

MATERNITY LEAVE

Full-time employees of the district who have been employed by the district for at least one year and have worked at least 1,250 hours during the preceding 12-month period shall be entitled to six (6) weeks of paid maternity leave following the birth of the employee’s child. The six (6) weeks of paid maternity leave shall be used immediately following the birth of the employee’s child. The six (6) weeks of maternity leave shall be in addition to and not in place of sick leave due to pregnancy pursuant to 70 O.S. § 6-104. A district employee taking maternity leave pursuant to the new law shall not be deprived of any compensation or other benefits to which the employee is otherwise entitled.

Employees who qualify for state paid-maternity leave are entitled to extend the duration of their maternity leave beyond the six (6) weeks provided by this policy if they have sufficient sick leave available to cover the extended duration. Such sick leave may be used for recovery from childbirth, bonding with a newborn, or caring for a newborn. Extended sick leave shall not exceed six (6) weeks unless a licensed medical professional provides written certification recommending additional leave for medical necessity related to the employee’s recovery from childbirth or for the care of the newborn to achieve a combined twelve (12) weeks of leave as addressed in the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA). FMLA leave shall run concurrently with maternity leave and the paid sick leave extended duration.

Any employee who intends to utilize available sick leave to extend the duration of maternity leave must notify the administration of the school district.

The district shall file claims with the State Board of Education for reimbursement of expenses related to providing eligible employees with paid maternity leave.

With regard to any shared sick leave program which is currently offered, or which may be offered in the future by the district, provided maternity leave must be used prior to any shared sick leave available under the district’s program.

REFERENCE: **OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 6-104.1, et seq.**