

## **ALL PERSONNEL**

### **Lactation Accommodation**

The Superintendent recognizes the immediate and long-term health benefits of breastfeeding and desires to provide a supportive environment for any San Joaquin County Office of Education (SJCOE) employee to express milk for an infant child upon returning to work following the birth of the child. SJCOE prohibits discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation against any SJCOE employee for seeking an accommodation to express breast milk for an infant child while at work.

An employee shall notify their supervisor or other appropriate personnel in advance of the intent to request an accommodation. The supervisor shall respond to the request and shall work with the employee to make arrangements. If needed, the supervisor shall address scheduling in order to ensure that the employee's essential job duties are covered during the break time.

Lactation accommodations shall be granted unless limited circumstances exist as specified in law.

Before a determination is made to deny lactation accommodations to an employee, the employee's supervisor shall consult with the Superintendent or designee. When lactation accommodations are denied, the Superintendent or designee shall document the options that were considered and the reasons for denying the accommodations.

The Superintendent or designee shall provide a written response to any employee who was denied the accommodation(s).

SJCOE shall include this policy in its employee handbook or in any set of policies that it makes available to employees. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall distribute the policy to new employees upon hire and when an employee makes an inquiry about or requests parental leave.

### **Break Time and Location Requirements**

SJCOE shall provide a reasonable amount of break time to accommodate an employee each time the employee has a need to express breast milk for an infant child. To the extent possible, any break time granted for lactation accommodation shall run concurrently with the break time already provided to the employee.

The employee shall be provided the use of a private room or location, other than a bathroom, which may be the employee's work area or another location that is in close proximity to the employee's work area. The room or location provided shall meet the following requirements:

1. Is shielded from view and free from intrusion while the employee is expressing milk.
2. Is safe, clean, and free of hazardous materials, as defined in Labor Code 6382.

3. Contains a place to sit and a surface to place a breast pump and personal items.
4. Has access to electricity or alternative devices, including, but not limited to, extension cords or charging stations, needed to operate an electric or battery-powered breast pump.

SJCOE must also provide access to a sink with running water and a refrigerator, or another cooling device, suitable for storing milk in close proximity to the employee's work area.

If a multipurpose room is used for lactation, among other uses, the use of the room for lactation shall take precedence over other uses for the time it is in use for lactation purposes.

### **Dispute Resolution**

An employee may file a complaint with the Labor Commissioner at the California Department of Industrial Relations for any alleged violation of Labor Code 1030-1034.

#### Legal Reference:

##### EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Educational equity; prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex

##### CIVIL CODE

43.3 Right of mothers to breastfeed in any public or private location

##### GOVERNMENT CODE

12926 Definition of sex; breastfeeding

12940 Unlawful discriminatory employment practices

12945 Unlawful discrimination based on pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions

##### LABOR CODE

1030-1034 Lactation accommodation

6382 Procedure for listing hazardous substances

##### CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2

11035-11051 Unlawful sex discrimination; pregnancy and related medical conditions

##### UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

207 Fair Labor Standards Act; lactation accommodation