

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

The Board of Education recognizes that classified personnel provide essential services that support and enhance the district's educational program. The Board shall fill each of its classified positions with qualified persons, consistent with position requirements.

(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)

(cf. 4211 - Recruitment and Selection)

The Board shall classify all employees and positions not requiring certification qualifications as the classified service, except for those employees and positions specifically exempt from classified service. (Education Code 45103)

Individuals who possess certification qualifications shall not be prohibited from being employed in a classified position. (Education Code 45104)

(cf. 4211 - Recruitment and Selection)

(cf. 4212 - Appointment and Conditions of Employment)

Each classified position shall have a designated title and regular minimum number of assigned hours per day, days per week, and months per year.

Classified employees shall be assigned by their immediate supervisors with the approval of the Superintendent or designee. They shall be required to perform those duties prescribed by the Board for the position the employee holds, in accordance with applicable job descriptions and collective bargaining agreements.

(cf. 4141/4241 - Collective Bargaining Agreement)

Each classified employee shall be held accountable for duties assigned to him/her and shall undergo regular performance evaluations in accordance with collective bargaining agreements.

(cf. 4215 - Evaluation/Supervision)

Substitute and Short-Term Employees

The district may employ a substitute employee to replace a classified employee who is temporarily absent from duty. (Education Code 45103)

If the district is in the process of hiring a permanent employee to fill a classified position, the Board may fill the vacancy with one or more substitute employees for no more than 60 calendar days, unless the applicable collective bargaining agreement provides for a different period of time. (Education Code 45103)

The district may employ a short-term employee to perform a service for the district when that service or similar services will not be extended or needed on a continuing basis. Before employing a short-term employee, the Board, at a regularly scheduled meeting, shall specify

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL (continued)

the service required to be performed by the employee and shall certify the ending date of the service. The Board may shorten or extend the ending date, but the date shall not be extended beyond 195 work days per year, including holidays, sick leave, vacation, and other leaves of absence, irrespective of the number of hours worked per day. (Education Code 45103)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

45100-45139 *Employment of classified staff*

45160-45169 *Salaries and differential compensation*

45190-45210 *Resignation and leaves of absence*

45220-45320 *Merit system*

49406 *Examination for tuberculosis*

51760-51769.5 *Work experience education*

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

California School Employees Association: <http://www.csea.com>

CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL

Exemption from Classified Service

Persons hired solely for purposes which are exempted from the classified service shall nevertheless fulfill the obligations of classified employees related to physical examinations pursuant to Education Code 45122, fingerprinting pursuant to Education Code 45125, and tuberculosis tests pursuant to Education Code 49406. (Education Code 45106)

(cf. 4112.4/4212.4/4312.4 - Health Examinations)

(cf. 4112.5/4212.5/4312.5 - Criminal Record Check)

(cf. 4212 - Appointment and Conditions of Employment)

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

Districts Not Incorporating the Merit System

Individuals hired solely for the following purposes shall not be part of the classified service: (Education Code 45103)

1. Substitute or short-term employees who are employed and paid for fewer than 195 work days per year, including holidays, sick leave, vacation, and other leaves of absences, irrespective of the number of hours worked per day
2. Apprentices and professional experts employed on a temporary basis for a specific project regardless of length of employment
3. Full-time students employed part time
4. Part-time students employed part time in any college work study program, or in a work experience education program conducted by a community college district pursuant to Education Code 51760-51769.5 that is financed by state or federal funds

APPOINTMENT AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board of Education shall approve the appointment of all classified employees. The position and the pay rate shall be reported to the Board at a regular meeting.

Individuals appointed to the classified staff shall, at a minimum:

1. Submit to fingerprinting as required by law (Education Code 45125)
2. Not have been convicted of a violent or serious felony (Education Code 45122.1)
(cf. 4112.5/4212.5/4312.5 - Criminal Record Check)
3. Not have been convicted of any sex offense as defined in Education Code 44010 (Education Code 45123)
(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)
4. Not have been determined to be a sexual psychopath pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code 6300-6332 (Education Code 45124)
5. If the individual will be working directly and in an unaccompanied setting with minor children on a more than incidental and occasional basis or will have supervision or disciplinary power over minor children, not be required to register as a sex offender pursuant to Penal Code 290 because of a conviction for a crime where the victim was a minor under the age of 16 (Penal Code 290.95)
(cf. 3515.5 - Sex Offender Notification)
6. Not have been convicted of any controlled substance offense as defined in Education Code 44011 (Education Code 45123)
7. Submit to a physical examination or provide proof thereof as required by law and Board policy (Education Code 45122, 49406)
(cf. 4112.4/4212.4/4312.4 - Health Examinations)
8. File the oath or affirmation of allegiance required by Government Code 3100-3109
(cf. 4112.3/4212.3/4312.3 - Oath or Affirmation)
9. Submit to drug and alcohol testing as required by Board policy
(cf. 4112.41/4212.41/4312.41 - Employee Drug Testing)

APPOINTMENT AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT (continued)

10. Fulfill any other requirements as specified by law, collective bargaining agreement, Board policy or administrative regulation

(cf. 4112.8/4212.8/4312.8 - Employment of Relatives)

Notification of Classification and Compensation

When first employed and upon each subsequent change in classification, classified employees other than short-term, limited-term or provisional employees shall be given two copies of their class specification, salary data, assignment or work location, duty hours and prescribed work week. Salary data shall specify pay period (monthly, semimonthly or other) and applicable rates of compensation (daily, hourly, overtime and differential rates). Employees shall keep one copy of this information and shall sign and date the other copy and return it to their supervisor. (Education Code 45169)

(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notifications)

(cf. 4151/4251/4351 - Employee Compensation)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

APPOINTMENT AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35161 Powers and duties

44010 Sex offense - definitions

44011 Controlled substance offense - definitions

44066 Limitation on certification requirements

45103 Classified service in districts not incorporating the merit system

45104 Positions not requiring certification qualifications

45105 Positions under various acts not requiring certification qualifications

45108 Restricted positions

45113 Rules and regulations for classified service in districts not incorporating the merit system

45122 Physical examinations

45122.1 Classified employees, conviction of a violent or serious felony

45123 Employment after conviction of sex offense or controlled substance offense

45125 Use of personal identification cards to ascertain conviction of crime

45169 Employee salary data

49406 Examination for tuberculosis

GOVERNMENT CODE

3100-3109 Oaths or affirmations

12940-12950 Unlawful employment practices

PENAL CODE

290 Registration of sex offenders

290.95 Disclosure by person required to register as sex offenders

667.5 Prior prison terms, enhancement of prison terms

1192.7 Plea bargaining limitation

1203.4 Discharged petitioner, change of plea

WELFARE AND INSTITUTIONS CODE

6300-6332 Sexual psychopaths

EVALUATION/SUPERVISION

The Board of Education recognizes that appropriate supervision and regular, comprehensive evaluations can help employees to continually improve in the performance of their responsibilities. Evaluations shall be made in accordance with procedures specified in negotiated contracts and based on job-specific standards of performance.

(cf. 4141/4241 - Collective Bargaining Agreement)

The Board expects supervisors to gauge employees' on-the-job effectiveness and skills in a fair, objective, and consistent manner. Evaluations shall address the competence and care with which the employee executes his/her assigned responsibilities. As appropriate, evaluations also may address the extent to which the employee works cooperatively with others and observes school or district rules and regulations.

(cf. 4119.21/4219.21/4319.21 - Professional Standards)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that evaluation ratings have uniform meaning throughout the district.

Evaluations shall be used to recognize the exemplary skills and accomplishments of staff and to identify areas needing improvement. When the evaluation indicates areas needing improvement, the Board expects employees to accept responsibility and take initiative to improve their performance. The Superintendent or designee shall assist employees in obtaining needed job skills.

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

The evaluation shall be dated and signed by both the employee and the supervisor.

(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Files)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that classified employees have access to rules and procedures related to performance evaluations.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

EVALUATION/SUPERVISION (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

45113 Rules and regulations for the classified service in districts not incorporating the merit system

45261 Subjects of rules (merit system districts)

45262 Distribution of rules

GOVERNMENT CODE

3543.2 Scope of representation

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California School Employees Association: <http://www.csea.com>

PROBATIONARY/PERMANENT STATUS

Employees newly hired for regular positions in the classified service shall be considered probationary employees until they have satisfactorily completed one year of probationary service. Upon satisfactorily completing this period, they shall become permanent classified employees of the district.

Probationary employees shall receive written performance evaluations by their supervisor during the probationary period. These evaluations shall indicate whether the evaluator is satisfied or not satisfied with the employee's ability, performance, and compatibility with the job.

(cf. 4215 - Evaluation/Supervision)

The Superintendent or designee may dismiss an employee during the initial probationary period.

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

Permanent employees promoted to a higher classification shall be considered probationary in their new position until they have satisfactorily completed one year of service in that position.

A permanent employee who accepts a promotion and fails to complete the probationary period for that promotional position shall be employed in the classification from which he/she was promoted. (Education Code 45113)

This policy shall be made available to classified employees and the public. (Education Code 45113)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

45113 Rules and regulations for classified service in districts not incorporating the merit system

45240-45320 Merit system

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

California School Employees Association: <http://www.csea.org>

LAYOFF/REHIRE

Classified employees shall be subject to layoff for lack of work or lack of funds. (Education Code 45114, 45308)

A classified employee shall not be laid off if a short-term employee is retained to render a service that the classified employee is qualified to render. (Education Code 45117)

(cf. 4121 - Temporary/Substitute Personnel)

Order of Layoff Within a Classification/Determination of Seniority

Within each class, the order of layoff shall be determined by length of service. (Education Code 45114, 45308)

Length of service shall be determined by the date of hire. The employee who has been employed the shortest time by the district shall be laid off first. (Education Code 45308)

For an employee in a "restricted position" under Education Code 45105 or 45259, the original date of employment in the restricted position shall be used to determine his/her length of service, provided he/she has completed six months of satisfactory service and has successfully passed the qualifying examination required for service in the class. (Education Code 45105)

(cf. 4200 - Classified Personnel)

Notice of Layoff

Whenever a classified employee is to be laid off for lack of work or lack of funds, written notice shall be given to the employee, informing him/her of the layoff, the date the layoff goes into effect, any displacement rights, and reemployment rights. The notice shall be given: (Education Code 45117)

1. At least 60 days prior to the effective date of the layoff, if the layoff is for lack of work resulting from a bona fide reduction or elimination of service being performed.
2. No later than April 29, if the layoff is for lack of funds due to the expiration of a specially funded program at the end of any school year. However, if the termination date of the specially funded program is other than June 30, the employee shall be given notice at least 60 days from the effective date of the layoff.

(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notifications)

The district is not required to provide the 60-day notice in the event of an actual and existing financial inability to pay the salaries of classified employees or if the layoff is due to a lack of work resulting from conditions not foreseeable or preventable by the district. (Education Code 45117)

LAYOFF/REHIRE (continued)

The district also is not required to provide the 60-day notice to any person hired as a short-term employee for a period not exceeding 60 days whose service may not be extended or renewed. (Education Code 45117)

Reemployment

Classified employees laid off because of lack of work or lack of funds shall be eligible for reemployment for a period of 39 months and shall be reemployed in preference to new applicants. Reemployment shall be in order of seniority. Persons so laid off also have the right to apply and establish their qualification for vacant promotional positions within the district during the 39-month period. (Education Code 45114, 45298, 45308)

When a vacancy occurs, the district shall give the employee with the most seniority an opportunity to accept or reject the position, by first calling the employee at his/her last known telephone number to notify him/her of the vacancy and then sending written notice by certified and standard mail to his/her last known address. The employee shall advise the district of his/her decision by any means no later than 10 calendar days from the date the notice was sent. If the employee accepts, he/she shall report to work no later than two calendar weeks from the vacancy notification date or on a later date specified by the district.

In order to be reemployed, the employee must be capable of performing the essential duties of the job with or without reasonable accommodations. When an otherwise eligible employee is unable to perform the essential duties of the job, he/she shall be kept on the reemployment list until another opportunity becomes available or the period of reemployment eligibility expires, whichever occurs first.

(cf. 4032 - Reasonable Accommodation)

Upon rejecting two offers of reemployment, the employee's name shall be removed from the reemployment list and he/she will forfeit all reemployment rights to which he/she would otherwise be entitled.

When an employee is notified of a vacancy and fails to respond or report to work within time limits specified by district procedures, his/her name shall be removed from the reemployment list and all reemployment rights to which he/she would otherwise be entitled shall be forfeited.

If an employee is employed in a new position and fails to complete the probationary period in the new position, he/she shall be returned to the reemployment list for the remainder of the 39-month period. The remaining time period shall be calculated as the time remaining in the 39-month period as of the date of reemployment. (Education Code 45114, 45298)

LAYOFF/REHIRE (continued)

Reinstatement of Benefits

When a laid-off employee is reemployed, all accumulated sick leave credit shall be restored.

A laid-off permanent employee shall be reemployed with all rights and benefits accorded to him/her at the time of layoff.

A laid-off probationary employee shall be reemployed as a probationary employee, and the previous time served toward the completion of the required probationary period shall be counted. He/she shall also be reemployed with all rights and benefits accorded to a probationary employee at the time of layoff.

A laid-off employee, when reemployed, shall be placed on the salary step held at the time of layoff. An employee who was bumped into a lower class shall, when reinstated to the previous class, be placed on the salary step to which he/she would have progressed had he/she remained there. An adjusted anniversary date shall be established for step increment purposes so as to reflect the actual amount of time served in the district.

Voluntary Demotion or Reduction of Hours

Classified employees who take voluntary demotion or voluntary reduction in assigned time in lieu of layoff, or in order to remain in their present position rather than be reclassified or reassigned, shall be granted the same rights as employees who are laid off. In addition, such employees shall retain eligibility to be considered for reemployment in their previously held class or position with increased assigned time, for an additional period of time up to 24 months as determined by the Board of Education on a class-by-class basis, provided that the same test of fitness under which they qualified for appointment to that class shall still apply. (Education Code 45114, 45298)

Employees who take voluntary demotion or voluntary reduction in assigned time in lieu of layoff shall have the option of returning to a position in their former class or to positions with increased assigned time as vacancies become available and without limitation of time. If there is a valid reemployment list, they shall be ranked on that list in accordance with their proper seniority. (Education Code 45114, 45298)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

LAYOFF/REHIRE (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

45101 Definitions

45103 Classified service in districts not incorporating the merit system

45105 Positions under various acts not requiring certification qualifications; classification

45113 Rules and regulations for classified service in districts not incorporating the merit system

45114 Layoff and reemployment procedures; definitions

45115 Layoff: Reinstatement from service retirement

45117 Notice of layoff

45286 Limited term employees

45297 Right to take equivalent examination while employee in military service

45298 Reemployment of persons laid off; voluntary demotions or reductions in time; districts adopting merit system

45308 Order of layoff and reemployment; length of service

45309 Reinstatement of permanent noncertified employees after resignation

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 38

4301-4307 Veterans' Reemployment Rights

COURT DECISIONS

Tucker v. Grossmont Union High School District (2008) 168 Cal.App.4th 640

San Mateo City School District v. Public Employment Relations Board (1983) 33 Cal.3d 850, 866

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

California School Employees Association: <http://www.csea.com>

DISMISSAL/SUSPENSION/DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Termination of Probationary Employment

At any time prior to the expiration of the probationary period, the Superintendent or designee may, at his/her discretion, dismiss a probationary classified employee from district employment. A probationary employee shall not be entitled to a hearing.

Involuntary Suspension Without Pay, Demotion, Reduction of Pay Step in Class, or Dismissal of Permanent Classified Employees

Permanent classified employees shall be subject to personnel action (suspension without pay, demotion, reduction of pay step in class, dismissal) only for cause. The Board's determination of the sufficiency of the cause for disciplinary action shall be conclusive.

1. Causes

In addition to any disqualifying or actionable causes otherwise provided for by statute or by policy or regulation of this district, each of the following constitutes cause for personnel action against a permanent classified employee:

- a. Falsifying any information supplied to the school district, including, but not limited to, information supplied on application forms, employment records, or any other school district records.
- b. Incompetency.
- c. Inefficiency.
- d. Neglect of duty.
- e. Insubordination.
- f. Dishonesty.
- g. Drinking alcoholic beverages while on duty or in such close time proximity thereto as to cause any detrimental effect upon the employee or upon employees associated with him/her.

(cf. 4020 - Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace)

- h. Possessing or being under the influence of a controlled substance at work or away from work, or furnishing a controlled substance to a minor.

DISMISSAL/SUSPENSION/DISCIPLINARY ACTION (continued)

- i. Conviction of a felony, conviction of any sex offense made relevant by provisions of law, or conviction of a misdemeanor which is of such a nature as to adversely affect the employee's ability to perform the duties and responsibilities of his/her position. A plea or verdict of guilty, or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere, is deemed to be a conviction for this purpose.
- j. Absence without leave.
- k. Immoral conduct.
- l. Discourteous treatment of the public, students, or other employees.
- m. Improper political activity.
- n. Willful disobedience.
- o. Misuse of district property.
- p. Violation of district, Board or departmental rule, policy, or procedure.
- q. Failure to possess or keep in effect any license, certificate, or other similar requirement specified in the employee's class specification or otherwise necessary for the employee to perform the duties of the position.
- r. Refusal to take and subscribe any oath or affirmation which is required by law in connection with his/her employment.
- s. A physical or mental disability which precludes the employee from the proper performance of his/her duties and responsibilities as determined by competent medical authority, except as otherwise provided by a contract or by law regulating the retirement of employees.
- t. Unlawful discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical handicap, marital status, sex, or age against the public or other employees while acting in the capacity of a district employee.
- u. Unlawful retaliation against any other district officer or employee or member of the public who, in good faith, reports, discloses, divulges, or otherwise brings to the attention of any appropriate authority any information relative to an actual or suspected violation of state or federal law occurring on the job or directly related thereto.

DISMISSAL/SUSPENSION/DISCIPLINARY ACTION (continued)

- v. Any other failure of good behavior either during or outside of duty hours which is of such nature that it causes discredit to the district or his/her employment.

Except as defined in item "s" above, no personnel action shall be taken for any cause which arose before the employee became permanent, nor for any cause which arose more than two years before the date of the filing of the notice of cause unless this cause was concealed or not disclosed by the employee when it could be reasonably assumed that the employee would have disclosed the facts to the district.

2. Initiation and Notification of Charges

The Superintendent or designee may initiate a personnel action as defined herein against a permanent classified employee.

In all cases involving a personnel action, the person initiating the action shall file a written recommendation of personnel action with the Board. A copy of the recommendation shall be served upon the employee either personally or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, at the employee's last known address. The recommendation shall include:

- a. A statement of the nature of the personnel action (suspension without pay, demotion, reduction of pay step in class, or dismissal).
- b. A statement of the cause or causes for the personnel action, as set forth above.
- c. A statement of the specific acts or omissions upon which the causes are based. If a violation of rule, policy, or regulation of the district is alleged, the rule, policy, or regulation violated shall be stated in the recommendation.
- d. A statement of the employee's right to appeal the recommendation and the manner and time within which the appeal must be filed.
- e. A card or paper, the signing and filing of which shall constitute a demand for hearing and a denial of all charges.

3. Employment Status Pending Appeal or Waiver

Except as provided herein, any employee against whom a recommendation of personnel action has been issued shall remain on active duty status and responsible for fulfilling the duties of the position pending his/her appeal or waiver thereof.

DISMISSAL/SUSPENSION/DISCIPLINARY ACTION (continued)

If the Superintendent or designee determines that a permanent classified employee should be dismissed and that his/her continuing in active duty status would present an unreasonable risk of harm to students, staff, or property while proceedings are pending, the Superintendent or designee may order the employee immediately suspended from duty without pay in conjunction with the recommendation of personnel action. This suspension order shall be in writing and shall state the reasons that the suspension is deemed necessary. The suspension order shall be served upon the employee either personally or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, immediately after issuance. Except in cases of emergency when the employee must be removed from the premises immediately, the Superintendent or designee shall give the employee written notice of the proposed recommendation of dismissal at least five calendar days before the effective date of any order of suspension issued in conjunction with a recommendation involving dismissal. This notice shall state that immediate suspension without pay is being considered, the reasons for the proposed dismissal and proposed immediate suspension without pay, materials upon which the proposed action is based, and the employee's right to respond to the Superintendent or designee orally or in writing before the final recommendation and order are issued.

4. Time Limit of Suspension

Except for a suspension imposed under #3 above, any suspension invoked under these rules against any one person for one or more periods shall not aggregate more than 90 calendar days in any 12-month period; however, this time limitation shall not apply to cases in which a personnel action of dismissal is modified by the Board to a suspension.

5. Right to Appeal

Within five calendar days after receiving the recommendation of personnel action described above, the employee may appeal by signing and filing the card or paper included with the recommendation. Any other written document signed and appropriately filed within the specified time limit by the employee shall constitute a sufficient notice of appeal. A notice of appeal is filed only by delivering the notice of appeal to the office of the Superintendent or designee during normal work hours of that office. A notice of appeal may be mailed to the office of the Superintendent or designee but must be received or postmarked no later than the time limit stated herein. In cases where an order of suspension without pay has been issued in conjunction with a recommendation of dismissal, any appeal of the recommendation of dismissal shall also constitute an appeal of the suspension order, and the necessity of the order shall be an issue in the appeal hearing.

If the employee fails to file a notice of appeal within the time specified in these rules, he/she shall be deemed to have waived his/her right to appeal, and the Board may order the recommended personnel action into effect immediately.

DISMISSAL/SUSPENSION/DISCIPLINARY ACTION (continued)

6. Amended/Supplemental Charges

At any time before an employee's appeal is finally submitted to the Board or to a hearing officer for decision, the complainant may, with the consent of the Board or hearing officer, serve on the employee and file with the Board an amended or supplemental recommendation of personnel action.

If the amended or supplemental recommendation presents new causes or allegations, the employee shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to prepare his/her defense. Any new causes or allegations shall be deemed controverted and any objections to the amended or supplemental causes or allegation may be made orally at the hearing and shall be noted on the record.

7. Hearing Procedures

- a. The hearing shall be held at the earliest convenient date, taking into consideration the established schedule of the Board or hearing officer and the availability of counsel and witnesses. The parties shall be notified of the time and place of the hearing. The employee shall be entitled to appear personally, produce evidence, and have counsel. The employee shall be entitled to a public hearing if he/she demands it when the Board is hearing the appeal. The complainant may also be represented by counsel. The procedure entitled "Administrative Adjudication" commencing with Government Code 1150 shall not apply to any such hearing before the Board or a hearing officer. Neither the Board nor a hearing officer shall be bound by rules of evidence used in California courts. Informality in any such hearing shall not invalidate any order or decision made or approved by the hearing officer or the Board.
- b. All hearings shall be heard by a hearing officer (who shall be an attorney licensed in the State of California) except in those cases where the Board determines to hear the appeal itself. In any case in which the Board hears the appeal, the Board may use the services of its counsel or a hearing officer in ruling upon procedural questions, objections to evidence, and issues of law. If the appeal is heard by the Board, the Board shall affirm, modify or revoke the recommended personnel action.
- c. If the appeal is heard by a hearing officer, he/she shall prepare a proposed decision in a form that may be adopted by the Board as the decision in the case. A copy of the proposed decision shall be received and filed by the Board and furnished to each party within 10 days after the proposed decision is filed by the Board. The Board may:

DISMISSAL/SUSPENSION/DISCIPLINARY ACTION (continued)

- (1) Adopt the proposed decision in its entirety.
 - (2) Reduce the personnel action set forth in the proposed decision and adopt the balance of the proposed decision.
 - (3) Reject a proposed reduction in personnel action, approve the personnel action sought by the complainant or any lesser penalty, and adopt the balance of the proposed decision.
 - (4) Reject the proposed decision in its entirety.
- d. If the Board rejects the proposed decision in its entirety, each party shall be notified of such action and the Board may decide the case upon the record including the transcript, with or without the taking of additional evidence, or may refer the case to the same or another hearing officer to take additional evidence. If the case is so assigned to a hearing officer, he/she shall prepare a proposed decision, as provided in item "7c" above, upon the additional evidence and the transcript and other papers which are part of the record of the prior hearing. A copy of this proposed decision shall be furnished to each party within 10 days after the proposed decision is filed by the Board.
- e. In arriving at a decision or a proposed decision on the propriety of the proposed personnel action, the Board or the hearing officer may consider the records of any prior personnel action proceedings against the employee in which a personnel action was ultimately sustained and any records that were contained in the employee's personnel files and introduced into evidence at the hearing.

8. Hearing Decision

The decision of the Board shall be in writing and shall contain findings of fact and the personnel action approved, if any. The findings may reiterate the language of the pleadings or simply refer to them.

The decision of the Board shall be certified to the Superintendent or designee who recommended the personnel action, and he/she shall enforce and follow this decision. A copy of the decision shall be delivered to the appellant or his/her designated representative personally or by registered mail. The decision of the Board shall be final.

DISMISSAL/SUSPENSION/DISCIPLINARY ACTION (continued)

9. Compulsory Dismissal

The district shall not employ or retain in employment any person who has been convicted of any sex offense as defined in Education Code 44010 or any controlled substance offense as defined in Education Code 44011. However, the district may employ a person convicted of a controlled substance offense if the Board determines from the evidence it requires that the person has been rehabilitated for at least five years. If any such conviction is reversed and the person acquitted or charges dismissed except as otherwise provided below, the employee may be reemployed by the district, although reemployment is not a guarantee. (Education Code 45123)

The district reserves the right to dismiss an employee for any acts upon which the original criminal charges were based, despite the disposition by the courts. If dismissal is recommended and upheld, an employee will not be reemployed or compensated for the time he/she was suspended unless otherwise required by law. An employee shall be given notice of the possibility of not being reimbursed during mandatory suspension if he/she is ultimately dismissed for the acts upon which the original charges were based.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

DISMISSAL/SUSPENSION/DISCIPLINARY ACTION (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

35161 *Delegation of powers and duties*

44009 *Conviction of specified crimes*

44010 *Sex offense*

44011 *"Controlled substance offense" defined*

44940 *Leave of absence; employee charged with mandatory or optional leave of absence offense*

44940.5 *Compulsory leave of absence; procedures; extension; compensation; bond or security; reports*

45101 *Definitions (including "disciplinary action," "cause")*

45109 *Fixing of duties*

45113 *Rules and regulations for classified service in districts not incorporating the merit system*

45123 *Employment after conviction of sex or narcotics offense*

45302 *Demotion and removal from permanent classified service*

45303 *Additional cause for suspension or dismissal of employees in classified service*

45304 *Suspension for reasonable cause; filing of charges; employee charged with mandatory or optional leave of absence offense*

VEHICLE CODE

1808.8 *School bus drivers; dismissal for safety-related cause*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

12101 -12213 *Americans With Disabilities Act*

COURT DECISIONS

California School Employees v. Livingston Union School District, (2007) 149 Cal.App 4th 391

CSEA v. Foothill Community College District, 52 Cal. App. 3rd 150, 155-156, 124 Cal. Rptr 830 (1975)

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

**CODE OF ETHICS
CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEES**

School employees who are in daily contact with many phases of educational work should be persons whose conduct is beyond reproach and who sincerely believe in the advancement of education and the betterment of working conditions; therefore, the California School Employees' Association proposes this Code of Ethics as a standard for its members.

AS A SCHOOL EMPLOYEE I WILL:

1. Be proud of my vocation in order that I may use my best endeavors to elevate the standards of my position so that I may merit a reputation for high quality of service -- to the end that others may emulate my example.
2. Be a person of integrity, clean speech, desirable personal habits, and physical fitness.
3. Be just in my criticism and be generous in my praise; to improve and not destroy.
4. At all times be courteous in my relations with students, parents, teachers and others.
5. Be a resourceful person who readily adapts himself to different kinds of work and changed conditions and finds better ways to do things.
6. Conduct myself in a spirit of friendly helpfulness to my fellow employees to the end that I will consider no personal success legitimate or ethical which is secured by taking unfair advantage of another.
7. Associate myself with employees of other districts for the purpose of discussing school problems and cooperating in the improvement of public school conditions.
8. Always uphold my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state, my school district and my community, and give them unswerving loyalty.
9. Always bear in mind that the purpose of CSEA is to promote the efficiency and raise the standards of all school employees and that I shall be equally obligated to assist all my fellow workers.

SOURCE: CALIFORNIA SCHOOL EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

TEACHER AIDES/PARAPROFESSIONALS

The Board of Education recognizes that paraprofessionals support student learning by providing valuable assistance to teachers and other certificated personnel and enabling greater individualized instruction and supervision of students. Such employees may perform instructional and/or administrative tasks in accordance with law, Board policy and administrative regulation.

(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)

(cf. 4200 - Classified Personnel)

(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that paraprofessionals possess the qualifications required by law for their positions.

Paraprofessionals shall be under the immediate supervision and direction of certificated personnel.

In determining the assignment of paraprofessionals, the Superintendent or designee shall consider the greatest benefit to students based on such factors as class size, grade levels, student needs, subject matter and teacher workload.

Each paraprofessional shall be provided with a clear definition of his/her roles and responsibilities.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all paraprofessionals receive ongoing support and regular performance assessments. Teachers shall receive training in how to collaborate effectively with an assistant and are expected to assign duties consistent with written job descriptions for paraprofessionals.

(cf. 4131 - Staff Development)

(cf. 4212 - Appointment and Conditions of Employment)

(cf. 4215 - Evaluation/Supervision)

(cf. 4231 - Staff Development)

The Board encourages qualified paraprofessionals to pursue opportunities that lead to attainment of a teaching credential and enable them to increase their skills and experience in the classroom.

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

(cf. 4112.21 - Interns)

Legal Reference: (see next page)

TEACHER AIDES/PARAPROFESSIONALS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

44833 Postsecondary students as nonteaching aides

44835 Duties of nonteaching work study aides

45330 Paraprofessionals

45340-45349 Instructional aides

45350-45354 Teacher assistants

45360-45367 Teacher aides

54480-54486 Special Teacher Employment Programs

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

12065-12070 Teacher aides for Special Teacher Employment Programs

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6311 State plans

6314 Schoolwide programs

6315 Targeted assistance schools

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

California School Employees Association: <http://www.csea.com>

Commission on Teacher Credentialing, Paraprofessional Teacher Training Program:

<http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/para>

National Clearinghouse for Paraeducator Resources:

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/education/CMMR/Clearinghouse.html>

National Resource Center for Paraeducators: <http://www.nrcpara.org>

U.S. Department of Education: <http://www.ed.gov>

TEACHER AIDES/PARAPROFESSIONALS

Qualifications

No person shall be initially assigned to assist in instruction as a paraprofessional unless he/she has demonstrated proficiency in reading, writing, and mathematics skills up to or exceeding that required for local high school seniors pursuant to Education Code 51220(a) and (f). (Education Code 45330, 45344.5, 45361.5)

A paraprofessional who has passed a proficiency test in another district and was employed in the same capacity shall be considered to have met the district's proficiency standards, unless the district determines that the other district's test is not comparable. (Education Code 45344.5, 45361.5)

Duties

A paraprofessional shall perform only such duties as, in the judgment of the certificated personnel to whom the paraprofessional is assigned, may be performed by a person not licensed as a classroom teacher. These duties shall not include assignment of grades to students. (Education Code 45330)

(cf. 4112.2 - Certification)

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

(cf. 6171 - Title I Programs)

Instructional aides need not perform their duties only in the physical presence of the teacher, but the teacher shall retain responsibility for the instruction and supervision of the students in his/her charge. (Education Code 45344)

Parental Notification

At the beginning of each school year, parents/guardians shall be notified that they may request information regarding whether their child is provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the paraprofessional's qualifications. (20 USC 6312)

(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The Board of Education recognizes that classified staff does essential work that supports a healthy school environment and the educational program. Classified staff shall have opportunities to participate in staff development activities in order to improve job skills, learn best practices, retrain as appropriate in order to meet changing conditions in the district, and/or enhance personal growth.

(cf. 3100 - Budget)

(cf. 3350 - Travel Expenses)

(cf. 4200 - Classified Personnel)

(cf. 4261.3 - Professional Leaves)

The Superintendent or designee shall involve classified staff, site and district administrators, and others, as appropriate, in the development of the district's staff development program. He/she shall ensure that the district's staff development program is aligned with district goals, school improvement objectives, the local control and accountability plan, and other district and school plans.

(cf. 0000 - Vision)

(cf. 0200 - Goals for the School District)

(cf. 0420 - School Plans/Site Councils)

(cf. 0460 - Local Control and Accountability Plan)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

44277 Professional growth programs for individual teachers

44032 Travel expense payment

45380-45387 Retraining and study leave (classified employees)

45390-45392 Professional development for classified school employees

52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan

56240-56245 Staff development; service to persons with disabilities

GOVERNMENT CODE

3543.2 Scope of representation of employee organization

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS BOARD DECISIONS

United Faculty of Contra Costa Community College District v. Contra Costa Community College District, (1990) PERB Order No. 804, 14 PERC P21, 085

Management Resources:

WEB SITES

California Association of School Business Officials: <http://www.casbo.org>

California School Employees Association: <http://www.csea.com>

HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS

Affordability of Health Coverage

The Superintendent or designee shall seek written assurance from the district's health insurance carrier(s) that the health plan offered to full-time district employees and their dependents meets all requirements of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. (42 USC 300gg-300gg95; 26 USC 4980H; 26 CFR 54.4980H-1-54.4980H-6)

The Superintendent or designee also shall ensure that each employee's contribution to the employee-only health coverage does not exceed 9.5 percent of his/her modified household income, as defined in 26 USC 5000A. The Superintendent or designee shall calculate the affordability of the coverage using one or more of the following methods in a uniform and consistent basis for all employees within the same category: (26 USC 4980H; 26 CFR 54.4980H-4-54.4980H-5)

1. The district shall ensure that the lowest cost employee-only coverage does not exceed 9.5 percent of wages paid to the employee by the district for the calendar year as reported on the employee's W-2 tax form. For an employee not offered coverage for an entire calendar year, the wages shall be adjusted to reflect the period for which coverage was offered.
2. The district shall ensure that the employee's required monthly contribution for the lowest cost employee-only coverage does not exceed 9.5 percent of an amount equal to 130 hours multiplied by the employee's hourly rate of pay on the first day of the plan year or his/her lowest hourly pay during the calendar month, whichever is lower.
3. The district shall ensure that the employee's contribution does not exceed 9.5 percent of a monthly amount determined as the federal poverty line for a single individual for the applicable calendar year, divided by 12.

Retired Certificated Employees

Any former certificated employee who retired from the district under any public retirement system and his/her spouse/domestic partner shall be permitted to enroll in the health and welfare and/or dental care benefit plan currently provided for certificated employees. The plan also shall be available to any surviving spouse/domestic partner of a former certificated employee who either retired from the district under any public retirement system or was, at the time of death, employed by the district and a member of the State Teachers' Retirement System. (Education Code 7000)

A retired certificated employee or surviving spouse/domestic partner shall be allowed to enroll in the coverage within 30 days of losing active employee coverage. If he/she does not enroll during this initial enrollment period, he/she may be denied further opportunity to do so. (Education Code 7000)

HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS (continued)

COBRA/Cal-COBRA Continuation Coverage

Covered district employees and their qualified beneficiaries shall be offered the opportunity to continue health and disability insurance coverage when they otherwise would lose coverage due to one of the following qualifying events: (Health and Safety Code 1366.21, 1366.23, 1373; Insurance Code 10128.51, 10128.53, 10277; 26 USC 4980B; 26 CFR 54.4980B-4)

1. Death of the covered employee
2. Termination or reduction in hours of the covered employee's employment, other than termination by reason of the employee's gross misconduct

(cf. 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

3. Divorce or legal separation of the covered employee
4. The covered employee becoming entitled to Medicare benefits
5. A dependent child ceasing to be a dependent child of the covered employee

Continuation health coverage shall be the same as provided to similarly situated individuals under the group benefit plan. (Health and Safety Code 1366.23; Insurance Code 10128.53; 26 USC 4980B)

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the health care service plan administrator of a qualifying event listed in item #1, 2, or 4 above, within 30 days of the event. A covered employee or qualified beneficiary shall notify the service plan administrator of a qualifying event listed in item #3 or 5 above within 60 days of the event or of the date that the beneficiary would lose coverage, whichever is later. (26 USC 4980B; 29 USC 1163, 1166; 26 CFR 54.4980B-6)

Continuation coverage shall be terminated in accordance with the district's insurance plan and federal and state law. (26 USC 4980B; 26 CFR 54.4980B-6; Health and Safety Code 1373.621; Insurance Code 10116.5)

The Superintendent or designee shall notify covered employees and qualified beneficiaries of the availability of conversion and continuation coverage. This notification shall include the statement in Labor Code 2800.2 encouraging individuals to examine their options carefully before declining such coverage. (Labor Code 2800.2)

(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notifications)

HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS (continued)

Disability Insurance

The Superintendent or designee shall give notice of disability insurance rights and benefits to each new employee and each employee leaving work due to pregnancy, nonoccupational illness or injury, the need to provide care for any sick or injured family member, or the need to bond with a minor child within the first year of the child's birth or placement in connection with foster care or adoption. (Unemployment Insurance Code 2613)

(cf. 4157.1/4257.1/4357.1 - Work-Related Injuries)

(cf. 4161/4261/4361 - Leaves)

(cf. 4161.1/4361.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave)

(cf. 4161.8/4261.8/4361.8 - Family Care and Medical Leave)

(cf. 4261.1 - Personal Illness and Injury Leave)

When disabled by an injury sustained from a violent act while performing duties within the scope of employment and performing creditable employment, a certificated or classified employee may continue in the district health and dental care plans upon meeting criteria specified by law. The employee shall pay all employer and employee premiums and related administrative costs. (Education Code 7008)

PERSONAL ILLNESS/INJURY LEAVE

Note: The following administrative regulation is subject to collective bargaining. Twelve days of paid personal illness or injury leave (sick leave) per year is the minimum prescribed by Education Code 45191 for classified employees employed five days a week in both merit and non-merit system districts. The Governing Board may allow more sick leave at its discretion; if it does so, the following paragraph should be revised accordingly.

Labor Code 245-249 (the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act) require districts to grant a minimum of one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked to their employees who work for 30 days within a year of their employment, including classified employees. Pursuant to Labor Code 246, a district may use a different sick leave accrual method which provides for the accrual to be on a regular basis so that employees accrue at least 24 hours of sick leave or paid time off by the 120th calendar day of their employment or each calendar year or 12-month period.

The provisions of Labor Code 245-249 are very broad and **only** district employees covered by a valid collective bargaining agreement may be exempted from them, if the collective bargaining agreement expressly provides paid sick leave in an amount equal to or exceeding the amount of leave required pursuant to Labor Code 246, includes final and binding arbitration of disputes regarding the application of the paid sick days provisions, and provides premium wage rates for all overtime hours worked and a regular hourly rate of pay of not less than 30 percent more than the state minimum wage rate. Since many districts may not satisfy all of the conditions for this exemption, this administrative regulation reflects the requirements of Labor Code 245-249. Any district which has a collective bargaining agreement that meets all of the conditions for exemption may modify this administrative regulation accordingly.

For additional requirements of Labor Code 245-249, see sections titled "Short-Term and Substitute Employees" and "Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act Requirements" below. For sick leave for certificated employees, see AR 4161.1/4361.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave.

Classified employees employed five days a week are entitled to 12 days' leave of absence with full pay for personal illness or injury (sick leave) per fiscal year. Employees who work less than a full fiscal year or fewer than five days a week (part-time employees) shall be granted sick leave in proportion to the time they work. However, part-time employees who are entitled to less than 24 hours of paid sick leave per fiscal year due to the amount of time worked shall be granted sick leave pursuant to Labor Code 246, if they are eligible. (Education Code 45191; Labor Code 245-249)

(cf. 4161/4261/4361 - Leaves)

(cf. 4161.9/4261.9/4361.9 - Catastrophic Leave Program)

Use of Sick Leave

Note: Items #1-8 below reflect allowable uses of sick leave specified in law. The district may expand this list to include any additional purposes authorized by law, authorized by the district, or included in a bargaining agreement.

A classified employee may use sick leave for absences due to:

1. Accident or illness, whether or not the absence arises out of or in the course of employment, or by quarantine which results from contact in the course of employment with other persons having a contagious disease (Education Code 45199)

PERSONAL ILLNESS/INJURY LEAVE (continued)

2. Pregnancy, childbirth, and recovery (Education Code 45193)

(cf. 4161.8/4261.8/4361.8 - Family Care and Medical Leave)

3. Personal necessity as specified in Education Code 45207

(cf. 4161.2/4261.2/4361.2 - Personal Leaves)

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

4. Medical and dental appointments, in increments of not less than one hour
5. Industrial accident or illness when leave granted specifically for that purpose has been exhausted (Education Code 45192)

(cf. 4161.11/4261.11/4361.11 - Industrial Accident/Illness Leave)

Note: Pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) (29 USC 2612) and California Family Rights Act (CFRA) (Government Code 12945.2), a district is required to grant leave to an eligible employee to bond with a child after the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of the child, if the district employs 50 or more employees within 75 miles of the worksite where the employee requesting the leave is employed. For this purpose, employees may, but are not required to, use sick leave for any otherwise unpaid FMLA or CFRA leave.

Government Code 12945.6 extends the right to parental leave to an eligible employee who is not covered by FMLA or CFRA when the district employs 20-49 employees within 75 miles of the worksite where the employee requesting the leave is employed.

For further information regarding parental leave, see AR 4161.8/4261.8/4361.8 - Family Care and Medical Leave.

6. Need of an employee to bond with a child within one year of the child's birth, adoption, or foster care placement (parental leave) (Education Code 45196.1; Government Code 12945.2, 12945.6; 29 USC 2612; 29 CFR 825.112)

Note: Pursuant to Labor Code 233, any district that provides sick leave to its employees is required to permit them to use sick leave, in an amount not less than the sick leave that would be accrued during six months at the employee's then current rate of entitlement, for the purposes specified in items #7-8 below.

For the purpose of using sick leave to attend to the health care needs of a family member, as specified in item #7 below, Labor Code 245.5 defines "family member" as an employee's spouse, registered domestic partner, child (biological, adopted, or foster child; stepchild; legal ward; or a child to whom the employee stands in loco parentis), parent (biological, adoptive, or foster parent; stepparent; legal guardian of an employee or the employee's spouse or registered domestic partner; or a person who stood in loco parentis when the employee was a minor child), grandparent, grandchild, or sibling.

For additional information about leaves for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking granted in accordance with item #8 below, see AR 4161.2/4261.2/4361.2 - Personal Leaves.

PERSONAL ILLNESS/INJURY LEAVE (continued)

7. Need of the employee or the employee's family member, as defined in Labor Code 245.5, for the diagnosis, care, or treatment of an existing health condition or for preventive care (Labor Code 233, 246.5)
8. Need of the employee to seek or obtain any relief or medical attention specified in Labor Code 230(c) and 230.1(a) for the health, safety, or welfare of the employee or the employee's child, when the employee has been a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking (Labor Code 233, 246.5)

For the purposes specified in items #7-8, an employee may use, in any calendar year, the amount of sick leave that would be accrued during six months at the employee's then current rate of entitlement. (Labor Code 233)

An employee may take leave for personal illness or injury at any time during the year, even if credit for such leave has not yet been accrued. However, a new full-time classified employee shall not be entitled to more than six days of sick leave, or the proportionate amount to which the employee may be entitled, until the first day of the month after the employee has completed six months of active service with the district. (Education Code 45191)

Unused days of sick leave shall be accumulated from year to year without limitation. (Education Code 45191)

Note: The following paragraph is optional .
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An employee shall reimburse the district for any unearned sick leave used as of the date of termination.

The district shall not require newly employed classified employees to waive leave accumulated in a previous district. However, if the employee's previous employment was terminated for cause, the transfer of the accumulated leave shall be made only if approved by the Board of Education. (Education Code 45202)

Additional Leave for Disabled Military Veterans

In addition to any other entitlement for sick leave with pay, a classified employee who is a former active duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces or a former or current member of the California National Guard or a federal reserve component shall be entitled to sick leave with pay of up to 12 days for the purpose of undergoing medical treatment, including mental health treatment, for a military service-connected disability rated at 30 percent or higher by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. An eligible employee who works less than five days per week shall be entitled to such leave in proportion to the time worked. (Education Code 45191.5)

PERSONAL ILLNESS/INJURY LEAVE (continued)

The amount of leave shall be credited to the employee either on the date the employee receives confirmation of the submission of the disability application to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs or on the first day the employee begins or returns to employment after active duty, whichever is later. When the employee receives the disability rating decision, the employee shall report that information to the Superintendent or designee. If the disability rating decision makes the employee eligible for the leave, the time used before the decision shall be counted toward the 12-day maximum leave. If the disability rating decision makes the employee ineligible for the leave, the district may change the sick leave time used before the disability rating decision to an alternative leave balance. (Education Code 45191.5)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 45191.5, the district may require proof that a leave granted under this law is used for treatment of a military service-connected disability. The following paragraph may be revised to reflect district practice.

The Superintendent or designee may require verification, in accordance with the section "Verification Requirements" below, that the employee used the leave to obtain treatment of a military service-connected disability.

Leave for military-service connected disability shall be available for 12 months following the first date that the leave was credited. Leave not used during the 12-month period shall not be carried over and shall be forfeited. (Education Code 45191.5)

Notification of Absence

Note: The following **optional** section may be revised to reflect district practice.

An employee shall notify the Superintendent or the designated manager or supervisor of the need to be absent as soon as such need is known so that the services of a substitute may be secured as necessary. This notification shall include an estimate of the expected duration of absence. If the absence becomes longer than estimated, the employee shall so notify the district. If the duration of absence becomes shorter than estimated, the employee shall notify the district not later than three o'clock in the afternoon of the day preceding the day on which the employee intends to return to work. If the employee fails to notify the district and the failure results in a substitute being secured, the cost of the substitute shall be deducted from the employee's pay.

Continued Absence After Available Sick Leave Is Exhausted/Differential Pay

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 45196, districts may choose one of two methods for compensating classified employees who have exhausted their paid leaves and continue to be absent due to illness or injury.

Option 1 below is for use by districts that subtract the actual cost of a substitute from the absent employee's salary for up to five months. Pursuant to Education Code 45196, the amount paid to a substitute must be less than the absent employee's salary unless the Board has adopted a salary schedule for substitutes. In California

PERSONAL ILLNESS/INJURY LEAVE (continued)

School Employees Association v. Tustin Unified School District, the court ruled that a district could deduct from the absent employee's salary only the cost of an outside substitute employee, not the cost of existing classified employee(s) working additional hours to fill the position during the absence.

Option 2 is **mandated** pursuant to Education Code 45196 for districts that annually credit regular classified employees with at least 100 working days of paid sick leave and, after they have exhausted all fully paid leaves, compensate them at 50 percent or more of their regular salary for the remainder of the 100 working days. Option 2 may be revised to specify more than 100 working days and/or the level of compensation the district will pay an employee, if it chooses to pay more than 50 percent of the employee's salary.

Districts that maintain a catastrophic leave program for their classified employees should specify how the program will affect the differential leave pay to which the employee may be entitled.

Each year, each regular classified employee shall be credited with no fewer than 100 working days of paid leave for personal illness or injury, including current year and accumulated days of leave. When the current year and accumulated days at full pay are exhausted, the remainder of the 100 days shall be compensated at least 50 percent of the employee's regular salary. Any of the 100 days of leave not used during the year in which they are credited shall be forfeited and shall not accumulate from year to year. This paid leave shall be exclusive of any other paid leave, holidays, vacation, or compensatory time to which the employee may be entitled. (Education Code 45196)

Parental Leave

Note: The following section is subject to any conflicting provision in a collective bargaining agreement that provides greater parental leave rights.

During each school year, a classified employee may use all available sick leave, including accumulated sick leave, for the purpose of parental leave for a period of up to 12 work weeks. The 12-week period shall be reduced by any period of sick leave, including accumulated sick leave, taken during a period of such parental leave. (Education Code 45196.1)

Note: Unlike leave taken pursuant to Government Code 12945.2, leave taken pursuant to Education Code 45196.1 does not require an employee to have at least 1,250 hours of service with the district during the previous 12-month period in order to be eligible for parental leave. See AR 4161.8/4261.8/4361.8 - Family Care and Medical Leave for further information on requirements related to the California Family Rights Act.

Eligibility for such leave shall not require 1,250 hours of service with the district during the previous 12 months. (Education Code 45196.1)

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 45196.1, the district is required to provide differential pay to a classified employee for up to 12 work weeks when the employee has exhausted all available sick leave, including accumulated sick leave, and continues to be absent due to parental leave pursuant to Government Code 12945.2. Such an employee is entitled to receive differential pay, calculated in the same manner described in

PERSONAL ILLNESS/INJURY LEAVE (continued)

Option 1 or 2 in the section "Continued Absence After Available Sick Leave Is Exhausted/Differential Pay" above. As amended by AB 2012 (Ch. 994, Statutes of 2018), Education Code 45196.1 requires that, regardless of the type of differential pay system used by the district, employees must receive at least 50 percent of their regular salary for any portion of the 12-week parental leave that remains following the exhaustion of sick leave. The following paragraph may be revised to specify a percentage higher than 50 percent in accordance with district practice.

Since Education Code 45196.1 does not expressly require districts to provide differential pay to employees who are eligible for parental leave pursuant to Government Code 12945.6, it is unclear whether such employees would be entitled to differential pay. Districts should consult legal counsel if they have questions regarding differential pay for such employees.

An employee who has exhausted all available sick leave, including accumulated sick leave, and continues to be absent on account of parental leave shall receive differential pay of at least 50 percent of the employee's regular salary for the remainder of the 12 work weeks. (Education Code 45196.1)

Parental leave taken pursuant to Education Code 45196.1 shall run concurrently with the parental leave taken pursuant to Government Code 12945.2 or 12945.6, and the aggregate amount of parental leave shall not exceed 12 work weeks in a 12-month period. (Education Code 45196.1; Government Code 12945.2, 12945.6)

Extension of Leave

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 45195, the following extension of leave may be either paid or unpaid, and the Board may grant full pay for the full 18 months' allowable absence, if desired.

A permanent employee who is absent because of a personal illness or injury and who has exhausted all available sick leave, vacation, compensatory overtime, and any other paid leave shall be so notified, in writing, and offered an opportunity to request additional leave. The Board may grant the employee additional leave, paid or unpaid, for a period not to exceed six months and may renew this leave for two additional six-month periods or for lesser periods. The total additional leave granted shall not exceed 18 months. (Education Code 45195)

(cf. 4216 - Probationary/Permanent Status)

If the employee is still unable to return to work after all available paid and unpaid leaves have been exhausted, the employee shall be placed on a reemployment list for a period of 39 months. If during this time the employee becomes medically able, the employee shall be offered reemployment in the first vacancy in the classification of the employee's previous assignment. During the 39 months, the employee's reemployment shall take preference over all other applicants except those laid off for lack of work or lack of funds, in which case the employee shall be ranked according to seniority. (Education Code 45195)

PERSONAL ILLNESS/INJURY LEAVE (continued)

Verification Requirements

Note: Education Code 45191 **mandates** the Board to adopt regulations that require proof of illness or injury and prescribe the means of verification. However, Education Code 45191 provides that these regulations shall not discriminate against evidence of treatment and the need for treatment by the practice of a well-recognized religion. The following section should be modified to reflect district practice and any procedures that have been specified in bargaining agreements.

Labor Code 233 requires districts to allow their employees to use sick leave for the purposes specified in Labor Code 246.5, the paid sick leave law. Because the paid sick leave law is silent on requests for verification, and actually requires an employer to provide an employee with paid sick days upon oral or written request, districts should be cautious in requiring verification for sick leave used for the purposes specified in Labor Code 246.5 (items #7-8 in the section "Use of Sick Leave" above). Although a district is permitted to require verification from an employee who is a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, pursuant to Labor Code 230 and 230.1, a general insistence on verification could be deemed a violation of Labor Code 246.5. Any district with questions regarding its authority related to verification should consult legal counsel.

After any absence due to illness or injury, the employee shall submit a completed and signed district absence form to the employee's immediate supervisor.

The Superintendent or designee may require verification whenever an employee's absence record shows chronic absenteeism or a pattern of absences immediately before or after weekends and/or holidays or whenever available evidence clearly indicates that an absence is not related to illness or injury.

In addition, the Superintendent or designee may require an employee to visit a physician selected by the district, at district expense, in order to receive a report on the medical condition of the employee. The report shall include a statement as to the employee's need for additional leave of absence and a prognosis as to when the employee will be able to return to work. If the report concludes that the employee's condition does not warrant continued absence, the Superintendent or designee may, after giving notice to the employee, deny the request for additional leave.

Note: 42 USC 2000ff-1, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, and its implementing regulations, 29 CFR 1635.1-1635.12, specify that it is unlawful for a district to request, require, or purchase an employee's or family member's individual genetic information except in complying with the medical certification requirements for family care and medical leave purposes or with the employee's prior written authorization. See AR 4161.8/4261.8/4361.8 - Family Care and Medical Leave. Pursuant to 29 CFR 1635.9, any such information received by the district must be kept confidential as specified below.

Any district request for additional verification by an employee's physician or a district-selected physician shall be in writing and shall specify that the report to be submitted to the district should not contain the employee's genetic information. Any genetic information received by the district on behalf of an employee shall be treated as a confidential medical record, maintained in a file separate from the employee's personnel file, and shall not be disclosed except in accordance with 29 CFR 1635.9.

PERSONAL ILLNESS/INJURY LEAVE (continued)

Before returning to work, an employee who has been absent for surgery, hospitalization, or extended medical treatment may be asked to submit a letter from a physician stating that the employee is able to return to work and stipulating any necessary restrictions or limitations.

(cf. 4032 - Reasonable Accommodation)

(cf. 4113.4/4213.4/4313.4 - Temporary Modified/Light-Duty Assignment)

Short-Term and Substitute Employees

Note: Pursuant to Labor Code 245-249, the district is required to grant a minimum of one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked by an employee who works for 30 days within a year of employment. In implementing this requirement, Labor Code 246 permits the district to use any of the options specified below. Option 1 provides for paid leave accrual based on one hour for every 30 hours worked. Option 2 allows an accrual method that provides for a regular accrual basis and ensures that the employee receives 24 hours of paid sick leave by the 120th calendar day of employment or each calendar year or 12-month period. Option 3 is for any district that credits employees with 24 hours or three days of paid sick leave at the beginning of each year and does not allow unused sick leave to carry over to the next year. In addition, pursuant to Labor Code 245.5, retired annuitants who have not reinstated to the applicable public retirement system are excluded from participation in these leave benefit provisions. The district should select the option below which corresponds to its approach under Labor Code 246.

See section below titled "Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act Requirements" for additional requirements.

Except for a retired annuitant who is not reinstated to the retirement system, short-term or substitute employees who work for 30 or more days within a year of their employment shall be credited with 24 hours or three days of paid sick leave for that year. Unused sick leave shall not carry over to the following year of employment. (Labor Code 246)

Note: The following paragraph applies to all the above options.

Short-term or substitute employees may begin to use accrued paid sick days on the 90th day of their employment, after which they may use the sick days as they are accrued. (Labor Code 246)

Note: The following paragraph applies to all of the above options and reflects the intent of the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act to enable California workers to address their own and their family's health needs and to provide them with economic security when they need to take time off work for reasons of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking. The following paragraph may be revised to include additional reasons for which short-term or substitute employees may use sick leave, pursuant to district policy or practice. Pursuant to Labor Code 247.5, a district is not required to inquire into the purposes for which an employee uses paid leave.

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

PERSONAL ILLNESS/INJURY LEAVE (continued)

1. The employee's own need or the need of a family member, as defined in Labor Code 245.5, for the diagnosis, care, or treatment of an existing health condition or for preventive care
2. Need of the employee to obtain or seek any relief or medical attention specified in Labor Code 230(c) and 230.1(a) for the health, safety, or welfare of the employee, or the employee's child, when the employee has been a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking

Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act Requirements

Note: Pursuant to Labor Code 245-249, all employers, including those that provide paid time off to their employees under existing policy or other law, must comply with the requirements specified in the following section. Pursuant to Labor Code 248.5, noncompliance with the Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act could result in an enforcement action against the employer, including the imposition of civil and monetary penalties. Any district with questions regarding the applicability of this law should consult its legal counsel.
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No employee, including a short-term or substitute employee, shall be denied the right to use accrued sick days and the district shall not in any manner discriminate or retaliate against an employee for using or attempting to use sick leave, filing a complaint with the Labor Commissioner, or alleging district violation of Labor Code 245-249.

Legal Reference: (see next page)

PERSONAL ILLNESS/INJURY LEAVE (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

45103 Substitute employees

45190 Leaves of absence and vacations

45191 Leaves of absence for illness and injury

45191.5 Leave for military service connected disability

45193 Leave of absence for pregnancy (re use of sick leave under certain circumstances)

45195 Additional leave for nonindustrial accident or illness; reemployment preference

45196 Salary; deductions during sick leave

45196.1 Differential pay during parental leave up to 12 weeks after sick leave is exhausted

45202 Transfer of accumulated sick leave and other benefits

GOVERNMENT CODE

12945.1-12945.2 California Family Rights Act

12945.6 Parental leave

LABOR CODE

230 Jury duty; legal actions by domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking victims, right to time off

230.1 Employers with 25 or more employees; domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking victims, right to time off

233 Illness of child, parent, spouse or domestic partner

245-249 Healthy Workplaces, Healthy Families Act of 2014

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

2601-2654 Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

2000ff-2000ff-11 Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 29

825.100-825.702 Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993

1635.1-1635.12 Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008

COURT DECISIONS

California School Employees Association v. Colton Joint Unified School District, (2009) 170

Cal.App.4th 957

California School Employees Association v. Tustin Unified School District, (2007) 148 Cal.App.4th

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