

## 3431 UNCOMPENSATED LEAVE

The Board of Education recognizes, under certain circumstances, that the interests of the school district and of an individual employee may be served by the employee's extended absence from the school district for a purpose other than disability.

Except as may be otherwise provided by negotiated agreement, the Board reserves the right to establish the conditions under which uncompensated leaves of absence may be taken. An extended leave of absence may be granted for the purpose of study, child care, recuperation, a special work assignment, or such other purpose as will tend to serve the best interests of the school district.

The Board reserves the right to require that the commencement and termination of an extended leave be such as to cause the least interruption to the instructional program of the schools. Wherever possible, partial year leaves of absence will begin and end at a division in the academic calendar and will cause not more than one interruption in teaching continuity during the school year in which the leave is taken.

A person absent from district service on an extended leave of absence does not enjoy a direct employment relationship with the Board, and the period of the leave will not accrue toward tenure and seniority, except as expressly permitted by law. No such person will receive compensation or benefits during the period of the leave.

Whenever possible, an uncompensated leave of absence will be granted for a time certain. When an employee cannot foretell the date on which the leave will terminate, the employee shall inform the Board not less than two weeks in advance of the anticipated date of return to district employment.

A change in the purpose of a leave which has been granted must be reported to the Superintendent. The Board reserves the right to terminate any uncompensated leave of absence for which the purpose has been altered by the employee without permission.

At the expiration of the uncompensated leave of absence, the employee may return to district employment in a position for which he/she is appropriately certified.