

Military Leave of Absence

The district will grant military leave of absence to an employee on duty¹ with a uniformed service² in accordance with applicable state and federal law. An employee requesting military leave is required to provide written notice as soon as practicable following notification of military call up or reservist duty, unless precluded by military necessity.

An employee may apply for military leave³ of absence from duties for up to 21 work days in any one training year⁴ or in accordance with ORS 408.290. An employee may use any accrued vacation or similar leave during the period of service exceeding 21 days. Military leave shall be in addition to any other leave the employee is entitled.

While on military leave, the employee will receive the same benefits as other employees on leave, as well as the following:

1. The employee may continue enrollment in the district's health insurance plan. During the first 18 months of leave, the employee may be required to pay any employee contributions required of other employees on a leave of absence. If the leave extends beyond 18 months, the employee will be required to pay not more than 102 percent of the full premium;
2. Upon return from military service, the district will give retroactive employer contributions to the Public Employees Retirement System on the same basis as if the employee had not left, provided the employee was an enrolled member at the time of the leave. The employee may repay any required employee contributions over a period of three times the military service leave period or five years, whichever is less.

An employee on duty with a uniformed service is entitled to reemployment for a maximum of five years, unless retained on active duty because of war or national emergency. An individual returning from military leave shall notify the district of their intent to return to the district as follows:

1. An employee who is a veteran or reservist returning from training must only inform the district of their training obligations and report back at the next regularly scheduled working period;
2. An employee returning from active duty must notify the district of their intention to return to their former job within 90 days after the employee is relieved from duty, or from hospitalization continuing after discharge for a period of not more than one year.

An individual reemployed under this policy is entitled to the seniority and other currently existing rights and benefits the individual had when service started, plus the additional seniority and similar rights and benefits that would have been accrued if employment had been continuous.

This policy does not apply if the employee has been separated from service with a dishonorable or bad conduct discharge or under other than honorable conditions.

¹ "Duty" means the performance of duty on a voluntary or involuntary basis in a uniformed service and includes active duty or inactive duty training, state active duty, U.S. National Guard duty, U.S. Armed Forces duty and absence to determine fitness for duty.

² "Uniformed service" means being a member of the U.S. National Guard, National Guard Reserve or of any reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces, or of the commissioned corps of the U.S. Public Health Service and any other category of persons designated by the President in time of war or national emergency.

³ The employee may use military leave without loss of time, pay or regular leave if the employee has been employed by the district for six months or more.

⁴ "Training year" means the federal fiscal year for any particular unit of the National Guard or a reserve component.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.505](#)

[ORS 408.238](#)

[ORS 408.240](#)

[ORS 408.270](#)

[ORS 408.290](#)

[ORS 659A.082](#)

[ORS 659A.086](#)

Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300bb-1-300bb-8 (2024).

I.R.C., U.S.C. 26 § 4980B(f)(4) (2024).

Employment and Reemployment Rights of Members of the Uniformed Services, 38 U.S.C. §§ 4301-4334 (2024).