

Conditions for Use of Leave

Certified staff may use sick leave for those instances listed in the current collective bargaining agreement. Classified staff may use sick leave for illness; injury; medical disability; maternity-related disability, including prenatal care, birth, miscarriage, abortion; quarantine resulting from exposure to contagious disease; medical, dental, or eye examination or treatment; necessary care of or attendance to an immediate family member or, at the district's discretion, another relative for the above reasons until other attendants can reasonably be obtained, and death or funeral attendance for an immediate family member. Leave without pay may be granted to employees upon the death of persons not included on this list.

Accrual and Use of Sick Leave Credits

Certified employees shall accrue and may use their sick leave credits according to the current collective bargaining agreement.

Classified employees serving in positions that are permanent full-time, seasonal full-time, or permanent part-time are eligible to earn sick leave credits. Sick leave credits accrue from the first day of employment. A classified employee must be continuously employed for the qualifying period of 90 calendar days in order to use sick leave. Sick leave may not be advanced nor may leave be taken retroactively. Unless there is a break in service, an employee only serves the qualifying period once. After a break in service, an employee must again complete the qualifying period to use sick leave. A seasonal classified employee's accrued sick leave credits may be carried over to the next season, if management has a continuing need for the employee or, alternatively, may be paid out as a lump sum to the employee when the season ends, in accordance with ARM 2.21.141.

Persons, whether classified or certified, simultaneously employed in two or more positions, will accrue sick leave credits in each position according to the number of hours or the proration of the contract (in the case of certified) worked. Leave credits will be used only from the position in which the credits are earned and with the approval of the supervisor or appropriate authority for that position. Hours in a pay status paid at the regular rate will be used to calculate leave accrual. Sick leave credits will not accrue for those hours exceeding 40 hours in a work week that are paid as overtime hours or are recorded as compensatory time hours. A full-time employee shall not earn less than or more than the full-time sick leave accrual rate provided classified employees.

When an employee who has not worked the qualifying period for use of sick leave takes an approved continuous leave of absence without pay exceeding 15 working days, the amount of time on leave of absence will not count toward completion of the qualifying period. The approved leave of absence exceeding 15 working days is not a break in service and the employee will not lose any accrued sick leave credits or lose credit for time earned toward the qualifying period. An approved continuous leave of absence without pay of 15 working days or less will be counted as time earned toward the 90-day qualifying period.

### Calculation of Sick Leave Credits

Certified employees shall earn sick leave credits at the rate stated in the current collective bargaining agreement.

Full-time classified employees shall earn sick leave credits at the rate of 12 working days for each year of service. Sick leave credits shall be prorated for part-time employees who have worked the qualifying period. The payroll office will refine this data by keeping records per hour worked.

### Sick Leave Banks

A sick leave bank, administered by the District, is available to certified employees covered by the contract. Donation and use of sick leave credits to the sick leave bank are governed by the terms of the current collective bargaining agreement.

The classified staff sick leave bank is administered by the District. It is available to all classified employees. Donation and use of sick leave credits to the sick leave bank are governed by the written administrative procedures of the Business Office. Individual participation is voluntary.

### Lump Sum Payment Upon Termination for Classified Employees

When a classified employee terminates from the District, the employee is entitled to cash compensation for unused sick leave credit equal to one-fourth of the compensation the employee would have received if the employee had used the credits, provided the employee has worked the qualifying period. The value of unused sick leave is computed based on the employee's salary rate at the time of termination.

### Industrial Accident

An employee who is injured in an industrial accident may be eligible for Worker's Compensation benefits. Use of sick leave must be coordinated with receipt of Worker's Compensation benefits on a case-by-case basis by contacting the Montana Schools Group Workers' Compensation Risk Retention Program (WCRRP).

### Sick Leave Substituted for Annual Leave

A classified employee who qualifies for use of sick leave while taking approved annual vacation leave, may be allowed to substitute accrued sick leave credits for annual leave credits. Medical certification of the illness or disability may be required.

### Procedure History:

Adopted: June 1999

Revised: