

Educational Support Personnel

Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves

Each of the provisions in this policy applies to all educational support personnel to the extent that it does not conflict with an applicable collective bargaining agreement or individual employment contract or benefit plan; in the event of a conflict, such provision is severable and the applicable bargaining agreement or individual agreement will control.

Sick and Bereavement Leave

Full-time educational support personnel who work at least 600 hours per year receive 14 paid sick leave days per year. For all newly-hired paraprofessionals/aides, 14 sick leave days will be granted the first year of employment in the following manner: After 30 days of continuous employment, sick leave will be granted one (1) day per month (through 12 months), with the balance available at the end of one (1) year. Part-time employees will receive sick leave pay equivalent to their regular workday. Unused sick leave shall accumulate to a maximum of the number of days as recognized for retirement credit purposes, including the leave of the current year. This policy is the Cooperative's written plan allowing eligible employees to convert eligible accumulated sick leave to service credit upon a Cooperative employee's retirement under the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund.

Sick leave is defined in State law as personal illness, quarantine at home, serious illness or death in the immediate family or household, or birth, adoption, or placement for adoption. The Executive Director and/or designee shall monitor the use of sick leave.

As a condition for paying sick leave after three days absence for personal illness or 30 days for birth or as the Board or Executive Director deem necessary in other cases, the Board or Executive Director may require that the staff member provide a certificate from: (1) a physician licensed in Illinois to practice medicine and surgery in all its branches, (2) a chiropractic physician under the Medical Practice Act, (3) an advanced practice nurse who has a written collaborative agreement with a collaborating physician that authorizes the advanced practice nurse to perform health examinations, (4) a physician assistant who has been delegated the authority to perform health examinations by his or her supervising physician, or (5) if the treatment is by prayer or spiritual means, a spiritual adviser or practitioner of the employee's faith. If the Board or Executive Director requires a certificate during a leave of less than three days for personal illness, the Cooperative shall pay the expenses incurred by the employee.

The use of paid sick leave for adoption or placement for adoption is limited to 30 days unless a longer leave is provided in an applicable collective bargaining agreement. The Executive Director may require that the employee provide evidence that the formal adoption process is underway.

Vacation

Twelve-month employees shall be eligible for paid vacation days according to the following schedule:

Length of Employment

1st year of service
 2nd to 5th years
 6th to 10th years
 11th to 15th years
 After 15th year

Amount of Vacation Days

1 day/month, cumulative to 10 days
 10 days/year
 1 additional day/year to 15 days in the 10th year
 1 additional day/year to 20 days in the 15th year
 20 days/year

Vacation days earned in one fiscal year must be used by December 31st of the following fiscal year; they do not accumulate. Employees resigning or whose employment is terminated are entitled to the monetary equivalent of all earned vacation.

Holidays

Unless the Cooperative has a waiver or modification of the School Code pursuant to Section 2-3.25g or 24-2(b) allowing it to schedule school on a holiday listed below, Cooperative employees will not be required to work on:

New Year's Day	Labor Day
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday	Columbus Day
Abraham Lincoln's Birthday	Veteran's Day
Casimir Pulaski's Birthday	Thanksgiving Day
Memorial Day	Christmas Day
Independence Day	

A holiday will not cause a deduction from an employee's time or compensation. The Cooperative may require educational support personnel to work on a school holiday during an emergency or for the continued operation and maintenance of facilities or property.

Personal Leave

Full-time educational support personnel have two personal leave days per year. For all newly-hired paraprofessionals/aides, a personal day will be granted the first year of employment, one (1) per semester, after 30 days of continuous employment.

The use of a personal day is subject to the following conditions:

1. Except in cases of emergency or unavoidable situations, a personal leave request should be submitted to the Executive Director two (2) days before the requested date.
2. No personal leave day may be used immediately before or immediately after a holiday, or during the first and/or last five (5) days of the school year, unless the Executive Director grants prior approval.
3. Personal leave may not be used in increments of less than one-half day.
4. Personal leave is subject to any necessary replacement's availability.
5. Personal leave may not be used on an in-service training day and/or institute training days.
6. Personal leave may not be used when the employee's absence would create an undue hardship.

