

Policies and Procedures for the
Baltimore Teachers Union and the Baltimore City Public
School System
Sick Leave Bank

Effective: August 29, 2017

PURPOSE

The Sick Bank is designed to provide temporary assistance to members in the event of unexpected illness, but is in no way obligated to any member. The Sick Bank is not to be considered a source of income, but a temporary source of Insurance.

SICK LEAVE COMMITTEE

- A joint committee of six (6) members, half named by the New Board of School Commissioners and half named by the Union, will administer the Sick leave Bank and establish specific procedures for its utilization.
- The Sick Bank Committee will review and forward to the Division of Human Resources and Labor Relations its decision on all requests to draw on the Sick Leave Bank. The Division shall honor all requests to draw on the Sick Leave Bank. No grant of leave by the Committee shall be used to show that an employee has been excessively absent or, otherwise, to impose discipline.
- The Sick Bank Committee will meet the Tuesday after each pay date beginning with the first full pay in September through the last full pay in June.
- The Sick Bank Committee will generally meet on Wednesday if the Tuesday after the pay date is a holiday.

ELIGIBLE MEMBERS

- All Baltimore City Teachers, and PSRPs are eligible to join the Sick Leave Bank. Participation is voluntary but requires a minimum contribution of one (1) sick day for full-time employees, or a pro-rata day based upon the employee's hours if less than full time, as needed and determined by the Sick Leave Bank Committee.
- Eligible employees may join the Sick Leave Bank either within the first thirty (30) days after employment begins, or when a sick leave open enrollment assessment is made. Any person who has relinquished his or her membership in the Sick Leave Bank may rejoin the Bank at such time and upon such conditions as set by the Committee.
- When the Sick Leave Bank is in need of more days; an open enrollment assessment is made.
- At that time, you will be notified by both BTU and BCPSS that it is open enrollment time for the sick bank. In order to continue your membership, join and/or rejoin the sick bank, you will need to donate one of your sick leave days to the bank. Failure to respond during this period will result in automatic termination of membership upon closure of the open enrollment time period.
- In the event that an employee has missed the open enrollment and/or 30-day sign-up period; they may send in an Appeal to Join letter to the sick bank. If the Committee

approves the request to join, there will be a 30-day penalty period in which you will not be able to access the Sick Leave Bank.

HOW TO FILE

1. All requests to draw upon the Sick Bank must be submitted on the approved form and contain the physician's legibly written statement confirming the diagnosis/impression, cause of confinement and pertinent information certifying the existence of a disability, first date of absence, and expected date of return to duty.
2. Applications must be completely filled out. The application will not be processed if all sections have not been completed.
3. Upon request, an applicant may be required to sign a release of medical information form, authorizing the Sick Leave Bank Committee to contact the attending physician, if needed. Failure to submit the release of medical information form within fifteen (15) days after the request is made will result in a denial of the application. Detailed medical information and an evaluation from the attending physician(s) and/or hospital will be required before any additional applications will be approved.
4. Requests must be accompanied by a copy of the applicant's most recent pay stub with the initial application.
5. Applications should be submitted no later than five (5) days after all accrued sick leave, personal leave and vacation leave have been exhausted. In cases of medical emergencies, next of kin or someone known to the applicant may submit the application.

All requests are to be submitted to the Sick Bank Committee, c/o the Baltimore Teachers Union, 5800 Metro Drive, Baltimore, Maryland 21215. Applications can be mailed, emailed, or submitted in-person. The committee's email is sickbank@baltu.org.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SICK BANK GRANTS

- The applicant may be required to undergo a medical review by a physician of the Committee's choice at any time, and at the applicant's expense, unless otherwise covered by health insurance. However, the information received from any such review or examination shall not be used to deny an employee the opportunity to return to work. Further, the Committee may request a second opinion from a physician chosen by the applicant.
- In the case of Maternity Disability, the pay granted from Sick Bank will not exceed ten {10} weeks from the initial date last worked.
- Before days can be granted from the Sick Leave Bank on the first request for any illness, the applicant must be out of pay status for five (5) consecutive working days.
- Sick Bank grants shall be in units as determined by the Committee and not to exceed a total of ten (10) working days (full or pro-rata based upon the employee's hours if less than full time) for per application.
- Additional grants of Sick Bank days may be granted at the discretion of the Committee up to a maximum of thirty (30) working days (full or pro-rata based upon the employee's hours if less than full time) per school year for the same illness. Detailed medical information and an evaluation from the attending physician(s) and/or hospital will be required before any additional applications will be approved.

- If there is an occasion where an employee develops a secondary illness in the same school year, two additional grants of 10 days (full or pro-rated based upon the employee's hours if less than full time) MAY BE granted, with proper medical documentation as determined by the Committee.
- Grants from the Sick Leave Bank shall not be used for disabilities, which qualify the member for Workers' Compensation benefits. Applicants who are disabled by the act of a third party (e.g. automobile accident) who receive money from other sources (e.g. insurance or recovery from third party) shall reimburse the Sick Bank for grants received. Sick Leave Bank grants shall constitute a lien against any recovery from a third party. The Applicant may be required to sign an agreement to reimburse the Sick Leave Bank prior to disbursement of funds from any recovery.
- The Sick Leave Bank shall have the right of subrogation for grants made for disability caused by a third party.
- Grants from the bank will not be approved to cover intermittent absences.
- All Sick Leave Bank contributions will remain in force and cannot be returned even upon cancellation of membership into the Sick Leave Bank. In no case will the granting of leave from the Bank cause an applicant to receive more than his/her annual salary.
- Sick Bank application grants will not automatically be carried over from one fiscal year to another.
- Falsification and/or distortion of information on the application will result in automatic denial of Bank grants.
- Applications received for review after the applicant has returned to work will not be honored.
- Sick Bank grants may only be used for the applicant's own personal illness. A colleague cannot donate sick days to another employee who is out on sick leave.
- The Sick Bank Committee is unable to guarantee payment. The dates of payment and amount are determined by the BCPSS' payroll schedule.
- One (1) day donated to the Sick Bank will not be counted against the negotiated Sick Leave Conversion.
- The Sick Bank Committee has the right to change its Policies and Procedures periodically to ensure the most effective operation of the Bank.

TERMINATING MEMBERSHIP

- A member will lose the right to utilize the Sick Leave Bank if his or her employment with the Baltimore City Public School System is terminated.
- Employees may relinquish their membership in the Sick Leave Bank in writing at any time by making their intention known in writing to the Sick Leave Bank Committee
- All contributions will remain in force and cannot be returned even upon cancellation of a membership. In no case will the granting of leave from the bank cause a member to receive more than his or her annual salary.
- Refusal to enroll, and/or donate a day to the Sick Leave Bank during the Open Enrollment period (dates to be announced as needed) will terminate your current membership upon closing of the Open Enrollment period.

Effect

1. This statement of policy shall not alter or amend any rights due under the negotiated Labor Agreements.
2. Approval to use leave from the Sick Leave Bank is discretionary and all decisions of the Committee as to benefits allowed or denied shall be final and binding on the employee.

Distributed by:

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