MEMORANDUM

To: All District Employees

From: Alphonso Melton, Executive Director of Business Services

Date: December 14, 2018

Re: Washington Paid Family Medical Leave

Washington State recently passed a law requiring access to Paid Family and Medical Leave for employees for circumstances such as recovering from a serious illness or injury, caring for a new child, or helping an aging parent. These benefits will be available to employees beginning January 2020, but the Washington Employment Security Department will begin collecting premiums for these benefits in January 2019.

The Employment Security Department has set the initial rate of the premium at 0.4% of wages, with 63% of that amount being paid by the employee and 37% of that amount being paid by the University Place School District. These premiums will be deducted from paychecks beginning January 2019.

Example: An employee who has $4,000 gross pay for the month of January would see a payroll deduction of $10.13, calculated as follows:

- Total premium is $16 ($4,000 x .004 = $16)
- Employee contribution is $10.13 ($16 x 0.6333 = $10.13)
- University Place School District contribution is $5.87 ($16 x 0.3667)

Paid Family and Medical leave provides only partial wage replacement, and the amount will depend on how much you earn in a typical week. When the benefits of Paid Family and Medical Leave become available in 2020, eligible employees will be entitled to take up to 12 weeks of leave. Eligibility and wage replacement amounts are determined by the Employment Security Department.

For more information please see attachment, or visit https://www.paidleave.wa.gov/.

For questions, please contact the Payroll Department at (253) 566-5612.
Washington’s Paid Family and Medical Leave program is starting soon.

Let’s all get ready to be there for care.

Starting January 2019, Washington employees and many employers will begin investing in a statewide program that will provide paid leave to give or receive care.

When the benefits begin in 2020, Paid Family and Medical Leave will support Washingtonians, whether they are recovering from a serious illness or injury, caring for a new child or helping an aging parent. It means workers won’t have to choose between a paycheck and caring for their health and their family.

What it is:
The program is mandatory because the spirit behind this benefit is one of understanding that at some time we all need—or need to give—extra care and attention.

Who’s eligible:
Nearly every Washington employee who works at least 820 hours (approximately 16 hours weekly) qualifies for the program. All paid work counts toward the 820 hours, including part-time, seasonal and temporary work. To learn more, visit paidleave.wa.gov/workers.

Benefit details:
- Allows up to 12 weeks of paid leave, or up to 18 weeks in certain circumstances.
- Workers receive between $100 and $1,000 per week, depending on income.

Your contribution:
To build this insurance program, on January 1, 2019 you may see a premium set aside from your paycheck, like you see for Medicare. The total premium is 0.4% of your wages and may be shared between an employee and employer. For an employee earning $50,000 a year, the maximum premium is just $2.44 a week.

Visit paidleave.wa.gov to calculate your contribution and learn more about how you can take time for care.