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District 77 Policy 436

436 EXTENDED LEAVE OF ABSENCE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to set forth criteria to be used as a basis for making decisions regarding requests for extended leaves of absence.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

It shall be the policy of Independent School District No. 77 to use the following criteria in reviewing all requests for extended leave of absence:

1. In divisions (elementary and secondary) where there is a pattern of a stable or growing population, and where the addition of staff rather than the reduction of staff is the rule, requests for extended leave of absence will normally not be approved.
2. In divisions (elementary and secondary) where declining enrollment and staff reductions are being faced, requests for three-year leaves of absence will normally be approved. Exceptions to this general policy statement include:
 - a. Program areas where there is a shortage of teachers or where it is difficult to attract a strong field of candidates for a vacant position.
 - b. Program areas where the teacher's assignment is unique and difficult to fill.