

Regulation

STAFFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

TEACHING STAFF MEMBERS

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Workers' Compensation and Modified Duty

Early Return to Work Program

R 3425.1 WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND MODIFIED DUTY EARLY RETURN TO WORK PROGRAM

The Workers' Compensation and Modified Duty Early Return to Work Program shall be administered by the Superintendent, or designee, as the district's designated Workers' Compensation Coordinator.

A. Filing a Claim Report

1. A staff member must file a written Workers' Compensation Report if they have been injured in the performance of their job. This Report will be available in the main office and the nurse's office in each school building and in the Coordinator's office.
2. Upon sustaining an on-the-job injury, the staff member shall immediately report the injury to their immediate supervisor and report to the school nurse. If the injured staff member is not assigned to a school building with a school nurse, the school staff member shall immediately contact the Coordinator's office. The Coordinator, or designee, will direct the injured staff member to a school's main office, a school nurse, or the workers' compensation physician.
 - a. In the event the injury requires immediate medical treatment, the staff member may be directed to the workers' compensation physician or to the hospital emergency room. In this case, the Report shall be completed by the staff member whenever practical.
 - b. In the event the staff member gets injured when schools are closed or after business hours and the staff member believes the injury requires immediate medical treatment the staff member shall:
 - (1) Go to the hospital emergency room; and
 - (2) Notify their immediate supervisor as soon as possible after the injury.
 - c. In the event the injured staff member goes to the hospital emergency room when schools are closed, the staff member must report the injury to the Coordinator the next business day. The Coordinator may direct the injured staff member to a school nurse or to the workers' compensation physician. All



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future medical treatment for the injured staff member shall be scheduled through the Coordinator's office.

- d. In the event the staff member gets injured when schools are closed or after business hours and the staff member believes the injury does not require immediate medical treatment, the staff member shall:

- (1) Immediately notify their immediate supervisor; and
- (2) Notify the Coordinator's office the next business day.

3. The Workers' Compensation Report shall be forwarded to the Coordinator's office as soon as it is completed by the injured staff member.

- a. In the event the staff member requires a physician's examination and evaluation, the Coordinator's office will schedule the appointment with the workers' compensation physician's office and the staff member.

4. Any staff member injured on-the-job and the injury causes the staff member to miss work time or prohibits the staff member from fulfilling all their job responsibilities must be examined by the workers' compensation physician. The Superintendent and/or designee, as Workers' Compensation Coordinator, will authorize workers' compensation time off from work for a staff member injured on-the-job only after the staff member has been examined by the worker's compensation physician. The Superintendent and/or designee, as Workers' Compensation Coordinator, may, upon certain circumstances, authorize workers' compensation time from work without requiring an examination by the workers' compensation physician.

5. This Regulation will be provided to the injured staff member upon request.

B. Physician's Workers' Compensation Examination and Evaluation

1. Upon completing the medical examination and evaluation, the workers' compensation physician will prepare a report indicating the staff member's physical limitations, if any. The workers' compensation physician's report will also include a diagnosis, to the best of the physician's ability, on the length of recovery for each limitation. The physician's report will be forwarded to the Coordinator.



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2. The Superintendent and/or designee, as Workers' Compensation Coordinator, in conjunction with the Assistant Superintendent, will review the workers' compensation physician's report to determine whether or not modified duty is an option for the injured staff member. If more information is needed to make the determination, the Superintendent and/or designee will follow-up with and, if necessary, provide the staff member's job description and a list of daily tasks/duties to the workers' compensation physician so that the physician can help make the determination.

C. Modified Duty Restriction

1. There is no permanent modified duty and all modified duty positions are temporary.
2. Upon reviewing the workers' compensation physician's report, the Superintendent and/or designee, as Workers' Compensation Coordinator, will determine if temporary modified duty is appropriate for the staff member. The Coordinator may determine the staff member should be out of work until such time the staff member is able to return to work to assume all their job responsibilities. The Coordinator may also determine a date in the future for the staff member to return to work to assume temporary modified duties.
3. A medical review and examination by the workers' compensation physician may be required to continue a modified duty assignment beyond sixty calendar days.
4. The Board reserves the right to require a staff member returning from modified duty to submit to a physical examination before returning to their position to assume all the job responsibilities of their position.
5. There will be communications among the Coordinator, the injured staff member's supervisor, the staff member, the workers' compensation physician, and the workers' compensation insurance provider throughout the course of treatment and recovery of the injured staff member.
6. A tracking system will be established for documenting a staff member's status in the Modified Duty Program.



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D. Assignment of Job Tasks

1. Assigning modified duty to staff members will be decided on a case-by-case basis.
2. Job tasks for staff members on modified duty will be determined and assigned within the limitations established and approved by the workers' compensation physician.
3. The injured staff member's immediate supervisor shall provide periodic status reports to the Coordinator and Assistant Superintendent for any staff member assigned modified duty.
4. There is no restriction on the school district location or the type of modified duties assigned to a staff member provided it is consistent with the limitations detailed by the workers' compensation physician. These modified duties may be assigned to a full or partial day schedule depending on the staff member's limitations.
5. The modified duties and/or responsibilities will be within the injured staff member's capabilities and a staff member will not be assigned any modified duties and/or responsibilities that require any certifications/licenses that are not possessed by the injured staff member.

E. Staff Member Requirements

1. Staff members shall perform the job tasks designated by the workers' compensation physician in the physician's report and assigned by the Coordinator. In the event these job tasks cause discomfort, the staff member shall discontinue the specific activity and inform their immediate supervisor. The immediate supervisor will report this information to the Coordinator. The Coordinator will schedule a medical appointment for the staff member.
2. Staff members are required to follow the Coordinator's directives regarding:
 - a. Job assignments and tasks;
 - b. Attending scheduled doctors' appointments; and



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- c. Completing and transmitting reports to and from the workers' compensation physician, their immediate supervisor, and the Coordinator's office.

F. Compliance With Laws

The Modified Duty Early Return To Work Program shall be administered consistent with the applicable federal and State laws and in accordance with provisions of collective bargaining agreements within the district.

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