years of age. The leave, together with any renewal thereof, shall not exceed the equivalent of four semesters in duration.

11.1 A probationary employee shall be granted an unpaid childcare leave immediately following the pregnancy leave, birth or adoption, for the balance of the semester (or equivalent period of time in a year-round school, e.g., July 1-December 31 and January 1-June 30) in which the childcare leave commenced. The combined pregnancy leave and childcare leave shall not exceed two semesters. As an exception that the childcare leave must immediately follow pregnancy leave, birth, or adoption for return rights, the family care and medical leave may interrupt that sequence. However, each leave must immediately follow the other and the childcare leave will be granted only for the balance of the semester or track in which the childcare leave commenced. In addition, the combination of the leaves shall not exceed two semesters.

11.2 Application may be submitted at any time but must be on file in the Personnel Office by April 15 for the fall semester and by November 15 for the spring semester. Starting and ending dates may be adjusted by the District to meet educational program needs, except in the case of the starting date for a child care leave which begins immediately after pregnancy leave or family care and medical leave.

11.3 Child care leaves of limited duration have return rights as provided in Section 3.0 of this Article.

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

12.0 Illness (Paid): An employee shall be granted a leave of absence because of illness, or injury, or quarantine of the employee.

12.1 Subject to the restrictions specified in Article XIX, each employee shall accrue 0.05 hour of full-pay illness absence credit for each hour for which salary is received in a certificated assignment except for Auxiliary Teacher, Replacement Teacher, an assignment for which a lump-sum payment is or could be received, or salary received for sabbatical leave.

12.2 At the beginning of the pay period immediately preceding July 1, each active employee (excluding substitute and temporary) who is under contract (including temporary contract) for a full school year, who has accrued fewer than the number of full-pay illness absence hours equivalent to 100 days shall be credited with the number of half-pay illness absence days which, when added to the accrued full-pay illness absence days equals the equivalent to 100 days of full and half-pay illness absence days.

12.3 At the beginning of the pay period immediately preceding July 1, each active employee (excluding substitute and temporary) shall receive credit for full-pay illness absence hours up to ten days (pro-rated for those employed for less than a full school year) prior to accrual. However, an employee who uses such a credit prior to actual accrual shall not accrue or be credited with additional absence hours until the negative balance has been restored.

12.4 An exception to the "active employee" requirement of Sections 12.2 and 12.3 will be made upon request once in each employee's career to permit qualification for the annual full and half-pay illness absence hours, even though the employee is unable to report to work at the commencement of the employee's annual assignment basis due to illness, provided the following conditions are met:

a. The employee holds probationary or permanent status.

b. The employee did not carry over any full pay illness hours from the previous year.

a.c. The employee has on file an illness leave request satisfying the requirements of Sections 12.8 and 12.9.

12.5 If an employee is paid for more than the illness absences to which entitled, or terminates employment prior to accruing leave taken in advance, the employee shall be required to refund to the District the salary to which not entitled. This requirement shall be waived in the event of the employee's death or physical or mental disability.

12.6 Unused full-pay illness absence credit shall be cumulative from year to year without limitation. Half-pay illness credit shall not be cumulative from year to year.

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

12.7 When an employee is absent under this section and such absence is properly verified, the employee will receive full normal pay up to the total of the employee's full-pay illness benefits. Full-pay illness benefits shall be used before available half-pay benefits may be used. Additional days of illness absence will be at half pay up to the total of half pay days credited if available. Further illness absence shall be non-paid absence, unless the employee requests use of any accrued vacation. The amount of illness absence taken in any pay period shall not be in excess of the illness absence accumulated by the close of the pay period immediately preceding the illness absence, except as provided in paragraph 12.3. Pay for absence shall not be made in increments of less than .3 hours (18 minutes).

12.8 An employee who is absent shall be required to certify the reason for absence. Also, the District shall have the authority to use whatever means are reasonably necessary to verify any claimed illness, injury, or disability under this section before authorizing any compensation.

12.9 An employee absent from duty for any illness, injury, or other disability for more than 5 consecutive working days shall be required to submit either the Certification/Request of Absence for Illness, Family Illness, New Child (Form 60.ILL) completed by the attending physician or a statement from the attending physician on letterhead attached to Form 60.ILL. Form 60.ILL shall be signed by the employee. An employee absent for more than 20 consecutive working days shall be required to submit a formal leave request and an "Attending Physician Statement" form.

12.10 If a permanent employee resigns and returns within 39 months of the last date of paid service to permanent status, the number of hours for which the employee was entitled to full-pay illness absence shall be restored, unless such had been transferred to another agency or used in computation of retirement allowance. Any other employee who resigns or is otherwise terminated and returns within 12 calendar months of the last date of paid service, shall be restored the number of hours of full-pay illness absence to which entitled, unless such has been transferred to another agency.

12.11 Catastrophic Illness Leave Program: Eligible employees may apply to receive full-pay illness donations through the District's Program of Donation for Catastrophic Illness and abide by its terms and conditions. This program is intended for those employees who are currently experiencing a catastrophic illness or injury and whose prognosis is that they are expected to return to work. Eligible employees may apply to receive full-pay donations through this program for up to two separate occurrences of a catastrophic illness.

13.0 Industrial Injury or Illness Paid: An employee who is absent from District service because of an injury or illness which arose out of and in the course of employment, and for which temporary disability benefits are being received under the worker's compensation laws, shall be entitled to a paid absence or leave under the following conditions:

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

- a. Allowable leave/absence shall be for up to 60 working days for the same injury or illness.
- b. Allowable paid leave/absence shall not be accumulated from year to year.
- c. An employee absent under this section shall be paid such portion of the salary due for any school month in which the absence occurs as, when added to the temporary disability indemnity under Division 4 or Division 4.5 of the Labor Code, will result in a payment of not more than the employee's full normal salary. For substitutes and limited term employees, full normal salary shall be computed so that it shall not be less than the employee's average weekly earnings as utilized in Section 4453 of the Labor Code. For purposes of this section the maximum and minimum average weekly earnings set forth in Section 4453 of the Labor Code shall otherwise not be deemed applicable.
- d. When an authorized leave/absence continues into the next school year, the employee shall be entitled to only the amount of unused leave/absence due for the same illness or injury.
- e. Each employee who has received a work-related injury or illness which requires medical attention or absence from work for more than the day of the occurrence must complete a written report of injury on a form to be provided by the District. This written report must be submitted to the immediate administrator within two working days after occurrence if the employee is physically able to do so. The site administrator shall, as a result of an investigation, complete the Employer's Report of Occupational Injury or Illness, and shall attach the employee's report thereto. The employee must also report as soon as possible for examination and treatment by a physician who is on the District's Emergency Medical Panel. When the employee files the report of injury or illness, the site administrator shall notify the UTLA Chapter Chairperson of the reported injury unless the employee requests that the matter not be so disclosed. Also, if the employee reports or alleges that the injury arose out of an act of violence, the administrator shall report the incident to the School Police.
- f. If the employee was physically injured during an act or acts of violence related to and during the performance of assignment duties, then the leave of absence may be extended beyond the initial 60 day period. In order to qualify for such an extension the employee must have (1) notified the site administrator and appropriate law enforcement authorities within 24 hours of the incident if the employee was physically able to do so; (2) completed the employee's written report and reported for treatment as required in e. above; (3) reported, as soon as it becomes evident that an extension is to be requested, for a physical examination by the employee health coordinator and received approval as a result of such examination; and (4) applied in writing to the District for such an

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

extension, using a District form. Such application should be filed with the immediate administrator as soon as the employee sees the need for such an extension, so that the District has adequate time to review and process the claim prior to the effective date of the leave extension. Determination whether the injury was the result of an act of violence, and whether the act of violence was related to and during the performance of duties, shall be made in the reasonable judgment of the Office of Risk Management and Insurance Services. Determination whether the injury is disabling beyond the 60 day period shall be made in the reasonable medical judgment of the employee health coordinator. An employee may be required during the extended period to be evaluated by the employee health coordinator at any time.

g. Employees covered under Section f. shall have the right to be transferred to the next appropriate opening available in the same or adjacent geographic region.

13.1 Upon exhaustion of the above-authorized industrial injury absence benefits, the employee shall be permitted to utilize accrued illness benefits or vacation benefits, if any. If the employee continues to receive temporary disability indemnity, the employee shall be paid for any illness and vacation benefits which, when added to the temporary disability indemnity, will result in a payment of not more than full normal salary.

13.2 An employee absent under this section shall remain within the State of California unless the District authorizes the travel outside the State.

14.0 Personal Necessity Leaves or Absence (Paid): Subject to the limits set forth below, an employee shall be granted a paid personal necessity leave when the gravity of the situations described below require the personal attention of the employee during assigned hours of service:

a. Death of a close friend or relative not included in the definition of immediate family (as used in this section, the term "immediate family" shall be as defined in Section 9.0 of this Article);

b. Death of a member of the employee's immediate family, when time in excess of that provided in Section 9.0 of this Article is required;

c. Serious illness of a member of the employee's immediate family;

d. Accident involving the employee's person or property or the person or property of a member of the employee's immediate family;

e. Birth of a child of the employee, or adoption of a child by the employee (includes child of cohabitant who is the equivalent of a spouse);

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

f. Religious holiday of the employee's faith;

g. Imminent danger to the home of the employee occasioned by a disaster such as flood, fire, or earthquake;

h. Other significant event(s) of a compelling nature to the employee, the gravity of which is comparable to the above, which demands the personal attention of the employee during assigned hours and which the employee cannot reasonably be expected to disregard, limited to ~~one~~ two (1 2) occasions in any school year.

i. An appearance of the employee in court as a litigant. Each day of necessary attendance as a litigant must be certified by the clerk of the court. The employee must return to work in cases where it is not necessary to be absent the entire day.

j. An appearance of the employee in court or governmental agency as a non-litigant witness under subpoena for which salary is not allowed under Article XII, 18.3:

(1) Each day of necessary attendance as a witness must be certified by an authorized officer of the court or other governmental jurisdiction;

(2) In any case in which a witness fee is payable, such fee shall be collected by the employee and remitted to the Accounting and Disbursements Division; and

(3) The employee must return to work in cases where it is not necessary to be absent the entire day;

k. Conference or convention attendance pursuant to Section 19.0 of this Article;

l. Attendance at the classroom of the employee's own child or ward and meeting with the school administrator because of suspension as required by Section 48900.1 of the Education Code;

m. Up to four hours of paid personal necessity leave and up to thirty six (36) additional hours of accrued vacation or unpaid leave not to exceed a total of (8) hours per calendar month, forty (40) hours per school year for attendance at the school of the employee's own child, ward, or grandchild for purposes of a school activities leave provided by Section 230.8 of the Labor Code. The employee must notify the immediate administrator at least five working days prior to the absence. The administrator or designee and employee must agree on the date and time of the leave and the employee must provide written verification from the school visited, upon request of the administrator or designee.

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

14.1 The following limits and conditions are placed upon allowing a personal necessity absence:

a. Except as in I., above, and (1), below, The total number of days allowed in one school year for personal necessity absence shall not exceed six days per school year for a probationary, permanent or provisional contract employee, or subject to the restrictions specified in Article XIX, three days per school year for a day-to-day substitute employee.

(1) If personal necessity absence is taken to attend to the illness of the employee's child, parent, or spouse, up to six additional days shall be allowed in any calendar year (to total 12 maximum days - see b below) for probationary, permanent, or provisional contract employees. However, this provision does not extend the maximum period of leave to which an employee is entitled under Family Care and Medical Leave, regardless of whether or not the employee receives sick leave compensation during that leave.

b. The days allowed shall be deducted from and may not exceed the number of days of accrued full-pay illness leave to which the employee is entitled.

c. The personal necessity leave shall not be granted during a strike, demonstration or any work stoppage.

d. The employee shall be required to verify the nature of such necessity. Such statement shall be filed with the appropriate administrator no less than five working days in advance of a religious holiday, court appearance or school visitation. The immediate administrator shall take whatever steps reasonably necessary to become satisfied that a personal necessity within the limits of this section did exist.

15.0 Sabbatical Leave (Paid): A permanent employee shall be granted a sabbatical leave of absence for up to one year for the purpose of permitting study or travel by the employee which will benefit the schools and students of the District under the following conditions:

a. The allocated number of sabbatical leaves shall be: For 2004-2005, none.

b. The employee must have rendered satisfactory certificated service for at least seven consecutive years (of at least 130 full days of paid time) immediately preceding the effective date of the leave, not more than two of which may be in substitute status, unless the District in its discretion waives such requirement;

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

c. The employee must sign an agreement to study or travel according to a plan acceptable to the District;

d. The employee must agree to receive one-half of the applicable basic salary (excluding extra assignments) less appropriate deductions;

e. The employee must agree to render certificated service in permanent and paid status immediately following the leave which is equal to twice the length of the leave during a period not to exceed four times the length of the leave. An indemnity bond satisfactory to the District is required to assure such performance; and

f. The employee shall reimburse the District for the cost of the sabbatical salary and benefits in the event of non-compliance with any of the sabbatical regulations except for reason of death or physical or mental disability.

15.1 Sabbatical leave applications shall be filed by April 15, and once approved under paragraph 15.0 c. shall be considered on a priority basis; if more employees request sabbatical leaves for any school year than there are funds budgeted, the employees with the most complete semesters served in the District (or served since the last sabbatical, whichever is applicable) shall be granted the leave. If a tie develops, the employee with the lower seniority number established in accordance with Article XI, Section 6.2 shall be granted the leave. For purposes of determining priority, the second period of a split sabbatical leave shall be considered a continuation of the first period. The first round of successful applicants shall be notified by June 1. There shall be prompt notification of subsequent approvals resulting from cancellations after the first round. However, if the employee would have been selected, and, as the result of the cancellation has already begun service for the Fall semester, that employee shall not be selected but shall have a priority for the Spring semester. This priority shall not extend to the next school year.

15.2 Interruption of the program of study or travel caused by serious injury or illness shall not be considered a failure to fulfill the conditions of study or travel upon which such leave is granted, nor shall interruption affect the amount of compensation to be paid such employee under the terms of the leave agreements, provided:

a. Notification of illness is given to the Personnel Division by means of registered or certified letter; and

b. Written evidence verifying the interruption of the travel or study due to illness is filed with the assignment office. A sabbatical leave cannot be changed to an illness leave before the expiration date of the sabbatical leave.

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

15.3 Involuntary call to active military service will justify the conversion of a sabbatical leave to a military leave without jeopardy to sabbatical salary already received.

15.4 An employee who fails to complete all of the requirements of the sabbatical leave due to illness in the family or other causes beyond the employee's control may receive compensation on a prorated basis if a portion of the requirements is completed.

15.5 If a sabbatical leave is cancelled pursuant to Section 7.0 of this Article, the following terms shall be applicable:

a. The leave may be converted to personal leave effective with the beginning date of the sabbatical leave; but sabbatical rights will be forfeited for the year following the year of cancellation;

b. An employee who cancels a sabbatical leave may request a return to duty. Upon return to duty the employee may be assigned temporarily to another site at the discretion of the District, but shall retain return rights (see Section 3.0) at the end of the originally scheduled sabbatical leave; and

c. An employee may apply for an exemption from any provision of this section on grounds that an emergency exists, and the Superintendent may thereupon waive any part of this section to permit the employee to return to service in the District without loss of sabbatical rights, but any sabbatical salary received must be refunded.

16.0 Exchange Leave: An exchange leave shall be granted to a permanent employee in accordance with an agreement entered into by the employee and District under applicable provisions of the Education Code.

Applications must be filed with the Personnel Division by October 15 for leaves to be taken during the following year. Return rights to the previous work site shall be the same as for sabbatical leaves.

17.0 Personal Leave (Unpaid): An unpaid leave shall be granted to a permanent employee for a period not to exceed 52 consecutive calendar weeks, except as provided below, for a specific personal reason satisfactory to the District, including but not limited to the following:

a. To be with a member of the immediate family who is ill (see Section 9 of this Article for the definition of the immediate family);

b. To accept an opportunity of a superior character which will result in the employee rendering more effective service on return to the District;

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

- c. To rest, subject to the approval of the employee health coordinator;
- d. To accompany spouse, or a cohabitant who is the equivalent of a spouse, when change of residence is required;
- e. To pursue a program of study in residence in an approved institution of higher learning or under a fellowship foundation approved by the State Board of Education;
- f. To serve as a State Legislator--such leave shall be renewed annually during tenure of office, the above limitation notwithstanding;
- g. To serve in an elective position in the city, county, state, or federal government, other than the State Legislature. Applications may be submitted at any time but must be on file in the Personnel Office by April 15 for Fall semester and November 15 for Spring semester. Paragraphs a, c and d above are not subject to these deadlines.

18.0 Government Order Leaves (Commissions, Military, Witness, and Jury Service)

18.1 Paid leave shall be granted for service on a Commission on Professional Competence established pursuant to the Education Code.

18.2 An appropriate military leave/absence shall be granted to any qualified employee in accordance with the provisions of the Education Code and Military and Veterans Code.

A paid leave shall be granted to allow an employee to appear, in response to a subpoena duly served, when other than a litigant (a) in a case before a grand jury; (b) in a criminal case before a court within the State; or (c) in a civil case in a court within the county in which the employee resides or outside of said county if within 150 miles of place of residence. Leave may be granted for the days of attendance in court as certified by the clerk or other authorized officer of such court or grand jury or by the attorney for the litigant in the case. In any case in which witness fees are payable, such fees shall be collected by the employee and remitted to the Accounting and Disbursements Division.

18.4 The mutual intention of the District and UTLA is that jury service be encouraged, but also limited, as far as practical, to periods of time when the continuity of instruction and District operations will not be adversely affected.

- a. An employee summoned to jury service in federal or statecourt shall notify the immediate administrator of such summons.

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

b. All bases except A basis. As a condition for paid absence, the employee shall seek postponement of the jury service so that it can be performed on the employee's recess or off-track period.

- (1) Involuntary jury service commenced during the employee's recess or off-track period which inadvertently extends into the employee's assigned or on-track period shall qualify as paid absence for up to twenty working days from the start of the assignment or track.
- (2) The twenty days limit shall be subject only to such exceptions which may be agreed upon by the District and UTLA.

c. A basis. As a condition for paid absence, employees assigned on A-basis, shall seek postponement to a date mutually agreed upon with the immediate administrator if the summoned date is disruptive to the continuity of instruction or District operations.

- (1) As a further condition for paid absence, the employee shall request that the days of jury service be restricted to 10 consecutive days, whenever possible.
- (2) After request is made for service limited to ten consecutive days and, if denied, a paid absence shall be granted for up to 20 working days subject to exceptions as may be determined by the District.

d. As for federal jury service, if the court denies the request for postponement, paid absence shall be granted for the term of the service.

e. All jury fees received while on District-paid status shall be remitted to the Accounting and Disbursements Division.

19.0 Conference and Convention Attendance: A paid leave may, in the discretion of the District and upon the recommendation of the appropriate superintendent, be granted for attendance at conferences and conventions sponsored by professional instructional organizations which are recognized by the State Board of Education or approved by the appropriate administrator under all of the conditions noted below. The District shall consult with UTLA regarding these matters.

a. Attendance must lead directly to the professional growth of the employee and the improvement of the educational program of the District;

b. Unless the employee is an official representative of the organization or is participating as a workshop leader or speaker at the conference or convention, the attendance must not necessitate

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

assignment of a substitute for the employee or the payment of replacement teacher salary;

c. The attendance must not result in unnecessary duplication of participation by District personnel;

d. The attendance must not necessitate the reimbursement of any expenses by the District to the employee; and

e. A written or oral report of the conference may be requested by the appropriate administrator or superintendent.

For conference or convention attendance which meets the above standards, but is not approved for paid leave status pursuant to the above, the employee may utilize personal necessity leave under Section 14.0 of this Article.

20.0 Substitute Leave: A substitute leave may be granted to a permanent employee for a period not to exceed one year to allow service as a substitute in accordance with District need. Such an employee will be paid as specified in Article XIX. An employee on substitute leave unavailable for more than 20 working days, not necessarily consecutive, will have the substitute leave cancelled and full-time service will be required. Applications must be on file in the Personnel office by March 15 for the upcoming school year.

21.0 Half-Time Leave: A regular Half-Time Leave shall be granted to allow a permanent employee or probationary Early Education Center Teacher to continue service for half of each working day. At the elementary level, a complementary partner with permanent status is required. At the secondary level, if one is required due to the master schedule, it must be a complementary partner with permanent status, or an appropriately credentialed auxiliary teacher approved by the site administrator. In the case of non-classroom health and human services employees, the total number of approved half-time leaves shall not cause significant disruption to the operational needs of the program nor exceed a maximum of 10% 5% of the full-time equivalent positions in the classification. ~~Current Health and Human Services employees on a Half-Time Leave will be grand parented for purposes of such a leave. Exceptions to the "half of each working day" requirement, including the above-mentioned grand parented employees may be made in special circumstances but shall require written special approval of the Local District Superintendent upon recommendation of the immediate administrator. In any event, the assignment and service shall be for the equivalent of one-half of the number of hours required for full-time employment for each pay period.~~ Applications must be on file in the Human Resources office by April 15 for the fall semester and by November 15 for the spring semester.

21.1 Half-Time Assignment:

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

a. New employees may be employed full-time and work one-half time with the other one-half time covered by a half-time leave pursuant to this section.

b. In the event the half-time assignment cannot be arranged, the half-time leave will be cancelled and full-time service shall be required.

c. If the employee is unable or unwilling to accept a full time assignment in such circumstances, the employee shall submit a voluntary resignation.

d. New employees hired pursuant to this section shall receive District paid health benefits pro-rated to the hours of paid service provided the employee contributes the balance of the full cost pursuant to Article XVI, Section 3.0 c.

22.0 Reduced Workload Leave: A reduced workload leave shall be granted annually to a permanent full-time employee, serving in pre-kindergarten through grade 12, to permit the employee to reduce a regular assignment to the equivalent of one-half of the number of hours required of full-time employment, provided all the following conditions are met:

a. The employee shall submit a request annually to the Personnel Division prior to April 15 for a leave to be effective during the following school year, and the total of such annual leaves shall not exceed ten years.

b. The employee has reached age 55 prior to the school year during which the leave is effective.

c. The employee was assigned full-time in a certificated position with the District for at least 10 school years of which the immediately preceding 5 school years were consecutive, full-time employment. Time spent on approved leaves shall not constitute a break in the 5 school year sequence, but shall not count toward the service requirement.

d. An assignment and schedule satisfactory to both the employee and the District is agreed to. The continuing assignment must be either for half of each working day for the entire school year, in which case the specific assigned hours, must be agreed to by the employee and the immediate administrator, or for one complete semester of full-time service per year. Elementary teachers who wish to work half-time daily will need a complementary partner. Half-time arrangements must be mutually agreed to by the affected employees and the immediate administrator. Where no complementary partner is available, the elementary teacher will be limited to the option of full semester service. At the secondary level, a complementary partner with permanent status is required, or an appropriately credentialed auxiliary teacher approved by the site

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

administrator. In the case of non-classroom, health and human services employees, the total number of approved leaves shall not exceed the maximum of 10% of the full-time equivalent positions in the classification. If the employee is assigned on other than the "C" basis, the leave shall be the equivalent of one-half of the number of hours of service required by the employee's current assignment basis. Exceptions to the above work schedules may be made in special circumstances, but shall require written approval of the Local District superintendent or his/her their designee upon recommendation of the site administrator. In any event, the assignment shall be for the equivalent of at least one-half of the number of hours required for full-time employment; and the employee shall be placed on leave from the location in which half-time service is performed.

e. The employee agrees to have retirement contributions made based on the salary that would have been received had service been full-time for the complete school year.

f. The salary earned and paid must be at least half the salary the employee would have earned on a full-time basis. The employee will receive salary for the hours for which service is rendered.

22.1 Whether the employee is assigned for one complete semester of full-time service per year or half of each working day per year, the District shall maintain the employee's Health and Welfare benefits for eligible employees for the school year. This reduced workload leave is granted pursuant to Education Code Sections 22713 and 44922.

22.2 The period of service and leave under Section 21.0 or 22.0 may qualify for salary step advancement under Section 16.0 of Article XIV, and shall qualify for regular health/welfare benefits under Article XVI, Health and Welfare.

23.0 Disability Leave or Absence: An unpaid disability leave or absence will be granted on request to a probationary or permanent employee who has been awarded State Teachers' Retirement Disability benefits for up to 39 months from the effective date of the disability benefits, or until the effective date of service retirement, whichever is first, subject to the following conditions:

a. The leave will be granted from the effective date of the disability benefits to the end of the school year in which the disability benefits begin. The leave will be extended annually for periods not to exceed a total of 39 months from the effective date of the disability benefits, or until the effective date of service retirement, whichever is first.

b. If the disability benefits are cancelled and the employee is determined to be able to return to service during the period of the leave, the employee will be referred to the District Medical Adviser. If the return is approved by the District Medical Adviser the employee will be returned to active service. An employee not approved to return by the District

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

Medical Adviser may appeal to Medical Review Committee under 8.1 of this article.

c. A substitute or temporary employee who receives disability benefits shall be deemed unavailable for service, while receiving such benefits, for up to 39 months unless a separation from service is requested by the employee.

d. As an exception to the general rule regarding unpaid leave, employees placed on this leave shall be entitled to continued coverage under the medical, vision and dental plans of this Agreement, but not the life insurance plan in accordance with the provisions of Article XVI, Section 4.0.

24.0 Family Care and Medical Leave/California Family Rights Act (FMLA/CFRA) Absence: (The following provisions may be changed when final regulations are adopted by the California Fair Employment and Housing Commission and the United States Department of Labor.) An A paid or unpaid Family Care and Medical Leave (FMLA) and/or California Family Rights Act (CFRA) leave/Absence shall be granted, to the extent of and subject to the restrictions as set forth below, to an employee who has been employed for at least 12 months and who has served for worked at least 130 equivalent workdays during the 12 months immediately preceding the effective date of the first day of leave. For purposes of this section, furlough days, miscellaneous natural disaster (MSND) and days worked during off-basis time shall count as "workdays." The Family Care and Medical Leave/Absence may be granted for reason of the birth of a child of the employee, the placement of a child with an employee in connection with the adoption or foster care of the child by the employee, the serious health condition of a child of an employee, the employee's own serious health condition, or the care of a parent or spouse who has a serious health condition.

24.1 Reasons for Leave: An eligible employee's FMLA and/or CFRA leave/absence entitlement is limited to a total of 12 workweeks during any 12-month period measured forward for one or more of the following reasons:

- a. Birth of an employee's child. Leave must be completed prior to the child's 1st birthday.
- b. Placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care, including time to prepare for the placement, as well as bonding time after the birth or placement of the child. Bonding must be completed within one (1) year of the child being placed with the employee.
- c. To care for the employee's own serious health condition, including incapacity due to pregnancy*, childbirth*, or related medical conditions, that makes the employee unable to perform one or more essential functions of the employee's job. (*CFRA applies after employee has exhausted PDL leave. See PDL benefit in Section 10.0 above)
- d. To care for the employee's child, parent, parent-in-law**, spouse, domestic partner**, grandparent**, grandchild**, sibling**, or designated person who has a serious health condition, including

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

incapacity due to pregnancy, child birth, or related medical conditions. (** CFRA only)

e. Any qualifying exigency related to the covered active duty or call to covered active duty of the employee's spouse, child, or parent in the United States Armed Forces.

f. An eligible employee's FMLA Servicemember leave entitlement is limited to a total of 26 workweeks during any 12-month period measured forward for the following reason:

i. To care for the employee's child, parent, spouse, or next of kin who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list for a serious injury or illness while on active military duty in the Armed Forces.

24.1 24.2 Definitions: For purposes of this leave FMLA and/or CFRA, the following definitions shall apply:

a. "Child" means a :A biological, adopted or foster child; a stepchild; a legal ward; child of a domestic partner (CFRA only); grandchild (CFRA only); the child of a cohabitant who is the equivalent of a spouse; or a child of an employee standing "in loco parentis," such child being either under 18 years of age or an adult dependent who is incapable of self care due to a mental or physical disability. A biological or legal relationship is not necessary for a person to have stood "in loco parentis" to the employee as a child.

b. "Spouse" means a :A husband or wife, including same-sex or common-law marriage entered into in a State that recognizes such marriages, or cohabitant who is the equivalent of a spouse.

c. "Parent" means a :A biological, foster, or adoptive parent; parent-in-law (CFRA only), grandparent (CFRA only) or a person who stood "in loco parentis" to the employee when the employee was a child; a stepparent; or a legal guardian; and does not include a parent-in-law.

d. Family member: "child", "spouse", or "parent" as defined above.

e. Sibling (CFRA only): A person related to another person by blood, adoption, or affinity through a common legal or biological parent.

f. Designated Person (CFRA only): Any individual related by blood or whose association with the employee is the equivalent of a family relationship. Employees are limited to one (1) designated person per 12-month period. The designated person may be identified by the employee at the time the employee requests a leave for family care, medical, bereavement, and/or Kin Care.

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

g. Next of Kin (FMLA Servicemember Leave Only): Nearest blood relative other than the covered servicemember's spouse, parent, son, or daughter.

d. h. "Serious health condition" means an : An illness, injury, (including, but not limited to, on-the-job injuries and pregnancy), impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves either in-patient care in a hospital, hospice or residential health care facility, or a regimen of continuing treatment or supervision by a health care provider.

i. Incapacity: An inability to work, attend school, or perform other regular activities due to a serious health condition, treatment thereof, or recovery therefrom.

j. Inpatient care: An overnight stay in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility, including any period of incapacity as defined in this Section or any subsequent treatment in connection with inpatient care.

k. Intermittent leave: Leave taken in separate periods of time due to a serious health condition, rather than one continuous period of time.

l. Continuing treatment: In person treatment by a "health care provider" that involves one or more of the following:

(1) a period of incapacity of more than three consecutive calendar days (as well as any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition) that also involves either two or more treatments by a "health care provider", or treatment by a "health care provider" on at least one occasion that results in a regimen of continuing treatment under the supervision of a "health care provider";

(2) any period of incapacity due to pregnancy (including morning sickness);

(3) any period of incapacity or treatment for an incapacity due to a chronic health condition that requires periodic visits for treatment, which continues over an extended period of time, and may cause episodic (i.e., a period of incapacity for less than three days) rather than a continuing incapacity (such as asthma, diabetes, and migraine headaches);

(4) a period of incapacity that is long-term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective; and

(5) any period of absence to receive multiple treatments, including treatment of a condition that would likely result in a

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

period of incapacity for a period of more than three days if not treated.

e. m. "Health care provider" means a An individual holding either a physician's and surgeon's certificate or an osteopathic physician's and surgeon's certificate issued pursuant to Article 4, Chapter 5 of Division 2 of the California Business and Professions Code, who directly treats or supervises the treatment of the serious health condition, or any other individual duly licensed to practice medicine in another state or jurisdiction or by any other person determined by the Secretary of Labor to be capable of providing health care services. The definition includes podiatrists, dentists, clinical psychologists, optometrists, chiropractors (limited in scope), nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and certain Christian Science practitioners listed with the First Church of Christ, Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts.

24.2 Length of Leave: The leave, together with any renewal thereof, shall not exceed the number of days equivalent to a total of 12 normally scheduled work weeks in a twelve (12) month period measured forward from the beginning date of the employee's first Family Care and Medical Leave, effective July 1, 2007. An employee will be entitled to 12 weeks of leave during the 12-month period beginning on the first date Family Care and Medical Leave is taken; the next 12-month period would begin the first time Family Care and Medical Leave is taken after completion of any previous 12-month period. For the period of time up to, and including June 30, 2007, the leave, together with any renewal thereof, shall not exceed the number of days equivalent to a total of twelve (12) normally scheduled workweeks in a fiscal year. An employee will retain the full benefit of 12 weeks of leave under whichever calculation method (either fiscal year, or 12-month period measured forward) affords the greatest benefit to the employee during a 60-day transition period. This transition period shall be from July 1, 2007 through August 31, 2007. Leave may be taken intermittently in one or more periods. In addition, the following provisions govern the length of the leave:

24.2 24.3 Length of Leave:

a. An eligible employee's FMLA and/or CFRA leave/absence entitlement is limited to a total of 12 workweeks during any 12-month period measured forward from the beginning date of absence for any of the reasons specified in Section 24.1 above.

b. FMLA and CFRA leave/absence run concurrently when the qualifying reason(s) for both FMLA and CFRA is the same with the exception of pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions under PDL in Section 10.0 above. In such cases, CFRA may only be taken after the employee has exhausted the leave permitted under PDL.

c. FMLA Servicemember leave entitlement is limited to a total of 26 workweeks during any 12 month period measured forward.

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

24.4 Intermittent Leave:

a. An employee who takes leave for the birth, adoption or placement for foster care of a child will be allowed to take leave of at least one hour (can be less than one hour, if necessary) within one year of the birth, adoption or placement for foster care of the child.

b. An employee who takes leave for health care provider certified recurring medical treatment or supervision to care for a seriously ill family member or because of the employee's own serious health condition, will be allowed to take leave of at least one hour (can be less than one hour, if necessary).

c. Any leave an employee takes for the reasons specified in Section 24.0 above will be counted against the employee's annual leave entitlements under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and the California Family Rights Act of 1991 as amended. This leave runs concurrently with any other leave the District offers for which the employee is qualified, except that family care and medical leave granted for the birth or adoption of a child or placement of a child for foster care must be concluded within 12 months of that birth or adoption or placement for foster care.

d. Leave caused by pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions under Subdivision 10.0 of this Article is separate and apart from the provisions of Family Care and Medical Leave/Absence herein. Employees are entitled to the leave allowed under Section 10.0 and, in addition, up to the full 12 work weeks of family care leave.

24.3 24.5 Approval: Family Care and Medical Leave/Absences FMLA and/or CFRA leave/absence of 20 consecutive workdays or less can be granted by the immediate administrator. Leaves of more than 20 consecutive workdays can be granted by the District after submission of a formal leave application.

24.4 24.6 Notification and Scheduling: If the need for the Family Care and Medical Leave/Absence FMLA and/or CFRA leave/absence is foreseeable more than 30 calendar days prior to the employee's need for leave, the employee shall give at least 30 days notice. If less than 30 days, the employee must provide the immediate supervisor with as much advance notice as possible but, at the least, within one or two days of learning of the need for the leave, or as soon as practicable, whichever is earlier. These advance notice requirements shall not be applicable in the event of unforeseeable circumstances or emergencies. Whenever possible, if the need for leave is foreseeable due to a planned medical treatment or supervision, the employee must make a reasonable effort, subject to the approval of the health care provider, to schedule the treatment or supervision to avoid disruption to the operation of the District's educational program.

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

~~24.5~~ **24.7** Medical Certification - Family: For leaves/absences to care for a child, spouse or parent, as defined in ~~24.1~~ **24.2**, who has a serious health condition, the employee must submit to the immediate administrator or, if applying for a formal leave must attach to the leave application, certification from the health care provider which includes:

- (1) the date if known, on which the serious health condition commenced,
- (2) the probable duration of the condition,
- (3) an estimate of the time that the health care provider believes the employee needs to care for the individual, and
- (4) a statement that the serious health condition warrants the participation of the employee to provide care.

~~24.6~~ **24.8** Medical Certification - Employee: If the leave is for the serious health condition of the employee, the employee must submit to the immediate administrator and/or, if applying for a formal leave must attach to the leave application, certification as specified in (1) and (2) of ~~24.5~~ **24.7** above, plus a statement that, due to the serious health condition, the employee is unable to perform one or more of the essential functions of the employee's position. After such certification, the following procedures are available:

a. In the case of leave due to the serious health condition of the employee, the District reserves the right to require, at its own expense, that the employee obtain the opinion of a second or even third health care provider designated by the District but not employed on a regular basis by the District. The second health care provider, if required, shall be selected by the District. Third health care provider can be requested by the employee or the District if the second opinion differs from the first opinion.

b. The method that shall be used to choose the third health care provider is as follows: The District and UTLA shall each choose a health care provider. The two health care providers will choose the third health care provider, whose opinion shall be final and binding.

c. If additional leave beyond that provided in the certification is required, the employee must submit re-certification by the health care provider and be eligible for additional requested leave.

~~24.7~~ **24.9** Restrictions: In the event that parents who are both District employees each wish to take Family Care Leave/Absence ~~FMLA and/or CFRA leave/absence~~ for the birth, of their child, or placement for adoption, or foster care placement of a child during the same time period, the combined total amount of leave that will be granted such employees will be 12 work weeks during a fiscal year. These employees will still be eligible to take the remainder of their individual 12 week allotment for family care leave for a purpose other than the birth, placement for adoption, or foster care of a child.

~~24.8~~ **24.10** Compensation and Benefits: ~~The Family Care and Medical Leave/Absence FMLA and/or CFRA leave/absence~~ shall be an unpaid

Article XII – Leaves and Absences

leave and for all purposes treated comparably to other unpaid leaves except that the District will continue to provide the health and welfare benefits as provided in Article XVI during the ~~Family Care and Medical Leave/Absence~~ ~~FMLA and/or CFRA leave/absence~~ to an employee who is otherwise eligible for such benefits. However, an employee who does not return from such leave or who works less than 30 days after returning from the leave will be required to reimburse the District for the cost of the benefits package unless the reason the employee does not return to work is due to (1) the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a serious health condition that would entitle the employee to ~~FMLA/CFRA~~ leave/absence (either affecting the employee or an immediate family member) or (2) retirement, or (3) other circumstances beyond the control of the employee. The District, however, will not provide such health benefits for an employee for any leave period beyond twelve weeks unless these benefits are provided by other provisions of the District/UTLA Agreement such as paid illness leave. For example, if an employee combines pregnancy leave with a family care leave, the employee will only be entitled to continued health benefits for the first twelve weeks of leave unless the employee continues on paid illness leave.

An employee who asks for leave for what would be a qualifying event for ~~Family Care and Medical Leave/Absence~~ ~~FMLA and/or CFRA leave/absence~~ and who has accrued vacation leave may elect, or the immediate administrator may require, the employee to utilize the vacation leave for this purpose, in lieu of unpaid status. An employee who takes leave for the employee's own serious health condition which prevents the employee from performing one or more of the essential functions of the employee's position and who has accumulated illness days may elect, or the District may require the employee to utilize paid illness days for the leave.

~~24.9 24.10 Seniority~~: The period of the ~~Family Care and Medical Leave/Absence~~ ~~FMLA and/or CFRA leave/absence~~ shall not be considered a break in service, and the employee's seniority date shall not be affected by the time spent on leave.

~~24.10 24.11 Return Rights~~: An employee returning from a ~~Family Care and Medical Leave/Absence~~ ~~FMLA and/or CFRA leave/absence~~ shall be returned to the same or comparable position from which on leave and the same location from which the leave was taken, except that the employee may be transferred if such a transfer would have been made had the employee been on duty.