



## **CATASTROPHIC INJURY OR ILLNESS LEAVE POLICY**

Catastrophic injury or illness is defined as a life-threatening injury or illness of an employee which totally incapacitates the employee from work, or of an employee's family member (e.g., spouse/partner, child, or parent), as verified by a licensed physician and which forces the employee to exhaust all leave time earned by that employee, resulting in the loss of compensation for the employee. Conditions that are short-term in nature (e.g., the flu, back pain, a broken limb, etc.) are not catastrophic. Acute chronic illnesses or injuries, such as cancer or major surgery, which result in intermittent absences from work, and which are long-term in nature and require long recuperation periods, may be considered catastrophic. The catastrophic leave program shall be implemented as follows:

1. Employees may donate up to two (2) sick leave days per fiscal year and to a sick leave bank for employees suffering a catastrophic illness/injury. However, employees must retain at least five (5) sick leave days for their own account. All transfers of sick leave are irrevocable.
2. Catastrophic leave requests must be submitted in writing to the Superintendent. Any employee requesting to receive donated sick leave under this program shall first exhaust all paid leave (e.g., sick and vacation leave) they have accrued.
3. The Superintendent shall determine whether or not to grant a request for catastrophic leave based on verification by a medical doctor as to the nature of the illness or injury, anticipated length of absence, and the prognosis for recovery. There is no right to receive catastrophic leave donations. The Superintendent may, in their sole and unreviewable discretion, decline an employee's request for catastrophic leave benefits for any reason.
4. All information provided by the employee requesting catastrophic leave shall be held in strict confidence by the School and shall be isolated from other employment records as required by applicable law.
5. The number of sick days that can be received by an employee from the catastrophic leave bank is limited to twenty (20) per fiscal year.
6. If an employee is also receiving any form of disability benefits, which are paid on a weekly basis, the total amount of catastrophic leave pay the employee may receive on a weekly basis, when added to the amount of disability benefits the employee is receiving, shall not exceed the employee's total weekly salary. Employees must disclose to the School whether they are receiving any such disability benefits.

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7. Any reinstatement rights for employees utilizing catastrophic leave shall be in accordance with applicable law.
8. Participation in this program is voluntary. Recipient employees shall not offer anything of value to another employee in exchange for donating leave. Likewise, donating employees shall not receive anything of value from another employee in exchange for donating leave.