

# CHESTER COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT 24

SECTION: EMPLOYEES

TITLE: COMPENSATED  
PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

ADOPTED: JULY 21, 2010

READOPTED: NOVEMBER 18, 2020

## 338.1. COMPENSATED PROFESSIONAL LEAVES

1. Purpose	This policy shall establish the Intermediate Unit's parameters for granting professional development and classroom occupational exchange leaves for certificated administrative and professional employees.
2. Definitions	<p><b>Professional Development Leave</b> - shall be defined as a leave of absence granted for the purpose of improving professional competency or obtaining a professional certificate or commission. Such leave shall be directly related to an employee's professional responsibilities, as determined by the Board, and be restricted to activities required by state regulation or law.</p> <p><b>Classroom Occupational Exchange Leave</b> - shall be defined as a leave of absence granted for the purpose of acquiring practical work experience in business, industry or government.</p>
3. Authority	<p>Legal Reference: SC 522.2, 1166.1</p> <p>The Board shall have sole authority to adopt and enforce policy establishing the conditions for approval of a professional development leave for eligible employees. All requests for such leave shall be subject to review by the Board. The Board may approve or reject a proposed plan for professional development leave.</p> <p>The Board may grant a leave to eligible employees for classroom occupational exchange leave for the specified purpose.</p>
4. Guidelines	<p>Legal Reference: SC 963, 1166.1, 522.2</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LEAVE</b></p> <p><u>Eligibility</u> To qualify for professional development leave, an eligible employee shall have completed ten (10) years of satisfactory service in the public schools of the Commonwealth; at least five (5) consecutive years of such service shall be in this Intermediate Unit.</p> <p>A leave for professional development may be taken for a half or full school term or for two (2) half school terms during a period of two (2) years, at the employee's option.</p> <p>The total number of administrative employees on such leaves of absence shall not</p>

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exceed ten percent (10%) of the number of eligible employees. The total number of professional employees on such leaves of absence shall not exceed ten percent (10%) of the number of eligible employees.

Legal Reference: SC 1166, 1167

Application

Professional development leaves shall be granted only to employees participating in an academic program for the purpose of retaining a professional certificate or commission, further preparation and improvement in an area(s) of certification, additional certification, attaining other appropriate and identifiable educational positions within the Intermediate Unit, or as the Board may require, and upon the recommendation of the Executive Director.

A request for professional development leave must be submitted to the Executive Director on or before January 1 of the fiscal year preceding the year in which the leave is to occur. A detailed plan of professional development must also be submitted for review. The Board may grant exceptions to these requirements.

Documentation

Applicants for professional development leave shall submit with the application form a detailed plan describing the professional development activities to be undertaken and a statement specifying the benefits of the leave to the employee and the Intermediate Unit. The plan shall provide sufficient information to permit the Board to adequately evaluate the request.

The Board may at any time require additional information and documentation from the employee in order to assist the Board in determining whether the leave is being used for the purpose for which it was granted.

Legal Reference: SC 1171

The minimum requirements for leave for a half school term shall consist of any one or a combination of the following:

1. Nine (9) graduate credits.
2. Twelve (12) undergraduate credits.
3. One hundred eighty (180) hours of professional development activities.

The minimum requirements for leave for a full school term shall consist of any one or a combination of the following:

1. Eighteen (18) graduate credits.
2. Twenty-four (24) undergraduate credits.

3. Three hundred sixty (360) hours of professional development activities.

Legal Reference: SC 1166.1

Applicants who propose to take graduate or undergraduate credits shall submit notification of acceptance and enrollment from an accredited institution of higher learning for study in courses approved by the Executive Director. The employee shall successfully complete the approved courses and receive passing grades. Upon return from professional development leave, the employee shall submit to the Executive Director within the first month an official transcript of all courses completed. Failure to receive passing grades or to submit required transcripts on time shall result in forfeiture of monies paid by the Intermediate Unit.

Applicants who propose to undertake professional development activities shall submit to the Board a detailed plan listing the specific activities. Upon return from professional development leave, the employee shall submit to the Executive Director within the first month a formal report describing the educational activities pursued and their benefits and relevancy. Failure to submit required reports on time shall result in forfeiture of monies paid by the Intermediate Unit.

Legal Reference: SC 1166.1,1171

Commitment of Employee

Acceptance of professional development leave incurs a commitment by the employee to return to active duty in this Intermediate Unit immediately following the leave for one (1) full school term, unless prevented by illness or physical disability.

Employees shall submit required reports on time or forfeit all compensation and benefits.

At the expiration of the professional development leave, the employee shall be reinstated in the same position held at the time of the granting of the leave.

Legal Reference: SC 116.1, 1168

Time on professional development leave shall be counted as time on the job for purposes of seniority and for retirement fund purposes, but for no other purpose.

Legal Reference: SC 522.1, 1170

Compensation

During the period of professional development leave, an employee shall be compensated at least one-half the salary to which s/he would have been entitled had the employee not taken leave.

Legal Reference: 1169

A leave of absence granted for professional development shall also serve as a leave of absence without pay from all other school activities.

Legal Reference: 1166

#### CLASSROOM OCCUPATIONAL EXCHANGE LEAVE

##### Application

Requests for classroom occupational exchange leave shall be submitted on the approved form and forwarded with appropriate documentation to the Executive Director.

##### Documentation

Applicants for classroom occupational exchange leave shall submit with the application form a statement from the employer agreeing to the terms and conditions of the leave, as specified in Board policy.

Upon return from such leave, the employee shall submit to the Board a final report detailing the work experience and its benefits.

Legal Reference: SC 522.2, 1166.1, 1171

##### Commitment of Employee

Acceptance of classroom occupational exchange leave incurs a commitment by the employee to return to active duty in the Intermediate Unit immediately following the leave for one (1) full school term, unless prevented by illness or physical disability.

##### Commitment of Employer

At the expiration of the classroom occupational exchange leave, the employee shall be reinstated in the same position held at the time of the granting of the leave.

Time on classroom occupational exchange leave shall be counted as time on the job for purposes of seniority and for retirement fund purposes, but for no other purpose.

Legal Reference: SC 1168, 522.2

##### Compensation

The business, industry or government to whom the employee is assigned during the leave shall fully compensate the Intermediate Unit for all salary, wages, pension and retirement contributions, and other benefits as if the employee were in full-time active service.

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5. References:	Legal Reference: SC 522.2 School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 522.1, 522.2, 963, 1166, 1166.1, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171
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