

## **ARTICLE 20 - CATASTROPHIC ILLNESS/INJURY LEAVE**

A catastrophic illness or injury shall be defined as a medical condition not covered by Workers' Compensation, requiring absence from work greater than fifty (50) working days of consecutive absence for a single illness or injury.

Any employee who sustains a catastrophic illness or injury may apply for and receive for use on a matching basis supplementary catastrophic illness or injury leave not to exceed the number of regular, unused sick leave days that the employee had accumulated on the first day of the regular sick leave applied to the catastrophic illness or injury.

Two (2) medical verifications of such catastrophic illness or injury shall be required. The employee shall fully cooperate with the Board and shall authorize the release of any medical records necessary. The District shall satisfy itself that any claim for catastrophic illness or injury leave is legitimate and correctly states the facts. The Board may at its expense require an independent medical examination.

Catastrophic illness or injury leave shall begin the fifty-first (51) day of consecutive absence and is not to be awarded retroactively.