

**UNIT C
ARTICLE XIII**

LEAVES OF ABSENCE

1.0 – 7.0 – No Change

8.0 Bereavement Leave (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 ~~a member of the an employee's immediate family~~ qualified family member as defined below, and if requested provided acceptable proof of death and relationship within 30 days from the first day of bereavement leave. is provided, if requested, and the leave or absence commences within ten (10) calendar days of notification of the death. If more than one such death occurs simultaneously, the leave may be taken consecutively. If out-of-state travel or more than two-hundred (200) miles one-way travel is required, and requested, an additional two (2) days shall be granted. Employees traveling in-state less than two-hundred (200) miles one-way may elect to take an additional two (2) days of bereavement, and use personal necessity, vacation, or take the bereavement leave as unpaid. ~~The immediate family is defined as the parent, grandparent or grandchild of the employee or the employee's spouse, and the spouse, child (including foster child), brother, sister, daughter-in-law, or son-in-law of the employee, or any relative living in the immediate household of the employee.~~ A permanent employee may interrupt or terminate vacation to take bereavement leave. ~~For purposes of this Section, the immediate family as defined above shall also include a cohabitant who is the equivalent of a spouse.~~

The qualified family member is defined as the following relatives of the employee:

- a. Spouse or cohabitant who is the equivalent of a spouse, or domestic partner (per California Family Code 297-297.5);
- b. Parent (includes of spouse, of cohabitant who is the equivalent of a spouse);
- c. Grandparent (includes of spouse, of cohabitant who is the equivalent of a spouse);
- d. Child (includes son/daughter-in-law, step and foster child);
- e. Grandchild (includes of spouse, of cohabitant who is the equivalent of a spouse);
- f. Brother;
- g. Sister;
- h. Any relative living in the immediate household of the employee; and
- i. 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)

9.0 – 12.3 – No Change

13.0 Personal Necessity Leave (Paid): An employee shall, subject to the limits set forth below, be granted a paid personal necessity leave when the gravity of the situations described below require the personal attention of the employee during assigned

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hours of service:

- a. Death or serious illness of a member of the employee's immediate family. The immediate family is defined as a parent, grand-parent or grandchild of the employee or the employee's spouse, and the spouse, child (including foster child), brother, sister, daughter-in-law, or son-in-law of the employee, or any relative living in the immediate household of the employee;
- b. Accident involving the employee's person or property or the person or property of a member of the employee's immediate family;
- c. Birth of the employee's child;
- d. Religious holiday of the employee's faith;
- e. Imminent danger to the home of an employee occasioned by a disaster such as flood, fire, or earthquake;
- f. Other significant event 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 (1)~~ two (2) occasion in any school year.
- g. Verifiable automobile failure including flat tires up to two (2) hours if the employee's automobile is required to be used for work purposes on that day;
- h. An appearance of the employee in court as a litigant or as a witness under an official governmental order for which salary is not otherwise permitted, provided that:
 1. Each day of necessary attendance as a litigant or as a witness under such an official governmental order must be certified by the clerk or other authorized officer of a 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 for him to be absent the entire day;
- i. One (1) of the six (6) days allowed under Personal Necessity Leave may be taken for registration or final examinations in District-recognized institutions of higher learning. Verification of the registration or examination schedule may be required by the appropriate administrator.

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j. Required attendance at the employee's child's or ward's classroom and meeting with the school administrator because of suspension pursuant to Education Code Section 48900.1.

k. Up to one (1) day of paid personal necessity leave and additional hours of accrued vacation or unpaid leave not to exceed a total of eight (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 or designee at least five (5) working days prior to the absence. This advance notice requirement shall not be applicable in the event of unforeseeable circumstances or emergencies, in which case the employee shall provide as much notice as reasonably possible. 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.

l. An employee shall be allowed up to six (6) additional days of personal necessity leave in any calendar year to attend to the illness of a child, parent, spouse, domestic partner, or child of a domestic partner of the employee as provided by Section 233 of the Labor Code. All existing contractual conditions for use of illness leave shall apply to this leave as well.

Use of illness leave as provided above shall not extend the maximum period of leave to which an employee is entitled under ~~Article XIII, Section 21.0~~, Family Care and Medical Leave (FMLA).

m. On a maximum of two (2) occasions during a school year (up to a cumulative total of eight (8) hours in a school year), to attend the funeral of a close friend or relative not included in the definition of immediate family (immediate family as defined in Section 8.0 of this Article).

13.1 – 17.0 – No Change

18.0 Conference and Convention Attendance Leave (Paid): A paid leave may, in the discretion of the District and upon the recommendation of the appropriate division head, be granted ~~annually~~ for attendance at conferences and conventions ~~sponsored by the Union~~ under all of the conditions noted below:

a. The attendance leads directly to the professional growth of the employee and the improvement of the work program of the employing division;

b. The attendance does not result in unnecessary duplication of participation by District personnel; and

c. The attendance does not necessitate the reimbursement of any

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expenses by the District to the employee.

A written or oral report of the conference may be requested by the appropriate administrator. For conferences or conventions which are not permitted pursuant to the above, the District may authorize the employee to utilize personal necessity leave under Section 13.0 of this Article.

19.0 – 20.5 – No Change

~~21.0 Family Care and Medical Leave/California Family Rights Act: A leave shall be granted to employees under the provisions of the most current Family Care and Medical Leave/California Family Rights Act Policy bulletin. An unpaid Family Care and Medical Leave 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 twelve (12) months and who has served for 130 workdays during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding the effective date of the leave. For purposes of this Section, furlough days and days worked during off-basis time shall count as "workdays". Family Care and Medical Leave absences of twenty (20) consecutive working days or less can be granted by the immediate administrator or designee. Leaves of twenty (20) or more consecutive working days can be granted only by submission of a formal leave application to the Personnel Commission.~~

~~21.1 Definitions: For purposes of Family Care and Medical Leave, the following definitions shall apply: (1)"Child" means a biological, adopted or foster child; a stepchild; a legal ward; or a child of an employee standing "in loco parentis," such child being either under eighteen (18) years of age or an adult dependent who is incapable of self care due to a mental or physical disability. (2)"Spouse" means a husband or wife of an employee; (3)"Parent" means a biological, foster, or adoptive parent; 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. (4)"Family member" means "child", "spouse", or "parent" as defined above. (5) "Serious health condition" means an illness, injury, impairment, or other condition that involves either "in-patient care" or "continuing treatment". (6) "Inpatient care" means a stay in a hospital or other medical facility and includes any subsequent treatment in connection with inpatient care. (7)"Continuing treatment" means treatment by a "health care provider" that involves one or more of the following: (a) a period of incapacity of more than three (3) consecutive calendar days (as well as any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition) that also involves either two (2) 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"; (b) any period of incapacity due to pregnancy (including morning sickness); (c) 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 (3) days) rather than a continuing incapacity (such as asthma, diabetes, and migraine headaches); (d) a period of incapacity that is long-term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective; and (e) any period of absence to receive multiple treatments, including treatment of a condition that would likely result in a period of~~

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incapacity for a period of more than three (3) days if not treated. (8) "Health care provider" means 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 of Chapter 5 of Division 2 of the California Business and Professions Code, or any other individual duly licensed to practice medicine in another state or jurisdiction who directly treats or supervises the treatment of the serious health condition, 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.

21.2 — Reasons for Leave: Family Care and Medical Leave may be granted 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. If the leave is taken for any of these reasons, the leave must be concluded within twelve (12) months of the birth, the adoption, or the foster care placement of the child. In addition, leave may be granted because of the serious health condition of a child of the employee, the employee's own serious health condition, or the care of a parent or spouse who has a serious health condition.

21.3 — 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 workweeks in a twelve (12) month period measured forward from the beginning date of the employee's first Family Care and Medical Leave. 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. Any leave an employee takes for the reasons specified in Section 21.2 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. Leave caused by pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions under Section 9.0 of this Article is separate and apart from the provisions of Family Care and Medical Leave herein. Employees are entitled to the leave allowed under Section 9.0 and, in addition, up to the full twelve (12) weeks of Family Care and Medical Leave. However, leave taken on account of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition will be counted against the employee's annual leave entitlement under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993.

21.4 — Intermittent Leave: The leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced work schedule. If the leave is taken for reason of the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child of the employee, the basic minimum duration of the leave shall be two (2) weeks; however, the District shall grant the employee leave of less than two (2) weeks' duration on (2) two occasions. If the leave is taken for a serious health condition of the employee or of the employee's family member, leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced schedule when medically necessary, as determined by the health care provider of the person with the serious health condition. An employee may take such leave for as short a time as (1) one hour (can be less than one hour, if necessary). If an employee does take

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~~intermittent or a reduced-schedule leave that is foreseeable based on a planned medical treatment of the employee or the employee's family member or for the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child, the District has the right to transfer temporarily the employee to an available alternative position for which the employee is qualified and which better accommodates the recurring periods of leave during the duration of the intermittent or reduced-scheduled leave. The alternative position must have equivalent pay and benefits but does not have to have equivalent duties. The alternative position may include the altering of the employee's current job. The District may also transfer the employee to a part-time job with the same hourly rate of pay and benefits. Upon the conclusion of the intermittent or reduced-schedule leave, the District will place the employee in the same or equivalent job the employee had when the leave started.~~

~~21.5 — Notification: If the need for the Family Care and Medical Leave is foreseeable more than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the employee's need for leave, the employee shall give at least thirty (30) days notice. If less than thirty (30) days, the employee must provide the immediate supervisor with as much advance notice as possible but, at the least, within two (2) business days of learning of the need for the leave. 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, good faith effort, subject to the approval of the employee's or family member's health care provider, to schedule the treatment or supervision to avoid disruption to the District's operations. In giving notice, the employee must include the qualifying event for which the leave is needed, e.g., birth of a child, serious health condition of parent, etc.~~

~~21.6 — Medical Certification: For leaves to care for a child, spouse or parent 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, medical 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. 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, medical certification as specified in (1) and (2), above, plus a statement that, due to the serious health condition, the employee is unable to work at all or is unable to perform one or more of the essential functions of the employee's position. Medical certification must be submitted no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the leave request has been made. If the deadline by which the employee is to submit the medical certification is after the leave has started, the employee will be considered to have taken Family Care and Medical Leave pending the District's receipt of the proper certification. However, if the employee fails to provide proper certification, the employee will be treated as if he or she did not qualify for, and thus never took, Family Care and Medical Leave, will be treated as if he or she sought a leave of absence under another provision of this Agreement, and will not be given the protections set forth in this Article.~~

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~~In the case of leave due to a 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. The third health care provider, if necessary, shall be jointly approved by the District and the employee and this provider's opinion shall be binding. If the employee's leave has already begun during this medical review process, the employee will be considered to have taken Family Care and Medical Leave, pending the result of the examinations by the second and, if necessary, third health care provider.~~

~~If additional leave beyond that provided in the certification is required, the employee must submit a new certification by the relevant health care provider.~~

~~21.7 — Restrictions: In the event that parents who are both District employees each wish to take Family Care and Medical Leave for the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of their child, the combined total amount of leave that will be granted such employees will be twelve (12) workweeks during a 12-month period, as defined in Section 21.3 above. These employees will still be eligible to take the remainder of their individual twelve (12) workweek allotment for Family Care and Medical Leave for a purpose other than the birth, adoption or foster care placement of a child.~~

~~21.8 — Compensation: The Family Care and Medical Leave shall be an unpaid leave. An employee who takes Family Care and Medical Leave and who has accrued vacation may elect, or the District may require, the employee to utilize vacation for this purpose, in lieu of unpaid status. An employee who takes leave for the employee's own serious health condition may elect, or the District may require, the employee to utilize accrued illness days for the leave. During the leave, the District will continue to provide the health benefits package, and maintain the District contribution obligation pursuant to Article XV, Health and Welfare, during the Family Care and Medical Leave (except as provided below) to an employee who is otherwise eligible for health benefits. However, an employee who does not return from such leave, or who works less than thirty (30) days after returning from the leave (unless the employee retires within thirty (30) days after returning from leave) will be required to reimburse the District for the District's cost of providing the health benefits package. The District, however, will not provide such health benefits for an employee for any leave period beyond twelve workweeks. Accordingly, if an employee combines pregnancy leave with a Family Care and Medical Leave, the employee will only be entitled to continued health benefits for the first twelve (12) workweeks of leave. Thereafter, the District will provide the employee with health benefits to the same extent and under the same conditions as it provides to employees on other, similar leaves of absence.~~

~~21.9 — Seniority: Accrual of seniority credit for the period of Family Care Leave shall be in accordance with Personnel Commission Rule 740.~~

~~21.10 — Certification to Return to Work: The provisions of Section 11.6 and 11.7 shall apply to employees returning to work from a Family Care and Medical Leave~~

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~~(absence) due to the employee's own serious health condition.~~

~~21.11 Early Return From Leave: If the amount of leave needed is actually less than initially requested, the employee must notify the District of such an occurrence. Once the employee provides such notification, the District must reinstate the employee to the same or equivalent position within two (2) days.~~

~~22.0 Charter School Leave (Unpaid): An employee shall, subject to the limits set forth below, be granted an unpaid leave to serve in an assignment at a Board of Education approved Charter School:~~

~~a. — The leave shall be for a minimum of one (1) year. The leave shall be extended upon request of the employee; however, the total period of leave shall not exceed the duration of the initial charter;~~

~~b. — For an employee not assigned to a school or program that is being converted to a Charter School, the leave shall commence at the beginning of the next school year (July 1); exceptions may be provided in the sole discretion of the District;~~

~~c. — Salary and benefits received by the employee during the period of leave shall not be the responsibility of the District, but shall be established and provided by the Charter School in accordance with the Charter School petition approved by the Board of Education;~~

~~d. — Return from leave to District service shall be in accordance with the provisions contained in this Article unless the employee has been laid off by the District;~~

~~e. — Upon return to District service from a Charter School leave, no employee shall receive more favorable treatment than employees in the same classification who remained with the District;~~

~~f. — Employees separated involuntarily from their Charter School assignment may be subject to administrative or disciplinary action by the District for conduct which occurred at the Charter School in the same manner as if the conduct had occurred while the employee was actively employed by the District.~~