

FMLA Certification Process and Flow Chart

1. The employee is absent from work due to a medical condition.
2. The Financial Services Benefits Office assesses whether or not the illness appears to be a “serious health condition” as defined by Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). A “serious health condition” under FMLA is defined as:
 - Any period of incapacity requiring absence from work for more than three calendar days from continuing treatment by a health care provider;
 - Any period of incapacity or treatment in connection with or following inpatient care at a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility;
 - Continuing treatment by a health care provider for prenatal care or long-term care for a condition so serious that, if not treated, would result in a period of incapacity for more than three calendar days; OR
 - Because a serious health condition makes the employee unable to perform one or more of the essential functions of his job.
3. The employee’s time off is documented as FMLA (to be used concurrently with available leave time), and/or FMLA leave without pay.
4. The FS Benefits Office investigates whether or not the employee qualifies for FMLA.
 - a. The employee has worked 1,250 hours the past calendar year from the first day of leave and worked the previous 12 months.
 - b. The employee’s health condition could be defined as being covered by FMLA.

The FS Benefits Office will also investigate the eligibility of the employee even though there may be some uncertainty as to whether or not the illness qualifies for FMLA benefits.
5. The FS Benefits Office submits the FMLA packet of information to the employee and informs him/her in writing that s/he does not qualify for FMLA benefits at the present time. This information is provided in the cover memo attached to the FMLA packet. The FS Benefits Office will keep a copy of the cover memo sent for its own records.
6. The FS Benefits Office submits the FMLA packet of information to the employee and tentatively designates the absence as FMLA leave if the individual appears to meet the eligibility criteria mentioned in item 2.
7. The employee should return the Certification of Physician or Practitioner Form along with the completed FMLA packet within 15 calendar days of receipt of the FMLA packet.
8. The FS Benefits Office, upon receipt of the certification, examines the physician’s statements and determines whether or not the condition is an illness covered by FMLA. The definition of a “serious health condition” is defined in item 2.
9. The employee’s absence is documented as FMLA leave if the physician’s form supports an FMLA condition. This leave will run concurrently with any other accrued leave available.
10. If the employee does not qualify for FMLA, the employee will be informed in writing that his/her illness is not a condition covered under FMLA guidelines.

FAYETTE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FMLA CERTIFICATION PROCESS

