

ARTICLE 13: Leave Policies

Section 13.1-Definitions. The benefits which are expressly provided by this section, Article 13, are the sole benefits which are part of this collective Agreement, and it is agreed that other statutory or regulatory leave benefits are not incorporated, either directly or implicitly, into this Agreement.

Section 13.2-Sick Leave.

- a. **Annual Accrual**-Sick Leave shall be earned by the full-time unit members based upon the number of days worked during the school year. The following shall apply:

<u>Annual Accrued Hours:</u>			
<u>Days Worked</u>	<u>Sick Days</u>	<u>7.25 hr. day</u>	<u>8 hr. day</u>
185	12.3	89.18	98.4
190	12.6	91.35	100.8
194	12.8	92.10	102.6
197	12.9	93.53	103.2
208	13.5	97.88	108.0

Unit members who work less than a full-time contract shall be entitled to that portion of sick leave as the number of hours per week or percentage of year of a full-time unit member in a comparable position. Sick leave shall be accumulated without limit. This leave is transferable within the State according to the appropriate provisions of the California Education Code. Each unit member shall be notified of their accumulated leave by no later than September 20 of each fiscal year.

- b. **Credit of Sick Leave**-Sick leave is credited to the unit member's account in advance of being earned at the beginning of each school year. The amount of sick leave an employee may use at any one time is the total amount credited to the unit member's account, whether or not it has actually been earned. An employee on a continuing long-term absence will have the current year's sick leave credited to their account on the first day they return from long-term leave. If they are unable to return from long-term leave, then they will be paid for that portion which is earned at the end of their long-term leave.
- c. **Summer School**- Additional sick leave will be accumulated for teaching the full summer session and/or semester. Additional hours will be based on the total hours of summer school divided by a factor of up to twenty (20) equals the number of hours of additional sick leave. Such hours shall be added to the unit member's accumulated sick leave hours.
- d. **Use of Sick Leave**-A unit member may use credited sick leave any time during the school year. Summer school teachers may utilize, during the summer, any sick leave

accumulated during the prior school year. After a unit member has used all of his/her earned sick leave for the current years' service, they may use sick leave, which has been earned and unused in prior years.

- e. **Long Term Illness or Accident Leave (Ed. Code 44977)**-After all earned sick leave has been used, based on a doctor's off-work order, an additional five (5) months or 100 days of difference pay, whichever is longer, for long-term illness or accident leave shall be granted. Difference pay is the difference between the unit member's per diem contract salary and the District's daily or long-term substitute rate of pay.
- f. **Sick Leave Without Pay**-When all available paid leaves have been exhausted and the unit member is not able to resume the duties of his/her position, the unit member shall request a leave of absence without pay, apply for retirement, or elect to resign. The District will notify the unit member of his/her options and when the paid status ends. Within thirty (30) days of notification, the unit member must request a leave of absence, resign, or retire, the District will place the unit member on an "other leave without pay" (Section 13.11).
- g. **Overuse of Sick Leave**-A unit member must reimburse the District for any overuse of sick leave. Deductions will be made from the unit member's pay warrant.
- h. **Proof of Illness**-The District shall require a physician's verification of illness if any unit member has been on sick leave for more than five (5) consecutive days. The District reserves the right, for good cause, to require proof of illness for absences of five (5) days or less.
- i. **Notification of Absence**- Except in emergencies, all unit members are required to submit their absences using the District's current absence management system not less than two (2) hours prior to the start of the workday to permit the District time to secure a substitute. In the event of an emergency, all unit members should contact their immediate supervisor or designee as soon as the need to be absent is known. If the actions of the unit member creates a situation where a substitute reports to the workplace when not needed and cannot be reassigned, the unit member shall pay the cost of the substitute through the use of leave, if available, or by payroll deduction.
- j. **Partial Day Absence**-For illness, family illness, or personal necessity, when a unit member is absent during any part of the duty day, the payroll office will be instructed to charge accrued leave against the absent unit member in quarter hour increments whether or not another unit member or substitute is employed to substitute for the absent unit member.

Section 13.3-Personal Necessity Leave.

- a. **Entitlement**-Unit members shall be entitled to use no more than ten (10) days of accrued sick leave during the school year in cases of personal necessity. The time used shall be deducted from and shall not exceed the number of full days of sick leave to which the unit member is entitled.
- b. **Use of Personal Necessity Leave**-Unit members may use all or part of the ten (10) annual personal necessity days for personal emergencies. In such cases, the unit member shall not be required to provide advance notice for personal necessity leave. Personal necessity leave for emergencies shall include any of the following:

1. The death of a member of the employee's immediate family or an individual whose association is the equivalent of family relationship.
 2. An unforeseen crisis involving the employee's property or the person or property of a member of the employee's immediate family or an individual whose association is the equivalent of a family relationship. Such unforeseen crises must (a) be serious in nature, (b) involve circumstances the employees cannot disregard, and (c) require the attention of the unit member during such unit member's assigned hours of service.
 3. An illness, including pregnancy of a unit member's spouse, or a member of the unit member's immediate family or an individual whose association is the equivalent of a family relationship, which under the circumstances, the unit member cannot disregard and which requires the attention of the unit member during such unit member's assigned hours of service.
 4. Imminent danger to the home of a unit member, occasioned by a factor such as flood or fire, serious in nature, and which requires the attention of the unit member during such unit member's assigned hours of service.
- c. Personal Business**-Unit members may not use more than six (6) of the ten (10) annual personal necessity days for personal business in a school year. Determination of what constitutes personal business for a given unit member shall be the responsibility of the unit member. Such leave shall not be used for any of the following purposes:
1. Recreation.
 2. Engaging in other employment, including self-employment, either directly or indirectly.
 3. Any illegal activity.
- d. Advance Notice of Personal Necessity Leave**-A request for personal necessity leave for personal business must be made to the on-site administrator twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the request leave date. No less than one (1) unit member or more than five percent (5%) of the unit members, whichever is greater, at a work site may use personal necessity leave for personal business on the same day. If possible, the leave should not be used the first or last five (5) days of the semester/trimester or the day before or after a scheduled holiday.

Section 13.4- Immediate Family Defined.

- a. For the purposes of Article 13, immediate family member shall be limited to mother, father, grandparent, brother, sister, spouse, registered domestic partner, son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law, father-in-law, niece, nephew, grandchild of the unit member, or designated person per current California law. For any relative or person who is living in the immediate household of the unit member, proof of residency may be required.
- b. A Designated Person is any individual related by blood or whose association with the employee is the equivalent of a family relationship. The designated person may be identified by the employee at the time the employee requests leave. An employee may have one (1) designated person per twelve (12) month period.

Section 13.5- Bereavement Leave.

a. Immediate Family-

- i. A unit member shall be entitled to a maximum of five (5) days leave of absence, without loss of salary, on account of the death of any member of their immediate family.
- ii. Bereavement leave shall be completed within three (3) months of the date of the death of the family member. In the case of extenuating circumstances, the unit member may request an extension of the three (3) month time period with the Human Resources Division.

b. Reproductive Loss Leave-

- i. A reproductive loss event is defined as a failed adoption, failed surrogacy, miscarriage, stillbirth, or an unsuccessful assisted reproduction.
- ii. Eligible employees may take up to five (5) days of leave per reproductive loss event, with a maximum of twenty (20) days in a twelve (12) -month period. Leave must generally be taken within three (3) months of the event.
- iii. The District will maintain confidentiality and employees are protected from retaliation for exercising this leave.

Section 13.6-Leave for Pregnancy Disability.

- a. **Entitlement to Use Sick Leave**-Unit members are entitled to use sick leave as set forth in Section 13.2 for disabilities caused or contributed to by pregnancy, miscarriage, childbirth, and recovery on the same terms and conditions governing leaves of absence for other illness or medical disability. The length of such disability leave, including the date on which the leave shall commence and the date on which the duties are to be resumed, shall be determined by the unit member and the unit member's physician.
- b. **Entitlement to Use Unpaid Leave**-Unit members are entitled to leave without pay or other benefits for disabilities because of pregnancy, miscarriage, childbirth, or recovery, when all other available leaves of this Article have been exhausted. The date on which the employee shall resume duties shall be determined by the unit member on leave and the unit member's physician. The unit member on leave for pregnancy disability shall be entitled to return to a position comparable to that held at the time of leave.

Section 13.7-Parental Leave.

- a. Parental leave under the California Family Rights Act—Pursuant to Education Codes section 44977.5, as amended by Assembly Bill 2393, when a unit member takes parental leave, he or she may use any or all current or accumulated full-paid sick leave, not to exceed twelve (12) workweeks.
 1. When a unit member has exhausted all sick leave, including accumulated sick leave, and continues to be absent for parental leave under the California Family Rights Act (CFRA; Government Code section 12945.2), he or she may use up to twelve (12) workweeks of substitute differential pay leave concurrently with the unpaid CFRA Leave entitlement. The twelve (12) workweeks shall be reduced by any period of parental leave pursuant to CFRA (Governmental Code Section 12945.2).

2. For this leave only, all sick leave shall be utilized and exhausted before differential pay shall be in effect.
 3. In order to be entitled to the substitute differential paid leave, the unit member must be eligible for CFRA child bonding leave, except that effective January 1, 2017, he or she need not have worked 1,250 hours in the twelve (12) months prior to commencing the Leave. Paid leave used under this section shall run concurrently with unpaid CFRA child bonding leave.
 4. A unit member shall not be provided more than one (1) – twelve (12) week period of parental leave during any twelve (12) month period.
 5. For purposes of this section, “parental leave” means leave taken for the reason of the birth of a child of the unit member, or placement of a child with the unit member in connection with the adoption or foster care of the child by the unit member, as provided in the CFRA. Such leave must be taken within twelve (12) months of the birth of the child or placement of the child for adoption or foster care. Non-birthing parents are required to submit proof of birth, adoption, or foster care placement as soon as possible after the birth or placement.
 6. Leave taken under this section shall be in addition to leave taken by the unit member due to her disability caused by pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition as described in Section 13.6.a
 7. The right to this paid child bonding leave shall apply to leaves commencing or continuing on or after July 1, 2016. It shall not be retroactive and if a unit member has already used part or all of his or her entitlement to child bonding leave under CFRA, the unit member shall be entitled to this paid leave on for CFRA child bonding leave taken after July 1, 2016.
- b. **Unpaid Leave**-At any time during the eight (8) months prior to becoming a parent or within thirty (30) days thereafter, a unit member who is not eligible for or does not wish to use sick leave for pregnancy may be granted an unpaid leave of absence under this section. The unit member’s request shall be made in writing at least thirty (30) school days prior to the anticipated starting date of the leave. A leave under this section shall normally be granted for not less than a full semester or for the remainder of the semester in which the request is filed. The District may grant a shorter leave when requested by the unit member. If a unit member is granted leave under this section and, after the leave is granted, the unit member desires to return to work prior to the end of the leave, the unit member may request immediate reinstatement to a position of like status and benefits. The District shall grant such a request when there is a vacancy for which the unit member is deemed qualified by the District. At the time the leave would normally have ended, the unit member shall be entitled to return to a position comparable to that held at the time of the leave.
- c. **Adopting Parents Leave**-The unit member may use up to five (5) days of personal necessity leave to be engaged in the procedures of legally adopting a child. These procedures include possible necessary travel, receipt of child, and legal responsibilities associated with the adoption.

Section 13.8-Industrial Accident Leave.

- a. Entitlement-**Unit members will be entitled to industrial accident leave according to the provision in the California Education Code for personal injury, which has qualified for Worker's Compensation.
1. Such leave shall not exceed sixty (60) days during which the schools of the District are required to be in session or when the employee would otherwise have been performing work for the District for the same industrial accident.
 2. The District has the right to have the unit member examined by a physician designated by the District to assist in determining the length of time during which the unit member will be temporarily unable to perform assigned duties and the degree to which a disability is attributable to the injury involved.
 3. For any days of absence from duty as a result of the same industrial accident, the unit member shall endorse to the District any wage loss benefit check issued by the District through the insurance carrier or agent which would make the total compensation from both sources exceed 100 percent of the amount the unit member would have received as salary had there been no industrial accident or illness.
 4. If the unit member fails to endorse to the District any wage loss disability indemnity check received on account of the industrial accident or illness as provided above, the District shall deduct, from the unit member's salary warrant, the amount of such disability indemnity actually paid to and retained by the unit member.
 5. A unit member receiving benefits as a result of this section during periods of injury or illness shall remain within the State of California unless the Board of Education authorizes travel outside the State or unless directed in writing by a physician.
 6. When entitlement for industrial accident or illness leave has been exhausted, the District will coordinate the temporary disability with the employee's other available paid leave to keep the employee in a full paid status as long as possible.
 7. Industrial accident and illness leave will be reduced by one day for each day of authorized absence regardless of a compensation award made under Worker's Compensation.
 8. When all available paid leaves have been exhausted and the unit member is not able to resume the duties of the unit member's position, he/she shall, within thirty (30) days, request a leave of absence without pay, apply for retirement, or elect to resign. Should the unit member fail to choose one of these options, the District will place the unit member on an unpaid leave of absence to the end of the school year. The District shall notify the unit member in writing of such action. Failure of the unit member to resign or apply for retirement by the end of the school year shall constitute a voluntary resignation.

Section 13.9-Judicial Leave.

- a. Unit members will be provided leave for regularly called jury duty and to appear as a witness in court, other than as a litigant, for reasons not brought about through the connivance or misconduct of the unit member. The unit member shall submit a written request for an approved absence no less than ten (10) days, if possible, prior to the beginning date of the leave as a witness.
- b. The unit member shall pay to the District the jury service or witness fee exclusive of mileage.
- c. Unit members on jury duty shall return to the District the court form indicating their presence for jury service.
- d. Unit members are required to return to work during any day or portion thereof within a reasonable time after being released from jury duty or witness services (one (1) hour plus travel time is considered reasonable).

Section 13.10-Military Leave.

- a. A leave of absence will be granted to unit members for the duration of required military service. Unit members may return to work being subject only to being physically and mentally fit to serve the District.
- b. Unit members who are members of the Armed Forces Reserve are expected to perform any annual mandatory training duty days schools are not in session. Exceptions will be considered when there is written evidence from Armed Services that appropriate training for a particular individual is not available during the days schools are not in session.
- c. Such absence shall not adversely affect in any way the status, classification, or position of the unit member. In the case of probationary unit members, the period of such absence shall not count as part of the service required as a condition precedent to the classifying of such unit member as a permanent employee of the District, but such absence shall not be construed as a break in the continuity of the service of such an employee. If the unit member chooses within twelve (12) months of returning to make-up his/her defined retirement contributions missed while on military leave, the District shall make the appropriate matching contribution, as per STRS/PERS and IRS rules and regulations.
- d. Within six months after the honorable discharge of the unit member from the Armed Forces of the United States, the unit member shall be entitled to return to a similar position held at the time of entrance into such military service, at the salary to which the unit member would have been entitled had the unit member continued in the service of the school district. The District shall make a reasonable effort to accommodate a veteran who returns with a service-connected disability.
- e. Unit members who are members of any Reserve Corps of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the National Guard, or who are indicted, or who volunteer, or are otherwise ordered to active military service, shall be granted one (1) month's military leave pay, or one twelfth (1/12th) of a unit member's salary (first year teachers, one eleventh {1/11th}) as is provided in the Military and Veteran's Code. Unit members and/or their dependents shall be granted a COBRA-like health benefit for a period of up to eighteen (18) months at their expense.

Section 13.11-Other Leaves Without Pay.

- a. Upon recommendation of the Superintendent, and approval by the Board of Education, or by placement in accordance with this Article, a unit member shall be granted leave without compensation, increment, seniority, or tenure credit, for a period not to exceed one (1) school year.
- b. The application for such leave shall be in writing. In addition, a unit member on such leave shall notify the District Human Resources office thirty (30) days prior to the end of the leave period as to an intent to return to employment in the District at the beginning of the coming year, trimester, or semester. Failure to so notify will be considered a voluntary resignation.
- c. The unit member on an unpaid leave of absence shall have the option of continuing health and dental insurance benefits at their own expense during the period of unpaid leave. Leaves of absence extending more than ninety (90) days will be placed under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) plan for up to eighteen (18) months.
- d. An unpaid leave of absence of up to one (1) year shall be granted to a unit member for the purpose of raising his/her natural or adopted child.

Section 13.12-FMLA/CFRA (Family Medical Leave Act of 1993/California Family Rights ACT).

FMLA/CFRA leave provides twelve (12) Weeks of unpaid leave for unit members who completed a full year of service during the previous twelve (12)-month period. Leave under this article shall entitle the unit member to all benefits of employment, except for salary, on the same basis as if the unit member were not on leave. If the unit member fails to return from leave, for a reason other than the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a serious health condition, then the unit member shall reimburse the District for premiums paid to maintain group health benefits. As per §825.213(3)(c) of the Family Medical Leave Act of 1993, an employee who returns to work for at least 30 calendar days is considered to have “returned” to work. For purposes of this article, the 30 calendar days will begin on the employee’s first day of return to regularly scheduled work. There will be no more than twelve (12) weeks of FMLA leave granted for any one qualifying event, this includes both spouses. Leave may be taken in multiple segments of time if used for medical necessity as certified on the FMLA leave application. Except in cases of emergency, FMLA leave should be arranged thirty (30) days in advance.

a. Leave Qualifiers

1. Personal illness - Personal Illness requires a physician's off-work order and runs concurrent with one-hundred (100) day long-term illness leave.
2. Family illness - Family as defined in section 13.5. Family illness requires medical certification on the District's family illness request form. All available paid leaves such as personal necessity and family illness leave must be used as part of the twelve (12) weeks of family leave.
3. New dependent care (birth, adoption, or placement of a foster child) - Dependent care leave requires certification of new dependent(s) on the District's leave request form. This leave must be taken within one (1) year of the new dependent's arrival. If not taken immediately following the qualifying event, the leave must be arranged in advance with the supervisor's approval to cause the

least interruption to the educational process. The unit member may take the leave in two (2) segments.

4. Under AB 2357 FMLA will be available for victims of domestic violence.
 - a. This leave will be granted for:
 1. Medical attention
 2. Legal assistance
 3. Services from a shelter, program, or rape crisis center
 4. Psychological counseling
 5. Safety planning, including temporary or permanent relocation
 - b. If a unit member wishes to take time under AB 2357, he or she must give reasonable notice to the District for one of the above listed activities unless advance notice is not feasible. The District may require verification that the absence was due to domestic violence. Type of verification may include:
 1. Police reports
 2. Court orders (or other evidence the employee appeared in court)
 3. Other documentation from a:
 - a. Medical professional
 - b. Domestic Violence Advocate
 - c. Health Care Provider
 - d. Counselor
 - c. A unit member shall be allowed time off due to domestic violence under AB 2357 if he or she has not exhausted the maximum leave under FMLA.
 - d. The District shall maintain confidentiality if time off is requested under this law.

Section 13.13-Sick Leave Bank.

- a. **Intent of Bank-** The District and Association agree to the establishment of a Sick Leave Bank. The intent of this bank is to provide additional financial protection to those unit members who incur a period of prolonged non-industrial serious illness or hospitalization.
- b. **Participation-** All permanent full-time certificated unit members and probationary unit members with more than twenty (20) days of accumulated sick leave may participate in the bank. (Those unit members participating in a full-time shared contract shall be considered full-time for this purpose.) The Bank shall not be available to any unit member during a leave of absence.
- c. **Donation of Days-** A unit member may elect to participate in the Sick Leave Bank by donating eight (8) hours of his/her accumulated sick leave to the Bank. The unit member shall make this donation by filing a "Certificated Sick Leave Bank Deposit" form with the Association during the open enrollment. This donation shall be irrevocable. A donation to the Sick Leave Bank must be made from the unit member's prior years' accumulated sick leave, and shall not be designated to a specific unit member for his/her exclusive use.

- d. **Additional Donations-** An additional eight (8) hours of contributions will be assessed of each participant if the number of hours in the Bank falls below eight hundred (800) hours. Unit members who are drawing from the Bank at the time of the assessment will not be required to contribute to remain eligible to receive benefits from the Bank. A unit member may elect to donate additional hours to the Bank. Such hours must be donated during the open enrollment period. Such additional donations must be approved by the Sick Leave Bank Administration Committee.
- e. **Enrollment Procedures-** The District shall establish an open enrollment period each year for unit members to participate in the Sick Leave Bank. Such enrollment period shall be May 1 through June 15. Unit members who donate during this open enrollment period shall be considered Bank participants effective July 1 of the next school year. (Once a unit member becomes a participant in the Bank, the unit member shall not be required to re-enroll each year.)
- f. **Procedures to Use/Withdraw Sick Leave-Conditions and Restrictions**
 - 1. In order to be eligible to withdraw sick leave from the Bank, the unit member must be a participant (donor) and have exhausted all of his/her accumulated sick leave.
 - 2. A unit member electing to use this Sick Leave Bank shall complete a Certificated Sick Leave Bank Request for Withdrawal Form. The unit member must submit this form to the Association of Colton Educators Office for processing. In the request, the unit member shall clearly state the details of his/her injury/illness and the number of days of sick leave the unit member is requesting from the Bank. Appropriate written verification of the illness or injury including, but not limited to, an off-work order signed by the unit member's physician, must be included with the request. The unit member should be prepared to provide additional documentation on the nature and severity of the illness or injury if requested by the Sick Leave Bank Administration Committee.
- g. **Allowable Duty Days-** The maximum number of duty days allowed to be utilized by one unit member for a single injury/illness shall not normally exceed twenty-five (25) duty days. A unit member may request a specific number of days on one (1) Certificated Sick Leave Bank Withdrawal Form. The unit member may request additional days up to the twenty-five (25) days by filing an additional request for consideration by the Committee. In situations of extreme hardship, a unit member may submit a request to the Sick Leave Bank Administration Committee for days beyond the twenty-five (25) duty days. Additional days may be granted to the unit member by the Committee based on the particular evidence of need presented in each situation. Any days approved by the Committee but unused by the unit member shall be returned to the Sick Leave Bank.
- h. **Method of Payment-** When a unit member uses a day from the Sick Leave Bank, pay for that day shall be at the same rate the unit member would have received had the unit member worked that day. No distinction shall be made as to the different pay rates of the donor or recipients.
- i. **Cancellation of Participation-** Cancellation of the unit member's membership in the Bank occurs automatically whenever the unit member fails to make an assessed contribution. The unit member shall not be eligible to draw from the Bank as of the

effective date of cancellation. Sick leave previously authorized for contribution to the Bank shall not be returned to the unit member's account of accumulated sick leave.

- j. **Accounting-** By September 20th of each year, the Payroll Office shall provide the Association with a statement detailing the number of hours withdrawn from the Bank during the past year and the number of hours available in the Bank as of the first of July of the current year. Should a unit member utilize sick leave bank benefits while on differential pay status, the District shall deduct from the Sick Leave Bank only four (4) hours for each day for all days covered by the unit member's Sick Leave Bank withdrawal. While on differential pay status, combined with the four (4) hours from the bank, the unit member would receive full pay.
- k. **Termination of Sick Leave Bank-** If the Sick Leave Bank is terminated for any reason, the hours remaining in the Bank shall be equally distributed to the current members of the Bank.
- l. **Administration of Bank-** The District and the Association shall administer the Sick Leave Bank. By committee, the District shall appoint two (2) and the Association shall appoint three (3) people to serve as members of the Sick Leave Bank Committee. The Committee shall choose a chairperson. The Sick Leave Bank Committee shall be responsible for approving Sick Leave Bank deposits and withdrawals from the Sick Leave Bank.
- m. **Hold Harmless-** The Association agrees that it will not file, on its own behalf, or on behalf of any unit member, any grievance, claim, or lawsuit of any kind related to any attempt by a unit member to retrieve donated sick leave used by another unit member pursuant to this provision. The Association also agrees that it will not file, on its own behalf or on behalf of any unit member, any grievance, claim, or lawsuit of any kind which attempts to challenge in any way the legality of enforcement of this provision. The Association agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the District from any loss of damages arising from the implementation of this provision. In the event of any grievance, claim, or lawsuit challenging the legality or enforcement of this provision the District may terminate this provision upon written notice to the Association.

Section 13.14-Short-Term Leave. Unit members may be granted a short-term leave of absence without pay for reasons satisfactory to the District. If granted, the leave shall not exceed five (5) consecutive workdays during any one (1) school year. Such leave shall not have any benefit adjustment.

Section 13.15-Unqualified Leave. Any unit member who is absent from duty without explanation will be considered on unqualified leave. All unqualified leaves shall be considered an unpaid leave if the unqualified leave exceeds five (5) days, the unit member shall be placed on an Other Leave Without Pay until the end of the term.

Section 13.16-Public Office Leave. Any unit member covered by this Agreement is entitled to a leave of absence when elected to public office. Such absence shall be without pay or benefits. Within six (6) months after the expiration of the term of office to which elected, the unit member shall return to a comparable position held at the time of beginning public office leave.

Section 13.17-Sabbatical Leave. The Board may grant sabbatical leaves. Each school year, permanent unit members shall have the right to apply for a sabbatical leave. To be qualified, a unit member must: 1) Be a permanent unit member with at least seven (7) years of continuous service to the District; and 2) The unit member must agree to return to the District for two (2) years of service upon completing the sabbatical. The selection committee is to be composed of two members chosen by the District and two members chosen by the Association and shall select unit members from a list of applicants. Applications, specifying the sabbatical program, must be received by the first of January and selection completed or rejected by the first of February.

- a. Sabbatical leave shall be for one full year with one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) year's salary, or one-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) year with one-fourth ($\frac{1}{4}$) year salary and full fringe benefits for the chosen unit member.
- b. A subversion of this section, by the selected unit member, can lead to a penalty imposed by the District, not to exceed the value of the sabbatical pay.