

Eligible district employees shall be provided family and medical leave as provided by a plan approved by the board. The plan for providing leave under this policy shall be filed with the clerk of the board and made available to all staff at the beginning of each school year.

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE

Family and medical leave as required by federal law shall be granted for a period of up to 12 weeks during a 12-month period. For purposes of this policy, a 12-month period shall be defined as a fiscal year beginning on July 1 and ending the following June 30. Spouses employed by the district may only take an aggregate of 12 weeks of leave for a birth or adoption of a child within a 12-month period.

Leave is available for the following:

- (1) the birth of a son or daughter of the employee and to care for the newborn child;
- (2) the placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption or foster care and to care for the newly placed child;
- (3) to allow the employee to care for the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent with a serious health condition;
- (4) a serious health condition of the employee that makes the employee unable to perform the functions of his or her job;
- (5) any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the employee's spouse, son, daughter of parent is a covered military member on active duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to achieve active duty) in support of a contingency operation; and
- (6) the need to care for a covered a service member with a serious injury or illness if the employee is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of the service member. Eligible employees are, for reason (6) only, entitled to a combined total of 26 workweeks of leave during a 12-month period.

This leave shall normally be unpaid leave. However, if the employee has any paid vacation, personal, or sick leave that is available for use because of the reason for the leave, the paid leave shall be used first and counted toward the annual family and medical leave. The superintendent will notify the employee of the beginning date of family medical leave and the amount of the employee's accrued paid leave designated as paid family or medical leave.

The employee is eligible for family and medical leave if he or she has been employed by the district for at least 12 months and has worked, at least 1,250 hours during the 12-month period immediately preceding the commencement of the FMLA leave.

During the period of any unpaid family and medical leave, the board shall continue to pay the employer's share of the cost of group health benefits in the same manner as paid immediately prior to the leave. Any employee portion of the cost shall be paid by the employee to the

clerk of the board on the payroll date or other time as the employee and superintendent may agree prior to the commencement of the leave. The board may terminate group health coverage if the employee's portion of the payment is not received within 30 days of the due date, so long as written notice of the delinquency in payment and the notice of intent to terminate coverage are sent at least 15 days prior to the termination.

When leave is foreseeable, the employee shall give written notice 30 days in advance. If leave is not foreseeable, notice will be given as soon as practicable.

Upon the employee providing notice of need for leave, the employer will notify the employee of the following within 5 business days, absent extenuating circumstances:

- a. Whether or not the employee is eligible for FMLA leave; the reasons that leave will or will not count as family and medical leave,
- b. any requirements for medical certification,
- c. employer requirement of substituting paid leave,
- d. requirements for premium payments for health benefits and employee responsibility for repayment if employer pays employee share,
- e. right to be restored to same or equivalent job, and
- f. any employer required fitness-for-duty certifications.

Family leave (reasons 1 or 2) may not be used intermittently or on a part-time basis without the prior approval of the superintendent.

The superintendent may require an instructional employee to continue leave until the end of the semester if the leave begins more than five (5) weeks before the end of a semester, lasts more than three (3) weeks and the return would occur during the last three (3) weeks of the semester.

If the leave is for a reason other than the employee's serious health conditions or for a qualifying exigency as described in section (5) above, the superintendent may require an instructional employee to continue leave until the end of a semester, if:

1. the leave begins in the last five (5) weeks of a semester, will last more than two (2) weeks and the return to work occur in the last two (2) weeks of a semester, or
2. the leave begins in the last three (3) weeks of a semester, and lasts more than five days.

Approved: August 10, 2009

Employees are entitled to military leave under the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Act of 1994. The Act applies to military service that began on or after December 12, 1994 or military service that began before December 12, 1994 if the employee was a reservist or National Guard member who provided notice to the employer before leaving work.

Reemployment rights extend to persons who have been absent from work because of "service in the uniformed services." The uniformed services consist of the following military branches:

Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard.

Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Air Force Reserve or Coast Guard Reserve.

Army National Guard or Air National Guard.

Commissioned corps of the Public Health Service.

Any other category of persons designated by the President in time of war or emergency.

"Service" in the uniformed services means duty on a voluntary or involuntary basis in a uniformed service, including:

Active duty.

Active duty for training.

Initial active duty for training.

Inactive duty training.

Full-time National Guard duty.

Absence from work for an examination to determine a person's fitness for any of the above types of duty.

The employee may be absent for up to five (5) years for military duty and retain reemployment rights. There are, however, exceptions which can exceed the five (5) years limit. Reemployment protection does not depend on the timing, frequency, duration or nature of an individual's service. The law enhances protections for disabled veterans including a requirement to provide reasonable accommodations and up to two (2) years to return to work if convalescing from injuries received during service or training.

The returning employee is entitled to be reemployed in the job that they would have attained had they not been absent for military service, with the same seniority, status and pay, as well as other rights and benefits determined by law. If necessary, the employer must provide training or retraining that enables the employee to refresh or upgrade their skills so they can qualify for

reemployment. While the individual is performing military service, he or she is deemed to be on a furlough or leave of absence and is entitled to the non-seniority rights accorded other individuals on non-military leaves of absence. Individuals performing military duty of more than 30 days may elect to continue employer sponsored health care for up to 18 months at a cost of up to 102 percent of the full premium. For military service of less than 31 days, health care coverage is provided as if the individual had never left. All pensions which are a reward for length of service are protected.

Individuals must provide advance written or verbal notice to their employers for all military duty. Notice may be provided by the employee or by the branch of the military in which the individual will be serving.

Notice is not required if military necessity prevents the giving of notice; or, the giving of notice is otherwise impossible or unreasonable.

Accrued vacation or annual leave may be used (but is not required) while performing military duty. The individual's timeframe for returning to work is based upon the time spent on military duty.

TIME SPENT ON MILITARY DUTY	RETURN TO WORK OR APPLICATION FOR REEMPLOYMENT
Less than 31 days:	Must return at the beginning of the next regularly scheduled work period on the first full day after release from service, taking into account safe travel home plus an eight (8) hour rest period.
More than 30 but less than 181 days:	Must submit an application for reemployment within 14 days of release from service.
More than 180 days:	Must submit an application for reemployment within 90 days of release from service.

The individual's separation from service must be under honorable conditions in order for the person to be entitled to reemployment rights. Documentation showing eligibility for reemployment can be required. The employer has the right to request that an individual who is absent for a period of service of 31 days or more provide documentation showing:

the application for reemployment is timely;

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the five-year service limitation has not been exceeded; and,
separation from service was under honorable conditions.

If documentation is not readily available or it does not exist, the individual must be reemployed. However, if after reemploying the individual, documentation becomes available that shows one or more reemployment requirements were not met, the employer may terminate the individual, effective immediately. The termination does not operate retroactively.

Questions should be directed to Veterans' Employment and Training Service, U.S. Department of Labor.

Kansas law also requires reemployment if an individual is called to active duty by the state.

Approved: September 13, 2010