

Policy Committee Meeting
Duluth Public Schools, ISD 709
Agenda
Thursday, January 5, 2023
United Health Group (UHG)
4316 Rice Lake Rd
Suite 108
Duluth, MN 55811
3:30 PM

1. **AGENDA ITEMS**
2. **POLICIES FOR FIRST READING - None**
3. **POLICIES FOR SECOND READING**
 - A. Policy 408 - Subpoena of a School District Employee 2
 - B. Policy 410 - Family and Medical Leave Policy to replace Policy 4111 4
4. **REGULATIONS - Informational - None**
5. **Mapping out policy reviews for 2022-23 Calendar**
6. **OTHER**

408 SUBPOENA OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYEE

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to protect the privacy rights of school district employees and students under both state and federal law when requested to testify or provide educational records for a judicial or administrative proceeding.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

This policy is to provide guidance and direction for school district employees who may be subpoenaed to testify and/or provide educational records for a judicial or administrative proceeding.

III. DATA CLASSIFICATION

A. Educational Data

1. State Law

The Minnesota Government Data Practices Act (MGDPA), Minnesota Statutes chapter 13, classifies all educational data, except for directory information as designated by the school district, as private data on individuals. The state statute provides that **private data on individuals may not be released, except pursuant to a valid court order or informed consent by the subject of the data or a parent if the subject of the data is a minor.**

2. Federal Law

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 United States Code section 1232g, provides that educational data may not be released, except pursuant to informed consent by the individual subject of the data or any lawfully issued subpoena. Regulations promulgated under the federal law require that the school district must first make a reasonable effort to notify the parent of the student, or the student if the student is 18 years of age or older, of the subpoena in advance of releasing the information pursuant to the subpoena.

B. Personnel Data

The MGDPA, also classifies all personnel data, except for certain data specifically classified as public, as private data on individuals. The state statute provides that **private data on individuals may not be released, except pursuant to a valid court order or informed consent by the subject of the data.**

IV. APPLICATION AND PROCEDURES

- A. Any employee who receives a subpoena for any purpose related to employment is to inform the building administrator or designated supervisor when the employee receives the subpoena. The building administrator or designated supervisor shall immediately inform the superintendent that the employee has received a subpoena.
- B. No employee may release educational data, personnel data, or any other data of any kind without consultation in advance with the school district official who is designated as the authority responsible for the collection, use and dissemination of data.

- C. Payment for attendance at judicial or administrative proceedings and the retention of witness and mileage fees is to be determined in accordance with the applicable school board policies and collective bargaining agreements.
- D. The administration shall not release any information except in strict compliance with state and federal law and this policy. Recognizing that an unauthorized release may expose the school district or its employees to civil or criminal penalties or loss of employment, the administration shall confer with school district legal counsel prior to release of such data.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. Ch. 13 (Minnesota Government Data Practices Act)
Minn. Rules 1205.0100, Subp. 5 (How These Rules Apply)
20 U.S.C. § 1232g (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)

Cross References: MSBA/MASA Model Policy 211 (Criminal or Civil Action Against School District, School Board Member, Employee, or Student)
MSBA/MASA Model Policy 515 (Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records)
MSBA Law Bulletin "I" (School Records – Privacy – Access to Data)

First Reading: 12-20-22

410 FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE POLICY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide for family and medical leave to school district employees in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) and also with parenting leave under state law.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

The following procedures and policies regarding family and medical leave are adopted by the school district, pursuant to the requirements of the FMLA and consistent with the requirements of the Minnesota parenting leave laws.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. "Covered active duty" means:

1. in the case of a member of a regular component of the Armed Forces, duty during the deployment of the member with the Armed Forces to a foreign country; and
2. in the case of a member of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, duty during the deployment of the member with the Armed Forces to a foreign country under a call or order to active duty under a provision of law referred to in 10 United States Code section 101(a)(13)(B).

B. "Covered servicemember" means:

1. a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, is otherwise in outpatient status, or is otherwise on the temporary disability retired list, for a serious injury or illness; or
2. a covered veteran who is undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a serious injury or illness and who was a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, and was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable, at any time during the period of five years preceding the first date the eligible employee takes FMLA leave to care for the covered veteran.

- #### **C. "Eligible employee" means an employee who has been employed by the school district for a total of at least 12 months and who has been employed for at least 1,250 hours of service during the 12-month period immediately preceding the commencement of the leave. An employee returning from fulfilling his or her Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)-covered service obligation shall be credited with the hours of service that would have been performed but for the period of absence from work due to or necessitated by USERRA-covered service. In determining whether the employee met the hours of service requirement, and to determine the hours that would have been worked during the period of absence from work due to or necessitated by USERRA-covered service, the employee's pre-service work schedule can generally be used for calculations. While the 12 months of employment need not be consecutive, employment periods prior to a break in service of seven years or more may not be counted unless: (1) the break is occasioned by the employee's fulfillment of his or her USERRA-covered service obligation; or (2) a written agreement, including a collective bargaining agreement, exists concerning the school district's intention to rehire the employee after the break in service.**

- D. "Military caregiver leave" means leave taken to care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness.
- E. "Next of kin of a covered servicemember" means the nearest blood relative other than the covered servicemember's spouse, parent, son, or daughter, in the following order of priority: blood relatives who have been granted legal custody of the covered servicemember by court decree or statutory provisions, brothers and sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and first cousins, unless the covered servicemember has specifically designated in writing another blood relative as his or her nearest blood relative for purposes of military caregiver leave under the FMLA. When no such designation is made and there are multiple family members with the same level of relationship to the covered servicemember, all such family members shall be considered the covered servicemember's next of kin, and the employee may take FMLA leave to provide care to the covered servicemember, either consecutively or simultaneously. When such designation has been made, the designated individual shall be deemed to be the covered servicemember's only next of kin.
- F. "Outpatient status" means, with respect to a covered servicemember who is a current member of the Armed Forces, the status of a member of the Armed Forces assigned to:
1. a military medical treatment facility as an outpatient; or
 2. a unit established for the purpose of providing command and control of members of the Armed Forces receiving care as outpatients.
- G. "Qualifying exigency" means a situation where the eligible employee seeks leave for one or more of the following reasons:
1. to address any issues that arise from a short-notice deployment (seven calendar days or less) of a covered military member;
 2. to attend military events and related activities of a covered military member;
 3. to address issues related to childcare and school activities of a covered military member's child;
 4. to address financial and legal arrangements for a covered military member;
 5. to attend counseling provided by someone other than a health care provider for oneself, a covered military member, or his/her child;
 6. to spend up to 15 calendar days with a covered military member who is on short-term, temporary rest and recuperation leave during a period of deployment;
 7. to attend post-deployment activities related to a covered military member;
 8. to address care needs of a covered military member's parent who is incapable of self-care; and
 9. to address other events related to a covered military member that both the employee and school district agree is a qualifying exigency.
- H. "Serious health condition" means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves:

1. inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility; or
 2. continuing treatment by a health care provider.
- I. "Spouse" means a husband or wife. For purposes of this definition, husband or wife refers to the other person with whom an individual entered into marriage as defined or recognized under state law for purposes of marriage in the state in which the marriage was entered into or, in the case of a marriage entered into outside of any state, if the marriage is valid in the place where entered into and could have been entered into in at least one state. This definition includes an individual in a same-sex or common law marriage that either: (1) was entered into in a state that recognizes such marriages; or (2) if entered into outside of any state, is valid in the place where entered into and could have been entered into in at least one state.
- J. "Veteran" has the meaning given in 38 United States Code section 101.

IV. LEAVE ENTITLEMENT

A. Twelve-week Leave under Federal Law

1. Eligible employees are entitled to a total of 12 work weeks of unpaid family or medical leave during the applicable 12-month period as defined below, plus any additional leave as required by law. Leave may be taken for one or more of the following reasons in accordance with applicable law:
 - a. birth of the employee's child and to care for such child;
 - b. placement of an adopted or foster child with the employee;
 - c. to care for the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent with a serious health condition;
 - d. the employee's serious health condition makes the employee unable to perform the functions of the employee's job; and/or
 - e. any qualifying exigency arising from the employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent being on covered active duty, or notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty in the Armed Forces.
2. For the purposes of this policy, "year" is defined as a rolling 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee's leave is to commence.
3. An employee's entitlement to FMLA leave for the birth, adoption, or foster care of a child expires at the end of the 12-month period beginning on the date of the birth or placement.
4. A "serious health condition" typically requires either inpatient care or continuing treatment by or under the supervision of a health care provider, as defined by applicable law. Family and medical leave generally is not intended to cover short-term conditions for which treatment and recovery are very brief.
5. A "serious injury or illness," in the case of a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, means:
 - a. injury or illness that was incurred by the member in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces or that existed before the beginning of the member's active duty and was aggravated by service in the line of

duty on active duty in the Armed Forces and that may render the member medically unfit to perform the duties of the member's office, grade, rank, or rating; and

b. in the case of a covered veteran who was a member of the Armed Forces, including a member of the National Guard or Reserves, at any time, during the period of five years preceding the date on which the veteran undergoes the medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy, means a qualifying injury or illness that was incurred by the member in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces or that existed before the beginning of the member's active duty and was aggravated by service in the line of duty in the Armed Forces and that manifested itself before or after the member became a veteran, and is:

(1) a continuation of a serious injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated when the covered veteran was a member of the Armed Forces and rendered the servicemember unable to perform the duties of the servicemember's office, grade, rank, or rating; or

(2) a physical or mental condition for which the covered veteran has received a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Service-Related Disability (VASRD) rating of 50 percent or greater and such VASRD rating is based, in whole or in part, on the condition precipitating the need for military caregiver leave; or

(3) a physical or mental condition that substantially impairs the covered veteran's ability to secure or follow a substantially gainful occupation by reason of a disability or disabilities related to military service, or would do so absent treatment; or

(4) an injury, including a psychological injury, on the basis of which the covered veteran has been enrolled in the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers.

6. Eligible spouses employed by the school district are limited to an aggregate of 12 weeks of leave during any 12-month period for the birth and care of a newborn child or adoption of a child, the placement of a child for foster care, or to care for a parent. This limitation for spouses employed by the school district does not apply to leave taken: by one spouse to care for the other spouse who is seriously ill; to care for a child with a serious health condition; because of the employee's own serious health condition; or pursuant to Paragraph IV.A.1.e. above.

7. Depending on the type of leave, intermittent or reduced schedule leave may be granted in the discretion of the school district or when medically necessary. However, part-time employees are only eligible for a pro-rata portion of leave to be used on an intermittent or reduced schedule basis, based on their average hours worked per week. Where an intermittent or reduced schedule leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the school district may transfer the employee temporarily to an available alternative position for which the employee is qualified and which better accommodates recurring periods of leave than does the employee's regular position, and which has equivalent pay and benefits.

8. If an employee requests a leave for the serious health condition of the

employee or the employee's spouse, child, or parent, the employee will be required to submit sufficient medical certification. In such a case, the employee must submit the medical certification within 15 days from the date of the request or as soon as practicable under the circumstances.

9. If the school district has reason to doubt the validity of a health care provider's certification, it may require a second opinion at the school district's expense. If the opinions of the first and second health care providers differ, the school district may require certification from a third health care provider at the school district's expense. An employee may also be required to present a certification from a health care provider indicating that the employee is able to return to work.
10. Requests for leave shall be made to the school district. When leave relates to an employee's spouse, son, daughter, parent, or covered servicemember being on covered active duty, or notified of an impending call or order to covered active duty pursuant to Paragraph IV.A.1.e. above, and such leave is foreseeable, the employee shall provide reasonable and practical notice to the school district of the need for leave. For all other leaves, employees must give 30 days' written notice of a leave of absence where practicable. The failure to provide the required notice may result in a delay of the requested leave. Employees are expected to make a reasonable effort to schedule leaves resulting from planned medical treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the school district, subject to and in coordination with the health care provider.
11. The school district may require that a request for leave under Paragraph IV.A.1.e. above be supported by a copy of the covered military member's active duty orders or other documentation issued by the military indicating active duty or a call to active duty status and the dates of active duty service. In addition, the school district may require the employee to provide sufficient certification supporting the qualifying exigency for which leave is requested.
12. During the period of a leave permitted under this policy, the school district will provide health insurance under its group health plan under the same conditions coverage would have been provided had the employee not taken the leave. The employee will be responsible for payment of the employee contribution to continue group health insurance coverage during the leave. An employee's failure to make necessary and timely contributions may result in termination of coverage. An employee who does not return to work after the leave may be required, in some situations, to reimburse the school district for the cost of the health plan premiums paid by it.
13. The school district may request or require the employee to substitute accrued paid leave for any part of the 12-week period. Employees may be allowed to substitute paid leave for unpaid leave by meeting the requirements set out in the administrative directives and guidelines established for the implementation of this policy, if any. Employees eligible for leave must comply with the family and medical leave directives and guidelines prior to starting leave. The superintendent shall be responsible to develop directives and guidelines as necessary to implement this policy. Such directives and guidelines shall be submitted to the school board for annual review.

The school district shall comply with written notice requirements as set forth in federal regulations.

14. Employees returning from a leave permitted under this policy are eligible for reinstatement in the same or an equivalent position as provided by law.

However, the employee has no greater right to reinstatement or to other benefits and conditions of employment than if the employee had been continuously employed during the leave.

B. Twelve-week Leave under State Law

An employee who does not qualify for parenting leave under Paragraphs IV.A.1.a. or IV.A.1.b. above may qualify for a 12-week unpaid leave which is available to a biological or adoptive parent in conjunction with the birth or adoption of a child, or to a female employee for prenatal care or incapacity due to pregnancy, childbirth, or related health conditions. The length of the leave shall be determined by the employee but must not exceed 12 weeks unless agreed to by the school district. The employee may qualify if he or she has worked for the school district for at least 12 months and has worked an average number of hours per week equal to one-half of the full time equivalent during the 12-month period immediately preceding the leave. This leave is separate and exclusive of the family and medical leave described in the preceding paragraphs but may be reduced by any period of paid parental, disability, personal, or medical, or sick leave, or accrued vacation provided by the school district so that the total leave does not exceed 12 weeks, unless agreed to by the school district, or leave taken for the same purpose under the FMLA. The leave taken under this section shall begin at a time requested by the employee. An employee who plans to take leave under this section must give the school district reasonable notice of the date the leave shall commence and the estimated duration of the leave. For leave taken by a biological or adoptive parent in conjunction with the birth or adoption of a child, the leave must begin within 12 months of the birth or adoption; except that, in the case where the child must remain in the hospital longer than the mother, the leave must begin within 12 months after the child leaves the hospital.

C. Twenty-six-week Servicemember Family Military Leave

1. An eligible employee who is the spouse, son, daughter, parent, or next of kin of a covered servicemember shall be entitled to a total of 26 work weeks of leave during a 12-month period to care for the servicemember. The leave described in this paragraph shall be available only during a single 12-month period. For purposes of this leave, the need to care for a servicemember includes both physical and psychological care.
2. During a single 12-month period, an employee shall be entitled to a combined total of 26 work weeks of leave under Paragraphs IV.A. and IV.C. above.
3. The 12-month period referred to in this section begins on the first day the eligible employee takes leave to care for a covered servicemember and ends 12 months after that date.
4. Eligible spouses employed by the school district are limited to an aggregate of 26 weeks of leave during any 12-month period if leave is taken for birth of the employee's child or to care for the child after birth; for placement of a child with the employee for adoption or foster care or to care for the child after placement; to care for the employee's parent with a serious health condition; or to care for a covered servicemember with a serious injury or illness.
5. The school district may request or require the employee to substitute accrued paid leave for any part of the 26-week period. Employees may be allowed to substitute paid leave for unpaid leave by meeting the requirements set out in the administrative directives and guidelines established for the implementation of this policy, if any. Employees eligible for leave must comply with the family and medical leave directives and guidelines prior to starting leave.

6. An employee will be required to submit sufficient medical certification issued by the health care provider of the covered servicemember and other information in support of requested leave and eligibility for such leave under this section within 15 days from the date of the request or as soon as practicable under the circumstances.
7. The provisions of Paragraphs IV.A.7., IV.A.10., IV.A.12., IV.A.13., and IV.A.14. above shall apply to leaves under this section.

~~V. SPECIAL RULES FOR INSTRUCTIONAL EMPLOYEES~~

- ~~A. An instructional employee is one whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group, or an individual setting. This includes, but is not limited to, teachers, coaches, driver's education instructors, and special education assistants.~~
- ~~B. Instructional employees who request foreseeable medically necessary intermittent or reduced work schedule leave greater than 20 percent of the workdays in the leave period may be required to:

 - ~~1. take leave for the entire period or periods of the planned medical treatment; or~~
 - ~~2. move to an available alternative position for which the employee is qualified, and which provides equivalent pay and benefits, but not necessarily equivalent duties.~~~~
- ~~C. Instructional employees who request continuous leave near the end of a semester may be required to extend the leave through the end of the semester. The number of weeks remaining before the end of a semester does not include scheduled school breaks, such as summer, winter, or spring break.

 - ~~1. If an instructional employee begins leave for any purpose more than five weeks before the end of a semester and it is likely the leave will last at least three weeks, the school district may require that the leave be continued until the end of the semester.~~
 - ~~2. If the instructional employee begins leave for a purpose other than the employee's own serious health condition during the last five weeks of a semester, the school district may require that the leave be continued until the end of the semester if the leave will last more than two weeks or if the employee's return from leave would occur during the last two weeks of the semester.~~
 - ~~3. If the instructional employee begins leave for a purpose other than the employee's own serious health condition during the last three weeks of the semester and the leave will last more than five working days, the school district may require the employee to continue taking leave until the end of the semester.~~
 - ~~4. If the school district requires an instructional employee to extend leave through the end of a semester as set forth in this paragraph, only the period of leave until the employee is ready and able to return to work shall be charged against the employee's FMLA leave entitlement. Any additional leave required by the school district to the end of the school term is not counted as FMLA leave but as an unpaid or paid leave, to the extent the instructional employee has accrued paid leave available and the school district shall maintain the employee's group health insurance and restore the employee to the same or~~~~

~~equivalent job, including other benefits, at the conclusion of the leave.~~

~~VI~~ V. OTHER

- A. The provisions of this policy are intended to comply with applicable law, including the FMLA and applicable regulations. Any terms used from the FMLA will have the same meaning as defined by the FMLA and/or applicable regulations. To the extent that this policy is ambiguous or contradicts applicable law, the language of the applicable law will prevail.
- B. The requirements stated in the collective bargaining agreement between employees in a certified collective bargaining unit and the school district regarding family and medical leaves (if any) shall be followed.

~~VII~~ VI. DISSEMINATION OF POLICY

- A. A poster prepared by the U.S. Department of Labor summarizing the major provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act and informing employees how to file a complaint shall be conspicuously posted in each school district building in areas accessible to employees and applicants for employment.
- B. This policy will be reviewed at least annually for compliance with state and federal law.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. §§ 181.940-181.944 (Parenting Leave and Accommodations)
 10 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.* (Armed Forces General Military Law)
 29 U.S.C. § 2601 *et seq.* (Family and Medical Leave Act)
 38 U.S.C. § 101 (Definitions)
 29 C.F.R. Part 825 (Family and Medical Leave Act)

Cross References: MSBA School Law Bulletin "M" (Licensed and Non-Licensed School District Employee Leave)

To Replace Policy 4111
 First Reading: 12-20-22

~~4111 — FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT POLICY~~

~~The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) provides for up to 12 weeks of job-protected leave to eligible employees for certain family and medical reasons. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for implementation of the FMLA. Terms used in this policy are intended to have the meaning set forth in the FMLA and accompanying U.S. Department of Labor regulations. Any aspect of FMLA leave not specifically addressed in this policy shall be handled in accordance with the FMLA and accompanying U.S. Department of Labor regulations and applicable policies of the Employer.~~

~~An employee must meet the following requirements to be eligible for FMLA leave:~~

- ~~1. The employee must have worked for the Employer for at least 12 months; and~~
- ~~2. The employee must have worked at least 1,250 hours during the 12 months immediately preceding the request.~~

~~FMLA leave may be requested for the following reasons:~~

- ~~1. For the birth of a child, and to care for the newborn child;~~
- ~~2. For the placement with the employee of a child for adoption or foster care;~~
- ~~3. To care for the employee's spouse, son or daughter, or parent, who has a serious health condition; or~~
- ~~4. For a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the essential functions of the employee's job.~~

~~Eligibility for FMLA leave for birth or placement of a child expires 12 months after the birth or placement of the child. Circumstances may require that leave for the birth of a child, or for placement for adoption or foster care, commence prior to actual birth or placement.~~

~~An eligible employee may qualify for up to 12 weeks of FMLA leave in any 12 month period. From the 12 week maximum, any FMLA leave which the employee has taken during the 12 months preceding commencement of the requested leave will be subtracted to determine the maximum leave for which the employee may be eligible presently.~~

~~In accordance with the FMLA, the Employer may require that an instructional employee's FMLA leave continue until the end of the academic semester under circumstances where the employee would otherwise be returning from leave near the end of the academic semester.~~

~~When FMLA leave is taken to care for a spouse, son or daughter, or parent, with a serious health condition, or for an employee's own serious health condition, leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced schedule if shown to be "medically necessary". Where leave is taken for the birth or placement of a child for adoption or foster care, leave may be taken on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule only if the Employer agrees.~~

~~If an eligible instructional employee requests intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule to care for a family member, or for the employee's own serious health condition, which is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, and the employee would be on leave for more than 20 percent of the total number of working days over the period the~~

~~leave would extend, the employer may require the employee to choose either to:~~

- ~~1. Take leave for a period or periods of a fixed duration, not greater than the duration of the planned treatment; or~~
- ~~2. Transfer temporarily to an available alternate position for which the employee is qualified, which has equivalent pay and benefits and which better accommodates recurring periods of leave than does the employee's regular position.~~

~~"Periods of a particular duration" means a block, or blocks, of time beginning no earlier than the first day for which leave is needed and ending no later than the last day on which leave is needed, and may include an uninterrupted period of leave.~~

Unpaid Leave

~~Generally FMLA leave is unpaid. However, an employee shall substitute accumulated paid sick leave for a portion of the FMLA leave in any situation where the employee would normally be allowed to use sick leave. An employee shall also substitute accumulated personal leave for a portion of the FMLA leave.~~

~~Minnesota law allows for unpaid parental leave and for use of paid sick leave to care for dependent family members under certain circumstances. These leaves remain available under FMLA but do not extend the maximum FMLA leave for which an employee is eligible.~~

Authorization

~~An eligible employee must ordinarily provide the Employer with 30 days advance notice when the FMLA leave is foreseeable. If 30 days advance notice is not possible, the employee will be required to give the Employer notice as soon as practical which shall normally be within two business days after the employee learns of the need for the leave. The Employer reserves the right to deny a leave request absent timely advance notice. The employee must attempt to schedule foreseeable FMLA leave so as not to unduly disrupt the Employer's operations.~~

~~An employee requesting leave shall provide to the Employer, in writing, the proposed date the leave is to commence, the approximate duration of the leave, and the qualifying reason (s) for the leave. The Employer will normally require medical certification to support a FMLA leave request either to care for an employee's seriously ill family member or because of the employee's serious health condition. The medical certification shall be provided to the Employer as soon as possible, and not more than 15 days later. The Employer reserves the right to require a second medical opinion at the Employer's expense, as allowed by the FMLA.~~

~~The Employer reserves the right to require the employee to provide recertification of the need for the leave every 30 days. Recertification may also be required sooner than every 30 days if (1) the employee requests an extension of the leave; (2) there are changed circumstances regarding the nature of the medical condition; (3) the Employer receives information casting doubt on the continued validity of the most recent certification. The Employer may request a medical fitness-for-duty report upon the employee's return to work.~~

Benefit Continuation

~~During an approved FMLA leave, the employee and dependent health and dental insurance coverage (if any) shall be maintained on the same basis as coverage would have been provided if employee had been continuously employed during the entire leave period. Employees who receive partial employer contribution must continue to pay their portion of the premium in order to retain this coverage. If an employee fails to make their premium payment, the employee will lose coverage and will not be covered for any claims which may have occurred while on FMLA leave. However, an employee may voluntarily choose not to pay the premium and thus not retain these coverages. The coverages will be reinstated upon the employee's return to work.~~

~~An employee on FMLA leave may also continue other insurance coverages which the employee had in effect through the Employer prior to going on FMLA leave. The employee will be required to pay the full cost of the premium.~~

~~The Employer's obligation to maintain health and dental insurance benefits ceases if and when the employee informs the Employer of the employee's intent not to return from leave; if the employee fails to return from leave, thereby terminating employment; or if the employee exhausts the employee's FMLA leave entitlement. In some of these situations, employees may be entitled by law to continue their health care coverage at their own expense.~~

Return to Work

~~An employee returning from FMLA leave of longer than one month must notify the Employer at least two weeks prior to return from leave.~~

~~An employee returning from FMLA leave shall be entitled to be restored to the same position and shift that the employee held when the FMLA leave began, or to an equivalent position and shift with equivalent benefits, pay and other terms and conditions of employment. Benefits of employment and seniority will be resumed at the same level and in the same manner as were provided at the time the leave began. Any increases in pay or changes in benefits that are not dependent upon seniority or accrual during the leave period also must be made effective upon the employee's return to work. However, an employee on FMLA leave shall not be entitled to benefit or seniority accrual during the leave except as may be required by the employee's collective bargaining agreement.~~

Failure to Return to Work

~~If an employee on FMLA leave decides not to return to work, the employee shall notify the Employer as soon as it is foreseeable that the employee will not be returning to work.~~

~~If an employee does not return to work for reasons beyond the employee's control or because the employee has a serious health condition which prevents the employee from returning to work, then the employee will not be required to repay health insurance~~

~~premiums paid by the Employer during the FMLA leave. If the employee does not return to work for any other reason, then the employee will be required to repay the Employer for those premiums.~~

~~An employee who chooses not to return to work or is unable to return to work shall be considered to have voluntarily resigned.~~

~~Adopted: 01-23-1996 ISD 709~~