

UNITED TEACHERS LOS ANGELES
Bargaining Proposal
April 20, 2017

ARTICLE XII – LEAVES AND ABSENCES

10.0 Pregnancy Parental Leave and Pregnancy Related Disability (Paid and Unpaid):

10.1 Parental Leave: In accordance with California Education Code 44977.5, an employee may utilize her/his accumulated illness leave for purposes of parental leave, up to twelve workweeks. Additionally, upon exhaustion of accumulated illness leave, an employee shall be paid during utilization of any remaining days of the twelve workweek period, with an amount deducted from her/his salary that shall not exceed the amount that is actually paid to a substitute employee or, if no substitute employee is employed, the amount that would have been paid to a substitute.

10.2 Paid Disability Absence: For that period of time during which the employee (including temporaries and substitutes) is physically disabled and unable to perform her regular duties due to pregnancy, miscarriage, childbirth and recovery there from, she shall be permitted to utilize her illness absence pursuant to Section 12.0 of this Article.

10.3 Optional Unpaid Portion: A pregnant employee in active status shall, upon request, be granted an unpaid pregnancy leave (or, in the case of substitutes or temporaries, an unpaid absence) and still qualify for paid absence during the period of disability. This is the only exception to the general rule that paid leaves may only be taken from active status.

10.4 Physician Certifications: A pregnant employee shall be permitted to continue on active duty until such date as she and her physician determine that she must absent herself due to pregnancy disability, provided that she can and does continue to perform the full duties and responsibilities of her position. The employee must also supply to the District her physician's certification as to the beginning and ending dates of actual pregnancy-related disability for which paid illness absence is claimed, and her physician's release to return to active duty. District forms for such certifications, and application forms, shall be available at each site.

~~12.2 At the beginning of the pay period immediately preceding July 1, each active employee (excluding substitute and temporary) who is under contract (including temporary contract) for a full school year, who has accrued fewer than the number of full pay illness absence hours equivalent to 100 days shall be credited with the number of half pay illness absence days which, when added to the accrued full pay illness absence days equals the equivalent to 100 days of full and half pay illness absence days.~~

Certificated employees under contract, including permanent, probationary, and temporary employees, who have exhausted all available illness leave, including all accumulated illness leave, and continue to be absent from her/his duties on account of illness shall be paid for up to an additional five school months, with an amount deducted from her/his salary, for any of the additional five months in which the absence occurs, that shall not exceed the amount that is actually paid to a substitute employee or, if no substitute employee is employed, the amount that would have been paid to a substitute. This shall be referred to as substitute differential pay.

12.6 Unused full-pay illness absence credit shall be cumulative from year to year without limitation. ~~Half pay illness credit shall not be cumulative from year to year.~~

12.7 When an employee is absent under this section and such absence is properly verified, the employee will shall receive full normal pay up to the total of the employee's accumulated illness leave full-pay illness benefits. All accumulated illness leave shall be utilized prior to utilization of substitute differential pay, pursuant to Section 12.2. Full-pay illness benefits shall be used before available half-pay benefits may be used. Additional days of illness absence will be at half pay up to the total of half pay days credited if available. Further illness absence shall be non-paid absence, unless the employee requests use of any accrued vacation. The amount of illness absence taken in any pay period shall not be in excess of the illness absence accumulated by the close of the pay period immediately preceding the illness absence, except as provided in paragraph 12.3. Pay for absence shall not be made in increments of less than .3 hours (18 minutes).

24.8 Compensation and Benefits: The Family Care and Medical Leave/Absence shall be an unpaid leave and for all purposes treated comparably to other unpaid leaves except that the District will continue to provide the health and welfare benefits as provided in Article XVI during the Family Care Leave/Absence to an employee who is otherwise eligible for such benefits. However, an employee who does not return from such leave or who works less than 30 days after returning from the leave will be required to reimburse the District for the cost of the benefits package unless the reason the employee does not return to work is due to (1) the continuation, recurrence, or onset of a serious health condition that would entitle the employee to FMLA leave (either affecting the employee or an immediate family member) or (2) retirement, or (3) other circumstances beyond the control of the employee. The District, however, will not ~~provide such health benefits for an employee for any leave period beyond twelve weeks unless these benefits are provided by other provisions of the District/UTLA Agreement such as paid illness leave.~~ For example, if an employee combines pregnancy leave with a family care leave, the employee will only be entitled to continued health benefits for the first twelve weeks of leave unless the employee continues on paid illness leave.

~~An employee who asks for leave for what would be a qualifying event for Family and Medical Care Leave/Absence and who has accrued vacation leave may elect, or the immediate administrator may require, the employee to utilize the vacation leave for this purpose, in lieu of unpaid status. An employee who takes leave for the employee's own serious health condition which prevents the employee from performing one or more of the essential functions of the employee's position and who has accumulated illness days may elect, or the District may require the employee to utilize paid illness days for the leave.~~

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ARTICLE XII-A - ATTENDANCE INCENTIVE PLAN

- UTLA proposes elimination of the entire article

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ARTICLE XII-B - CHARTER SCHOOLS

~~5.0 — Charter School Leave (Unpaid), in General: Qualified employees (see Article XII, Section 2.0) shall, upon written request and subject to the conditions set forth below, be granted an unpaid leave of absence to work for a Conversion Charter School:~~

~~a. — Term of Leave: Each employee who is in permanent or probationary status at the time of taking leave to serve in the Charter School shall be on such leave on a year-to-year basis, to be extended annually upon written request, for up to a maximum of five consecutive school years commencing with the employee's initial assignment at the Charter School. The five-year maximum is not extended or renewed by later moving to a different Charter School; however, if the employee returns to a regular District school and that school itself later obtains conversion charter status, the employee would be eligible for a new charter school leave. Those in provisional or temporary status do not qualify for a Charter School leave of absence. All charter school leaves run from July 1 to June 30 of each applicable year. Annual renewal of such leaves (where permitted), and return to active District service after the leave expires, requires a written notice by the employee to the District's Human Resources Division no later than the two calendar month date preceding the expiration of the current leave, advising the District of the intended continued leave or of the intended return to active District service (see Article XII, Section 8.0). Employees who do not renew such leave (where permitted), and do not give such notice of return to the District, shall be deemed to have resigned their District employment.~~

~~b. — Return from Leave: Upon expiration of any employee's charter school leave, the employee shall (upon timely notice as provided above) have the right to return to a position in the District, unless the employee's service would have otherwise been terminated. Assignment priority for such returning employees shall be as provided in Article XI, Section 15(h). Employees who do not return to the District immediately upon expiration/non-renewal of a charter school leave shall be deemed to have resigned their District employment. Timely initiation of such renewal or return arrangements is the sole responsibility of the employee, not the District or the Charter School.~~

~~e. — Benefits: Current leave of absence status does not determine eligibility for continued participation in the District's health benefits plans. Continuation of participation in the District's health benefits plans are solely the product of contractual arrangements between the Charter School and the District, as provided in Section 7.0 below.~~

~~6.0 — Compensation and Other Employment Rights While on Charter School Leave: While on approved charter school leave of absence to serve in a Conversion Charter School, employees shall be treated by the District the same as employees who have been granted a personal leave to work for an outside employer (with the exception of health~~

benefits as described in Section 7.0 below and the reporting obligations of Section 9.0 below). Thus, while on leave the employees' pay and other compensation items, and also any other protections such as workers' compensation coverage, liability coverage and indemnity against lawsuits, are solely the responsibility of their Charter School employer, and are not provided, controlled or directed by the District. Conversion Charter Schools, as defined in 1.0 of this Article, are entirely separate employers from the District, operate independently of the District, and may or may not choose to adopt pay practices and other employment protections comparable to those of the District. Conversion Charter Schools do, however, have certain reporting obligations to the District relating to performance problems of Charter School employees on leave from the District (see Section 9.0 below):

a. — Tenure, Status, Seniority Date: Employees while on charter school leave do not earn, accrue credit toward, or obtain permanent status or award of a District seniority date. The employee's District seniority date (if previously earned) is preserved during the leave.

b. — Participation in District Supplemental Assignments: Employees on charter school leave retain no rights to participate in District summer/winter/intersession, substitute or other assignments or opportunities available to active District employees — except to the extent that the District generally chooses to permit persons employed elsewhere to participate in such opportunities.

c. — Paid Leaves or Absences From the Charter School: In no event shall the District be responsible for paid leaves or absences occurring during any employee's employment by a Conversion Charter School. For purposes of illness leave salary protections, the District encourages Charter Schools to treat their employees the same as all other California public school districts and thus permit employees to transfer to the Charter School their accrued illness leave balances from the District and to honor such accruals when needed by the employee. If this is done, the District will, upon the employee's return to District employment, reciprocally permit the employee to transfer back to the District his or her then-current full balance of unused illness days, including unused days accrued while employed by the Charter School (up to the total which could have been accrued had the employee remained in District employment). If the Charter School declines to honor accrued illness leave balances, the employees' accrued illness leave balances will not be transferred to the Charter School. The District in those circumstances will preserve the employee's previously accrued District illness balance for restoration upon timely return to the District from charter school leave (unless the balance has been transferred to another qualified agency or used in computation of retirement allowance), but no unused accruals or other entitlements from the charter school are then transferable back to the District. The above rules apply to accruals, utilization, and transfers of vacation rights just as they do to illness leave rights, assuming that the employee's previous District position and his or her Charter School position both involve comparable vacation accruals.

7.0 — Continued Health Benefits Plan Participation: Generally, all compensation, benefits and working conditions in Conversion Charter Schools are to be established and provided solely by the Charter School and are not the responsibility of the District.

Continued participation in the District health benefits plans by employees is determined solely by voluntary contractual arrangements between the Charter School and the District, separate from the charter approval itself, and separate from the leave of absence program. A Conversion Charter School may, on a year-to-year basis commencing with its first year of separation from the District, provide by contract with the District for continued health benefits coverage of the Charter School's employees, at the Charter School's sole expense. The previous five-year limit on such continued coverage arrangements is no longer in effect. Continued benefits coverage does not extend any employee's leave of absence; nor is leave of absence status a pre-condition for continued coverage. For the impact of such continued coverage upon UTLA dues and fees, see Section 8.0 below.

a. — ~~Exclusivity:~~ In order to avoid adverse impact upon the demographics of the District's health plans, the participation and coverage of a Charter School's employees by the District health plans shall be exclusive, and applicable to all persons employed by the Charter or at least all certificated staff (whether or not previously employed by the District, and without regard to leave of absence status with the District).

When a Charter School continues coverage under the District health plans, the eligibility rules, coverages and employee cost-sharing requirements are to be the same as are applicable to employees of the District from time to time.

b. — ~~District Charges:~~ The District's charges to the Charter School for such continued health plan coverage shall be equal to the District's cost per employee, including costs relating to (i) premium charges from health care providers, (ii) internal and external administrative costs and fees, plus additional administrative fees to the District to recover the special additional costs of processing charter school employees, (iii) a pro rata share of the District's then current annual costs of coverage relating to current and future retirees, on the same basis as the District charges categorical accounts for coverage of categorically funded District employees. All such charges to the Charter School shall be as determined by the District in its reasonable discretion, and reflected in the annual contract between the District and the Charter School.

e. — ~~Service Credit Toward Retirement Coverage:~~ As to any Conversion Charter School employee who has received coverage under the District health plans pursuant to contracts between the Charter School and the District — any years of service (as defined by the District) under such coverage shall count toward the service requirements for the District's retirement health benefits plan. Any years of service for a Charter School not under continuing District health plan coverage do not count toward the service requirements for District retirement health benefits, but do not cause a forfeiture of prior years' service credits which were accumulated during years when the service did count. In order to qualify for the District's post-retirement coverage plan, the employee must either retire (STRS-qualified) from the District or from the Charter School while under continuing coverage of the District plan and meet all other requirements then applicable to District employees.

8.0 — ~~Union Relations, Fees and Contractual Obligations:~~ District employees who become employed by a Conversion Charter School and then maintain continuing

coverage under the District health benefits plans as described above, shall continue for the duration of such continued coverage to be represented by UTLA as to the benefit levels and terms of such plans, in addition to enforcement with the District of whatever District leave and return rights they may have. Such Charter School employees are required to pay a monthly representation fee to UTLA, in an amount not to exceed that indicated in Article VIII, Section 4.0 et seq., with collection and remission to UTLA to be the responsibility of the Charter School. However, except as just described, none of the District UTLA union recognition or other contractual obligations are applicable to Charter Schools. Nor are such schools covered by the District UTLA Agreement unless otherwise arranged by the Charter School or by relations established independently between UTLA and the Charter School. In the absence of such established relations, UTLA has no general duty to represent any employees of Charter Schools in their relations with their Charter School employers, and any such representation which UTLA may undertake is voluntary on UTLA's part and in any event is entirely separate and apart from its representation rights and obligations toward the District.

~~9.0 — Performance Problems During Charter School Employment: As a condition of any employee obtaining a charter school leave of absence to serve in a Conversion Charter School, and as a condition of a Charter School employer accepting the benefit of the services of each employee on leave of absence from the District, the Charter School shall have the duty, on a reasonably prompt basis, to report to the District — and provide the District with copies of all pertinent documents — relating to any performance problems, misconduct, complaints, alleged violations of law, unsatisfactory performance reports, negative or below standard evaluations, terminations, resignations under threat of disciplinary action, suspensions, reprimands, warnings or other corrective or disciplinary actions pertaining to any employee on leave from the District, including all information and documents relating to the resolution or disposition of such matters by the Charter School or by law enforcement authorities, and any related reports to credentialing authorities. By virtue of having accepted a charter school leave of absence, each employee on such leave shall be deemed to have consented to such required disclosure and sharing of information and documents, with the understanding that the District may utilize such information for administrative or statutory proceedings to the same extent (and subject to the same contractual and legal restraints) as if the conduct in question had occurred during active District employment.~~