

EMPLOYEE RIGHTS

UNDER THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION

LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS



Eligible employees who work for a covered employer can take up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave in a 12-month period for the following reasons:

- The birth of a child or placement of a child for adoption or foster care;
- To bond with a child (leave must be taken within one year of the child's birth or placement);
- To care for the employee's spouse, child, or parent who has a qualifying serious health condition;
- For the employee's own qualifying serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the employee's job;
- For qualifying exigencies related to the foreign deployment of a military member who is the employee's spouse, child, or parent.

An eligible employee who is a covered servicemember's spouse, child, parent, or next of kin may also take up to 26 weeks of FMLA leave in a single 12-month period to care for the servicemember with a serious injury or illness.

An employee does not need to use leave in one block. When it is medically necessary or otherwise permitted, employees may take leave intermittently or on a reduced schedule.

Employees may choose, or an employer may require, use of accrued paid leave while taking FMLA leave. If an employee substitutes accrued paid leave for FMLA leave, the employee must comply with the employer's normal paid leave policies.

While employees are on FMLA leave, employers must continue health insurance coverage as if the employees were not on leave.

Upon return from FMLA leave, most employees must be restored to the same job or one nearly identical to it with equivalent pay, benefits, and other employment terms and conditions.

An employer may not interfere with an individual's FMLA rights or retaliate against someone for using or trying to use FMLA leave, opposing any practice made unlawful by the FMLA, or being involved in any proceeding under or related to the FMLA.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

An employee who works for a covered employer must meet three criteria in order to be eligible for FMLA leave. The employee must:

- Have worked for the employer for at least 12 months;
- Have at least 1,250 hours of service in the 12 months before taking leave;* and
- Work at a location where the employer has at least 50 employees within 75 miles of the employee's worksite.

*Special "hours of service" requirements apply to airline flight crew employees.

REQUESTING LEAVE

Generally, employees must give 30-days' advance notice of the need for FMLA leave. If it is not possible to give 30-days' notice, an employee must notify the employer as soon as possible and, generally, follow the employer's usual procedures.

Employees do not have to share a medical diagnosis, but must provide enough information to the employer so it can determine if the leave qualifies for FMLA protection. Sufficient information could include informing an employer that the employee is or will be unable to perform his or her job functions, that a family member cannot perform daily activities, or that hospitalization or continuing medical treatment is necessary. Employees must inform the employer if the need for leave is for a reason for which FMLA leave was previously taken or certified.

Employers can require a certification or periodic recertification supporting the need for leave. If the employer determines that the certification is incomplete, it must provide a written notice indicating what additional information is required.

EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES

Once an employer becomes aware that an employee's need for leave is for a reason that may qualify under the FMLA, the employer must notify the employee if he or she is eligible for FMLA leave and, if eligible, must also provide a notice of rights and responsibilities under the FMLA. If the employee is not eligible, the employer must provide a reason for ineligibility.

Employers must notify its employees if leave will be designated as FMLA leave, and if so, how much leave will be designated as FMLA leave.

ENFORCEMENT

Employees may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division, or may bring a private lawsuit against an employer.

The FMLA does not affect any federal or state law prohibiting discrimination or supersede any state or local law or collective bargaining agreement that provides greater family or medical leave rights.



For additional information or to file a complaint:

1-866-4-USWAGE

(1-866-487-9243) TTY: 1-877-889-5627

www.dol.gov/whd

U.S. Department of Labor | Wage and Hour Division



EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REQUEST FORM

Date: _____

I, _____, request family and medical leave for the following reason:

(check all that apply)

- ☐ for the birth of my child;
☐ for the placement of a child for adoption or foster care;
☐ to care for my child who has a serious health condition;
☐ to care for my parent who has a serious health condition;
☐ to care for my spouse who has a serious health condition; or
☐ because I am seriously ill and unable to perform the essential functions of my position.
☐ because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that my ___ spouse; ___ son or daughter; ___ parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves.
☐ because I am the ___ spouse; ___ son or daughter; ___ parent; ___ next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.

I acknowledge my obligation to provide medical certification of my serious health condition or that of a family member in order to be eligible for family and medical leave within 15 days of the request for certification.

I acknowledge receipt of information regarding my obligations under the family and medical leave policy of the school district.

I request that my family and medical leave begin on _____ and I request leave as follows:
(check one)

- ☐ continuous
 I anticipate that I will be able to return to work on _____.
☐ intermittent leave for the:
☐ birth of my child or adoption or foster care placement subject to agreement by the district;
☐ serious health condition of myself, spouse, parent, or child when medically necessary;
☐ because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that my ___ spouse; ___ son or daughter; ___ parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves.
☐ because I am the ___ spouse; ___ son or daughter; ___ parent; ___ next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.

Details of the needed intermittent leave:

I anticipate returning to work at my regular schedule on _____.

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REQUEST FORM

_____ reduced work schedule for the:
 _____ birth of my child or adoption or foster care placement subject to agreement by the district;
 _____ serious health condition of myself, spouse, parent, or child when medically necessary;
 _____ because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that my _____ spouse; _____ son or daughter; _____ parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves.
 _____ because I am the _____ spouse; _____ son or daughter; _____ parent; _____ next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.

Details of needed reduction in work schedule as follows:

I anticipate returning to work at my regular schedule on _____.

I realize I may be moved to an alternative position during the period of the family and medical intermittent or reduced work schedule leave. I also realize that with foreseeable intermittent or reduced work schedule leave, subject to the requirements of my health care provider, I may be required to schedule the leave to minimize interruptions to school district operations.

While on family and medical leave, I agree to pay my regular contributions to employer sponsored benefit plans. My contributions will be deducted from moneys owed me during the leave period. If no monies are owed me, I will reimburse the school district by personal check or cash for my contributions. I understand that I may be dropped from the employer-sponsored benefit plans for failure to pay my contribution.

I agree to reimburse the school district for any payment of my contributions with deductions from future monies owed to me or the school district may seek reimbursement of payments of my contributions in court.

I acknowledge that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signed	
Date	

If the employee requesting leave is unable to meet the above criteria, the employee is not eligible for family and medical leave.

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REGULATION

A. School district notice.

1. The school district will post the notice in Exhibit 409.3E1 regarding family and medical leave.
2. Information on the Family and Medical Leave Act and the board policy on family and medical leave, including leave provisions and employee obligations will be provided annually. The information will be in the employee handbook.
3. When an employee requests family and medical leave, the school district will provide the employee with information listing the employee's obligations and requirements. Such information will include:
 - a. a statement clarifying whether the leave qualifies as family and medical leave and will, therefore, be credited to the employee's annual 12-week entitlement or 26 week entitlement depending on the purpose of the leave;
 - b. a reminder that employees requesting family and medical leave for their serious health condition or for that of an immediate family member must furnish medical certification of the serious health condition and the consequences for failing to do so or proof of call to active duty in the case of military family and medical leave;
 - c. an explanation of the employee's right to substitute paid leave for family and medical leave including a description of when the school district requires substitution of paid leave and the conditions related to the substitution; and
 - d. a statement notifying employees that they must pay and must make arrangements for paying any premium or other payments to maintain health or other benefits.

B. Eligible employees.

Employees are eligible for family and medical leave if the following criteria are met.

1. The employee has worked for the school district for at least twelve months or 52 weeks (the months and weeks need not be consecutive); and,
2. The employee has worked at least 1,250 hours during the 12 months immediately before the date FMLA leave is to begin. Full-time professional employees who are exempt from the wage and hour law may be presumed to have worked the minimum hour requirement.

If the employee requesting leave is unable to meet the above criteria, the employee is not eligible for family and medical leave.

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REGULATION

C. Employee requesting leave -- two types of leave.

1. Foreseeable family and medical leave.

- a. Definition - leave is foreseeable for the birth or placement of an adopted or foster child with the employee or for planned medical treatment.
- b. Employee must give at least thirty days notice for foreseeable leave. Failure to give the notice may result in the leave beginning thirty days after notice was received. For those taking leave due to military family and medical leave, notice should be given as soon as possible.
- c. Employees must consult with the school district prior to scheduling planned medical treatment leave to minimize disruption to the school district. The scheduling is subject to the approval of the health care provider.

2. Unforeseeable family and medical leave.

- a. Definition - leave is unforeseeable in such situations as emergency medical treatment or premature birth.
- b. Employee must give notice as soon as possible but no later than one to two work days after learning that leave will be necessary.
- c. A spouse or family member may give the notice if the employee is unable to personally give notice.

D. Eligible family and medical leave determination. The school district may require the employee giving notice of the need for leave to provide reasonable documentation or a statement of family relationship.

1. Six purposes.

- a. The birth of a son or daughter of the employee and in order to care for that son or daughter prior to the first anniversary of the child's birth;
- b. The placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption or foster care and in order to care for that son or daughter prior to the first anniversary of the child's placement;
- c. To care for the spouse, son, daughter or parent of the employee if the spouse, son, daughter or parent has a serious health condition; or
- d. Employee's serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the essential functions of the employee's position.
- e. because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that an employee's ___ spouse; ___ son or daughter; ___ parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves.
- f. because the employee is the spouse; ___ son or daughter; ___ parent; ___ next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REGULATION

2. Medical certification.

a. When required:

- (1) Employees shall be required to present medical certification of the employee's serious health condition and inability to perform the essential functions of the job.
- (2) Employees shall be required to present medical certification of the family member's serious health condition and that it is medically necessary for the employee to take leave to care for the family member.
- (3) Employees shall be required to present certification of the call to active duty when taking military family and medical leave.

b. Employee's medical certification responsibilities:

- (1) The employee must obtain the certification from the health care provider who is treating the individual with the serious health condition.
- (2) The school district may require the employee to obtain a second certification by a health care provider chosen by and paid for by the school district if the school district has reason to doubt the validity of the certification an employee submits. The second health care provider cannot, however, be employed by the school district on a regular basis.
- (3) If the second health care provider disagrees with the first health care provider, then the school district may require a third health care provider to certify the serious health condition. This health care provider must be mutually agreed upon by the employee and the school district and paid for by the school district. This certification or lack of certification is binding upon both the employee and the school district.

c. Medical certification will be required fifteen days after family and medical leave begins unless it is impracticable to do so. The school district may request recertification every thirty days. Recertification must be submitted within fifteen days of the school district's request.

d. Employees taking military caregiver family and medical leave to care for a family service member cannot be required to obtain a second opinion or to provide recertification.

Family and medical leave requested for the serious health condition of the employee or to care for a family member with a serious health condition which is not supported by medical certification will be denied until such certification is provided.

E. Entitlement.

1. Employees are entitled to twelve weeks unpaid family and medical leave per year. Employees taking military caregiver family and medical leave to care for a family service member are entitled to 26 weeks of unpaid family and medical leave but only in a single 12 month period.

2. Year is defined as on a rolling basis: measured forward from the first day leave is used, or measured backward from the date leave is used.

3. If insufficient leave is available, the school district may:

- a. Deny the leave if entitlement is exhausted
- b. Award leave available

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REGULATION

F. Type of Leave Requested.

1. Continuous - employee will not report to work for set number of days or weeks.
2. Intermittent - employee requests family and medical leave for separate periods of time.
 - a. Intermittent leave is available for:
 - _____ birth of my child or adoption or foster care placement subject to agreement by the district;
 - _____ serious health condition of myself, spouse, parent, or child when medically necessary;
 - _____ because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that my _____ spouse; _____ son or daughter; _____ parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves;
 - _____ because I am the _____ spouse; _____ son or daughter; _____ parent; _____ next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.
 - b. In the case of foreseeable intermittent leave, the employee must schedule the leave to minimize disruption to the school district operation.
 - c. During the period of foreseeable intermittent leave, the school district may move the employee to an alternative position with equivalent pay and benefits.
3. Reduced work schedule - employee requests a reduction in the employee's regular work schedule.
 - a. Reduced work schedule family and medical leave is available for:
 - _____ birth of my child or adoption or foster care placement subject to agreement by the district;
 - _____ serious health condition of myself, spouse, parent, or child when medically necessary;
 - _____ because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that my _____ spouse; _____ son or daughter; _____ parent is on active duty or call to active duty status in support of a contingency operation as a member of the National Guard or Reserves;
 - _____ because I am the _____ spouse; _____ son or daughter; _____ parent; _____ next of kin of a covered service member with a serious injury or illness.
 - b. In the case of foreseeable reduced work schedule leave, the employee must schedule the leave to minimize disruption to the school district operation.
 - c. During the period of foreseeable reduced work schedule leave, the school district may move the employee to an alternative position with equivalent pay and benefits

G. Special Rules for Instructional Employees.

1. Definition - 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.

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REGULATION

2. Instructional employees who request foreseeable medically necessary intermittent or reduced work schedule family and medical leave greater than twenty percent of the work days in the leave period may be required to:
 - a. Take leave for the entire period or periods of the planned medical treatment; or,
 - b. Move to an available alternative position, with equivalent pay and benefits, but not necessarily equivalent duties, for which the employee is qualified.
3. Instructional employees who request continuous family and medical leave near the end of a semester may be required to extend the family and medical 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.
 - a. If an instructional employee begins family and medical leave for any purpose more than five weeks before the end of a semester, the school district may require that the leave be continued until the end of the semester if the leave will last at least three weeks and the employee would return to work during the last three weeks of the semester if the leave was not continued.
 - b. If the employee begins family and medical 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 and the employee would return to work during the last two weeks of the semester.
 - c. If the employee begins family and medical 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. The entire period of leave taken under the special rules is credited as family and medical leave. The school district will continue to fulfill the school district's family and medical leave responsibilities and obligations, including the obligation to continue the employee's health insurance and other benefits, if an instructional employee's family and medical leave entitlement ends before the involuntary leave period expires.

H. Employee responsibilities while on family and medical leave.

1. Employee must continue to pay health care benefit contributions or other benefit contributions regularly paid by the employee unless employee elects not to continue the benefits.
2. The employee contribution payments will be deducted from any money owed to the employee or the employee will reimburse the school district at a time set by the superintendent.

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE REGULATION

3. An employee who fails to make the health care contribution payments within thirty days after they are due will be notified that their coverage may be canceled if payment is not received within an additional 15 days.
4. An employee may be asked to re-certify the medical necessity of family and medical leave for the serious medical condition of an employee or family member once every thirty days and return the certification within fifteen days of the request.
5. The employee must notify the school district of the employee's intent to return to work at least once each month during their leave and at least two weeks prior to the conclusion of the family and medical leave.
6. If an employee intends not to return to work, the employee must immediately notify the school district, in writing, of the employee's intent not to return. The school district will cease benefits upon receipt of this notification.

I. Use of paid leave for family and medical leave.

1. An employee will substitute unpaid family and medical leave with appropriate paid leave available to the employee under board policy, individual contracts or the collective bargaining agreement. Paid leave includes, but is not limited to, sick leave, family illness leave, vacation, personal leave, bereavement leave and professional leave. When the school district determines that paid leave is being taken for an FMLA reason, the school district will notify the employee within two business days that the paid leave will be counted as FMLA leave.

I. Use of paid leave for family and medical leave.

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EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE DEFINITIONS

Active Duty - duty under a call or order to active duty under a provision of law referring to in section 101(a)(13) of title 10, U.S. Code.

Common Law Marriage - according to Iowa law, common law marriages exist when there is a present intent by the two parties to be married, continuous cohabitation, and a public declaration that the parties are husband and wife. There is no time factor that needs to be met in order for there to be a common law marriage.

Contingency Operation - has the same meaning given such term in section 101(a)(13) of title 10, U.S. Code.

Continuing Treatment - a serious health condition involving continuing treatment by a health care provider includes any one or more of the following:

- A period of incapacity (i.e., inability to work, attend school or perform other regular daily activities due to the serious health condition, treatment for or recovery from) of more than three consecutive calendar days and any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition that also involves:
 - treatment two or more times by a health care provider, by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision of a health care provider, or by a provider of health care services (e.g., physical therapist) under orders of, or in referral by, a health care provider; or
 - treatment by a health care provider on at least one occasion which results in a regimen of continuing treatment under the supervision of a the health care provider.
- Any period of incapacity due to pregnancy or for prenatal care.
- Any period of incapacity or treatment for such incapacity due to a chronic serious health condition. A chronic serious health condition is one which:
 - requires periodic visits for treatment by a health care provider or by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision of a health care provider;
 - Continues over an extended period of time (including recurring episodes of a single underlying condition); and
 - May cause episodic rather than a continuing period of incapacity (e.g., asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.).
- Any period of incapacity which is permanent or long-term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective. The employee or family member must be under the continuing supervision of, but need not be receiving active treatment by, a health care provider. Examples include Alzheimer's, a severe stroke or the terminal stages of a disease.
- Any period of absence to receive multiple treatments (including any period of recovery from) by a health care provider or by a provider of health care services under orders of, or on referral by, a health care provider, either for restorative surgery after an accident or other injury, or for a condition that would likely result in a period of incapacity of more than three consecutive calendar days in the absence of medical intervention or treatment, such as cancer (chemotherapy, radiation, etc.), severe arthritis (physical therapy), kidney disease (dialysis).

Covered Servicemember - a current 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.

Eligible Employee -The employee has worked for the district for at least twelve months and has worked at least 1250 hours within the previous year.

Essential Functions of the Job - those functions which are fundamental to the performance of the job. It does not include marginal functions.

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE DEFINITIONS

Employment Benefits - all benefits provided or made available to employees by an employer, including group life insurance, health insurance, disability insurance, sick leave, annual leave, educational benefits, and pensions, regardless of whether such benefits are provided by a practice or written policy of an employer or through an "employee benefit plan."

Family Member - individuals who meet the definition of son, daughter, spouse or parent.

Group Health Plan - any plan of, or contributed to by, an employer (including a self-insured plan) to provide health care (directly or otherwise) to the employer's employees, former employees, or the families of such employees or former employees.

Health Care Provider-

- A doctor of medicine or osteopathy who is authorized to practice medicine or surgery by the state in which the doctor practices; or
- Podiatrists, dentists, clinical psychologists, optometrists, and chiropractors (limited to treatment consisting of manual manipulation of the spine to correct a subluxation as demonstrated by X ray to exist) authorized to practice in the state and performing within the scope of their practice as defined under state law; and
- Nurse practitioners and nurse-midwives, and clinical social workers who are authorized to practice under state law and who are performing within the scope of their practice as defined under state law; and
- Christian Science practitioners listed with the First Church of Christ Scientist in Boston, Massachusetts;
- Any health care provider from whom an employer or a group health plan's benefits manager will accept certification of the existence of a serious health condition to substantiate a claim for benefits;
- A health care provider as defined above who practices in a country other than the United States who is licensed to practice in accordance with the laws and regulations of that country.

In Loco Parentis - individuals who had or have day-to-day responsibilities for the care and financial support of a child not their biological child or who had the responsibility for an employee when the employee was a child.

Incapable of Self-Care - that the individual requires active assistance or supervision to provide daily self-care in several of the "activities of daily living" or "ADLs." Activities of daily living include adaptive activities such as caring appropriately for one's grooming and hygiene, bathing, dressing, eating, cooking, cleaning, shopping, taking public transportation, paying bills, maintaining a residence, using telephones and directories, using a post office, etc.

Instructional Employee - an employee employed principally in an instructional capacity by an educational agency or school whose principal function is to teach and instruct students in a class, a small group, or an individual setting, and includes athletic coaches, driving instructors, and special education assistants such as signers for the hearing impaired. The term does not include teacher assistants or aides who do not have as their principal function actual teaching or instructing, nor auxiliary personnel such as counselors, psychologists, curriculum specialists, cafeteria workers, maintenance workers, bus drivers, or other primarily noninstructional employees.

Intermittent Leave - leave taken in separate periods of time due to a single illness or injury, rather than for one continuous period of time, and may include leave or periods from an hour or more to several weeks.

Medically Necessary - certification for medical necessity is the same as certification for serious health condition.

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE DEFINITIONS

"Needed to Care For" - the medical certification that an employee is "needed to care for" a family member encompasses both physical and psychological care. For example, where, because of a serious health condition, the family member is unable to care for his or her own basic medical, hygienic or nutritional needs or safety or is unable to transport himself or herself to medical treatment. It also includes situations where the employee may be needed to fill in for others who are caring for the family member or to make arrangements for changes in care.

Next of Kin - an individual's nearest blood relative

Outpatient Status - the status of a member of the Armed Forces assigned to –

- either a military medical treatment facility as an outpatient; or
- a unit established for the purpose of providing command and control of members of the Armed Forces receiving medical care as outpatients.

Parent - a biological parent or an individual who stands in loco parentis to a child or stood in loco parentis to an employee when the employee was a child. Parent does not include parent-in-law.

Physical or Mental Disability - a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of an individual.

Reduced Leave Schedule - a leave schedule that reduces the usual number of hours per workweek, or hours per workday, of an employee.

Serious Health Condition -

- An illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves:
- Inpatient care (i.e. an overnight stay) in a hospital, hospice or residential medical care facility including any period of incapacity (for purposes of this section, defined to mean inability to work, attend school or perform other regular daily activities due to the serious health condition, treatment for or recovery from), or any subsequent treatment in connection with such inpatient care; or
- Continuing treatment by a health care provider. A serious health condition involving continuing treatment by a health care provider includes:
 - A period of incapacity (i.e., inability to work, attend school or perform other regular daily activities due to the serious health condition, treatment for or recovery from) of more than three consecutive calendar days, including any subsequent treatment or period of incapacity relating to the same condition, that also involves:
 - Treatment two or more times by a health care provider, by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision of a health care provider, or by a provider of health care services (e.g., physical therapist) under orders or, or on referral by, a health care provider; or
 - Treatment by a health care provider on at least one occasion which results in a regimen of continuing treatment under the supervision of the health care provider.
 - Any period of incapacity due to pregnancy or for prenatal care.
 - Any period of incapacity or treatment for such incapacity due to a chronic serious health condition. A chronic serious health condition is one which:
 - Requires periodic visits for treatment by a health care provider or by a nurse or physician's assistant under direct supervision of a health care provider;
 - Continues over an extended period of time (including recurring episodes of a single underlying condition); and
 - May cause episodic rather than a continuing period of incapacity (e.g., asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, etc.).

EMPLOYEE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE DEFINITIONS

- A period of incapacity which is permanent or long-term due to a condition for which treatment may not be effective. The employee or family member must be under the continuing supervision of, but need not be receiving active treatment by, a health care provider. Examples include Alzheimer's a severe stroke or the terminal stages of a disease.
- Any period of absence to receive multiple treatments (including any period of recovery from) by a health care provider or by a provider of health care services under orders of, or on referral by, a health care provider, either for restorative surgery after an accident or other injury, or for a condition that would likely result in a period of incapacity of more than three consecutive calendar days in the absence of medical intervention or treatment, such as cancer (chemotherapy, radiation, etc.), severe arthritis (physical therapy), kidney disease (dialysis).

Treatment for purposes of this definition includes, but is not limited to, examinations to determine if a serious health condition exists and evaluation of the condition. Treatment does not include routine physical examinations, eye examinations or dental examinations. Under this definition, a regimen of continuing treatment includes, for example, a course of prescription medication (e.g., an antibiotic) or therapy requiring special equipment to resolve or alleviate the health condition (e.g., oxygen). A regimen of continuing treatment that includes the taking of over-the-counter medications such as aspirin, antihistamines, or salves; or bed rest, drinking fluids, exercise and other similar activities that can be initiated without a visit to a health care provider, is not, by itself, sufficient to constitute a regimen of continuing treatment for purposes of FMLA leave.

Conditions for which cosmetic treatments are administered (such as most treatments for acne or plastic surgery) are not "serious health conditions" unless inpatient hospital care is required or unless complications develop. Ordinarily, unless complications arise, the common cold, the flu, ear aches, upset stomach, ulcers, headaches other than migraine, routine dental or orthodontia problems, periodontal disease, etc., are examples of conditions that do not meet the definition of a serious health condition and do not qualify for FMLA leave. Restorative dental or plastic surgery after an injury or removal of cancerous growths are serious health conditions provided all the other conditions of this regulation are met. Mental illness resulting from stress or allergies may be serious health conditions, but only if all the conditions of this section are met.

Substance abuse may be a serious health condition if the conditions of this section are met. However, FMLA leave may only be taken for treatment for substance abuse by a health care provider or by a provider of health care on referral by a health care provider. On the other hand, absence because of the employee's use of the substance, rather than for treatment, does not qualify for FMLA leave.

Absence attributable to incapacity under this definition qualify for FMLA leave even though the employee or the immediate family member does not receive treatment from a health care provider during the absence, and even if the absence does not last more than three days. For example, an employee with asthma may be unable to report for work due to the onset of an asthma attack or because the employee's health care provider has advised the employee to stay home when the pollen count exceeds a certain level. An employee who is pregnant may be unable to report to work because of severe morning sickness.

Serious Injury or Illness - an injury or illness incurred by a member of the Armed forces, including the National Guard or Reserves in the line of duty on active duty in the Armed Forces that may render the member medically unfit to perform the duties of the member's office, grade, rank, or rating.

Son or daughter - a biological child, adopted child, foster child, stepchild, legal ward, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis. The child must be under age 18 or, if over 18, incapable of self-care because of a mental or physical disability.

Spouse - a husband or wife recognized by Iowa law including common law marriages.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

The board recognizes the need for substitute teachers. Substitute teachers shall be licensed to teach in Iowa.

It shall be the responsibility of the building principal to maintain a list of substitute teachers who may be called upon to replace regular contract licensed employees. Individuals whose names do not appear on this list will not be employed as a substitute without specific approval of the superintendent. It shall be the responsibility of the building principal to fill absences with substitute teachers immediately.

Substitute teachers will be paid a per diem rate. Substitutes employed for 10 or more consecutive days in the same position shall be paid according to the prevailing salary schedule based upon the BA base (BA salary divided by 187 per day). Substitute licensed employees are expected to perform the same duties as the licensed employees.

Legal Reference:

Iowa Association of School Boards v. PERB, 400 N.W.2d 571 (Iowa 1987). Iowa Code 88
20.1,.4(5), 9; Ch.272 (2013). 281 I.A.C. 12.4.

Cross Reference:

405.1 Licensed Employee Defined
405.2 Licensed Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection

Approved 9/12/2011

Reviewed 1/9/2023

Revised 1/9/2023

SUMMER SCHOOL LICENSED EMPLOYEES

The East Mills Community School District shall offer summer school options in accordance with law and may, in its discretion offer additional programming during the summer recess. Licensed employees who volunteer or who are appointed to deliver the summer education program are compensated in addition to their regular duties during the school academic year, unless such arrangements are made prior to determining the employee's compensation for the year.

Licensed employees will be given the opportunity to volunteer for the positions available. If the board determines a course must be offered and no licensed employee volunteers for the position, the board will make the necessary arrangements to fill the position. The board will consider applications from volunteers of current licensed employees in conjunction with other applications.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation to the board regarding the need for and the delivery of the summer education program.

Legal Reference:

Iowa Code §§ 279.8; .68; 280.14 (2015)

Cross Reference:

505.2 Student Promotion - Retention - Acceleration
603.2 Summer School Instruction

Approved 9/12/2011

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Revised 1/9/2023

EDUCATION ASSOCIATE

The board may employ education associates or other instructional support personnel to assist licensed personnel in nonteaching duties, including, but not limited to:

- managing and maintaining records, materials and equipment;
- attending to the physical needs of children; and
- performing other limited services to support teaching duties when such duties are determined and directed by the teacher.

Education associates who hold a teaching certificate are compensated at the rate of pay established for their position as an education associate. It is the responsibility of the principal to supervise education associates.

Legal Reference:

Iowa Code §§ 279.8; 280.3, .14 (2013). 281 I.A.C. 12.4(9); .5(9).

Cross Reference:

411.2 Classified Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection

Approved 9/12/2011

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CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE DEFINED

Classified employees are employees who are not administrators or employees in positions which require teaching license issued by the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners and who are employed to fulfill the duties listed on their job description on a monthly or hourly basis. Classified employees will include, but not be limited to, teacher and classroom aides, custodial and maintenance employees, clerical employees, food service employees, bus drivers, and temporary help for summer or other maintenance. The position may be full-time or part-time.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to establish job specifications and job descriptions for classified employee positions. Job descriptions may be approved by the board.

Classified employees required to hold a license for their position must present evidence of their current license to the board secretary prior to payment of wages each year.

Legal Reference:

Iowa Code §§ 20; 279.8 (2013).

Cross Reference:

405.1 Licensed Employee Defined
411.2 Classified Employee Qualifications, Recruitment and Selection
412.3 Classified Employee Group Insurance Benefits (I,II)

Approved 9/12/2011

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Revised 1/9/2023

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE - QUALIFICATIONS, RECRUITMENT, SELECTION

Persons interested in a classified employee position will have an opportunity to apply and qualify for classified employee positions in the school district in accordance with applicable laws and school district policies regarding equal employment. Job applicants for classified employee positions will be considered on the basis of the following:

- Training, experience, and skill;
- Nature of the occupation;
- Demonstrated competence; and
- Possession of, or ability to obtain, state or other license or certificate, if required, for the position.

All job openings shall be submitted to the Iowa Workforce Development for posting on IowaWORKS.gov, the online state job posting system. Additional announcements of the position may occur through means the superintendent believes will inform potential applicants about the position. Whenever possible, the preliminary screening of applicants will be conducted by the administrator who directly supervises and oversees the position.

East Mills Community School District requires, as a condition of hire, that all new employees sign up for direct deposit of the employee's wages in a financial institution of the employee's choice.

The superintendent will recommend employment of classified employees to the board for approval.

Legal Reference:

29 U.S.C. §§ 621-634 (2012). 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e *et seq.* (2012).
42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 *et seq.* (2012).
Iowa Code §§ 35C; 216; 279.8; 294.1 (2013).

Cross Reference:

401.01	<u>Equal Employment Opportunity</u>
401.03	<u>Nepotism</u>
401.06	<u>Limitations to Employment References</u>
410.04	<u>Education Associate</u>
411.01	<u>Classified Employee Defined</u>

411.04

Classified Employee
Licensing/Certification

411.06

Classified Employee Transfers

411.07

Classified Employee Evaluation

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE LETTER OF ASSIGNMENT

The board may enter into written letters of assignment with classified employees employed on a regular basis. The contract will state the terms of employment.

Each letter of assignment will include a thirty day cancellation clause. Either the employee or the board must give notice of the intent to cancel the contract at the end of thirty days. This notice will not be required when the employee is terminated during a probationary period or for cause.

Classified employees will receive a job description stating the specific performance responsibilities of their position.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to draw up and process the classified employee letters of assignment and present them to the board for approval. The letters of assignment, after being signed by the board president, are filed with the board secretary.

Legal Reference:

Iowa Code §§ 20; 279.7A; 285.5(9) (2013).

Cross Reference:

411.8 Classified Employee Probationary Status
412.1 Classified Employee Compensation
412.2 Classified Employee Wage and Overtime Compensation

Approved 9/12/2011

Reviewed 1/9/2023

Revised 1/9/2023

Code No. 411.4

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE LICENSING/CERTIFICATION

Classified employees who require a special license or other certification will keep them current at their own expense. Licensing requirements needed for a position will be considered met if the employee meets the requirements established by law for the position.

Legal Reference:

Iowa Code §§ 285.5(9) (2013). 281 I.A.C. 12.4(10); 36; 43.12-.24.

Cross Reference:

411.2 Classified Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection

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Revised 1/9/2023

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE ASSIGNMENT

Determining the assignment of each classified employee is the responsibility of the superintendent and within the sole discretion of the board. In making such assignments each year the superintendent will consider the qualifications of each classified employee and the needs of the school district.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to assign classified employees and report such assignments to the board.

Legal Reference:

Iowa Code §§ 20; 279.8 (2013).

Cross Reference:

200.2 Powers of the Board of Directors

411.6 Classified Employee Transfers

Approved 9/12/2011

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Revised 1/9/2023

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE TRANSFERS

Determining the location where a classified employee's assignment will be performed is the responsibility of the superintendent and within the sole discretion of the board. In making such assignments each year the superintendent will consider the qualifications of each classified employee and the needs of the school district.

A transfer may be initiated by the employee, the principal or the superintendent.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to transfer classified employees and report such transfers to the board.

Legal Reference:

29 U.S.C. §§ 621-634 (2012). 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e *et seq.* (2012).
42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 *et seq.* (2012).
Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 35C; 216; 279.8; 294.1 (2013).

Cross Reference:

411.2 Classified Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection
411.5 Classified Employment Assignment

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE EVALUATION

Evaluation of classified employees on their skills, abilities, and competence is an ongoing process supervised by the superintendent. The goal of the formal evaluation of classified employees is to maintain classified employees who meet or exceed the board's standards of performance, to clarify each classified employee's role, to ascertain the areas in need of improvement, to clarify the immediate priorities of the board, and to develop a working relationship between the administrators and other employees.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to ensure classified employees are formally evaluated annually. New and probationary classified employees are formally evaluated at least twice a year.

Legal Reference: 1986).

Aplington Community School District v. PERB, 392 N.W.2d 495 (Iowa
Saydel Education Association v. PERB, 333 N.W.2d 486 (Iowa 1983). Iowa
Code §§ 20.9; 279.14 (2013).
281 I.A.C. 12.3(4).

Cross Reference:

411.2 Classified Employee Qualifications, Recruitment, Selection

411.8 Classified Employee Probationary Status

Approved 9/12/2011

Reviewed 1/9/2023

Revised 1/9/2023

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE PROBATIONARY STATUS

The first 60 days of a newly employed classified employee's contract is a probationary period. "Day" is defined as one work day regardless of full-time or part-time status of the employee. New employees, regardless of experience, are subject to this probationary period.

"New" employees includes individuals who are being hired for the first time by the school district and those who may have been employed by the school district in the past, but have not been employed by the board during the school year prior to the one for which contracts are being issued.

Only the board, in its discretion, may waive the probationary period.

Legal Reference:

Iowa Code §§ 20; 279.8 (2013).

Cross Reference:

411.3 Classified Employee Contracts
411.7 Classified Employee Evaluation

Approved 9/12/2011

Reviewed 1/9/2023

Revised 1/9/2023

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

The board will determine the compensation to be paid for the classified employees' positions, keeping in mind the education and experience of the classified employee, the educational philosophy of the school district, the financial condition of the school district and any other considerations as deemed relevant by the board.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation to the board annually regarding the compensation of classified employees.

Legal Reference:

Iowa Code §§ 20.1, .4, .7, .9; 279.8 (2013).

Cross Reference:

411.3 Classified Employee Contracts

412.2 Classified Employee Wage and Overtime Compensation

Approved 9/12/2011

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Revised 1/9/2023

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE WAGE AND OVERTIME COMPENSATION

Each non-exempt employee compensated on an hour-by-hour basis, whether full-or part-time, permanent or temporary, will be paid no less than the prevailing minimum wage. Whenever a non-exempt employee must work more than forty hours in a given work week, the employee is compensated at one and one-half times their regular hourly wage rate. This compensation is in the form of overtime pay or compensatory time. Overtime will not be permitted without prior authorization of the superintendent.

Each non-exempt employee paid on an hour-by-hour basis must complete the electronic time card system daily to show the actual number of hours worked. Failure of the employee to maintain, or falsification of, a daily time record will be grounds for disciplinary action.

It is the responsibility of the board secretary to maintain wage records.

Legal Reference: (1985).

Garcia v. San Antonio Metropolitan Transit Authority, 469 U.S. 528
29 U.S.C. §§ 2601 *et seq.* (2012).
29 C.F.R. Pt. 511 (2012).

Cross Reference:

411.3 Classified Employee Contracts
412.1 Classified Employee Compensation

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Reviewed 1/9/2023

Revised 1/9/2023

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE GROUP INSURANCE BENEFITS

Classified employees may be eligible for group insurance benefits as determined by the board and required by law. The board will select the group insurance program and the insurance company which will provide the program. Classified employee's eligibility for group insurance will be in accordance with their individual letters of assignment and may be at the employee's expense.

In accordance with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), the board will offer classified employees, who are expected to work an average of at least thirty (30) hours per week or one hundred thirty (130) hours per month, based on the measurement method adopted by the board, with minimum essential coverage that is both affordable and provides minimum value. The board will utilize the applicable measurement period to determine whether variable hourly employees qualify for an offer of insurance coverage under the district's group health plan. The board will have the authority and right to change or eliminate group benefit programs, other than the group health plan, for its licensed employees.

Classified employees, who work an average of at least thirty (30) hours per week or one hundred thirty (130) hours per month, based on the measurement method adopted by the board, are eligible to participate in the group health plan. Classified employees who work _____ per week are eligible to participate in *[insert benefits other than health benefits the district offers, (e.g., life or long term disability)]* group insurance plans. Employers should maintain documents regarding eligible employees acceptance and rejection of coverage.

Regular part-time classified employees (i.e., employees who work less than 30 hours per week or 130 hours per month for health benefit purposes or employees who work less than _____ per week for benefits other than health) who wish to purchase coverage may participate in group benefit programs by meeting the requirements of the applicable plan. Full-time and regular part-time classified employees who wish to purchase coverage for their spouse or dependents may do so by meeting the requirements of the applicable plan.

Classified employees and their spouse and dependents may be allowed to continue coverage of the school district's group health insurance program if they cease employment with the school district by meeting the requirements of the insurer.

This policy statement does not guarantee a certain level of benefits. The board will have the authority and right to change or eliminate group insurance programs for its classified employees.

Legal Reference:

Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 85; 85B; 279.12; 509; 509A; 509B (2013).

Cross Reference:

411.1 Classified Employee Defined

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Revised 1/9/2023

Code No. 412.4

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE TAX SHELTER PROGRAMS

The board authorizes the administration to make a payroll deduction for classified employees' tax sheltered annuity premiums purchased from one of the companies selected by the Iowa Department of Administrative Services Retirement Investors' Club.

Classified employees wishing to have payroll deductions for tax-sheltered annuities will submit a payroll deduction authorization to the business office.

Legal Reference:

Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996, Section 1450(a), repealing portions of IRS REG § 1.403(b)-1(b)(3).
Iowa Code §§ 20.9; 260C; 273; 294.16 (2013).
1988 Op. Att'y Gen. 38.
1976 Op. Att'y Gen. 462, 602. 1966 Op. Att'y Gen. 211, 220.

Cross Reference: 706.2 Payroll Deductions

Approved 9/12/2011

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Revised 1/9/2023

Code No. 413.1

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE RESIGNATION

Classified employees who wish to resign during the school year will give the board notice of their intent to resign and final date of employment and cancel their contract 30 days prior to their last working day.

Notice of the intent to resign will be in writing, signed by the employee, and directed to the superintendent.

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 91A.2, .3, .5; 279.19A; 285.5(9) (2013).

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Revised 1/9/2023

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

Classified employees who will complete their current contract with the board may apply for retirement. No classified employee will be required to retire at any specific age.

Application for retirement will be considered made when the classified employee states in writing to the superintendent, no later than the date set by the board for the return of the employee's contract to the board if applicable, the employee's intent to retire. The letter must state the employee's desire to retire and be witnessed by another party other than the principal or the superintendent.

Board action to approve a classified employee's application for retirement is final, and such action constitutes termination of the employee's contract effective the day of the employee's retirement.

Classified employees and their spouse and dependents who have group insurance coverage through the school district may be allowed to continue coverage of the school district's group health insurance program, at their own expense, by meeting the requirements of the insurer.

Legal Reference:

29 U.S.C. §§ 621 *et seq.* (2012).
Iowa Code §§ 91A.2, .3, .5; 97B; 216; 279.19A, .46 (2013).
581 I.A.C. 21.
1978 Op. Att'y Gen. 247.
1974 Op. Att'y Gen. 11, 322.

Cross Reference:

407.6 Licensed Employee Early Retirement
407.6E1 Licensed Employee Early Retirement - Acknowledgement of Receipt
407.6E2 Licensed Employee Early Retirement - Insurance Options
407.6E3 Licensed Employee Early Retirement - Application

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CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE SUSPENSION

Classified employees will perform their assigned job, respect and follow board policy and obey the law. The superintendent is authorized to suspend a classified employee with or without pay pending board action on a discharge or during investigation of charges against the employee or for disciplinary purposes. It is within the discretion of the superintendent to suspend a classified employee with or without pay.

In the event of a suspension, due process will be followed.

Legal Reference:

Northeast Community Education Association v. Northeast Community School District, 402 N.W.2d 765 (Iowa 1987).
McFarland v. Board of Education of Norwalk Community School District, 277 N.W.2d 901 (Iowa 1979).
Iowa Code §§ 20.7, .24 (2013).

Cross Reference:

404 Employee Conduct and Appearance
404R1 Employee Conduct and Appearance - Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics Regulation
404R2 Employee Conduct and Appearance - Code of Rights and Responsibilities Regulation
413.04 Classified Employee Dismissal
413.5 Classified Employee Reduction in Force

CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE DISMISSAL

The board believes classified employees should perform their jobs, respect board policy and obey the law. A classified employee may be dismissed upon thirty days notice or immediately for cause. Due process procedures will be followed.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation for dismissal to the board. A classified employee may be dismissed for any reason, including, but not limited to, incompetence, willful neglect of duty, reduction in force, willful violation of board policy or administrative regulations, or a violation of the law.

Legal Reference:

Iowa Code §§ 20.7, .24 (2013).

Cross Reference:

404 Employee Conduct and Appearance
404R1 Employee Conduct and Appearance - Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics Regulation
404R2 Employee Conduct and Appearance - Code of Rights and Responsibilities Regulation
413.3 Classified Employee Suspension
413.5 Classified Employee Reduction in Force