

REGULATION

UNION COUNTY
EDUCATIONAL
SERVICES COMMISSION
SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS

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THIS REGULATION REPLACES EXISTING REGULATION 4212 IN ITS ENTIRETY

R 4212 SUPPORT STAFF ATTENDANCE

A. Review of Attendance Data

1. A record shall be kept of the attendance of each support staff member, including secretarial staff; maintenance and custodial staff; food service staff; other support staff members, and staff members that supervise support staff members. Any absence, for part or all of a school day, shall be recorded along with the reason for the absence. The record will distinguish sick leave, professional days, unpaid leaves of absence, personal leave, bereavement leave, and any other leaves of absences taken by the support staff member. The support staff member's attendance record will include notation of verification of an absence where such verification is required by the Superintendent or by Policy and Regulation 1642.01. The support staff member's rate of absence shall be calculated at least once per school year and entered on the support staff member's attendance record. A support staff member's attendance record shall be part of the support staff member's personnel file.
2. A cumulative attendance record shall be assembled for each department or classification of employees in the school district.
3. An attendance report shall be prepared from the cumulative attendance record. The attendance summary shall show the rate of absence for a department and/or classification of employee.

B. Attendance Reporting and Improvement Plan

1. Planning
 - a. Each absence of a support staff member shall be reported by the support staff member in accordance with the school district's procedure.
 - b. The absence of a support staff member shall be provided to the support staff member's Principal or supervisor designated by the Superintendent, as appropriate, who shall determine if a substitute or replacement is required for the period of the absence.
 - c. A report of such absences shall also be provided to the Superintendent or designee.

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- d. The supervisor designated by the Superintendent shall determine if an absence requires further verification. Reasons for further verification may include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (1) A pattern of absences on the same day(s) of the week;
 - (2) A pattern of absences before or after nonworking days;
 - (3) The habitual exhaustion of personal leave.
- e. The Superintendent or designee will meet with the support staff member supervisors to discuss attendance records of support staff members. The attendance records shall be analyzed for patterns of absences, such as excessive absenteeism in a given department, school, or work place in the school district, among certain groups of support staff members, for certain specific causes, or on certain days of the week, month, or year. Specific strategies for reducing the rate of absences shall be developed.

2. Implementation

- a. The Superintendent or designee or the support staff member's supervisor designated by the Superintendent, shall be responsible for implementing a plan for the improvement of support staff member attendance.
- b. The support staff member's supervisor designated by the Superintendent shall encourage the regular attendance of the support staff members in their workplace, school, or department. The support staff member's supervisor designated by the Superintendent shall maintain contact with absent employees and may confer with support staff members who return from an absence of any duration.
- c. The Superintendent shall direct support staff member supervisors to incorporate a support staff member's attendance record in the support staff member's evaluation.
- d. The support staff member's supervisor designated by the Superintendent shall report to the Superintendent or designee any support staff member whom the supervisor suspects of misusing sick leave or falsifying the reasons for an absence.

3. Counseling

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- a. The Superintendent or supervisor designated by the Superintendent may schedule a conference with a support staff member where the number and/or pattern of the support staff member's absences or the reasons offered for the support staff member's absences may indicate a concern.
- b. Prior to the giving of any admonition, reprimand, or imposition of discipline of any kind, the Superintendent or supervisor designated by the Superintendent shall determine the nature of the absences and consider any extenuating circumstances.
- c. A written report of any attendance conference shall be prepared and retained with the support staff member's evaluations. The support staff member shall be permitted to examine the report and affix their comments, if any, to evaluation reports.

C. Record of Attendance

1. A record shall be kept of the attendance of all support staff members, including supervisors. Any absence, for part or all of a school day, shall be recorded with the reason for the absence. A support staff member's attendance record shall be part of the employee's personnel file.
2. The record will distinguish sick leave; professional days; unpaid leaves of absences; personal leave; bereavement leave; and any other leaves taken by the support staff member. The support staff member's attendance record will include notation of verification of an absence where such verification is required by the Superintendent, Policy 1642.01, or any other law or Board policy.
3. A support staff member's rate of absence shall be calculated at least once per school year and entered on the support staff member's attendance record.
4. At the end of each school year, the Superintendent, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary, and support staff members' supervisors will review attendance records for support staff members.

D. Attendance Improvement Plan

1. The attendance record prepared for support staff members shall be analyzed for patterns of absence, such as excessive absenteeism in a given school or work place, among certain groups of employees, for certain specific causes, or on certain days of the week, month, or year.
2. Specific strategies for reducing the rate of absences shall be developed.

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3. The Superintendent shall designate an administrator or supervisor to be responsible for implementing the approved plan for the improvement of support staff member attendance in the school district.
4. The record of a conference(s) dealing with excessive absenteeism may serve as an element in the evaluation of any support staff member's performance.

E. In-Service Training

1. The School Business Administrator/Board Secretary or supervisor designated by the Superintendent shall meet with support staff members at the beginning of each school year to:
 - a. Inform support staff members of Board policy and district regulations on attendance;
 - b. Familiarize employees with the procedures to be used in requesting, reporting, and verifying absences;
 - c. Acquaint support staff members with the degree to which attendance will affect evaluation reports.

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