**POLICY TITLE: Workers’ Compensation Leave [Not applicable to Sworn Public Safety Employees Due to Labor Code Section 4850]**

**POLICY NUMBER: 3495**

3495.1 If an employee is injured at work and is temporarily unable to perform his or her usual and customary work, the employee will be allowed to take an unpaid leave of absence while receiving workers’ compensation benefits. Certification from a recognized medical professional confirming the necessity of the leave must be provided to the District within fourteen (14) days after the leave begins. The duration of the leave will be determined on a case-by-case basis, considering both the injured employee's medical condition and District business needs.

3495.2 The employee may elect during such absence to apply sick leave on a prorated basis to such absence and receive compensation in an amount equal to the difference between compensation received as regular salary and the amount received as Workers' Compensation benefits, not to exceed the amount of available accrued sick leave. Similarly, the employee may elect to use any accrued paid leave time and accrued time off after the sick leave is exhausted.

3495.3 The employee may return to work only after a recognized medical professional certifies that the employee is capable of resuming all of the essential functions of the employee's position. The District may, in its discretion, provide modified or light duty work if the employee's release contains such limitation. If the employee has been released without limitation, the employee will be offered the same position he or she held previously, unless the job no longer exists or has been filled so that District can operate safely and efficiently or the employment relationship has otherwise been terminated.

3495.4 Workers’ compensation leave will run concurrently with any family and medical leave. [Not applicable to sworn public safety employees. During the period of leave, the District will continue payment of all premiums for employee benefit plans in place at the time the leave begins. The District will also continue the employer contribution for employee benefit premiums, as if the employee were not in leave status, for the duration of the leave. The employee must reimburse the District for any portion of benefits they would have paid through payroll deduction. Such reimbursement must be received by the District within 30 days of the date of the invoice or written notification. If the District does not receive the reimbursement from the employee within 30 days, the District can cancel any policies and/or plans for which they have not been reimbursed.