

**PROFESSIONAL LEAVES**

The Board of Trustees may grant a leave of absence of up to one year to certificated employees for the purpose of permitting study or travel which will benefit the schools and students of the district. (Education Code 44966)

*(cf. 4161/4261 - Leaves)*

*(cf. 4361 - Leaves)*

To be eligible for a leave of absence for these purposes, the employee must have served in the district for at least seven consecutive years preceding the leave. No more than one such leave of absence shall be granted in each seven-year period. No other types of leaves shall be considered a break in service for purposes of meeting this requirement and the period of such absence shall not be included as service in computing the seven consecutive years of service required for a professional leave. (Education Code 44967)

The Board may require that such leaves of absence be taken in separate six-month periods or separate quarters as long as the total leave is completed within three years. Any period of service by the employee between the separate periods of leave shall comprise a part of the service required for a subsequent leave of absence. (Education Code 44966)

Every employee granted a leave of absence for these purposes may be required to perform such services during the leave as the Board and employee agree upon in writing. (Education Code 44968)

Compensation during the leave shall be paid in the manner authorized by Education Code 44969 and 44970.

Unless the employee agrees in writing with the Board not to receive compensation during the leave, the employee shall receive such compensation during the leave as the Board and employee agree upon in writing, which shall be not less than the difference between the employee's salary and the salary of a substitute employee. In lieu of such a difference, the Board may pay one-half of the salary of the employee or any additional amount up to and including the full salary of the employee. (Education Code 44968, 44968.5)

As a condition to being granted such leave, the employee shall agree in writing to render service in the district following his/her return for a period equal to twice the period of the leave. (Education Code 44969)

At the end of the leave, the employee shall be reinstated in the position he/she held when the leave was granted. (Education Code 44973)

*Legal Reference:*

EDUCATION CODE

*44966-44973 Leaves of absence for study or travel*

Regulation

approved: March 9, 2002

**JEFFERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Tracy, California