

Fall River Joint Unified School District

Regulation 4161.2, 4261.2, 4361.2

Personnel

Personal Leaves

The following regulation is subject to collective bargaining agreements.

For the purpose of any personal leave offered pursuant to state law, a registered domestic partner shall have the same rights, protections, and benefits as a spouse and protections provided to a spouse's child shall also apply to a child of a registered domestic partner. (Family Code 297.5)

Whenever possible, employees shall request personal leaves in advance and prepare suitable lesson plans or instructions for a substitute employee.

Bereavement

Employees are entitled to a leave of up to three days, or five days if out-of-state travel is required, upon the death of any member of the employee's immediate family. No deduction shall be made from the employee's salary, nor shall such leave be deducted from any other leave to which the employee is entitled. (Education Code 44985, 45194)

At the employee's request, bereavement leave may be extended under personal necessity leave provisions. (Education Code 44981, 45207)

Personal Necessity

Employees may use a maximum of seven days of accumulated personal illness/injury leave (sick leave) for reasons of personal necessity pursuant to Education Code 44981 (certificated employees) and 45207 (classified employees). Pursuant to Education Code 44981, a higher maximum may be set for certificated employees if specified in a collective bargaining agreement. Education Code 45207 similarly allows a higher maximum to be set for classified employees if specified in a collective bargaining agreement or, if there is no exclusive representative, in a Board resolution.

Acceptable reasons for the use of personal necessity leave include:

1. Death of a member of the employee's immediate family when the number of days of absence exceeds the limits set by bereavement leave provisions (Education Code 44981, 45207)
2. An accident involving the employee's person or property or the person or property of a member of the employee's immediate family (Education Code 44981, 45207)

3. A serious illness of a member of the certificated employee's immediate family (Education Code 44981)

4. A classified employee's appearance in any court or before any administrative tribunal as a litigant, party or witness under subpoena or other order (Education Code 45207)

Advance permission shall not be required of any employee in cases involving the death of a member of the employee's immediate family or an accident involving the employee's person or property or the person or property of a member of his/her immediate family. For certificated employees, advance permission also shall not be required in cases involving the serious illness of a member of the employee's immediate family. (Education Code 44981, 45207)

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

Legal Duties

Classified employees called for jury duty shall be granted leave with pay up to the amount of the difference between the employee's regular earnings and any amount received for jury or witness fees. (Education Code 44037)

An employee may take time off work in order to: (Labor Code 230)

1. Serve on an inquest jury or trial jury
2. Comply with a subpoena or other court order to appear as a witness

Notices, summons and subpoenas for court appearances shall be submitted to the district office when requesting leave.

Leaves for Crime Victims

An employee may be absent from work in order to attend judicial proceedings related to a crime when he/she is a victim, immediate family member of a victim, registered domestic partner of a victim, or child of a registered domestic partner of a victim of the following crimes: (Labor Code 230.2)

1. A violent felony as defined in Penal Code 667.5(c)
2. A serious felony as defined in Penal Code 1192.7(c)
3. A felony provision of law proscribing theft or embezzlement

Pursuant to Labor Code 230.2, employees may use any of the types of leave listed in the following paragraph, unless otherwise provided by a collective bargaining agreement, although a collective bargaining agreement cannot diminish the entitlement of any employee.

Prior to taking time off, an employee shall give his/her supervisor a copy of the notice of each scheduled proceeding that is provided by the responsible agency, unless advance notice is not feasible. When advance notice is not feasible or an unscheduled absence occurs, the employee shall, within a reasonable time after the absence, provide documentation evidencing the judicial proceeding from the court or government agency setting the hearing, the district attorney or prosecuting attorney's office, or the victim/witness office that is advocating on behalf of the victim. (Labor Code 230.2)

The district shall keep confidential any records pertaining to the employee's absence from work. (Labor Code 230.2)

Leaves for Victims of Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault

An employee who is a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault as defined by law may take time off work to obtain or attempt to obtain any relief, including but not limited to a temporary restraining order, restraining order or other injunctive relief to help ensure the health, safety or welfare of the employee or his/her child. (Labor Code 230)

In addition, an employee who is a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault may take time off work to attend to the following activities: (Labor Code 230.1)

1. Seek medical attention for injuries caused by domestic violence or sexual assault
2. Obtain services from a domestic violence shelter, program, or rape crisis center as a result of domestic violence or sexual assault
3. Obtain psychological counseling related to an experience of domestic violence or sexual assault
4. Participate in safety planning and take other actions to increase safety from future domestic violence or sexual assault, including temporary or permanent relocation

An employee who is a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault may use vacation, personal leave or compensatory time off that is otherwise available to the employee under the applicable terms of employment. (Labor Code 230, 230.1)

Prior to taking time off, an employee shall give reasonable notice to his/her supervisor, unless advance notice is not feasible. When an unscheduled absence occurs, the employee shall provide, within a reasonable time, certification of the absence in the form of any of the following documents: (Labor Code 230, 230.1)

1. A police report indicating that the employee was a victim of domestic violence or sexual assault

2. A court order protecting or separating the employee from the perpetrator of an act of domestic violence or sexual assault, or other evidence from the court or prosecuting attorney that the employee has appeared in court
3. Documentation from a medical professional, domestic violence advocate or advocate for victims of sexual assault, health care provider or counselor that the employee was undergoing treatment for physical or mental injuries or abuse resulting from an act of domestic violence or sexual assault

The district shall maintain the confidentiality of such an employee to the extent authorized by law. (Labor Code 230, 230.1)

Personal Leave for a Child's School Activities

Any employee who is a parent/guardian or grandparent having custody of one or more children who are enrolled in grades K-12, or who attend a licensed day care facility, may use up to 40 hours of personal leave, vacation or compensatory time off each school year in order to participate in school or day care activities. Such leave shall not exceed eight hours in any month of the year, and the employee shall give reasonable advance notice of the absence. (Labor Code 230.8)

If both parents of a child are employed at the same work site, this leave shall be allowed for the first parent who applies; simultaneous absence by the second parent may be granted by the Superintendent or designee. (Labor Code 230.8)

Upon request by the Superintendent or designee, the employee shall provide documentation from the school or licensed day care facility that he/she participated in school or licensed day care facility activities on a specific date and at a particular time. (Labor Code 230.8)

Service on Education Boards, Committees and State or Employee Organizations

Employees shall be granted up to 20 school days of paid leave per school year for service performed within the state on any education boards, commissions, committees or groups authorized by Education Code 44987.3 or statute, provided that all of the following conditions are met: (Education Code 44987.3)

1. The service is in the state of California.
2. The board, commission, organization or group informs the district in writing of the service.
3. The board, commission, organization or group agrees, prior to service, to reimburse the district, upon the district's request, for compensation paid to the employee's substitute and for actual related administrative costs.

Employees may take a leave of absence without loss of compensation to serve as an elected officer of a district employee organization or any statewide or national employee organization

with which the local organization is affiliated. The leave shall include, but is not limited to, absence for purposes of attending periodic, stated, special or regular meetings of the body of the organization. (Education Code 44987, 45210)

Leave for Emergency Duty

An employee may take time off to perform emergency duty as a volunteer firefighter, a reserve peace officer, or emergency rescue personnel. (Labor Code 230.3)

An employee who is a volunteer firefighter shall be permitted to take temporary leaves of absence, not to exceed an aggregate total of 14 days per calendar year, for the purpose of engaging in fire or law enforcement training. (Labor Code 230.4)

Spouse on Leave from Military Deployment

An employee who works an average of 20 hours or more per week and whose spouse is a member of the United States Armed Forces, National Guard, or reserves may take up to 10 days of unpaid leave during a period that his/her spouse is on leave from deployment during a military conflict, as defined in Military and Veterans Code 395.10. (Military and Veterans Code 395.10)

The employee shall provide the Superintendent or designee with notice, within two business days of receiving official notice that his/her spouse will be on leave from deployment, of his/her intention to take the leave. The employee shall submit written documentation certifying that his/her spouse will be on leave from deployment during the time that the leave is requested. (Military and Veterans Code 395.10)

Civil Air Patrol Leave

An employee may take up to 10 days of unpaid leave per calendar year, beyond any leave otherwise available to employees, to respond to an emergency operational mission of the California Civil Air Patrol, provided that the employee has been employed by the district for at least a 90-day period immediately preceding the leave. Such leaves shall not exceed three days for a single emergency operational mission, unless an extension is granted by the governmental entity authorizing the mission and is approved by the Superintendent or designee. (Labor Code 1501, 1503)

The employee shall give the district as much advance notice as possible of the intended dates of the leave. The Superintendent or designee may require certification from the proper Civil Air Patrol authority to verify the eligibility of the employee for the leave and may deny the leave if the employee fails to provide the required certification. (Labor Code 1503)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

44036-44037 Leaves of absence for judicial and official appearances

44963 Power to grant leaves of absence (certificated)

44981 Leave of absence for personal necessity (certificated)
44985 Leave of absence due to death in immediate family (certificated)
44987 Service as officer of employee organization (certificated)
44987.3 Leave of absence to serve on certain boards, commissions, etc.
45190 Leaves of absence and vacations (classified)
45194 Bereavement leave of absence (classified)
45198 Effect of provisions authorizing leaves of absence
45207 Personal necessity (classified)
45210 Service as officer of employee organization (classified)
45240-45320 Merit system, classified employees
FAMILY CODE
297-297.5 Registered domestic partner rights, protections, and benefits
GOVERNMENT CODE
3543.1 Release time for representatives of employee organizations
LABOR CODE
230-230.2 Leave for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or specified felonies
230.3 Leave for emergency personnel
230.4 Leave for volunteer firefighters
230.8 Leave to visit child's school
233 Illness of child, parent, spouse, domestic partner or domestic partner's child
234 Absence control policy
1500-1507 Civil Air Patrol leave
MILITARY AND VETERANS CODE
395.10 Leave when spouse on leave from military deployment
PENAL CODE
667.5 Violent felony, defined
1192.7 Serious felony, defined
CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION
Article 1, Section 8 Religious discrimination
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29
2612 Family and Medical Leave Act, leave requirements
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42
2000d-2000d-7 Title VII, Civil Rights Act of 1964
COURT DECISIONS
Rankin v. Commission on Professional Competence, (1988) 24 Cal.3d 167
Management Resources:
WEB SITES
California Federation of Teachers: <http://www.cft.org>
California School Employees Association: <http://www.csea.com>
California Teachers Association: <http://www.cta.org>
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