

UNUSED SICK LEAVE RETIREMENT PROGRAM

It is the policy of the Ringwood Board of Education to encourage and reward personnel who exercise particular care in the maintenance of their personal health and job attendance.

In accordance with Oklahoma Statutes, Title 70, Section 6-104, employees may accumulate sick leave days up to a maximum of 60 days as prescribed by local school board policy.

In accordance with Oklahoma Statutes, Title 70, Section 17-116.2(H), for those members who joined the Teachers' Retirement System prior to July 1, 1992, the total creditable service of a member who retires or terminates employment and elects a vested benefit shall include not to exceed 120 days of unused sick leave accumulated subsequent to August 1, 1959, during the member's membership with the Teachers' Retirement System.

To clarify the difference between the two types of statutory sick leave days, the board has established a sick leave bank for the purpose of accounting for unused sick leave days that may be used for retirement purposes subject to the approval of the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma. The term "unused sick leave days" is defined as those sick leave days for which an employee does not receive credit after the maximum 60 days of sick leave have been accumulated. Unused sick leave days shall be deposited in the sick leave bank.

The board of education will maintain records for the purpose of assisting each employee to account for unused sick leave days for retirement purposes. The board of education will account for and certify unused sick leave days for each year for which an employee has exceeded 60 days of accumulated sick leave. This provision will apply to employees who have participated in the Teachers' Retirement System subsequent to August 1, 1959, and who have accumulated the maximum 60 days of sick leave.

Upon retirement, accumulated sick leave days and the unused sick leave days in the sick leave bank may be certified to the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma to add creditable service for retirement purposes at a rate of one month of credit for each 20 days of accumulated sick leave up to a total of 120 days. However, the school district shall not certify more than one day of unused sick leave in the retirement bank per each day of accumulated sick leave for the purpose of adding creditable service for retirement purposes.

The maximum 60 days of unused sick leave in the sick leave bank and 60 days of accumulated sick leave may be counted as an additional year of creditable service toward retirement by the Teachers' Retirement System of Oklahoma provided that the total number of sick leave days is acceptable to the Teachers' Retirement System.

Unused sick leave days may be used only to extend creditable service at retirement and for no other purpose. No employee may contribute unused sick leave days to another employee.

Under Title 70, Section 6-104(A), payments for accumulated sick leave upon retirement or termination of employment can be made only for sick leave days accumulated in the district.

An employee who elects to transfer accumulated sick leave to another school district or who elects to be reimbursed for accumulated sick leave as prescribed by local school board policy or negotiated agreement shall conclude all rights and privileges outlined under this policy.