

Houston County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in January	Descriptor Term: Personal and Professional Leave	Descriptor Code: 5.303	Issued Date: 08/10/26
		Rescinds:	Issued: 07/14/25; 07/12/21; 06/10/19

Professional employees shall earn personal and professional leave at the rate of two (2) days for each half-year employed for a total of four (4) days per year. Any personal and professional leave remaining unused at the end of a year shall be credited to sick leave.¹

Non-Certified Employees

Non-Certified employees receive two (2) personal leave days a year. A maximum of two (2) unused personal leave days will be credited to the employee's sick leave at the end of each year.

If, at the termination of services, any employee has been absent for more days than leave has been earned, an amount sufficient to cover the excess days used shall be deducted from the employee's final salary payment.²

PERSONAL LEAVE

Subject to the following conditions, personal leave may be taken at the discretion of the employee:

1. Except in an emergency, each employee shall give the principal at least three (3) days' notice in writing of intent to take leave;
2. The approval of the principal of the school shall be required:³
 - a. If more than ten percent (10%) of the teachers in any given school request its use on the same day;
 - b. If requested during any prior established student examination period;
 - c. If requested on the day immediately preceding or following a holiday or vacation period;
 - d. If personal leave is requested for days scheduled for professional development or in-service training, according to a school calendar adopted by the Board prior to the commencement of the school year; or
 - e. If personal leave is requested for days scheduled for parent-teacher conferences, according to a school calendar adopted by the Board prior to the commencement of the school year.

PROFESSIONAL LEAVE

Professional leave is a short, temporary absence for the purpose of attending workshops and other meetings relating to school business or serving on boards and commissions which meet during daytime hours when appointed by a mayor, city council, county executive, or county commission.⁴ Requests for professional leave must be submitted five (5) days prior to the date of the leave.

Legal References

1. [TCA 49-5-711\(a\); Public Acts of 2026, Chapter No. 1022; TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.04\(3\)](#)
2. [TCA 49-5-711\(b\)](#)
3. [TCA 49-5-711\(c\)\(1\)](#)
4. [TCA 49-5-205](#)

Cross References

Short Term Leaves of Absence 5.300
Legislative Leave 5.309