

## 9—Human Resources

### 9-1 EMPLOYMENT

All employment is by mutual consent of the employee and the Palatine Public Library District (hereafter referred to as the Library) and can be terminated at will by the employee or the Library with or without notice, with or without cause.

This policy is not a contract and should not be construed as a contract. Nothing in this policy is intended to be an offer of employment or continued employment. Any of the policies and procedures contained herein can be changed by the library at any time, with or without prior notice. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 5-21-19, Effective 7-1-19)

#### 9-1.1 Equal Employment Opportunity

The Library provides equal employment opportunities without regard to sex, race, color, ancestry, national origin, citizenship status, religion, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, military or veteran status, genetic information, order of protection status, or any other characteristic that is protected under applicable law. This policy applies to every aspect of employment including, but not limited to recruitment, employment, promotion, transfer, training, compensation, benefits, reduction in force, and termination. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 3-14-18, Effective 4-1-18)

#### 9-1.2 Employment Categories

The Library employs individuals as either exempt or non-exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act. For the purposes of defining benefits, employees are also classified based on regularly scheduled hours. (Adopted 6-21-22, Effective 1-1-25)

##### 9-1.21 Non-Exempt Employees

Non-exempt employees include all employees who are classified by the Library as covered by the overtime provisions of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and any applicable state laws. Employees in this category are entitled to receive overtime pay for hours worked over 40 hours in a workweek at a rate of 1.5 times their regular rate of pay. All paid overtime must be approved in advance by the employee's manager. In an emergency situation, overtime must be authorized by the Person in Charge (PIC). (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 5-17-22, Effective 7-1-22)

#### 9-1.22 Exempt Employees

Exempt employees include all employees who are classified by the Library as exempt from the overtime provisions, including overtime pay, of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and any applicable state laws. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 5-21-19, Effective 7-1-19)

#### 9-1.23 Full-Time Employees (37.5 hours/week or more)

Employees regularly scheduled to work 37.5 hours or more per week will be considered full-time employees and will receive time off and insurance benefits as specified below. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

#### 9-1.24 Part-Time Employees

Part-time employees receive benefits based on the number of hours they are scheduled to work as specified below. (Adopted 5-17-22, Effective 1-1-25)

##### 9-1.241 Part-Time (30-37 hours/week)

Employees regularly scheduled to work at least 30 hours but fewer than 37.5 hours per week will receive benefits, based on the number of hours they work as specified below. Part-time employees scheduled to work at least 30 hours per week are eligible for health insurance benefits. (Adopted 5-17-22; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

##### 9-1.242 Part-Time (20-29 hours/week)

Employees regularly scheduled to work at least 20 hours but fewer than 30 hours per week will receive benefits, based on the number of hours they work as specified below. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

##### 9-1.243 Part-Time (Less than 20 hours/week)

Employees regularly scheduled to work fewer than 20 hours per week will receive benefits, based on the number of hours they work as specified below. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

#### 9-1.25 Substitutes and Interns

Employees who are hired as substitutes will not have a regular work schedule. Substitutes and interns will only receive benefits detailed below. (Adopted 05-19-20; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

## 9-2 CONDUCT

Conduct that disrupts an employee's ability to positively contribute to the organization on a day-to-day basis or the organization's ability to efficiently run its operations will not be tolerated.

All employees are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all times. A manager or Person in Charge has the authority to send an employee home with or without pay for violation of a policy or guideline. The following is a list of conduct that is specifically prohibited and may lead to disciplinary action up to and including termination. This list is intended to provide examples only, and is not intended to be all-inclusive:

- harassing, intimidating, abusing, coercing, or threatening any other employee or visitor
- unreasonable behavior or communication that demeans, insults, or humiliates people either as individuals or as a group
- frequent or excessive tardiness or absence from work, or failure to report absences
- insubordination, including improper conduct toward a person of authority, or failure or refusal to perform tasks as assigned in the appropriate manner
- non-compliance with or disregard of Library safety and security procedures
- unsatisfactory performance
- conduct that substantially interferes with work or prevents work from being accomplished
- falsifying, omitting, or withholding necessary information, including information on an employment application
- improper behavior or unethical conduct
- altering or falsifying timekeeping records
- tampering with, theft of, or unauthorized removal of property belonging to the Library, fellow employees, or anyone on Library property
- bringing dangerous or unauthorized items such as firearms, explosives, weapons, or other similar items on Library property
- intentionally intruding on a person's privacy by spying, stalking, or asking intrusive questions
- release of confidential information about the Library, its visitors, or another employee
- damage to Library property or disruption of Library services
- failure to comply with or enforce Library policy

The Library reserves the right to discipline or discharge employees for acts or omissions not appearing on the list. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

## 9-2.1 Working Hours

The Library work week runs Sunday through Saturday. ~~Saturday.~~

The standard work week for full-time employees is 37.5 hours, excluding meal breaks. The work schedule for both full-time and part-time personnel may include weekend and evening hours as the Library requires.

Non-exempt employees will be scheduled for at least one day off in any consecutive seven-day period. The Library will post a weekly schedule before each Sunday listing the staff working that Sunday and their day(s) off for the week.

An employee scheduled to work at least 7.5 continuous hours must take a minimum 30-minute unpaid meal break. This meal break must be taken no later than five hours after beginning work (820 ILCS 140/3). The meal break is not optional and must be taken except in case of an emergency. If an employee works through their meal break, they must be paid for that time. An employee who works in excess of 7.5 continuous hours shall be entitled to an additional 20-minute unpaid meal period for every additional 4.5 continuous hours worked. Employees may take more than 20 minutes for their unpaid meal break with their manager's approval.

Managers may grant employees working less than 7.5 hours permission to take a 30-minute unpaid meal break.

All employees are permitted one paid 15-minute rest break per day that cannot be combined with a meal break and cannot be taken at the end of the work shift. Meal and rest breaks may not be taken in the final hour of an employee's shift. The time allotted for meal and rest breaks includes the time to leave and return to one's workstation. Reasonable time for using restroom facilities can be taken at any time.

Employees who need to express breast milk will be provided reasonable paid break time to express breast milk. When possible, this break will be concurrent with any meal break scheduled during the shift. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

## 9-2.2 ~~Telecommuting~~ Remote Work

Remote Work ~~Telecommuting~~ allows employees to work in a location outside of library facilities or another assigned workspace. Prior approval from the Executive Director is required. A remote work ~~A telecommuting~~ agreement may be given on a temporary basis and will be reviewed routinely.

Eligibility for ~~remote work a telecommuting agreement~~ is based primarily on the responsibilities and autonomy of the actual job. Full- or part-time employees in good standing, with positive employee evaluations on file, may be considered. Some jobs more readily accommodate ~~a telecommuting agreement~~ remote work, while others do not. Positions that might generally lend themselves to this situation (1) utilize discretionary authority and independent action; and (2) maintain a low percentage of time spent performing routine, manual, or clerical work; and (3) do not require use of fixed library assets, equipment, or material that cannot leave the premises. The Library will not be responsible for operating costs, home maintenance, cell phone, internet, or any other incidental costs associated with the use of the employee's residence. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

### 9-2.3 Attendance

Attendance and punctuality are important to the efficient operation of the Library. Regular and predictable attendance is an essential function of every position at the Library. Absenteeism and tardiness are disruptive and make it difficult for the Library to function properly.

Each employee is responsible for being present at the correct time each day. On occasion, employees may have reason to be absent from work. On these occasions, they are required to directly notify their supervisor prior to the start of their scheduled shift. Employees are expected to follow departmental procedures as established. Human Resources may request a medical doctor's statement certifying that an illness or injury is the reason for the absence or to authorize a return to work.

An employee who is absent for two consecutive scheduled workdays without prior or concurrent notice; contact; or approval from their supervisor, manager, or Human Resources will be considered to have voluntarily terminated employment based on job abandonment. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

### 9-2.4 Dress Standards

Employees are to adhere to the Dress Code guidelines provided to employees. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 5-21-19, Effective 7-1-19)

### 9-2.5 Staff Lounge

The Library maintains a staff lounge for the comfort and convenience of its employees during breaks and meal periods. Persons not employed by the Library are permitted to use the lounge only if accompanied by a staff member. (Adopted 11-13-96; Reapproved 2-10-16)

## 9-2.6 Substance Abuse Policy

Employees are prohibited from unlawfully manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, possessing, or using alcohol, marijuana, illicit drugs, or controlled substances on Library premises or at remote work locations during work hours. Reporting to work under the influence of any of the above substances, including medical marijuana, to the extent that the employee's ability to perform job duties safely and satisfactorily is adversely affected, is likewise prohibited.

Any violation of the above prohibition will result in disciplinary action against the employee up to and including termination and possible referral for prosecution consistent with applicable federal, state, and local law.

The Illinois Drug Free Workplace Act requires that, as a condition of employment with the Library, all employees will abide by the terms of the policy and notify the Executive Director of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than five days after such a conviction.

The Library may require an employee who violates these provisions to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program. Information on such programs will be provided by Library administration. A request to participate in such a program does not excuse the employee from possible further disciplinary action.

The Library will make available to employees, as appropriate, educational material and programs on the dangers of substance abuse in the workplace. In addition, the Library will provide training to assist in identifying and addressing substance abuse by employees.

The Library will take adequate measures to inform employees of this policy, including a statement that employee compliance with this policy is mandatory. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

## 9-2.7 Safety

Establishment and maintenance of a safe work environment are shared responsibilities of the Library and its employees. The Library will do everything within its control to assure a safe environment and compliance with federal, state, and local safety regulations. Employees are expected to obey safety rules and to exercise caution in all their work activities.

Employees have an absolute obligation to report or correct unsafe conditions as promptly as possible. The Library will not take reprisals against employees

who come forth with a safety recommendation or refuse to operate any equipment in an area they reasonably feel is unsafe.

All accidents, especially those that result in injury, must be reported immediately to the nearest available supervisor or person-in-charge, regardless of how insignificant they may appear. Such reports are necessary to comply with federal and state laws and to initiate insurance and worker's compensation procedures. Failure to immediately report an accident may result in discipline, up to and including termination.

All employees are covered by worker's compensation insurance for injuries sustained in the performance of their duties. Employees are required to maintain regular communication with Human Resources regarding their return-to-work date and potential work limitations or restrictions. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

#### 9-2.8 Acceptance of Gifts

~~On occasion, members or vendors may wish to express appreciation for exceptional library service, recognition of a holiday, or an employee's retirement.~~ Employees and their immediate families may accept gifts ~~such as food or flowers~~ from members or vendors. These gifts cannot exceed a cumulative value of \$100, ~~from a single source~~, in a calendar year and must be received only in compliance with the State's Gift Ban Act, (5 ILCS 430/10-15 through 10-40). (Approved 1-8-14; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

#### 9-2.9 Resources Provided For Staff Use

The Library provides resources for use in the Library facilities including but not limited to desks, workstations, file drawers, computers, software, phones, and lockers for employees as necessary for their job. Although these resources are provided for staff use, they are the sole property of the Library. Staff is not required to access Library resources on unpaid time.

Accordingly, the Library reserves the right to inspect all Library-provided resources listed in the preceding paragraph and the contents thereof. Such inspections may occur before, during, or after the close of the day and without prior notice to the employee.

Employees are encouraged not to leave any valuable items in the workplace. The Library cannot assume any liability for loss, theft, or damage to any item left in a desk, in a locker, at a workstation, or in any other area of the Library.

Library walkie-talkies, phones, and computers are provided primarily for Library purposes. All personal communication should be held to a minimum

and should not be made at public desks. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24 Effective 1-1-25)

#### 9–2.10 Use of Vehicles for Library Business

All drivers of Library vehicles must have and show proof of a valid, current, and class-appropriate driver's license. The Library will verify with the issuing state that the employee has a clear, valid driver's license upon hire and on an annual basis thereafter. Drivers and passengers using library vehicles must be on Library business. The driver and passengers must observe all applicable motor vehicle laws and regulations. The driver and passengers must wear seat belts and use appropriate restraints. Using a phone while driving a Library vehicle is prohibited. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

When private vehicles are used for Library business, drivers must have and show proof of a valid, current, and class-appropriate driver's license and adequate insurance. The Library will request proof of insurance upon hire and every six months thereafter. Approval to attend meetings or conferences outside the Library includes approval of use of a private vehicle for Library business. The Library will reimburse the operator of the vehicle at the prevailing rate per mile set by the Internal Revenue Service. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 5-21-19, Effective 7-1-19)

### 9-3 RECRUITMENT AND HIRING

The Executive Director is responsible for the final selection, appointment, supervision, and dismissal of all Library staff. The selection of staff members is based on their meeting the qualifications of the job as outlined in the job descriptions, including but not limited to education, experience, and technical qualifications. The Library reserves the right to waive the educational requirements for a position when it judges the candidate to be qualified based on additional experience or qualifications.

An ongoing recruitment program will provide for the highest quality personnel in accordance with the needs of the Library. Current employees are encouraged to apply for open positions for which they are qualified. Open positions are posted.

An employee who resigns from the Library within the prior five years and is rehired by the Library retains credit for all years of consecutive service at the Library for purposes of vacation accrual. An employee who changes benefit status during a 12-month period retains all years of consecutive service at the Library for purposes of vacation accrual. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 11-21-23, Effective 1-1-24)



### 9-3.1 Immigration Compliance

The Library seeks to comply with the requirements of federal immigration law. The Library retains a properly completed Form I-9 for all employees. (Adopted 12-14-05; Last Revised 5-21-19, Effective 7-1-19)

### 9-3.2 Criminal Background Investigation

All new hires 18 years of age or older must sign a release for a criminal background investigation to be completed by the Illinois State Police.

The Library maintains all releases on file for at least two years. Whenever a request for information is made to the Illinois Department of State Police, the Library provides the individual named with a copy of the response furnished by the Department. The individual will then have seven days to notify the Library if any information contained in the response is inaccurate or incomplete. Based on the response from the State Police, further investigation may take place to determine continued employment. Any information obtained from such investigation is maintained on a confidential basis. (Adopted 4-9-97; Last Revised 5-21-19, Effective 7-1-19)

### 9-3.3 Employment of Family Members

~~It is a goal of the Library to minimize action and employment decisions based on factors other than the efficient functioning of the Library and the highest quality of service to the public. The employment of relatives of current employees may cause conflicts with perceived favoritism, influence employment decisions, or create an appearance of impropriety.~~

Family members of employees are eligible for employment provided they are qualified for the job. However, relatives of current employees may be hired only if they will not be working directly for or supervising a relative in the same line of authority within the organization. This applies to any relative, higher or lower in the organization, who has the authority to review employment decisions about the relative. No relatives of the Executive Director, Deputy Assistant Director, Community Services Director, or Human Resources Manager will be eligible for employment.

Family members for this policy includes employee's parent, spouse, child, brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild, mother-/father-in-law, daughter-/son-in-law, domestic partner, or member of the household for whose care the employee is financially responsible.

Family members of current Trustees are not eligible to be hired. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 5-21-19, Effective 7-1-19)

#### 9-3.4 Personnel Records

A personnel file is maintained for each employee. Among other items, this file includes information regarding pay, performance, disciplinary action, and commendations. It is considered an official record.

Employees have a right to review their own files in the presence of the Executive Director, ~~Assistant Deputy~~ Director, Community Services Director, or Human Resources Manager. Such requests for review must be made in writing. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 5-21-19, Effective 7-1-19)

#### 9-3.5 Referral Bonus

The Library will pay a referral bonus to employees who bring new talent to the organization. Referred employees cannot be current or former employees of the Library in any capacity, including substitutes and interns.

All employees are eligible to receive a referral bonus except for the following:

- Executive Director, ~~or Assistant Deputy~~ Director, or Community Services Director
- HR employees or any employee whose regular job includes the recruitment of employees
- Hiring manager/supervisor or other persons associated with the selection of the candidate

The referral bonus recipient must be identified on the candidate's job application. Only one employee may receive the referral bonus for each new hire. The bonus recipient will receive \$200 for each external candidate who is hired and remains employed for three months. An employee may receive multiple bonuses for multiple hired candidates, up to \$600 in any fiscal year. Referral bonus payments will be paid out during regular payroll processing on the first pay date following the referred employee's three-month anniversary. The bonus recipient must still be employed by the Library to receive payment. The referral bonus is subject to all necessary taxes and deductions.

The hiring process will be fair and consistent with Library policy and procedures, with no bias for or against candidates whose selection might make another employee eligible for referral bonus. (Adopted 05-17-22, Effective 1-1-25)

#### 9-3.6 Retention Bonus

All employees hired in pay grade 1 are eligible to receive a retention bonus after six months of employment. Employees who are promoted internally to a new position are not eligible for the retention bonus.

The employee will receive \$500 after completing six months of employment. Retention bonus payments will be paid out during regular payroll processing on the first pay date following the referred employee's six-month anniversary. The bonus recipient must still be employed by the Library in the same position to receive payment. The retention bonus is subject to all necessary taxes and deductions.

The hiring process will be fair and consistent with Library policy and procedures.(Adopted 05-17-22, Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

#### 9-3.7 Milestone Anniversaries

All employees will receive a milestone anniversary bonus every 5 years of employment as follows:

Years Served	Bonus Amount
5	\$500
10	\$1,000
15	\$1,500
20	\$2,000
25	\$2,500
30	\$3,000
35	\$3,500

Milestone Anniversary bonus payments will be paid out during regular payroll processing on the first pay date following the employee's milestone anniversary. The bonus recipient must still be employed by the Library to receive payment. The anniversary bonus is subject to all necessary taxes and deductions.

### 9-4 PAY

#### 9-4.1 Salary Reviews

The Executive Director establishes all staff salaries within the framework of the salary schedule established annually by the Board.

Every position within the organization has a pay range. Each range has a designated minimum, midpoint, and maximum pay rate.

The pay range for the position determines the amount paid to any individual employee. The organization's goal is to have all employees paid within their respective pay range. An appropriate pay rate will be determined for each employee based on the individual's relevant experience, expertise,

performance, and tenure. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 3-14-18, Effective 4-1-18)

#### 9-4.2 Payroll Procedures

Paychecks are issued semimonthly. If payday falls on a weekend or holiday, employees will be paid on the last weekday before the weekend or holiday. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 5-21-19, Effective 7-1-19)

#### 9-4.3 Payroll Deductions

The Library is required by law to comply with all statutory rules and regulations with respect to payroll deductions. Generally, payroll deductions consist of federal and state income taxes, Social Security and Medicare taxes, wage garnishments, and other applicable deductions required by the state or municipality.

Some employee benefits also result in payroll deductions. See Human Resources for information concerning individual payroll deductions. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

#### 9-4.4 Emergency Closings

On occasion the Library may close due to inclement weather conditions or other conditions such as loss of power, flooding, etc. Managers may approve a revised schedule for employees. Employees who are scheduled to work when the Library is closed for an emergency will be paid for the hours they were scheduled during the closing. If an employee has already requested paid time off (personal, vacation, or sick) or unpaid time off for any part of the closed period, that paid or unpaid time will be used. Employees who are not scheduled to work during the closed period will not receive additional pay. In the event an employee is required to work to respond to emergencies when the Library is closed, the employee will be paid for a minimum of one hour at 1.5 times their normal hourly rate.

In the event the Library is open, and an employee cannot get to work due to weather, the employee may choose to take a personal or vacation day, make up the time, or take a day of unpaid leave. Any time to be made up must be approved in advance by the employee's manager, must be completed in the same pay period of the occurrence, and may not qualify for overtime pay. (Adopted 3-14-18; Last Revised 5-21-19, Effective 7-1-19)

#### 9-4.5 Bilingual Compensation

Qualified employees who are designated by the Library to provide bilingual interpreter services while on duty will be compensated by one half-step in the

official salary schedule. Compensated staff are required to assist with conversational interpretation in customer service interactions in person, on the phone, over email, and over chat. If staff are unavailable to assist at the time of the initial service request, they may be expected to schedule an appointment with the member at a suitable time for both parties. Acceptable reasons to decline an interpretation request include but are not limited to leading a library program or attending a meeting.

To receive compensation, employees must pass a skills exam. The exam will be conducted by a third-party service and will be selected, proctored, and paid for by the Library. The exam will test oral and comprehension skills sufficient to assist with customer service interactions. Employees will be compensated for only one successful language certification. Employees receiving bilingual compensation will be required to re-take and pass the skills exam every three years in order to continue receiving compensation. (Adopted 6-3-25; Effective 7-1-1-2025)

#### 9-4.6 Pay Adjustments

Pay adjustments must be approved in advance by the Executive Director. Pay adjustments may occur for the following reasons listed below. All pay changes will be communicated to the employee in writing prior to the effective date of the change.

##### Annual Review:

Employees may be eligible for an annual pay increase at their yearly performance review. The amount of base pay increase for an employee is dependent upon the employee's overall performance rating, where the employee's pay falls relative to their pay range, and the parameters of the approved operating budget. If an employee's pay is at (or beyond) the maximum of the pay range, further pay increases will not be issued until the employee's pay rate is back within range.

##### Cost of Living Adjustments:

The Library adjusts the salary schedule annually to account for changes in the financial environment. We base these cost-of-living adjustments on the Consumer Price Index for Cook County, Cost of Living Adjustment information provided by the Social Security Administration, and the parameters of the approved operating budget. If an employee's pay is at (or beyond) the maximum of the pay range, further pay increases will not be issued until the employee's pay rate is back within range.

##### Market Adjustment Increases:

The organization uses an outside third party to objectively benchmark our job descriptions against current, valid, and reliable compensation survey data. As a result, the organization has a competitive compensation structure comprising pay

grades and ranges for all positions. To ensure that the Library is staying up to date on market trends, the Library will conduct a Market benchmarking study every 3-5 years. An employee's pay adjustment may occur separately from the annual review when there is an unexpected market fluctuation for a particular position, and the incumbent's current pay is below market.

Pay Equity Increases:

Adjustments in an employee's pay may occur separately from the annual review when an employee's salary is significantly below that of others in the same title code with similar performance, experience, skills, knowledge, and assignments.

Promotional Increases:

A promotion is a reassignment from a position with a lower pay grade to another position with a higher pay grade. In most cases, a base pay increase will accompany a promotion, but it is not required unless the employee's pay is below the minimum of their new range.

Reassignment to a Position with a Lower Pay Range:

On rare occasions, employees may move to a job of significantly decreased responsibility and a lower pay grade, either voluntarily or at the request of management. In some cases, a pay decrease may be initiated at the time of the job change but is not required unless the employee's pay is above the maximum of their new range.

Lateral Transfer:

A lateral transfer is defined as a move from one position to another within the same pay grade. Lateral transfers typically involve no change in base pay.

Interim Pay:

A single employee may be appointed to act in an interim capacity for a vacated role or a position where an employee is on FMLA leave or disability leave. When that leave is expected to last over one month and the position falls above the interim employee's pay grade, the interim employee may receive a temporary pay increase. The pay increase will last until the responsibilities cease, the employee returns, or the position has been filled. In some instances, if the interim employee is helping train a new employee, then the pay increase will continue through the first month for the new employee.

## **9-5 BENEFITS**

### **9-5.1 Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund**

The Library and eligible Library employees participate in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) pursuant to state laws. Both the Library and the participating employees contribute to IMRF. IMRF provides disability and

retirement benefits to eligible employees. All aspects of participation in and benefits provided by IMRF are determined by IMRF and not by the Library. Employees with questions are directed to the IMRF website, [www.imrf.org](http://www.imrf.org).

IMRF offers an optional Early Retirement Incentive package. The library will request an estimate for Early Retirement Incentive package every 3-5 years and offer this benefit to eligible employees if it is determined to be within the best interest of the organization and it falls within the budget.

(Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 5-21-19, Effective 7-1-19)

#### 9-5.2 Medical Insurance

Medical insurance benefits are available for employees regularly scheduled to work a minimum of 30 hours per week. This policy is subject to the provisions of the Affordable Care Act. The Library will pay a portion of individual and dependent premiums for medical insurance for employees eligible under the terms of the Affordable Care Act, as determined by the annual budget. The employee is responsible for the balance of the premium. Domestic partners, as defined by the insurance carrier's policy, are eligible to apply for coverage as a dependent. The Library reserves the right to select the insurance plan and benefits provided, to change them at any time, and to change any required premium contribution. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 6-15-21, Effective 7-1-21)

#### 9-5.3 Dental Insurance

Dental insurance benefits are available for employees regularly scheduled to work a minimum of 30 hours per week. The Library may pay a portion of the individual and dependent premiums, as determined by the annual budget. Domestic partners, as defined by the insurance carrier's policy, are eligible to apply for coverage as a dependent. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 6-15-21, Effective 7-1-21)

#### 9-5.4 Vision Insurance

Vision insurance benefits are available for employees regularly scheduled to work a minimum of 30 hours per week. The Library may pay a portion of the individual and dependent premiums, as determined by the annual budget. Domestic partners, as defined by the insurance carrier's policy, are eligible to apply for coverage as a dependent. (Adopted 2-10-16, Last Revised 6-15-21, Effective 7-1-21)

#### 9-5.5 COBRA

COBRA (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985) allows employees to continue in the Library's group health insurance coverage for up

to 18 months following separation from service. Employees who lose their eligibility to participate because of a reduction in their regular work schedule to less than 30 hours per week are also eligible for the 18-month extension. The employee is responsible for paying 100% of any insurance premiums under COBRA. Additionally, the Library charges employees 2% of monthly premiums to administer COBRA insurance. (Adopted 5-19-20; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

#### 9-5.6 Life Insurance

Life insurance benefits are available for employees regularly scheduled to work a minimum of 30 hours per week. The Library may pay a portion of the premium, as determined by the annual budget. Life insurance is not available for dependents. (Adopted 3-11-09; Last Revised 5-21-19, Effective 7-1-19)

IMRF-enrolled employees may obtain additional life insurance through a voluntary life insurance plan. Employees are responsible for 100% of the premium through payroll deductions. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 3-14-18, Effective 4-1-18)

#### 9-5.7 Employee Assistance Program

The Library offers an employee assistance program to all employees and their families. All contact is confidential. For further information contact Human Resources or call the Employee Assistance Program directly using the contact information provided to all employees. (Adopted 1-12-00; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

#### 9-5.8 Self-funded retirement plan

Palatine Library District's 457(b) Plan allows all employees to save for retirement through convenient payroll deductions.

#### 9-5.9 Lifestyle Spending Account

The Library offers a Lifestyle Spending Account (LSA) to eligible employees as a benefit to encourage a balanced lifestyle. The LSA allows employees to receive a monthly reimbursement of up to \$50 for approved wellness related expenses. This benefit is available to all employees, including substitutes, after 30 days of employment.

### 9-6 TIME AND ATTENDANCE

The Library uses computer software to automatically process and manage time and attendance records. Employees are responsible for clocking in and clocking out for their scheduled shifts. Employees must not clock in or clock out for another employee. Any employee who violates this policy shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.



At the end of every pay period, managers review, make corrections to, and approve the time and attendance records for each of their employees.  
(Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 3-19-24, Effective 3-29-24)

#### 9-6.1 Holidays and Other Scheduled Closings

The following days are designated as official holidays when the Library will be closed:

- New Year's Day
- Easter Sunday (not a paid holiday)
- Memorial Day Sunday (not a paid holiday)
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day Sunday (not a paid holiday)
- Labor Day
- Wednesday before Thanksgiving (close at 5pm, not a paid holiday)
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Eve Day
- Christmas Day
- New Year's Eve (close at 5 PM)

Employees who are regularly scheduled to work 15 hours or more per week will receive holiday pay equal to 1/5 of their regularly scheduled hours per week for the paid holiday dates above. Those same employees will receive holiday pay for New Year's Eve, equal to 1/10 of their regularly scheduled hours per week.

Regularly-Scheduled Hours / Week	Hours of Holiday Pay at 1/5	Hours of Holiday Pay at 1/10 New Year's Eve Holiday Pay
15	3	1.5
20	4	2
25	5	2.5
30	6	3
32.5	6.5	3.25
37.5	7.5	3.75

Holiday pay will be paid on the actual date of the holiday. If the paid holiday falls on a date when the employee is not normally scheduled to work, the

employee may take another day off (without pay) in place of the holiday during the pay period at the approval of their supervisor. Supervisors may approve a day off without pay outside the pay period but within 30 days of the holiday, if necessary for the needs of the department.

(Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

## 9-6.2 Personal Time

All regular employees regularly scheduled to work 20 hours or more per week will earn up to five personal days with pay per calendar year. Time is pro-rated for part-time employees. Part-time employees regularly scheduled to work less than 20 hours per week earn 12 hours personal time.

Personal time will be accrued each pay period at the rate below.

<u>Regularly-Scheduled Hours/Week</u>	<u>Personal Hours Per Year (hours)</u>	<u>Personal Hours Per Pay Period (hours)</u>	<u>Maximum Balance (hours)</u>
<20	12	0.5	12
20	20	0.83	20
25	25	1.04	25
30	30	1.25	30
32.5	32.5	1.35	32.5
37.5	37.5	1.56	37.5

Employees can take their personal time as soon as it is earned. Personal time may be taken in half-hour increments. Personal time is not converted into pay at termination of employment. The personal time selected must be pre-approved by the employee's immediate supervisor.

(Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

## 9-6.3 Sick Time

Regular employees earn sick leave based on the following schedule.

<u>Regularly-Scheduled Hours / Week</u>	<u>Sick Leave Per Month (hours)</u>	<u>Sick Leave Per Pay Period (hours)</u>	<u>Max Accrual (hours)</u>
<20	3	1.5	720
20	4	2	960
25	5	2.5	1200

30	6	3	1440
32.5	6.5	3.25	1560
37.5	7.5	3.75	1800

Unused sick leave is not converted into pay at termination of employment. Upon retirement, accumulated sick leave may qualify for additional IMRF pension credit at a maximum of 240 days or 1 year of service credit for those employees eligible for IMRF.

Employees are eligible for sick leave after completing 30 days of employment. Sick leave is earned during this 30-day period.

Sick leave may be taken in half-hour increments for medical reasons including illness, injury, medical appointment, mental health time, or caring for a family member. Human Resources will request a health care practitioner's statement certifying that an illness or injury is the reason for the absence of four scheduled days or more or to authorize a return to work.

No sick leave is earned by an employee for any calendar month in which an employee is on an unpaid leave of absence. Eligible employees will not be granted time off without pay unless under an approved medical leave (see 9-49.4 and 9-49.6).

(Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

#### 9-6.4 Vacation Time

##### Full-Time Employees

Full-time exempt and non-exempt staff earn four weeks annual paid vacation. Vacation benefits are accrued per pay period.

Regularly-Scheduled Hours / Week		Vacation Per Year (hours)	Vacation Per Pay Period	Maximum Balance (hours)
37.5		150	6.25	150

##### Part-Time Employees

Part-time employees regularly scheduled 20 or more hours per week earn vacation time at the prorated equivalent of two weeks annual paid vacation. After one year of employment, they receive the prorated equivalent of three weeks; after five years of employment, they receive the prorated equivalent of four weeks. Vacation benefits are accrued per pay period.

Regularly-Scheduled Hours / Week	Years of Service	Vacation Per Year (hours)	Vacation Per Pay Period	Maximum Balance (hours)
20	0	40	1.67	40
20	1	60	2.50	60
20	5	80	3.33	80
25	0	50	2.08	50
25	1	75	3.13	75
25	5	100	4.17	100
30	0	60	2.50	60
30	1	90	3.75	90
30	5	120	5.00	120
32.5	0	65	2.71	65
32.5	1	97.5	4.06	97.5
32.5	5	130	5.42	130

#### Employees Less Than 20 Hours/Week

Part-time employees regularly scheduled less than 20 hours per week will accrue one hour for every 40 hours of time worked.

Substitutes, interns, and other employees without regularly-scheduled hours will accrue one hour for every 40 hours of time worked.

#### Use of Vacation Time

Employees can never carry more vacation time than they are entitled to accrue in one year. Employees carrying the maximum vacation time will not accrue additional vacation time.

Vacation accrual begins on hire date. However, staff must work three months before being eligible to take any earned vacation time. For employees moving to a new position, the three-month waiting period does not apply if they have been an employee of the Library for more than three months.

Conditions for taking vacations are as follows:

- Vacation time may be taken in half-hour increments.

- Vacation days selected must be preapproved by the employee's immediate supervisor.
- No vacation accrual is earned by an employee when on an unpaid leave of absence.
- Unused vacation is paid out at the time of termination.

Any exceptions to this policy must be approved in advance by the Executive Director.

(Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

## 9-7 LEAVES OF ABSENCE

### 9-7.1 Jury Duty

Employees will be excused from work for the purpose of fulfilling jury duty. All employees will be compensated for the time they are normally scheduled to work. Employees will not be required to work an evening shift on a day of serving jury duty. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 2-10-16, Effective 3-1-16)

### 9-7.2 Military Leave

Military leave will be provided in accordance with applicable law.  
(Adopted 11-13-96; Reapproved 2-10-16)

### 9-7.3 Bereavement

Employees may take up to five paid days and seven additional unpaid days for a death in their family. This time is prorated for part-time employees. Family for this policy includes the employee's child, stepchild, spouse, domestic partner, sibling, parent, parent-in-law, child-in-law, grandchild, grandparent, stepparent, or other person of significance as approved by the Executive Director or designee.

Additional approved time may be taken from accrued sick leave and vacation. Employees may also be entitled to time off under this policy if the employee experiences:

- a miscarriage;
- an unsuccessful round of intrauterine insemination or of an assisted reproductive technology procedure;
- a failed adoption match or an adoption that is not finalized because it is contested by another party;
- a failed surrogacy agreement;
- a diagnosis that negatively impacts pregnancy or fertility; or
- a stillbirth.

Leaves under this policy must be completed within 60 days of the employee receiving notice of the family member's death or other qualifying incident. The employee shall provide the employer with at least 48 hours advance notice when possible. The employee may be required to provide reasonable documentation for the leave, such as a death certificate, obituary, funeral/memorial service notification, adoption or surrogacy documentation, or documentation from a healthcare provider certifying the employee or their partner has experienced a qualifying event. Time off under this policy is not in excess of or in addition to time off the employee may qualify for under the Family and Medical Leave Act. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

#### 9-7.4 Family and Medical Leave

This policy is subject to the provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Eligible employees may take up to a total of 12 work weeks of leave during the designated 12-month period for any one or more of the following reasons:

- the birth of the employee's child, and to care for the newborn child
- the placement with the employee of a child for adoption or foster care, and to care for the newly placed child
- to care for the employee's spouse, child, or parent with a serious health condition
- a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform one or more of the essential functions of their job
- any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the spouse, or a child, or parent of the employee is on active duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty) in the Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation

An eligible employee is any employee who has been employed by the Library for at least 12 months (need not be consecutive) and for at least 1,250 hours of actual service during the 12-month period immediately preceding the commencement of the leave.

The 12-month period in which the 12-work-week leave entitlement occurs will be a rolling 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee uses any FMLA leave. Thus, each time an employee takes FMLA leave, the remaining leave entitlement would be any balance of the 12 work weeks that has not been used during the immediately preceding 12 months.

An eligible employee who is the spouse, child, parent, or next of kin of a covered service member will be entitled to a total of 26 work weeks of leave during a single 12-month period to care for the service member, provided such leave will be available only during a single 12-month period, during which the eligible employee will be entitled to a combined total of only 26 work weeks of leave, inclusive of any other entitled leave.

For the purpose of this policy, a “serious health condition” entitling an employee to FMLA leave means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves one of the following:

- inpatient care (i.e. an overnight stay) in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility, including any period of incapacity, or any subsequent treatment in connection with such inpatient care
- a serious health condition involving continuing treatment by a health care provider

The determination as to whether or not a condition is a “serious health condition” as that term is defined in the Family and Medical Leave Act and the federal regulations promulgated thereunder will be made by the Library on a case-by-case basis.

Family or medical leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced-leave schedule when necessary. Employees needing intermittent leave or leave on a reduced schedule should attempt to schedule the leave so as not to disrupt the operations of the Library. Certification of the medical necessity of intermittent leave or leave on a reduced-leave schedule may be required. Recertification may be required after a significant period of time or a change in medical condition.

In any instance where the necessity for leave arises from any qualifying exigency due to a spouse, child, or parent of the employee being on active duty in the Armed Forces is foreseeable, whether because the spouse, child, or parent is on active duty, or because of notification of an impending call or order to active duty in support of a contingency operation, the employee will provide such notice to Library as is reasonable and practicable.

Insurance coverage will be maintained for the duration of the 12 work weeks of leave for those employees with current coverage under the Library’s plan. The terms and conditions of insurance coverage, including any applicable premium contributions by the employee, will remain the same during the family or medical leave. Employees on leave must make timely payment of any employee portion of the insurance premiums. If an employee’s premium payment is more than 30 days late, coverage may be dropped 15 days after written notice to the employee.

Employees must provide sufficient notice of the need for FMLA leave and must explain the reasons for the needed leave. A request for family or medical leave should be made 30 days in advance, when the need for the leave is foreseeable. Such requests should be made to Human Resources. When unforeseeable events occur that require family or medical leave, employees must give notice to Human Resources as soon as practical, but not later than three days after the employee learns of the need for leave.

Requests for family or medical leave or for extensions of such leave must be substantiated by medical certification. A form will be provided to the employee.

Employees are required to maintain regular communication with Human Resources regarding their return-to-work date and potential work limitations or restrictions.

When medical leave is granted due to an employee's own serious health condition, the employee must obtain and present, at the employee's expense, certification from the employee's health care provider that the employee is able to resume work at the time the employee seeks reinstatement. Second and third opinions with respect to any medical certification may be sought by the Library at its expense. The health care provider for any such second or third opinions will be designated by the Library.

Eligible employees who have any accrued paid time off benefits must substitute all such available paid leave as part of the 12 work weeks for FMLA leave. Upon exhaustion of all accrued paid time off benefits that is substituted for FMLA leave, any remaining portion of FMLA leave will be unpaid.

Employees will not accrue sick leave or vacation during the unpaid period of the leave. Employees will begin accruing sick leave and vacation benefits when they return from leave. Should a paid holiday fall during the paid period of the leave, the employee will receive holiday pay. No holiday pay will be given if on unpaid leave.

Employees taking family or medical leave will be restored to their previous position or to an equivalent position in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act, provided the employee would otherwise be employed at the conclusion of the leave if the employee had not taken the leave.

Acceptance of employment elsewhere during the term of the leave will result in termination. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 3-16-21, Effective 4-1-21)

#### 9-7.5 Paid Parental Leave



Employees eligible for, and who have applied for, a qualifying FMLA leave due to a birth or adoption of a child are eligible to request paid parental leave. All other requirements and provisions under the FMLA will apply. This policy runs concurrent with FMLA.

Eligible employees will receive a maximum of eight weeks of paid parental leave per birth or adoption (the child must be 17 or younger) of a child. This policy does not cover adoptions of a spouse's child. Multiple births or adoptions, such as the birth of twins or adoption of siblings, does not increase the eight-week total amount of paid parental leave granted for that occurrence. In addition, an employee will not receive more than eight weeks of paid parental leave in a rolling 12-month period, regardless of whether more than one birth or adoption event occurs within that 12-month time frame. When both parents are eligible employees, both parents may request to use up to eight weeks of paid parental leave.

Paid parental leave time runs concurrent with the approved FMLA leave. Once paid parental leave time is exhausted, employees may use additional FMLA leave. In this way, any paid time and any unpaid time will run concurrent with FMLA leave and be counted toward the 12-week allotment.

Employees must use paid parental leave within six months following the beginning of the approved FMLA leave coinciding with birth or adoption of a child. Any unused paid parental leave will be forfeited at the end of the six-month time period.

Paid parental leave is compensated at the employee's current hourly rate based on the employee's normally scheduled weekly work hours as defined by their current job. Paid parental leave will be paid on regularly scheduled pay dates. All standard payroll taxes and standard deductions (such as IMRF and insurance) will apply.

Upon separation of employment, the employee will not be paid for any unused paid parental leave for which they were eligible.

The employee will provide Human Resources with notice of the request to use paid parental leave at the time of the request for FMLA. (Adopted 5-21-19, Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

#### 9-7.55 Neonatal Leave

Employees eligible for, and who have applied for, a qualifying FMLA leave due to a birth or adoption of a child are eligible for an additional 20 days of unpaid NICU leave in compliance with the Family Neonatal Intensive Care Act. All other requirements and provisions under the FMLA will apply.

Employees must first exhaust their available FMLA leave entitlement before taking NICU leave.

Employees may take NICU leave either continuously or intermittently.

NICU leave may be taken in half-hour increments. Human Resources will request a health care practitioner's statement certifying a child's NICU stay.

The employee will provide Human Resources with the notice of the request to use Neonatal Leave two weeks prior to the completion of FMLA leave.  
(Adopted , Last Revised , Effective 6-1-2026)

#### 9-7.6 Medical Leave for Non-Eligible FMLA Employees

The Library may grant employees not eligible for FMLA an unpaid medical leave of absence for any one or more of the following reasons:

- the birth of the employee's child, and to care for the newborn child
- the placement with the employee of a child for adoption or foster care, and to care for the newly placed child
- to care for the employee's spouse, child, or parent with a serious health condition
- a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform one or more of the essential functions of their job

The maximum amount of time the Library may allow is typically six weeks in a rolling 12-month period. An extension may be granted at the discretion of the Executive Director. To be eligible for such a leave, an employee must have been employed by the Library for at least six months. Eligibility is determined as of the date the leave commences, not when the leave is requested.

The Library will require medical certification to support a claim for leave for an employee's health condition within seven days of a request for a leave. The certification must include a statement that the employee is unable to perform the functions of their position, the date on which the health care condition began, and the probable duration of the absence. If the need for the leave is foreseeable, such as a planned medical treatment, at least 30 days' prior written notice must be given by the employee. If the need is unexpected, employees are required to provide as much notice as possible.

This medical leave is generally unpaid leave. However, employees with benefits must use any available sick, personal time, and vacation during this period. During the paid portion of the leave, the employee with benefits will continue to accrue benefits.

When medical leave is granted due to an employee's own serious health condition, the employee must obtain and present, at the employee's expense, certification from the employee's health care provider that the employee is able to resume work at the time the employee seeks reinstatement. (Adopted 3-11-09; Last Revised 8-17-21, Effective 9-1-21)

#### 9-7.7 Victims' Economic Security and Safety Leave

Victims' Economic Security and Safety Leave Act (VESSA) provides employees who are victims of domestic, sexual, or gender violence, or employees who have a family or household member who is a victim of such violence, with unpaid, job-guaranteed leave; reasonable accommodations; and protections from discrimination and retaliation. Employees must provide the Library with at least 48 hours prior notice, unless providing notice advance notice is not practical. If not practical, employees must provide notice within a reasonable period after absence. An employee who is a victim of domestic, gender, or sexual violence may take unpaid leave from work for up to 12 workweeks per 12-month period according to the provisions set forth in VESSA. (Adopted 3-11-09; Last Revised 5-17-22, Effective 7-1-22)

#### 9-7.8 Emergency Paid Sick Leave Due to a Declared Health Emergency

The purpose of this policy is to provide eligible employees with leave and paid sick leave due to a declared health emergency. Employees who are seeking a leave for reasons outside of this policy may still be eligible under the Library's other leave policies.

For the purpose of this policy, "child" means the employee's own child under the age of 18, which includes biological, adopted, or foster children, stepchildren, legal wards, children for whom the employee is standing in loco parentis—someone with day-to-day responsibilities to care for or financially support a child. The definition also includes an adult son or daughter (i.e., one who is 18 years of age or older), who (1) has a mental or physical disability, and (2) is incapable of self-care because of that disability.

##### Emergency Paid Sick Leave

All employees unable to work (or ~~telework~~remote work) due to one of the following reasons are eligible:

- the employee is subject to a federal, state, local, or Library quarantine or isolation order related to a declared health emergency
- the employee has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to a declared health emergency.
- the employee is caring for an individual who is subject to either of the first two reasons above

- the employee is caring for their child if the school or place of care of the child has been closed, or the childcare provider of such child is unavailable, due to a declared health emergency precautions
- the employee is experiencing any other substantially similar condition specified by the Secretary of Health and Human services in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor

All eligible employees are entitled to the number of hours worked, on average, over a two-week period for each instance or exposure.

Emergency paid sick leave will be paid at the employee's regular rate of pay.

The employee may use emergency paid sick leave under this policy before using any other accrued paid time off for the qualifying reasons stated above.

#### Notice and Documentation Required

All employees requesting this leave must provide written notice of the need for leave to Human Resources as soon as practicable. The request must include the employee's name; the date or dates for which leave is requested; a statement of the related reason the employee is requesting leave as well as written support for such reason; and a statement that the employee is unable to work or ~~telework~~remote work.

If the employee is requesting the leave due to a quarantine, the employee must also include the name of the governmental entity ordering quarantine or the name of the health care professional advising self-quarantine; and, if the person subject to quarantine or advised to self-quarantine is not the employee, that person's name and relationship to the employee.

If the leave request is based on a school closing or childcare provider unavailability, the statement from the employee should include the name and age of the child (or children) to be cared for; the name of the school that has closed or place of care that is unavailable; and a representation that no other person will be providing care for the child during the period for which the employee is receiving the leave. If the request is based on the employee's inability to work or remote ~~tele~~work because of a need to provide care for a child older than 14 during daylight hours, the employee should also include a statement that special circumstances exist requiring the employee to provide care.

Any unused paid sick leave will not carry over to the next year or be paid out to employees.

#### Intermittent or Reduced Schedule Leave

The only exception under which employees may take sick leave on a reduced schedule for the above reasons is if they are able to, and want to, ~~remote telework~~, with the agreement of the Library. Unless the employee is ~~remote teleworking~~, once the employee begins taking emergency paid sick leave for one or more of these qualifying reasons, the employee must continue to take emergency paid sick leave each day until the employee either (1) uses the full amount of paid sick leave or (2) no longer has a qualifying reason for taking paid sick leave.

The employee may take emergency paid sick leave intermittently, if the employee wants to, with the agreement of the Library, if the employee is taking emergency paid sick leave to care for the employee's child whose school or place of care is closed, or whose child care provider is unavailable, because of related reasons.

#### Job Protections

Employees who take emergency paid sick leave will not be retaliated against or discharged for doing so.

#### 9-7.9 Blood or Organ Donation paid leave

All employees may take paid leave for up to one hour every 56 days to donate or attempt to donate blood and up to 10 to 10 days in any 12-month period to serve or attempt to serve as a living organ donor.

The staff member must receive approval from their supervisor in advance. Human resources will require proof in advance of intention to donate an organ. They may require proof of blood or organ donation afterwards.

(Adopted 5-19-20, Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

### 9-8 JOB PERFORMANCE

#### 9-8.1 Job Descriptions

Job descriptions for all staff positions are developed and maintained by the Library. Copies of all job descriptions are available for employees. Job descriptions are updated periodically as needed and may change with or without advance notice. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 5-21-19, Effective 7-1-19)

#### 9-8.2 Performance Evaluations

Performance evaluations are an important communication tool between employees and their supervisors. ~~Regular e~~Employees including the Executive Director will receive formal performance assessment (such as a performance evaluation or performance plan) no less than annually. The supervisor will review the written evaluation with each employee. Employees are encouraged to openly discuss any questions or comments they may have regarding the evaluation. The employee will be asked to sign the performance evaluation and will be given a copy. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 3-14-18, Effective 4-1-18)

### 9-8.3 Progressive Discipline

It is important that all employees perform to the best of their abilities at all times. There may be occasions, however, when employees perform at an unsatisfactory level, violate a policy, or behave in a manner that is inappropriate. As previously noted, employment may be terminated at will by the employee or the employer at any time with or without cause and without following any system of discipline or warning. Nevertheless, the Library may choose to exercise its discretion to utilize forms of discipline that are less severe than termination. Examples of such less severe forms of discipline include coaching, verbal warnings, written warnings, probation, and suspension.

Although one or more of these steps may be taken in connection with a particular employee, no formal order or system is necessary. An employee may be discharged at any time without regard to any progressive steps if they commit an offense for which immediate discharge is warranted or if, in the Library's judgment, the employee's continued presence would be contrary to the well-being of the Library or its employees.

Terminations will be handled by the Executive Director or by the Executive Director's designee. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 3-16-21, Effective 4-1-21)

## 9-9 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

### 9-9.1 Training

The Library will provide appropriate training for all employees. All employee travel and training must be preapproved according to the guidelines set by the Executive Director or designee. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 3-14-18, Effective 4-1-18)

### 9-9.2 ~~Tuition~~ Educational Assistance Reimbursement

The Library offers a ~~tuition reimbursement~~ tax-free educational assistance program ~~to assist to all regular~~ current employees after one year of employment. ~~tEducational~~ Educational assistance ~~in obtaining education or training to increase their competence in present jobs and to prepare for the possibility of advancement within the Library.~~ Tuition is for courses ~~classes~~ directly related to the job or employment, including courses for bilingualism, ~~may be~~ Both reimbursement for tuition payments or loan payments qualify for educational assistance.

Educational assistance is ~~reimbursed~~ subject to the following provisions.

- Employees may be eligible to participate in the program after completing one year of employment in good standing. Employees cannot be on a performance plan.
- Applications for ~~tuition reimbursement~~ educational assistance must be endorsed approved by the employee's manager and the Executive Director. ~~An employee is expected to pay for the initial course or class taken in any degree or certification program. And will be processed on first come first served basis.~~
- Employees must ~~complete an application form, participate in an interview, provide verification of successful completion of the~~ first course or class (grade B or higher or Pass in the case of Pass/Fail above) before receiving tax-free reimbursement., ~~and have the Executive Director's approval for tuition reimbursement before enrolling in the remaining classes for which they intend to request tuition reimbursement. This application process may take place during enrollment in the beginning course or after its completion. Approval is not finalized until after verification of successful completion of the initial course.~~

~~Tuition reimbursement~~ Educational assistance ~~should be~~ is a shared expense between the Library and the employee. Employees ~~who achieve a grade of B or higher (or Pass in the case of a Pass/Fail course)~~ will be reimbursed 60% of tuition only. Fees, books, and supplies are not included.

The amount of ~~tuition reimbursement~~ per employee is capped at \$3,000 per fiscal year. ~~It may receive for be further limited~~ any fiscal year may be limited by budgetary constraints. ~~An employee will be reimbursed for no more than two courses or classes during any one fiscal year, whether reimbursement is provided in the same or following fiscal year.~~

Employees eligible for reimbursement from any other source (e.g., a government-sponsored program or a scholarship) may seek assistance under the Library's tuition reimbursement program, but they are reimbursed only for the



difference between the amount received from the other funding source and the actual course cost. Total aid from the Library and other sources may not exceed 100% of the allowable tuition.

Upon completion of courses or a certification program, there is no implied promise or guarantee of position reclassification or adjustment to the employee's salary.

To be eligible to receive tuition reimbursement, employees must be on the Library's payroll on the date the reimbursement check is approved by the Board of Library Trustees.

The Library may request that an employee enroll in a class or course for purposes of training or continuing education. When the Library assigns an employee to a workshop, class, or course, the provisions of the tuition reimbursement policy do not apply. The Library will pay fees for the class or course. (Adopted 4-28-93; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

### 9-9.3 Professional Memberships

~~Employees in grade 7 and above Professional librarians and management team members~~ are eligible for reimbursement for membership dues in up to two professional organizations as long as it falls within the parameters of the approved operating budget. ~~American Library Association (ALA) and Illinois Library Association (ILA) dues for basic membership in those associations are paid in full by the Library. Other association dues~~ appropriate to the position ~~may also be approved.~~ In some cases, a division of ALAan association may offer a conference discount to its members. Employees approved to attend that conference may be reimbursed for membership in that year, provided that the member conference rate plus membership dues is less than the non-member conference rate. (Adopted 5-21-19, effective 7-1-19)

### 9-9.4 Expense Reimbursement

The Library will reimburse reasonable, documented expenses for staff members or Trustees when on Library business. Staff expenses must be pre-approved by the Executive Director or their designee. Reimbursement of expenses for employees and officials of the Library shall be in compliance with the Illinois Public Act 99-0604, Local Government Travel Expense Control Act, and pursuant to the requirements set forth herein.

#### Training Expenses

The Library will pay its pro rata share for staff/Trustees attending



meetings in conjunction with staff/Trustees from other libraries. Whenever possible, the Library will pay the registration fees and major transportation expenses in advance. The lowest reasonable cost options should be chosen whenever possible, in coordination with Administration. A traveler may upgrade at their own expense or with air miles. Air miles earned on flights belong to the traveler.

A report of any meeting attended will be submitted to the supervisor and the Board if requested.

## Travel Expenses

Travel expenses are those expenses directly incident to official travel by employees or officials that involve reimbursement or direct payment to private companies providing transportation or related expenses. These expenses include ordinary and reasonable travel, meals, and lodging costs incurred for the authorized and legitimate purposes of the Library. The lowest reasonable cost options should be chosen whenever possible, in coordination with Administration. A traveler may upgrade at their own expense or with air miles. Air miles earned on flights belong to the traveler.

## Entertainment Expenses

No employee or official may receive payment for any entertainment expense, unless such expense is directly related to the purpose of the program or event. Entertainment expenses include, but are not limited to, shows, amusements, theaters, circuses, sporting events, or any other activity of public or private entertainment or amusement.

## Cell Phone and Internet Use Expenses

Employees required to work from home will be reimbursed a flat monthly rate for cell phone and internet use. The reimbursement rate for cell phone usage will be \$10 for full-time and \$5 for part-time staff. The reimbursement rate for internet usage will be \$20 for full-time and \$10 for part-time staff. These rates are based on available data of average monthly cell phone and internet costs.

In order to receive the reimbursement, use must be approved in advance and staff must request ~~it~~ reimbursement by the end of the month following the month in which the work was performed.

## Expense Authorization

The Library Travel Reimbursement Request form must be completed and authorization for travel expenses obtained prior to the activity or travel, unless preapproval is not reasonably possible. The information is to include the employee or official's name, title/office, travel dates, cost estimates for transportation, lodging, meal, and other necessary costs or receipts for the cost of the travel, meals, or lodging if the expenses have already been incurred. For travel, the lowest reasonable cost options should be chosen whenever possible. Staff expenses allowable under this policy must be approved by the Executive Director and can be exceeded only due to an emergency or other extraordinary circumstance, as determined by the Board of Library Trustees by roll call vote at an open meeting of the Board. In addition, expenses incurred by a member of the Board require Board approval by a roll call vote at an open meeting of the Board.

### Reimbursement

The Library will pay or reimburse for an authorized employee's or official's travel expenses for those activities that involve training or study as recommended or directed by law or by an applicable agency or entity with oversight or regulatory authority over the Library; for activities that further the knowledge or expertise of the employee or official, or involve the sharing of such knowledge or expertise; or that involve professional collaboration with others in the employee's or official's professional field.

The maximum allowable reimbursement for travel expenses shall be the per diem expense or the actual expenses incurred, whichever is lower.

- Per diem expenses are based on the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) per diem rates. Refer to the GSA website: [www.gsa.gov/perdiem](http://www.gsa.gov/perdiem) for per diem rates according to the geographic areas involved in travel. Because rates for specific localities may change as often as every two months, please be careful to ensure that the applied rate is appropriate to the actual dates of travel.
- For actual expenses, the original receipts or proofs of payment are required.

(Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

### 9-9.5 Studies and Projects

The Executive Director has the discretion to approve or disapprove all proposals for studies, projects, or internships involving the Library, its material, personnel, and members. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 3-16-21, Effective 4-1-21)

## 9-9.6 Volunteer Work

All staff who are regularly scheduled to work 15 hours or more per week can be paid for up to 7.5 hours each calendar year to participate in a volunteer opportunity of their choosing outside the Library. Volunteer opportunities must be through an accredited 501(c)(3) organization or charity program. Volunteer time may not be used for organizations that discriminate based on race, age, gender, sexuality, religious creed, veteran status, marital status, national origin or ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition or genetic information, or political affiliation.

Interested staff should meet with their supervisor in advance to discuss their volunteer choice, schedule, and to receive approval.

Time should be recorded as volunteer time off. Volunteer time does not accumulate from calendar year to year and is not converted into pay at termination of employment. (Adopted 12-17-24; Effective 1-1-25)

## 9-10 WORKPLACE PROTECTION

### 9-10.1 Formal Complaints

The Library is committed to maintaining an open and fair method of resolving employee concerns and answering questions. Employees are encouraged to address issues as they arise with the support of their manager or Human Resources. The Library recognizes that there may be need for a formal process by which employees may raise complaints and concerns related to their employment. To this end, the Library makes available this formal complaint procedure for all current Library employees.

Any employee may use this procedure without fear of reprisal or repercussions from any Library employee or Trustee for doing so. Retaliation by any employee or Trustee will not be tolerated. Any form of retaliation against an employee who files a formal complaint or participates in an investigation is strictly prohibited by the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois State Officials and Employees Act, the Illinois Whistleblower Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Library policy. Any employee or Trustee who retaliates against another for exercising their rights under this policy shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination or censure.

A current employee may file a formal complaint regarding their work situation when the employee believes an inequity must be addressed. Only a current employee can file a formal complaint, and no person may file a formal complaint on anyone else's behalf.

An employee desiring to initiate the formal complaint procedure should do so within a reasonable amount of time after the precipitating event.

Step 1: The employee should discuss the formal complaint with their manager. The manager may ask the employee to put the complaint in writing. The supervisor has up to two weeks to review the concern and respond to the employee. If the employee is not satisfied that the formal complaint is resolved, the employee may proceed to Step 2.

Step 2: The employee may submit a written formal complaint to the ~~Deputy Assistant~~ Director or Human Resources Manager, who has up to two weeks to review the concern and respond to the employee. If the employee is not satisfied that the formal complaint is resolved, the employee may proceed to Step 3.

Step 3: The employee may discuss the formal complaint with the Executive Director. The employee should notify the manager that they desire such a meeting. The Executive Director may request that the manager be present at this meeting. If the employee's manager will not attend the meeting, another manager or ~~Deputy Director Assistant Director~~ may also be present. The Executive Director will give the employee a written response to the formal complaint within two weeks.

Step 4: If the employee feels that the formal complaint is still not resolved after following Steps 1 through 3, the employee may make a written appeal to the Board of Library Trustees. The Board will consider the formal complaint at the next scheduled Board meeting.

The Board will issue a written response to the employee within 10 calendar days of the meeting at which the formal complaint is discussed. The Board's decision will be final.

The employee's written formal complaint, along with all responses thereto, will be filed in the personnel file of the employee who submitted the complaint. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

## 9-10.2 Policy Against Discrimination and Harassment

The Library is committed to maintaining a work environment that is free of all forms of discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment, that are illegal under the Illinois Human Rights Act (IHRA) and Title VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964. In keeping with this commitment, the Library will not tolerate discrimination against or harassment of or by Library employees, by or to anyone, including any supervisor, coworker, Trustee, vendor, visitor, or contractor by any means, including via electronic communication. Violation of this policy shall be considered grounds for disciplinary action up to and

including termination or censure. ~~e. The Board may exclude from the use of the Library any person who willfully or negligently violates an ordinance or regulation prescribed by the Board (75 ILCS16/30-55.55). The Board gives the Executive Director or their designee the authority to make decisions about banning persons from use of the Library.~~

## Discrimination

Discrimination consists of employment actions taken against an individual based on an actual or perceived characteristic protected by law, such as sex, race, color, ancestry, national origin, citizenship status, religion, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, military or veteran status, genetic information, order of protection status, or any other category protected by applicable law. In other words, discrimination occurs when an individual is treated differently or unequally because the individual is a member of a protected group.

## Harassment

Harassment consists of unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is based upon a person's actual or perceived protected status such as sex, race, color, ancestry, national origin, citizenship status, religion, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, military or veteran status, genetic information, order of protection status, or any other category protected by applicable law. The Library will not tolerate harassing conduct that affects tangible job benefits; interferes unreasonably with an individual's work performance; or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

The conduct forbidden by this policy specifically includes but is not limited to: (a) epithets, slurs, negative stereotypes, or intimidating acts that are based on a person's protected status; and (b) written or graphic material circulated or posted within the workplace that shows hostility toward a person because of their protected status.

## Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal written -or physical conduct of a sexual nature when made to or by an employee where any of the following occur:

- submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a person's employment
- submission to or refusal to engage in such conduct is used as the basis for any employment decisions affecting such individual

- such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment

Sexual harassment, as defined above, may include, but is not limited to the following:

- uninvited sex-oriented verbal "kidding" or demeaning sexual innuendoes, leers, gestures, teasing, sexually explicit or obscene jokes, remarks or questions of a sexual nature
- graphic or suggestive comments about an individual's dress or body
- displaying sexually explicit objects, photographs, writings, or drawings
- unwelcome touching, such as patting, pinching, or constant brushing against another's body
- suggesting or demanding sexual involvement of another employee, whether or not such suggestion or demand is accompanied by implicit or explicit threats concerning one's employment status or similar personal concerns
- electronic: "sexting" (electronically sending messages with sexual content, including pictures and video), the use of sexually explicit language, harassment, cyberstalking, and threats via all forms of electronic communication (email, text/picture/video messages, intranet/online posting, blogs, instant messages, and social network media ~~websites like Facebook and Twitter~~)

Even if two or more employees are engaging in consensual conduct, such conduct could constitute harassment of or discrimination against another employee who witnesses or overhears the conduct.

### Investigation Procedure

All Library employees are responsible to help ensure that harassment and discrimination do not occur and are not tolerated. An employee who believes that they have been subjected to sexual or other types of harassment or discrimination, or who has witnessed harassment or discrimination, should immediately submit a complaint to their supervisor, any other manager or supervisor, or the Human Resources Department. If a manager or supervisor receives a complaint of harassment or discrimination directly from an employee, or becomes aware of such conduct, the complaint or conduct shall be immediately reported to the Human Resources Department.

The Human Resources Department or its designee shall promptly investigate all complaints and make all reasonable efforts to resolve the matter informally. These efforts may include, but are not limited to, convening conferences with the complainant or the accused harasser/discriminator to discuss the complaint and the results of the investigation. If the complainant or the accused is not satisfied with the disposition of the investigation, they may submit in writing an appeal to the Executive Director or their designee, who will review the investigation report and make a final decision. At the Executive Director's option, they or their designee may conduct further investigation, if necessary.

Complaints involving an elected or appointed official shall be submitted to the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall, in consultation with legal counsel, ensure that an independent review is conducted with respect to such allegations.

The right to confidentiality, both of the complainant and of the accused, will be respected consistent with the Library's legal obligations and with the necessity to investigate allegations of misconduct and to take corrective action when misconduct has occurred.

A substantiated complaint against an employee or Trustee will subject the employee or Trustee to disciplinary action, up to and including termination or censure. If an investigation results in a finding that the complainant falsely accused another of harassment or discrimination knowingly or in a malicious manner, the complainant will be subject to appropriate discipline, up to and including termination or censure.

#### Retaliation Prohibited

Reporting harassment or discrimination or participating in an investigation will not reflect adversely upon an individual's status or affect future employment. Any form of retaliation against an employee who reports harassment or discrimination or participates in an investigation is strictly prohibited by the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois State Officials and Employees Act, the Illinois Whistleblower Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Library policy. Any employee or Trustee who retaliates against another for exercising their rights under this policy shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination or censure.

#### Resolution Outside the Library

The purpose of this policy is to establish prompt, thorough, and effective procedures for responding to every complaint and incident so that problems can be identified and remedied internally. However, an employee has the

right to contact the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) about filing a formal complaint. An IDHR complaint must be filed within 300 days of the alleged incident(s) unless it is a continuing offense. A complaint with the EEOC must be filed within 300 days.

Contact Information:

Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR)  
Chicago: 312-814-6200 or 800-662-3942; TTY: 866-740-3953

Illinois Human Rights Commission (IHRC)  
Chicago: 312-814-6269; TTD: 312-814-4760

United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)  
Chicago: 800-669-4000; TTY: 800-669-6820

(Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

### 9-10.3 HIPAA Anti-Retaliation Policy

Title II of the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (42 USC §§ 1320d to 1329d-8, and Section 264 of Public Law 104191) ("HIPAA"), and its accompanying Privacy Regulations, 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164, require that "covered entities," as defined by the HIPAA Privacy Regulations, refrain from any retaliatory acts targeted toward those who file complaints or otherwise report HIPAA violations or infractions. The purpose of this policy is to clearly state the position of the Library on intimidation and retaliation. This policy applies to all workforce, volunteers, management, and officials of the Library.

Under no circumstances will the Library intimidate, threaten, coerce, discriminate against, or take other retaliatory action against any individual for the following:

- the exercise of rights guaranteed under HIPAA, including the filing of a HIPAA complaint against the Library
- the filing of a HIPAA complaint with the Secretary of HHS
- testifying, assisting, or participating in a HIPAA investigation, compliance review, proceeding, or hearing
- opposing any act or practice that is counter to the HIPAA regulations, provided the individual has a good-faith belief that the practice opposed is unlawful, and the manner of the opposition is reasonable



and does not involve a disclosure of protected health information in violation of HIPAA

No retaliatory action against an individual or group involved in filing HIPAA complaints or otherwise reporting infractions will be tolerated.

Under no circumstances will the Library require any members of its workforce, volunteers, management, or officials to waive their rights under HIPAA.

All allegations of HIPAA retaliation against individuals will be reviewed and investigated by the Library in a timely manner. The Human Resources Department shall promptly investigate all complaints and make all reasonable efforts to resolve the matter informally. These efforts may include, but are not limited to, convening conferences with the complainant and/or the accused to discuss the complaint and the results of the investigation. If the complainant or the accused is not satisfied with the disposition of the investigation, they may submit in writing an appeal to the Executive Director or their designee, who will review the investigation report and make a final decision. At the Executive Director's option, they or their designee may conduct further investigation, if necessary. (Adopted 9-10-03; Last Revised 3-16-21, Effective 4-1-21)

#### 9-10.4 Employee Enforcement of Privacy Policy

The Library places the highest priority on the effective implementation of the Privacy Policy by the Library staff. All employees are expected to have a working understanding of the privacy policy in effect and must adhere to the provisions of the Library's Privacy Policy and procedures.

To assist in policy implementation, a designated Person in Charge will be on duty at the Main Library during all hours that Library facilities are open to the public.

An employee may not disclose the personally identifiable information of a user contained in library circulation or registration records except in accordance with Privacy Policy and procedures.

The Person in Charge may, however, disclose private information to proper authorities contrary to the Privacy Policy only if the employee reasonably believes that an individual faces a real and imminent threat of bodily harm that could be averted by the prompt disclosure of such information in accordance with Policy 11-9. If an employee releases the information, they must report the matter to the Executive Director or designee as soon as possible.

Employees who violate the Library's Privacy Policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

The employee's obligation to protect the privacy of library users under federal and state laws is perpetual and thus extends beyond the term of employment. (Adopted 9-8-04; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

## 9-10.5 Vaccinations

All employees will be granted up to two hours paid time off work per year to receive any vaccinations or boosters occurring during their scheduled work time. Employees are to work with their managers to schedule proper time to obtain any vaccines and boosters.

### Confidentiality

Confidentiality and respect to our employees' rights are important to us. Records documenting vaccinations and declinations will be maintained by Human Resources. Only key Human Resources staff will have access to vaccine compliance records. All information received under this policy will be kept confidential to the greatest extent possible. Sharing of information shall be based on a need-to-know basis and only to the level required to notify management personnel regarding those employees who are not in compliance with this policy.

No employee will be discriminated, harassed, or retaliated against for their vaccination status.

(Adopted 10-19-21, Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25)

## 9-11 SEPARATION

### 9-11.1 Resignation

An employee who intends to resign is requested to give advance notice in writing to their manager. Resignations should state the reason and the effective date. The effective date should be the last day the employee is scheduled to work. Managers and exempt employees are asked to give a four-week notice of intent to resign. Non-exempt employees are asked to give a two-week notice. After official notice is given, employees may not use vacation or personal time to shorten that period. Employees are required to be physically present on their last scheduled day of employment. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 5-21-19, Effective 7-1-19)

### 9-11.2 Exit Interview

A resigning employee will have the opportunity to have an exit interview with the Human Resources Manager, ~~DeputyAssistant~~ Director, or Executive Director. Direct reports of the Executive Director exit interviews may also include the Board President. (Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 5-21-19, Effective 7-1-19)

Policy 9 Comprehensive Review: Adopted 11-13-96; Last Revised 12-17-24, Effective 1-1-25.

## 9—Human Resources

### 9-1 EMPLOYMENT

All employment is by mutual consent of the employee and the Palatine Public Library District (hereafter referred to as the Library) and can be terminated at will by the employee or the Library with or without notice, with or without cause.

This policy is not a contract and should not be construed as a contract. Nothing in this policy is intended to be an offer of employment or continued employment. Any of the policies and procedures contained herein can be changed by the library at any time, with or without prior notice. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 21 May 2019, Effective 1 Jul 2019)

#### 9-1.1 Equal Employment Opportunity

The Library provides equal employment opportunities without regard to sex, race, color, ancestry, national origin, citizenship status, religion, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, military or veteran status, genetic information, order of protection status, or any other characteristic that is protected under applicable law. This policy applies to every aspect of employment including, but not limited to recruitment, employment, promotion, transfer, training, compensation, benefits, reduction in force, and termination. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 14 Mar 2018, Effective 1 Apr 2018)

#### 9-1.2 Employment Categories

The Library employs individuals as either exempt or non-exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act. For the purposes of defining benefits, employees are also classified based on regularly scheduled hours. (Adopted 21 Jun 2022, Effective 1 Jan 2025)

#### 9-1.21 Non-Exempt Employees

Non-exempt employees include all employees who are classified by the Library as covered by the overtime provisions of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and any applicable state laws. Employees in this category are entitled to receive overtime pay for hours worked over 40 hours in a workweek at a rate of 1.5 times their regular rate of pay. All paid overtime must be approved in advance by the employee's manager. In an emergency situation, overtime must be authorized by the Person in Charge (PIC). (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 17 May 2022, Effective 1 Jul 2022)

## **9-1.22 Exempt Employees**

Exempt employees include all employees who are classified by the Library as exempt from the overtime provisions, including overtime pay, of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and any applicable state laws. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 21 May 2019, Effective 1 Jul 2019)

## **9-1.23 Full-Time Employees (37.5 hours/week or more)**

Employees regularly scheduled to work 37.5 hours or more per week will be considered full-time employees and will receive time off and insurance benefits as specified below. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 17 Dec 2024, Effective 1 Jul 2025)

## **9-1.24 Part-Time Employees**

Part-time employees receive benefits based on the number of hours they are scheduled to work as specified below. (Adopted 17 May 2022, Effective 1 Jan 2025)

### **9-1.241 Part-Time (30-37 hours/week)**

Employees regularly scheduled to work at least 30 hours but fewer than 37.5 hours per week will receive benefits, based on the number of hours they work as specified below. Part-time employees scheduled to work at least 30 hours per week are eligible for health insurance benefits. (Adopted 17 May 2022; Last Revised 17 Dec 2024, Effective 1 Jan 2025)

### **9-1.242 Part-Time (20-29 hours/week)**

Employees regularly scheduled to work at least 20 hours but fewer than 30 hours per week will receive benefits, based on the number of hours they work as specified below. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 17 Dec 2024, Effective 1 Jan 2025)

### **9-1.243 Part-Time (Less than 20 hours/week)**

Employees regularly scheduled to work fewer than 20 hours per week will receive benefits, based on the number of hours they work as specified below. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 17 Dec 2024, Effective 1 Jan 2025)

## **9-1.25 Substitutes and Interns**

Employees who are hired as substitutes will not have a regular work schedule. Substitutes and interns will only receive benefits detailed below. (Adopted 19 May 2020: Last Revised 17 Dec 2024, Effective 1 Jan 2025)

## **9-2 CONDUCT**

Conduct that disrupts an employee's ability to positively contribute to the organization on a day-to-day basis or the organization's ability to efficiently run its operations will not be tolerated.

All employees are expected to conduct themselves appropriately at all times. A manager or Person in Charge has the authority to send an employee home with or without pay for violation of a policy or guideline. The following is a list of conduct that is specifically prohibited and may lead to disciplinary action up to and including termination. This list is intended to provide examples only, and is not intended to be all-inclusive:

- harassing, intimidating, abusing, coercing, or threatening any other employee or visitor
- unreasonable behavior or communication that demeans, insults, or humiliates people either as individuals or as a group
- frequent or excessive tardiness or absence from work, or failure to report absences
- insubordination, including improper conduct toward a person of authority, or failure or refusal to perform tasks as assigned in the appropriate manner
- non-compliance with or disregard of Library safety and security procedures
- unsatisfactory performance
- conduct that substantially interferes with work or prevents work from being accomplished
- falsifying, omitting, or withholding necessary information, including information on an employment application
- improper behavior or unethical conduct
- altering or falsifying timekeeping records
- tampering with, theft of, or unauthorized removal of property belonging to the Library, fellow employees, or anyone on Library property
- bringing dangerous or unauthorized items such as firearms, explosives, weapons, or other similar items on Library property
- intentionally intruding on a person's privacy by spying, stalking, or asking intrusive questions
- release of confidential information about the Library, its visitors, or another employee
- damage to Library property or disruption of Library services

- failure to comply with or enforce Library policy

The Library reserves the right to discipline or discharge employees for acts or omissions not appearing on the list. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 17 Dec 2024, Effective 1 Janu 2025)

## **9-2.1 Working Hours**

The Library work week runs Sunday through Saturday.

The standard work week for full-time employees is 37.5 hours, excluding meal breaks. The work schedule for both full-time and part-time personnel may include weekend and evening hours as the Library requires.

Non-exempt employees will be scheduled for at least one day off in any consecutive seven-day period. The Library will post a weekly schedule before each Sunday listing the staff working that Sunday and their day(s) off for the week.

An employee scheduled to work at least 7.5 continuous hours must take a minimum 30-minute unpaid meal break. This meal break must be taken no later than five hours after beginning work (820 ILCS 140/3). The meal break is not optional and must be taken except in case of an emergency. If an employee works through their meal break, they must be paid for that time. An employee who works in excess of 7.5 continuous hours shall be entitled to an additional 20-minute unpaid meal period for every additional 4.5 continuous hours worked. Employees may take more than 20 minutes for their unpaid meal break with their manager's approval.

Managers may grant employees working less than 7.5 hours permission to take a 30-minute unpaid meal break.

All employees are permitted one paid 15-minute rest break per day that cannot be combined with a meal break and cannot be taken at the end of the work shift. Meal and rest breaks may not be taken in the final hour of an employee's shift. The time allotted for meal and rest breaks includes the time to leave and return to one's workstation. Reasonable time for using restroom facilities can be taken at any time.

Employees who need to express breast milk will be provided reasonable paid break time to express breast milk. When possible, this break will be concurrent with any meal break scheduled during the shift. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

## **9-2.2 Remote Work**

Remote Work allows employees to work in a location outside of library facilities or another assigned workspace. Prior approval from the Executive Director is required. A remote work agreement may be given on a temporary basis and will be reviewed routinely.

Eligibility for remote work is based primarily on the responsibilities and autonomy of the actual job. Full- or part-time employees in good standing, with positive employee evaluations on file, may be considered. Some jobs more readily accommodate remote work, while others do not. Positions that might generally lend themselves to this situation (1) utilize discretionary authority and independent action; and (2) maintain a low percentage of time spent performing routine, manual, or clerical work; and (3) do not require use of fixed library assets, equipment, or material that cannot leave the premises. The Library will not be responsible for operating costs, home maintenance, cell phone, internet, or any other incidental costs associated with the use of the employee's residence. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

### **9-2.3 Attendance**

Attendance and punctuality are important to the efficient operation of the Library. Regular and predictable attendance is an essential function of every position at the Library. Absenteeism and tardiness are disruptive and make it difficult for the Library to function properly.

Each employee is responsible for being present at the correct time each day. On occasion, employees may have reason to be absent from work. On these occasions, they are required to directly notify their supervisor prior to the start of their scheduled shift. Employees are expected to follow departmental procedures as established. Human Resources may request a medical doctor's statement certifying that an illness or injury is the reason for the absence or to authorize a return to work.

An employee who is absent for two consecutive scheduled workdays without prior or concurrent notice; contact; or approval from their supervisor, manager, or Human Resources will be considered to have voluntarily terminated employment based on job abandonment. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 17 Dec 2024, Effective 1 Jan 2025)

### **9-2.4 Dress Standards**

Employees are to adhere to the Dress Code guidelines provided to employees. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 21 May 2019, Effective 1 Jul 2019)

### **9-2.5 Staff Lounge**



The Library maintains a staff lounge for the comfort and convenience of its employees during breaks and meal periods. Persons not employed by the Library are permitted to use the lounge only if accompanied by a staff member. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Reapproved 10 Feb 2016)

## **9-2.6 Substance Abuse Policy**

Employees are prohibited from unlawfully manufacturing, distributing, dispensing, possessing, or using alcohol, marijuana, illicit drugs, or controlled substances on Library premises or at remote work locations during work hours. Reporting to work under the influence of any of the above substances, including medical marijuana, to the extent that the employee's ability to perform job duties safely and satisfactorily is adversely affected, is likewise prohibited.

Any violation of the above prohibition will result in disciplinary action against the employee up to and including termination and possible referral for prosecution consistent with applicable federal, state, and local law.

The Illinois Drug Free Workplace Act requires that, as a condition of employment with the Library, all employees will abide by the terms of the policy and notify the Executive Director of any criminal drug statute conviction for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than five days after such a conviction.

The Library may require an employee who violates these provisions to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program. Information on such programs will be provided by Library administration. A request to participate in such a program does not excuse the employee from possible further disciplinary action.

The Library will make available to employees, as appropriate, educational material and programs on the dangers of substance abuse in the workplace. In addition, the Library will provide training to assist in identifying and addressing substance abuse by employees.

The Library will take adequate measures to inform employees of this policy, including a statement that employee compliance with this policy is mandatory. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 17 Dec 2024, Effective 1 Jan 2025)

## **9-2.7 Safety**

Establishment and maintenance of a safe work environment are shared responsibilities of the Library and its employees. The Library will do everything within its control to assure a safe environment and compliance

with federal, state, and local safety regulations. Employees are expected to obey safety rules and to exercise caution in all their work activities.

Employees have an absolute obligation to report or correct unsafe conditions as promptly as possible. The Library will not take reprisals against employees who come forth with a safety recommendation or refuse to operate any equipment in an area they reasonably feel is unsafe.

All accidents, especially those that result in injury, must be reported immediately to the nearest available supervisor or person-in-charge, regardless of how insignificant they may appear. Such reports are necessary to comply with federal and state laws and to initiate insurance and workers' compensation procedures. Failure to immediately report an accident may result in discipline, up to and including termination.

All employees are covered by workers' compensation insurance for injuries sustained in the performance of their duties. Employees are required to maintain regular communication with Human Resources regarding their return-to-work date and potential work limitations or restrictions. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

### **9-2.8 Acceptance of Gifts**

Employees and their immediate families may accept gifts from members or vendors. These gifts cannot exceed a cumulative value of \$100, from a single source, in a calendar year and must be received only in compliance with the State's Gift Ban Act.(5 ILCS 430/10-15 through 10-40). (Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

### **9-2.9 Resources Provided For Staff Use**

The Library provides resources for use in the Library facilities including but not limited to desks, workstations, file drawers, computers, software, phones, and lockers for employees as necessary for their job. Although these resources are provided for staff use, they are the sole property of the Library. Staff is not required to access Library resources on unpaid time.

Accordingly, the Library reserves the right to inspect all Library-provided resources listed in the preceding paragraph and the contents thereof. Such inspections may occur before, during, or after the close of the day and without prior notice to the employee.

Employees are encouraged not to leave any valuable items in the workplace. The Library cannot assume any liability for loss, theft, or damage to any item left in a desk, in a locker, at a workstation, or in any other area of the Library.

Library walkie-talkies, phones, and computers are provided primarily for Library purposes. All personal communication should be held to a minimum and should not be made at public desks. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 17 Dec 2024 Effective 1 Jan 2025)

## **9-2.10 Use of Vehicles for Library Business**

All drivers of Library vehicles must have and show proof of a valid, current, and class-appropriate driver's license. The Library will verify with the issuing state that the employee has a clear, valid driver's license upon hire and on an annual basis thereafter. Drivers and passengers using library vehicles must be on Library business. The driver and passengers must observe all applicable motor vehicle laws and regulations. The driver and passengers must wear seat belts and use appropriate restraints. Using a phone while driving a Library vehicle is prohibited. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

When private vehicles are used for Library business, drivers must have and show proof of a valid, current, and class-appropriate driver's license and adequate insurance. The Library will request proof of insurance upon hire and every six months thereafter. Approval to attend meetings or conferences outside the Library includes approval of use of a private vehicle for Library business. The Library will reimburse the operator of the vehicle at the prevailing rate per mile set by the Internal Revenue Service. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 21 May 2019, Effective 1 Jul 2019)

## **9-3 RECRUITMENT AND HIRING**

The Executive Director is responsible for the final selection, appointment, supervision, and dismissal of all Library staff. The selection of staff members is based on their meeting the qualifications of the job as outlined in the job descriptions, including but not limited to education, experience, and technical qualifications. The Library reserves the right to waive the educational requirements for a position when it judges the candidate to be qualified based on additional experience or qualifications.

An ongoing recruitment program will provide for the highest quality personnel in accordance with the needs of the Library. Current employees are encouraged to apply for open positions for which they are qualified. Open positions are posted.

An employee who resigns from the Library within the prior five years and is rehired by the Library retains credit for all years of consecutive service at the Library for purposes of vacation accrual. An employee who changes benefit status during a 12-month period retains all years of consecutive service at the

Library for purposes of vacation accrual. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 21 Nov 2023, Effective 1 Jan 2024)

### **9-3.1 Immigration Compliance**

The Library seeks to comply with the requirements of federal immigration law. The Library retains a properly completed Form I-9 for all employees. (Adopted 14 Dec 2005; Last Revised 21 May 2019, Effective 1 Jul 2019)

### **9-3.2 Criminal Background Investigation**

All new hires 18 years of age or older must sign a release for a criminal background investigation to be completed by the Illinois State Police.

The Library maintains all releases on file for at least two years. Whenever a request for information is made to the Illinois Department of State Police, the Library provides the individual named with a copy of the response furnished by the Department. The individual will then have seven days to notify the Library if any information contained in the response is inaccurate or incomplete. Based on the response from the State Police, further investigation may take place to determine continued employment. Any information obtained from such investigation is maintained on a confidential basis. (Adopted 9 Apr 1997; Last Revised 21 May 2019, Effective 1 Jul 2019)

### **9-3.3 Employment of Family Members**

Family members of employees are eligible for employment provided they are qualified for the job. However, relatives of current employees may be hired only if they will not be working directly for or supervising a relative in the same line of authority within the organization. This applies to any relative, higher or lower in the organization, who has the authority to review employment decisions about the relative. No relatives of the Executive Director, Deputy Director, Community Services Director, or Human Resources Manager will be eligible for employment.

Family members for this policy includes employee's parent, spouse, child, brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild, mother-/father-in-law, daughter-/son-in-law, domestic partner, or member of the household for whose care the employee is financially responsible.

Family members of current Trustees are not eligible to be hired. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

### **9-3.4 Personnel Records**

A personnel file is maintained for each employee. Among other items, this file includes information regarding pay, performance, disciplinary action, and commendations. It is considered an official record.

Employees have a right to review their own files in the presence of the Executive Director, Deputy Director, Community Services Director, or Human Resources Manager. Such requests for review must be made in writing. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

### **9-3.5 Referral Bonus**

The Library will pay a referral bonus to employees who bring new talent to the organization. Referred employees cannot be current or former employees of the Library in any capacity, including substitutes and interns.

All employees are eligible to receive a referral bonus except for the following:

- Executive Director, Deputy Director, or Community Services Director
- HR employees or any employee whose regular job includes the recruitment of employees
- Hiring manager/supervisor or other persons associated with the selection of the candidate

The referral bonus recipient must be identified on the candidate's job application. Only one employee may receive the referral bonus for each new hire. The bonus recipient will receive \$200 for each external candidate who is hired and remains employed for three months. An employee may receive multiple bonuses for multiple hired candidates, up to \$600 in any fiscal year. Referral bonus payments will be paid out during regular payroll processing on the first pay date following the referred employee's three-month anniversary. The bonus recipient must still be employed by the Library to receive payment. The referral bonus is subject to all necessary taxes and deductions.

The hiring process will be fair and consistent with Library policy and procedures, with no bias for or against candidates whose selection might make another employee eligible for referral bonus. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

### **9-3.6 Retention Bonus**

All employees hired in pay grade 1 are eligible to receive a retention bonus after six months of employment. Employees who are promoted internally to a new position are not eligible for the retention bonus.

The employee will receive \$500 after completing six months of employment. Retention bonus payments will be paid out during regular payroll processing on the first pay date following the referred employee's six-month anniversary. The bonus recipient must still be employed by the Library in the same position to receive payment. The retention bonus is subject to all necessary taxes and deductions.

The hiring process will be fair and consistent with Library policy and procedures.(Adopted 17 May 2022, Revised 17 Dec 2024, Effective 1 Jan 2025)

### **9-3.7 Milestone Anniversaries**

All employees will receive a milestone anniversary bonus every 5 years of employment as follows:

Years Served	Bonus Amount
5	\$500
10	\$1,000
15	\$1,500
20	\$2,000
25	\$2,500
30	\$3,000
35	\$3,500

Milestone Anniversary bonus payments will be paid out during regular payroll processing on the first pay date following the employee's milestone anniversary. The bonus recipient must still be employed by the Library to receive payment. The anniversary bonus is subject to all necessary taxes and deductions.

## **9-4 PAY**

### **9-4.1 Salary Reviews**

The Executive Director establishes all staff salaries within the framework of the salary schedule established annually by the Board.

Every position within the organization has a pay range. Each range has a designated minimum, midpoint, and maximum pay rate. The pay range for the position determines the amount paid to any individual employee. The organization's goal is to have all employees paid within their respective pay range. An appropriate pay rate will be determined for each employee based on

the individual's relevant experience, expertise, performance, and tenure.  
(Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

#### **9-4.2 Payroll Procedures**

Paychecks are issued semimonthly. If payday falls on a weekend or holiday, employees will be paid on the last weekday before the weekend or holiday.  
(Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 21 May 2019, Effective 1 Jul 2019)

#### **9-4.3 Payroll Deductions**

The Library is required by law to comply with all statutory rules and regulations with respect to payroll deductions. Generally, payroll deductions consist of federal and state income taxes, Social Security and Medicare taxes, wage garnishments, and other applicable deductions required by the state or municipality.

Some employee benefits also result in payroll deductions. See Human Resources for information concerning individual payroll deductions. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 17 Dec 2024, Effective 1 Jan 2025)

#### **9-4.4 Emergency Closings**

On occasion the Library may close due to inclement weather conditions or other conditions such as loss of power, flooding, etc. Managers may approve a revised schedule for employees. Employees who are scheduled to work when the Library is closed for an emergency will be paid for the hours they were scheduled during the closing. If an employee has already requested paid time off (personal, vacation, or sick) or unpaid time off for any part of the closed period, that paid or unpaid time will be used. Employees who are not scheduled to work during the closed period will not receive additional pay. In the event an employee is required to work to respond to emergencies when the Library is closed, the employee will be paid for a minimum of one hour at 1.5 times their normal hourly rate.

In the event the Library is open, and an employee cannot get to work due to weather, the employee may choose to take a personal or vacation day, make up the time, or take a day of unpaid leave. Any time to be made up must be approved in advance by the employee's manager, must be completed in the same pay period of the occurrence, and may not qualify for overtime pay. (Adopted 13 Mar 2018; Last Revised 21 May 2019, Effective 1 Jul 2019)

#### **9-4.5 Bilingual Compensation**

Qualified employees who are designated by the Library to provide bilingual interpreter services while on duty will be compensated by one half-step in the

official salary schedule. Compensated staff are required to assist with conversational interpretation in customer service interactions in person, on the phone, over email, and over chat. If staff are unavailable to assist at the time of the initial service request, they may be expected to schedule an appointment with the member at a suitable time for both parties. Acceptable reasons to decline an interpretation request include but are not limited to leading a library program or attending a meeting.

To receive compensation, employees must pass a skills exam. The exam will be conducted by a third-party service and will be selected, proctored, and paid for by the Library. The exam will test oral and comprehension skills sufficient to assist with customer service interactions. Employees will be compensated for only one successful language certification. Employees receiving bilingual compensation will be required to re-take and pass the skills exam every three years in order to continue receiving compensation. (Adopted 3 Jun 2025; Effective 1 Jul 2025)

## **9-4.6 Pay Adjustments**

Pay adjustments must be approved in advance by the Executive Director. Pay adjustments may occur for the following reasons listed below. All pay changes will be communicated to the employee in writing prior to the effective date of the change.

### **Annual Review:**

Employees may be eligible for an annual pay increase at their yearly performance review. The amount of base pay increase for an employee is dependent upon the employee's overall performance rating, where the employee's pay falls relative to their pay range, and the parameters of the approved operating budget.

If an employee's pay is at (or beyond) the maximum of the pay range, further pay increases will not be issued until the employee's pay rate is back within range.

### **Cost of Living Adjustments:**

The Library adjusts the salary schedule annually to account for changes in the financial environment. We base these cost-of-living adjustments on the Consumer Price Index for Cook County, Cost of Living Adjustment information provided by the Social Security Administration, and the parameters of the approved operating budget. If an employee's pay is at (or beyond) the maximum of the pay range, further pay increases will not be issued until the employee's pay rate is back within range.

### **Market Adjustment Increases:**

The organization uses an outside third party to objectively benchmark our job descriptions against current, valid, and reliable compensation survey data. As a result, the organization has a competitive compensation structure comprising pay grades and ranges for all positions. To ensure that the Library is staying up to



date on market trends, the Library will conduct a Market benchmarking study every 3-5 years. An employee's pay adjustment may occur separately from the annual review when there is an unexpected market fluctuation for a particular position, and the incumbent's current pay is below market.

**Pay Equity Increases:**

Adjustments in an employee's pay may occur separately from the annual review when an employee's salary is significantly below that of others in the same title code with similar performance, experience, skills, knowledge, and assignments.

**Promotional Increases:**

A promotion is a reassignment from a position with a lower pay grade to another position with a higher pay grade. In most cases, a base pay increase will accompany a promotion, but it is not required unless the employee's pay is below the minimum of their new range.

**Reassignment to a Position with a Lower Pay Range:**

On rare occasions, employees may move to a job of significantly decreased responsibility and a lower pay grade, either voluntarily or at the request of management. In some cases, a pay decrease may be initiated at the time of the job change but is not required unless the employee's pay is above the maximum of their new range.

**Lateral Transfer:**

A lateral transfer is defined as a move from one position to another within the same pay grade. Lateral transfers typically involve no change in base pay.

**Interim Pay:**

A single employee may be appointed to act in an interim capacity for a vacated role or a position where an employee is on FMLA leave or disability leave. When that leave is expected to last over one month and the position falls above the interim employee's pay grade, the interim employee may receive a temporary pay increase. The pay increase will last until the responsibilities cease, the employee returns, or the position has been filled. In some instances, if the interim employee is helping train a new employee, then the pay increase will continue through the first month for the new employee.

## **9-5 BENEFITS**

### **9-5.1 Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund**

The Library and eligible Library employees participate in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) pursuant to state laws. Both the Library and the participating employees contribute to IMRF. IMRF provides disability and retirement benefits to eligible employees. All aspects of participation in and

benefits provided by IMRF are determined by IMRF and not by the Library. Employees with questions are directed to the IMRF website, [www.imrf.org](http://www.imrf.org).

IMRF offers an optional Early Retirement Incentive package. The library will request an estimate for Early Retirement Incentive package every 3-5 years and offer this benefit to eligible employees if it is determined to be within the best interest of the organization and it falls within the budget. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

## **9-5.2 Medical Insurance**

Medical insurance benefits are available for employees regularly scheduled to work a minimum of 30 hours per week. This policy is subject to the provisions of the Affordable Care Act. The Library will pay a portion of individual and dependent premiums for medical insurance for employees eligible under the terms of the Affordable Care Act, as determined by the annual budget. The employee is responsible for the balance of the premium. Domestic partners, as defined by the insurance carrier's policy, are eligible to apply for coverage as a dependent. The Library reserves the right to select the insurance plan and benefits provided, to change them at any time, and to change any required premium contribution. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 15 Jun 2021, Effective 1 Jul 2021)

## **9-5.3 Dental Insurance**

Dental insurance benefits are available for employees regularly scheduled to work a minimum of 30 hours per week. The Library may pay a portion of the individual and dependent premiums, as determined by the annual budget. Domestic partners, as defined by the insurance carrier's policy, are eligible to apply for coverage as a dependent. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 15 Jun 2021, Effective 1 Jul 2021)

## **9-5.4 Vision Insurance**

Vision insurance benefits are available for employees regularly scheduled to work a minimum of 30 hours per week. The Library may pay a portion of the individual and dependent premiums, as determined by the annual budget. Domestic partners, as defined by the insurance carrier's policy, are eligible to apply for coverage as a dependent. (Adopted 10 Feb 2016, Last Revised 15 Jun 2021, Effective 1 Jul 2021)

## **9-5.5 COBRA**

COBRA (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985) allows employees to continue in the Library's group health insurance coverage for up to 18 months following separation from service. Employees who lose their

eligibility to participate because of a reduction in their regular work schedule to less than 30 hours per week are also eligible for the 18-month extension. The employee is responsible for paying 100% of any insurance premiums under COBRA. Additionally, the Library charges employees 2% of monthly premiums to administer COBRA insurance. (Adopted 19 May 2020; Last Revised 17 Dec 2024, Effective 1 Jan 25)

### **9-5.6 Life Insurance**

Life insurance benefits are available for employees regularly scheduled to work a minimum of 30 hours per week. The Library may pay a portion of the premium, as determined by the annual budget. Life insurance is not available for dependents. (Adopted 11 Mar 2009; Last Revised 21 May 2019, Effective 7-1-19)

IMRF-enrolled employees may obtain additional life insurance through a voluntary life insurance plan. Employees are responsible for 100% of the premium through payroll deductions. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 14 Mar 2018, Effective 1 Apr 2018)

### **9-5.7 Employee Assistance Program**

The Library offers an employee assistance program to all employees and their families. All contact is confidential. For further information contact Human Resources or call the Employee Assistance Program directly using the contact information provided to all employees. (Adopted 12 Jan 2000; Last Revised 17 Dec 2024, Effective 1 Jan 2025)

### **9-5.8 Self-funded retirement plan**

Palatine Library District's 457(b) Plan allows all employees to save for retirement through convenient payroll deductions.

### **9-5.9 Lifestyle Spending Account**

The Library offers a Lifestyle Spending Account (LSA) to eligible employees as a benefit to encourage a balanced lifestyle. The LSA allows employees to receive a monthly reimbursement for approved wellness related expenses. This benefit is available to all employees, including substitutes, after 30 days of employment.

## **9-6 TIME AND ATTENDANCE**

The Library uses computer software to automatically process and manage time and attendance records. Employees are responsible for clocking in and

clocking out for their scheduled shifts. Employees must not clock in or clock out for another employee. Any employee who violates this policy shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination.

At the end of every pay period, managers review, make corrections to, and approve the time and attendance records for each of their employees.  
(Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

## 9-6.1 Holidays and Other Scheduled Closings

The following days are designated as official holidays when the Library will be closed:

- New Year's Day
- Easter Sunday (not a paid holiday)
- Memorial Day Sunday (not a paid holiday)
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day Sunday (not a paid holiday)
- Labor Day
- Wednesday before Thanksgiving (close at 5pm, not a paid holiday)
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Eve Day
- Christmas Day
- New Year's Eve (close at 5 PM)

Employees who are regularly scheduled to work 15 hours or more per week will receive holiday pay equal to 1/5 of their regularly scheduled hours per week for the paid holiday dates above. Those same employees will receive holiday pay for New Year's Eve, equal to 1/10 of their regularly scheduled hours per week.

Regularly-Scheduled Hours / Week	Hours of Holiday Pay at 1/5	Hours of Holiday Pay at 1/10 New Year's Eve Holiday Pay
15	3	1.5
20	4	2
25	5	2.5
30	6	3
32.5	6.5	3.25

37.5	7.5	3.75
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Holiday pay will be paid on the actual date of the holiday. If the paid holiday falls on a date when the employee is not normally scheduled to work, the employee may take another day off (without pay) in place of the holiday during the pay period at the approval of their supervisor. Supervisors may approve a day off without pay outside the pay period but within 30 days of the holiday, if necessary for the needs of the department.

(Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

## 9-6.2 Personal Time

All regular employees regularly scheduled to work 20 hours or more per week will earn up to five personal days with pay per calendar year. Time is pro-rated for part-time employees. Part-time employees regularly scheduled to work less than 20 hours per week earn 12 hours personal time.

Personal time will be accrued each pay period at the rate below.

<u>Regularly-Scheduled Hours/Week</u>	<u>Personal Hours Per Year (hours)</u>	<u>Personal Hours Per Pay Period (hours)</u>	<u>Maximum Balance (hours)</u>
<20	12	0.5	12
20	20	0.83	20
25	25	1.04	25
30	30	1.25	30
32.5	32.5	1.35	32.5
37.5	37.5	1.56	37.5

Employees can take their personal time as soon as it is earned. Personal time may be taken in half-hour increments. Personal time is not converted into pay at termination of employment. The personal time selected must be pre-approved by the employee's immediate supervisor.

(Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 17 Dec 2024, Effective 1 Jan 2025)

## 9-6.3 Sick Time

Regular employees earn sick leave based on the following schedule.

<u>Regularly-Scheduled Hours / Week</u>	<u>Sick Leave Per Month (hours)</u>	<u>Sick Leave Per Pay Period (hours)</u>	<u>Max Accrual (hours)</u>

<20	3	1.5	720
20	4	2	960
25	5	2.5	1200
30	6	3	1440
32.5	6.5	3.25	1560
37.5	7.5	3.75	1800

Unused sick leave is not converted into pay at termination of employment. Upon retirement, accumulated sick leave may qualify for additional IMRF pension credit at a maximum of 240 days or 1 year of service credit for those employees eligible for IMRF.

Employees are eligible for sick leave after completing 30 days of employment. Sick leave is earned during this 30-day period.

Sick leave may be taken in half-hour increments for medical reasons including illness, injury, medical appointment, mental health time, or caring for a family member. Human Resources will request a health care practitioner's statement certifying that an illness or injury is the reason for the absence of four scheduled days or more or to authorize a return to work.

No sick leave is earned by an employee for any calendar month in which an employee is on an unpaid leave of absence. Eligible employees will not be granted time off without pay unless under an approved medical leave (see 9-49.4 and 9-49.6). (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 17 Dec 2025, Effective 1 Jan 2025)

## 9-6.4 Vacation Time

### Full-Time Employees

Full-time exempt and non-exempt staff earn four weeks annual paid vacation. Vacation benefits are accrued per pay period.

Regularly-Scheduled Hours / Week		Vacation Per Year (hours)	Vacation Per Pay Period	Maximum Balance (hours)
37.5		150	6.25	150

### Part-Time Employees

Part-time employees regularly scheduled 20 or more hours per week earn vacation time at the prorated equivalent of two weeks annual paid vacation. After one year of employment, they receive the prorated equivalent of three

weeks; after five years of employment, they receive the prorated equivalent of four weeks. Vacation benefits are accrued per pay period.

Regularly-Scheduled Hours / Week	Years of Service	Vacation Per Year (hours)	Vacation Per Pay Period	Maximum Balance (hours)
20	0	40	1.67	40
20	1	60	2.50	60
20	5	80	3.33	80
25	0	50	2.08	50
25	1	75	3.13	75
25	5	100	4.17	100
30	0	60	2.50	60
30	1	90	3.75	90
30	5	120	5.00	120
32.5	0	65	2.71	65
32.5	1	97.5	4.06	97.5
32.5	5	130	5.42	130

#### Employees Less Than 20 Hours/Week

Part-time employees regularly scheduled less than 20 hours per week will accrue one hour for every 40 hours of time worked.

Substitutes, interns, and other employees without regularly-scheduled hours will accrue one hour for every 40 hours of time worked.

#### Use of Vacation Time

Employees can never carry more vacation time than they are entitled to accrue in one year. Employees carrying the maximum vacation time will not accrue additional vacation time.

Vacation accrual begins on hire date. However, staff must work three months before being eligible to take any earned vacation time. For employees moving to a new position, the three-month waiting period does not apply if they have been an employee of the Library for more than three months.

Conditions for taking vacations are as follows:

- Vacation time may be taken in half-hour increments.
- Vacation days selected must be preapproved by the employee's immediate supervisor.

- No vacation accrual is earned by an employee when on an unpaid leave of absence.
- Unused vacation is paid out at the time of termination.

Any exceptions to this policy must be approved in advance by the Executive Director. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 17 Dec 2024, Effective 1 Jan 2025)

## **9-7 LEAVES OF ABSENCE**

### **9-7.1 Jury Duty**

Employees will be excused from work for the purpose of fulfilling jury duty. All employees will be compensated for the time they are normally scheduled to work. Employees will not be required to work an evening shift on a day of serving jury duty. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 10 Feb 2016, Effective Mar 1 2016)

### **9-7.2 Military Leave**

Military leave will be provided in accordance with applicable law. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Reapproved 10 Feb 2016)

### **9-7.3 Bereavement**

Employees may take up to five paid days and seven additional unpaid days for a death in their family. This time is prorated for part-time employees. Family for this policy includes the employee's child, stepchild, spouse, domestic partner, sibling, parent, parent-in-law, child-in-law, grandchild, grandparent, stepparent, or other person of significance as approved by the Executive Director or designee.

Additional approved time may be taken from accrued sick leave and vacation. Employees may also be entitled to time off under this policy if the employee experiences:

- a miscarriage;
- an unsuccessful round of intrauterine insemination or of an assisted reproductive technology procedure;
- a failed adoption match or an adoption that is not finalized because it is contested by another party;
- a failed surrogacy agreement;
- a diagnosis that negatively impacts pregnancy or fertility; or
- a stillbirth.



Leaves under this policy must be completed within 60 days of the employee receiving notice of the family member's death or other qualifying incident. The employee shall provide the employer with at least 48 hours advance notice when possible. The employee may be required to provide reasonable documentation for the leave, such as a death certificate, obituary, funeral/memorial service notification, adoption or surrogacy documentation, or documentation from a healthcare provider certifying the employee or their partner has experienced a qualifying event. Time off under this policy is not in excess of or in addition to time off the employee may qualify for under the Family and Medical Leave Act. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 17 Dec 2024, Effective 1 Jan 2025)

#### **9-7.4 Family and Medical Leave**

This policy is subject to the provisions of the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Eligible employees may take up to a total of 12 work weeks of leave during the designated 12-month period for any one or more of the following reasons:

- the birth of the employee's child, and to care for the newborn child
- the placement with the employee of a child for adoption or foster care, and to care for the newly placed child
- to care for the employee's spouse, child, or parent with a serious health condition
- a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform one or more of the essential functions of their job
- any qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that the spouse, or a child, or parent of the employee is on active duty (or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty) in the Armed Forces in support of a contingency operation

An eligible employee is any employee who has been employed by the Library for at least 12 months (need not be consecutive) and for at least 1,250 hours of actual service during the 12-month period immediately preceding the commencement of the leave.

The 12-month period in which the 12-work-week leave entitlement occurs will be a rolling 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee uses any FMLA leave. Thus, each time an employee takes FMLA leave, the remaining leave entitlement would be any balance of the 12 work weeks that has not been used during the immediately preceding 12 months.

An eligible employee who is the spouse, child, parent, or next of kin of a covered service member will be entitled to a total of 26 work weeks of leave during a single 12-month period to care for the service member, provided such leave will be available only during a single 12-month period, during which the eligible employee will be entitled to a combined total of only 26 work weeks of leave, inclusive of any other entitled leave.

For the purpose of this policy, a “serious health condition” entitling an employee to FMLA leave means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or mental condition that involves one of the following:

- inpatient care (i.e. an overnight stay) in a hospital, hospice, or residential medical care facility, including any period of incapacity, or any subsequent treatment in connection with such inpatient care
- a serious health condition involving continuing treatment by a health care provider

The determination as to whether or not a condition is a “serious health condition” as that term is defined in the Family and Medical Leave Act and the federal regulations promulgated thereunder will be made by the Library on a case-by-case basis.

Family or medical leave may be taken intermittently or on a reduced-leave schedule when necessary. Employees needing intermittent leave or leave on a reduced schedule should attempt to schedule the leave so as not to disrupt the operations of the Library. Certification of the medical necessity of intermittent leave or leave on a reduced-leave schedule may be required. Recertification may be required after a significant period of time or a change in medical condition.

In any instance where the necessity for leave arises from any qualifying exigency due to a spouse, child, or parent of the employee being on active duty in the Armed Forces is foreseeable, whether because the spouse, child, or parent is on active duty, or because of notification of an impending call or order to active duty in support of a contingency operation, the employee will provide such notice to Library as is reasonable and practicable.

Insurance coverage will be maintained for the duration of the 12 work weeks of leave for those employees with current coverage under the Library’s plan. The terms and conditions of insurance coverage, including any applicable premium contributions by the employee, will remain the same during the family or medical leave. Employees on leave must make timely payment of any employee portion of the insurance premiums. If an employee’s premium payment is more than 30 days late, coverage may be dropped 15 days after written notice to the employee.

Employees must provide sufficient notice of the need for FMLA leave and must explain the reasons for the needed leave. A request for family or medical leave should be made 30 days in advance, when the need for the leave is foreseeable. Such requests should be made to Human Resources. When unforeseeable events occur that require family or medical leave, employees must give notice to Human Resources as soon as practical, but not later than three days after the employee learns of the need for leave.

Requests for family or medical leave or for extensions of such leave must be substantiated by medical certification. A form will be provided to the employee.

Employees are required to maintain regular communication with Human Resources regarding their return-to-work date and potential work limitations or restrictions.

When medical leave is granted due to an employee's own serious health condition, the employee must obtain and present, at the employee's expense, certification from the employee's health care provider that the employee is able to resume work at the time the employee seeks reinstatement. Second and third opinions with respect to any medical certification may be sought by the Library at its expense. The health care provider for any such second or third opinions will be designated by the Library.

Eligible employees who have any accrued paid time off benefits must substitute all such available paid leave as part of the 12 work weeks for FMLA leave. Upon exhaustion of all accrued paid time off benefits that is substituted for FMLA leave, any remaining portion of FMLA leave will be unpaid.

Employees will not accrue sick leave or vacation during the unpaid period of the leave. Employees will begin accruing sick leave and vacation benefits when they return from leave. Should a paid holiday fall during the paid period of the leave, the employee will receive holiday pay. No holiday pay will be given if on unpaid leave.

Employees taking family or medical leave will be restored to their previous position or to an equivalent position in accordance with the Family and Medical Leave Act, provided the employee would otherwise be employed at the conclusion of the leave if the employee had not taken the leave.

Acceptance of employment elsewhere during the term of the leave will result in termination. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 16 Mar 2021, Effective 1 Apr 2021)

## **9-7.5 Paid Parental Leave**

Employees eligible for, and who have applied for, a qualifying FMLA leave due to a birth or adoption of a child are eligible to request paid parental leave. All other requirements and provisions under the FMLA will apply. This policy runs concurrent with FMLA.

Eligible employees will receive a maximum of eight weeks of paid parental leave per birth or adoption (the child must be 17 or younger) of a child. This policy does not cover adoptions of a spouse's child. Multiple births or adoptions, such as the birth of twins or adoption of siblings, does not increase the eight-week total amount of paid parental leave granted for that occurrence. In addition, an employee will not receive more than eight weeks of paid parental leave in a rolling 12-month period, regardless of whether more than one birth or adoption event occurs within that 12-month time frame. When both parents are eligible employees, both parents may request to use up to eight weeks of paid parental leave.

Paid parental leave time runs concurrent with the approved FMLA leave. Once paid parental leave time is exhausted, employees may use additional FMLA leave. In this way, any paid time and any unpaid time will run concurrent with FMLA leave and be counted toward the 12-week allotment.

Employees must use paid parental leave within six months following the beginning of the approved FMLA leave coinciding with birth or adoption of a child. Any unused paid parental leave will be forfeited at the end of the six-month time period.

Paid parental leave is compensated at the employee's current hourly rate based on the employee's normally scheduled weekly work hours as defined by their current job. Paid parental leave will be paid on regularly scheduled pay dates. All standard payroll taxes and standard deductions (such as IMRF and insurance) will apply.

Upon separation of employment, the employee will not be paid for any unused paid parental leave for which they were eligible.

The employee will provide Human Resources with notice of the request to use paid parental leave at the time of the request for FMLA. (Adopted 21 May 2019, Last Revised 17 Dec 2024, Effective 1 Jan 2025)

## **9-7.55 Neonatal Leave**

Employees eligible for, and who have applied for, a qualifying FMLA leave due to a birth or adoption of a child are eligible for an additional 20 days of unpaid NICU leave in compliance with the Family Neonatal Intensive Care Act. All other requirements and provisions under the FMLA will apply.

Employees must first exhaust their available FMLA leave entitlement before taking NICU leave.

Employees may take NICU leave either continuously or intermittently.

NICU leave may be taken in half-hour increments. Human Resources will request a health care practitioner's statement certifying a child's NICU stay.

The employee will provide Human Resources with the notice of the request to use Neonatal Leave two weeks prior to the completion of FMLA leave.  
(Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

## **9–7.6 Medical Leave for Non-Eligible FMLA Employees**

The Library may grant employees not eligible for FMLA an unpaid medical leave of absence for any one or more of the following reasons:

- the birth of the employee's child, and to care for the newborn child
- the placement with the employee of a child for adoption or foster care, and to care for the newly placed child
- to care for the employee's spouse, child, or parent with a serious health condition
- a serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform one or more of the essential functions of their job

The maximum amount of time the Library may allow is typically six weeks in a rolling 12-month period. An extension may be granted at the discretion of the Executive Director. To be eligible for such a leave, an employee must have been employed by the Library for at least six months. Eligibility is determined as of the date the leave commences, not when the leave is requested.

The Library will require medical certification to support a claim for leave for an employee's health condition within seven days of a request for a leave. The certification must include a statement that the employee is unable to perform the functions of their position, the date on which the health care condition began, and the probable duration of the absence. If the need for the leave is foreseeable, such as a planned medical treatment, at least 30 days' prior written notice must be given by the employee. If the need is unexpected, employees are required to provide as much notice as possible.

This medical leave is generally unpaid leave. However, employees with benefits must use any available sick, personal time, and vacation during this period. During the paid portion of the leave, the employee with benefits will continue to accrue benefits.

When medical leave is granted due to an employee's own serious health condition, the employee must obtain and present, at the employee's expense,

certification from the employee's health care provider that the employee is able to resume work at the time the employee seeks reinstatement. (Adopted 11 Mar 2009; Last Revised 17 Aug 2021, Effective 1 Sep 2021)

### **9-7.7 Victims' Economic Security and Safety Leave**

Victims' Economic Security and Safety Leave Act (VESSA) provides employees who are victims of domestic, sexual, or gender violence, or employees who have a family or household member who is a victim of such violence, with unpaid, job-guaranteed leave; reasonable accommodations; and protections from discrimination and retaliation. Employees must provide the Library with at least 48 hours prior notice, unless providing notice advance notice is not practical. If not practical, employees must provide notice within a reasonable period after absence. An employee who is a victim of domestic, gender, or sexual violence may take unpaid leave from work for up to 12 workweeks per 12-month period according to the provisions set forth in VESSA. (Adopted 11 Mar 2009; Last Revised 17 May 2022, Effective 1 Jul 2022)

### **9-7.8 Emergency Paid Sick Leave Due to a Declared Health Emergency**

The purpose of this policy is to provide eligible employees with leave and paid sick leave due to a declared health emergency. Employees who are seeking a leave for reasons outside of this policy may still be eligible under the Library's other leave policies.

For the purpose of this policy, "child" means the employee's own child under the age of 18, which includes biological, adopted, or foster children, stepchildren, legal wards, children for whom the employee is standing in loco parentis—someone with day-to-day responsibilities to care for or financially support a child. The definition also includes an adult son or daughter (i.e., one who is 18 years of age or older), who (1) has a mental or physical disability, and (2) is incapable of self-care because of that disability.

#### **Emergency Paid Sick Leave**

All employees unable to work (or remote work) due to one of the following reasons are eligible:

- the employee is subject to a federal, state, local, or Library quarantine or isolation order related to a declared health emergency
- the employee has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to a declared health emergency.
- the employee is caring for an individual who is subject to either of the first two reasons above

- the employee is caring for their child if the school or place of care of the child has been closed, or the childcare provider of such child is unavailable, due to a declared health emergency precautions
- the employee is experiencing any other substantially similar condition specified by the Secretary of Health and Human services in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Labor

All eligible employees are entitled to the number of hours worked, on average, over a two-week period for each instance or exposure.

Emergency paid sick leave will be paid at the employee's regular rate of pay.

The employee may use emergency paid sick leave under this policy before using any other accrued paid time off for the qualifying reasons stated above.

#### Notice and Documentation Required

All employees requesting this leave must provide written notice of the need for leave to Human Resources as soon as practicable. The request must include the employee's name; the date or dates for which leave is requested; a statement of the related reason the employee is requesting leave as well as written support for such reason; and a statement that the employee is unable to work or remote work.

If the employee is requesting the leave due to a quarantine, the employee must also include the name of the governmental entity ordering quarantine or the name of the health care professional advising self-quarantine; and, if the person subject to quarantine or advised to self-quarantine is not the employee, that person's name and relationship to the employee.

If the leave request is based on a school closing or childcare provider unavailability, the statement from the employee should include the name and age of the child (or children) to be cared for; the name of the school that has closed or place of care that is unavailable; and a representation that no other person will be providing care for the child during the period for which the employee is receiving the leave. If the request is based on the employee's inability to work or remote work because of a need to provide care for a child older than 14 during daylight hours, the employee should also include a statement that special circumstances exist requiring the employee to provide care.

Any unused paid sick leave will not carry over to the next year or be paid out to employees.

#### Intermittent or Reduced Schedule Leave

The only exception under which employees may take sick leave on a reduced schedule for the above reasons is if they are able to, and want to, remote work, with the agreement of the Library. Unless the employee is remote working, once the employee begins taking emergency paid sick leave for one or more of these qualifying reasons, the employee must continue to take emergency paid sick leave each day until the employee either (1) uses the full amount of paid sick leave or (2) no longer has a qualifying reason for taking paid sick leave.

The employee may take emergency paid sick leave intermittently, if the employee wants to, with the agreement of the Library, if the employee is taking emergency paid sick leave to care for the employee's child whose school or place of care is closed, or whose child care provider is unavailable, because of related reasons.

## **Job Protections**

Employees who take emergency paid sick leave will not be retaliated against or discharged for doing so.

### **9-7.9 Blood or Organ Donation paid leave**

All employees may take paid leave for up to one hour every 56 days to donate or attempt to donate blood and up to 10 days in any 12-month period to serve or attempt to serve as a living organ donor.

The staff member must receive approval from their supervisor in advance. Human resources will require proof in advance of intention to donate an organ. The may require proof of blood or organ donation afterwards. (Adopted 19 May 2020; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

## **9-8 JOB PERFORMANCE**

### **9-8.1 Job Descriptions**

Job descriptions for all staff positions are developed and maintained by the Library. Copies of all job descriptions are available for employees. Job descriptions are updated periodically as needed and may change with or without advance notice. Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 21 May 2019, Effective 1 Jul 2019)

### **9-8.2 Performance Evaluations**

Performance evaluations are an important communication tool between employees and their supervisors. Regular employees including the Executive



Director will receive formal performance assessment (such as a performance evaluation or performance plan) no less than annually. The supervisor will review the written evaluation with each employee. Employees are encouraged to openly discuss any questions or comments they may have regarding the evaluation. The employee will be asked to sign the performance evaluation and will be given a copy. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

### **9-8.3 Progressive Discipline**

It is important that all employees perform to the best of their abilities at all times. There may be occasions, however, when employees perform at an unsatisfactory level, violate a policy, or behave in a manner that is inappropriate. As previously noted, employment may be terminated at will by the employee or the employer at any time with or without cause and without following any system of discipline or warning. Nevertheless, the Library may choose to exercise its discretion to utilize forms of discipline that are less severe than termination. Examples of such less severe forms of discipline include coaching, verbal warnings, written warnings, probation, and suspension.

Although one or more of these steps may be taken in connection with a particular employee, no formal order or system is necessary. An employee may be discharged at any time without regard to any progressive steps if they commit an offense for which immediate discharge is warranted or if, in the Library's judgment, the employee's continued presence would be contrary to the well-being of the Library or its employees.

Terminations will be handled by the Executive Director or by the Executive Director's designee. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 16 Mar 2021, Effective 1 Apr 2021)

## **9-9 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT**

### **9-9.1 Training**

The Library will provide appropriate training for all employees. All employee travel and training must be preapproved according to the guidelines set by the Executive Director or designee. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

### **9-9.2 Educational Assistance**

The Library offers a tax-free educational assistance program to all regular employees after one year of employment. Educational assistance is for

classes directly related to the job or employment, including courses for bilingualism, Both reimbursement for tuition payments or loan payments qualify for educational assistance.

Educational assistance is subject to the following provisions.

- Employees may be eligible to participate in the program after completing one year of employment in good standing. Employees cannot be on a performance plan.
- Applications for educational assistance must be approved by the employee's manager and the Executive Director,. . And will be processed on first come first served basis.
- Employees must provide verification of successful completion of the class (grade B or higher or Pass in the case of Pass/Fail) before receiving tax-free reimbursement.

Educational assistance is a shared expense between the Library and the employee. Employees will be reimbursed 60% of tuition only. Fees, books, and supplies are not included.

The amount of reimbursement per employee is capped at \$3,000 per fiscal year. It may be further limited by budgetary constraints.

Employees eligible for reimbursement from any other source (e.g., a government-sponsored program or a scholarship) may seek assistance under the Library's tuition reimbursement program, but they are reimbursed only for the difference between the amount received from the other funding source and the actual course cost. Total aid from the Library and other sources may not exceed 100% of the allowable tuition.

Upon completion of courses or a certification program, there is no implied promise or guarantee of position reclassification or adjustment to the employee's salary.

To be eligible to receive tuition reimbursement, employees must be on the Library's payroll on the date the reimbursement check is approved by the Board of Library Trustees.

The Library may request that an employee enroll in a class or course for purposes of training or continuing education. When the Library assigns an employee to a workshop, class, or course, the provisions of the tuition reimbursement policy do not apply. The Library will pay fees for the class or course. (Adopted 28 Apr 1993; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

### **9-9.3 Professional Memberships**

Employees in grade 7 and above are eligible for reimbursement for membership dues in up to two professional organizations as long as it falls within the parameters of the approved operating budget appropriate to the position. In some cases, an association may offer a conference discount to its members. Employees approved to attend that conference may be reimbursed for membership in that year, provided that the member conference rate plus membership dues is less than the non-member conference rate. (Adopted 21 May 2019; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

#### **9-9.4 Expense Reimbursement**

The Library will reimburse reasonable, documented expenses for staff members or Trustees when on Library business. Staff expenses must be pre-approved by the Executive Director or their designee. Reimbursement of expenses for employees and officials of the Library shall be in compliance with the Illinois Public Act 99-0604, Local Government Travel Expense Control Act, and pursuant to the requirements set forth herein.

##### **Training Expenses**

The Library will pay its pro rata share for staff/Trustees attending meetings in conjunction with staff/Trustees from other libraries. Whenever possible, the Library will pay the registration fees and major transportation expenses in advance. The lowest reasonable cost options should be chosen whenever possible, in coordination with Administration. A traveler may upgrade at their own expense or with air miles. Air miles earned on flights belong to the traveler.

A report of any meeting attended will be submitted to the supervisor and the Board if requested.

##### **Travel Expenses**

Travel expenses are those expenses directly incident to official travel by employees or officials that involve reimbursement or direct payment to private companies providing transportation or related expenses. These expenses include ordinary and reasonable travel, meals, and lodging costs incurred for the authorized and legitimate purposes of the Library. The lowest reasonable cost options should be chosen whenever possible, in coordination with Administration. A traveler may upgrade at their own expense or with air miles. Air miles earned on flights belong to the traveler.

##### **Entertainment Expenses**

No employee or official may receive payment for any entertainment expense, unless such expense is directly related to the purpose of the program or event. Entertainment expenses include, but are not limited to, shows, amusements, theaters, circuses, sporting events, or any other activity of public or private entertainment or amusement.

## **Cell Phone and Internet Use Expenses**

Employees required to work from home will be reimbursed a flat monthly rate for cell phone and internet use. The reimbursement rate for cell phone usage will be \$10 for full-time and \$5 for part-time staff. The reimbursement rate for internet usage will be \$20 for full-time and \$10 for part-time staff. These rates are based on available data of average monthly cell phone and internet costs.

In order to receive the reimbursement, use must be approved in advance and staff must request reimbursement by the end of the month following the month in which the work was performed.

## **Expense Authorization**

The Library Travel Reimbursement Request form must be completed and authorization for travel expenses obtained prior to the activity or travel, unless preapproval is not reasonably possible. The information is to include the employee or official's name, title/office, travel dates, cost estimates for transportation, lodging, meal, and other necessary costs or receipts for the cost of the travel, meals, or lodging if the expenses have already been incurred. For travel, the lowest reasonable cost options should be chosen whenever possible. Staff expenses allowable under this policy must be approved by the Executive Director and can be exceeded only due to an emergency or other extraordinary circumstance, as determined by the Board of Library Trustees by roll call vote at an open meeting of the Board. In addition, expenses incurred by a member of the Board require Board approval by a roll call vote at an open meeting of the Board.

## **Reimbursement**

The Library will pay or reimburse for an authorized employee's or official's travel expenses for those activities that involve training or study as recommended or directed by law or by an applicable agency or entity with oversight or regulatory authority over the Library; for activities that further the knowledge or expertise of the employee or official, or involve the sharing of such knowledge or expertise; or that involve professional collaboration with others in the employee's or official's professional field.

The maximum allowable reimbursement for travel expenses shall be the per diem expense or the actual expenses incurred, whichever is lower.

- Per diem expenses are based on the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) per diem rates. Refer to the GSA website: [www.gsa.gov/perdiem](http://www.gsa.gov/perdiem) for per diem rates according to the geographic areas involved in travel. Because rates for specific localities may change as often as every two months, please be careful to ensure that the applied rate is appropriate to the actual dates of travel.
- For actual expenses, the original receipts or proofs of payment are required.

(Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

### **9-9.5 Studies and Projects**

The Executive Director has the discretion to approve or disapprove all proposals for studies, projects, or internships involving the Library, its material, personnel, and members. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 165 Mar 2021, Effective 1 Apr 2021)

### **9-9.6 Volunteer Work**

All staff who are regularly scheduled to work 15 hours or more per week can be paid for up to 7.5 hours each calendar year to participate in a volunteer opportunity of their choosing outside the Library. Volunteer opportunities must be through an accredited 501(c)(3) organization or charity program. Volunteer time may not be used for organizations that discriminate based on race, age, gender, sexuality, religious creed, veteran status, marital status, national origin or ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition or genetic information, or political affiliation.

Interested staff should meet with their supervisor in advance to discuss their volunteer choice, schedule, and to receive approval.

Time should be recorded as volunteer time off. Volunteer time does not accumulate from calendar year to year and is not converted into pay at termination of employment. (Adopted 17 Dec 2024; Effective 1 Jan 2025)

## **9-10 WORKPLACE PROTECTION**

### **9-10.1 Formal Complaints**

The Library is committed to maintaining an open and fair method of resolving employee concerns and answering questions. Employees are encouraged to address issues as they arise with the support of their manager or Human

Resources. The Library recognizes that there may be need for a formal process by which employees may raise complaints and concerns related to their employment. To this end, the Library makes available this formal complaint procedure for all current Library employees.

Any employee may use this procedure without fear of reprisal or repercussions from any Library employee or Trustee for doing so. Retaliation by any employee or Trustee will not be tolerated. Any form of retaliation against an employee who files a formal complaint or participates in an investigation is strictly prohibited by the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois State Officials and Employees Act, the Illinois Whistleblower Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Library policy. Any employee or Trustee who retaliates against another for exercising their rights under this policy shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination or censure.

A current employee may file a formal complaint regarding their work situation when the employee believes an inequity must be addressed. Only a current employee can file a formal complaint, and no person may file a formal complaint on anyone else's behalf.

An employee desiring to initiate the formal complaint procedure should do so within a reasonable amount of time after the precipitating event.

Step 1: The employee should discuss the formal complaint with their manager. The manager may ask the employee to put the complaint in writing. The supervisor has up to two weeks to review the concern and respond to the employee. If the employee is not satisfied that the formal complaint is resolved, the employee may proceed to Step 2.

Step 2: The employee may submit a written formal complaint to the Deputy Director or Human Resources Manager, who has up to two weeks to review the concern and respond to the employee. If the employee is not satisfied that the formal complaint is resolved, the employee may proceed to Step 3.

Step 3: The employee may discuss the formal complaint with the Executive Director. The employee should notify the manager that they desire such a meeting. The Executive Director may request that the manager be present at this meeting. If the employee's manager will not attend the meeting, another manager or Deputy Director ~~Assistant Director~~ may also be present. The Executive Director will give the employee a written response to the formal complaint within two weeks.

Step 4: If the employee feels that the formal complaint is still not resolved after following Steps 1 through 3, the employee may make a written appeal to the Board of Library Trustees. The Board will consider the formal complaint at the next scheduled Board meeting.

The Board will issue a written response to the employee within 10 calendar days of the meeting at which the formal complaint is discussed. The Board's decision will be final.

The employee's written formal complaint, along with all responses thereto, will be filed in the personnel file of the employee who submitted the complaint. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

## **9-10.2 Policy Against Discrimination and Harassment**

The Library is committed to maintaining a work environment that is free of all forms of discrimination and harassment, including sexual harassment, that are illegal under the Illinois Human Rights Act (IHRA) and Title VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964. In keeping with this commitment, the Library will not tolerate discrimination against or harassment of or by Library employees, by or to anyone, including any supervisor, coworker, Trustee, vendor, visitor, or contractor by any means, including via electronic communication. Violation of this policy shall be considered grounds for disciplinary action up to and including termination or censure. The Board may exclude from the use of the Library any person who willfully or negligently violates an ordinance or regulation prescribed by the Board (75 ILCS16/30-55.55). The Board gives the Executive Director or their designee the authority to make decisions about banning persons from use of the Library.

### **Discrimination**

Discrimination consists of employment actions taken against an individual based on an actual or perceived characteristic protected by law, such as sex, race, color, ancestry, national origin, citizenship status, religion, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, military or veteran status, genetic information, order of protection status, or any other category protected by applicable law. In other words, discrimination occurs when an individual is treated differently or unequally because the individual is a member of a protected group.

### **Harassment**

Harassment consists of unwelcome conduct, whether verbal, physical, or visual, that is based upon a person's actual or perceived protected status such as sex, race, color, ancestry, national origin, citizenship status, religion, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, military or veteran status, genetic information, order of protection status, or any other category protected by applicable law. The Library will not tolerate harassing conduct that affects tangible job benefits; interferes unreasonably

with an individual's work performance; or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

The conduct forbidden by this policy specifically includes but is not limited to: (a) epithets, slurs, negative stereotypes, or intimidating acts that are based on a person's protected status; and (b) written or graphic material circulated or posted within the workplace that shows hostility toward a person because of their protected status.

## **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal, written, or physical conduct of a sexual nature when made to or by an employee where any of the following occur:

- submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a person's employment
- submission to or refusal to engage in such conduct is used as the basis for any employment decisions affecting such individual
- such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment

Sexual harassment, as defined above, may include, but is not limited to the following:

- uninvited sex-oriented verbal "kidding" or demeaning sexual innuendoes, leers, gestures, teasing, sexually explicit or obscene jokes, remarks or questions of a sexual nature
- graphic or suggestive comments about an individual's dress or body
- displaying sexually explicit objects, photographs, writings, or drawings
- unwelcome touching, such as patting, pinching, or constant brushing against another's body
- suggesting or demanding sexual involvement of another employee, whether or not such suggestion or demand is accompanied by implicit or explicit threats concerning one's employment status or similar personal concerns
- electronic: "sexting" (electronically sending messages with sexual content, including pictures and video), the use of sexually explicit language,



harassment, cyberstalking, and threats via all forms of electronic communication (email, text/picture/video messages, intranet/online posting, blogs, instant messages, and social network media). Even if two or more employees are engaging in consensual conduct, such conduct could constitute harassment of or discrimination against another employee who witnesses or overhears the conduct.

## **Investigation Procedure**

All Library employees are responsible to help ensure that harassment and discrimination do not occur and are not tolerated. An employee who believes that they have been subjected to sexual or other types of harassment or discrimination, or who has witnessed harassment or discrimination, should immediately submit a complaint to their supervisor, any other manager or supervisor, or the Human Resources Department. If a manager or supervisor receives a complaint of harassment or discrimination directly from an employee, or becomes aware of such conduct, the complaint or conduct shall be immediately reported to the Human Resources Department.

The Human Resources Department or its designee shall promptly investigate all complaints and make all reasonable efforts to resolve the matter informally. These efforts may include, but are not limited to, convening conferences with the complainant or the accused harasser/discriminator to discuss the complaint and the results of the investigation. If the complainant or the accused is not satisfied with the disposition of the investigation, they may submit in writing an appeal to the Executive Director or their designee, who will review the investigation report and make a final decision. At the Executive Director's option, they or their designee may conduct further investigation, if necessary.

Complaints involving an elected or appointed official shall be submitted to the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall, in consultation with legal counsel, ensure that an independent review is conducted with respect to such allegations.

The right to confidentiality, both of the complainant and of the accused, will be respected consistent with the Library's legal obligations and with the necessity to investigate allegations of misconduct and to take corrective action when misconduct has occurred.

A substantiated complaint against an employee or Trustee will subject the employee or Trustee to disciplinary action, up to and including termination or censure. If an investigation results in a finding that the complainant falsely accused another of harassment or discrimination knowingly or in a malicious manner, the complainant will be subject to appropriate discipline, up to and including termination or censure.

## **Retaliation Prohibited**

Reporting harassment or discrimination or participating in an investigation will not reflect adversely upon an individual's status or affect future employment. Any form of retaliation against an employee who reports harassment or discrimination or participates in an investigation is strictly prohibited by the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois State Officials and Employees Act, the Illinois Whistleblower Act, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and Library policy. Any employee or Trustee who retaliates against another for exercising their rights under this policy shall be subject to discipline, up to and including termination or censure.

## **Resolution Outside the Library**

The purpose of this policy is to establish prompt, thorough, and effective procedures for responding to every complaint and incident so that problems can be identified and remedied internally. However, an employee has the right to contact the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR) or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) about filing a formal complaint. An IDHR complaint must be filed within 300 days of the alleged incident(s) unless it is a continuing offense. A complaint with the EEOC must be filed within 300 days.

Contact Information:

Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR)  
Chicago: 312-814-6200 or 800-662-3942; TTY: 866-740-3953

Illinois Human Rights Commission (IHRC)  
Chicago: 312-814-6269; TTD: 312-814-4760

United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC)  
Chicago: 800-669-4000; TTY: 800-669-6820

(Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

### **9-10.3 HIPAA Anti-Retaliation Policy**

Title II of the Federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (42 USC §§ 1320d to 1329d-8, and Section 264 of Public Law 104191) ("HIPAA"), and its accompanying Privacy Regulations, 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164, require that "covered entities," as defined by the HIPAA Privacy Regulations, refrain from any retaliatory acts targeted toward those who file complaints or otherwise report HIPAA violations or infractions. The purpose of this policy is to clearly state the position of the Library on intimidation and

retaliation. This policy applies to all workforce, volunteers, management, and officials of the Library.

Under no circumstances will the Library intimidate, threaten, coerce, discriminate against, or take other retaliatory action against any individual for the following:

- the exercise of rights guaranteed under HIPAA, including the filing of a HIPAA complaint against the Library
- the filing of a HIPAA complaint with the Secretary of HHS
- testifying, assisting, or participating in a HIPAA investigation, compliance review, proceeding, or hearing
- opposing any act or practice that is counter to the HIPAA regulations, provided the individual has a good-faith belief that the practice opposed is unlawful, and the manner of the opposition is reasonable and does not involve a disclosure of protected health information in violation of HIPAA

No retaliatory action against an individual or group involved in filing HIPAA complaints or otherwise reporting infractions will be tolerated.

Under no circumstances will the Library require any members of its workforce, volunteers, management, or officials to waive their rights under HIPAA.

All allegations of HIPAA retaliation against individuals will be reviewed and investigated by the Library in a timely manner. The Human Resources Department shall promptly investigate all complaints and make all reasonable efforts to resolve the matter informally. These efforts may include, but are not limited to, convening conferences with the complainant and/or the accused to discuss the complaint and the results of the investigation. If the complainant or the accused is not satisfied with the disposition of the investigation, they may submit in writing an appeal to the Executive Director or their designee, who will review the investigation report and make a final decision. At the Executive Director's option, they or their designee may conduct further investigation, if necessary. (Adopted 10 Jun 2003; Last Revised 16 Mar 2021, Effective 1 Apr 2021)

#### **9-10.4 Employee Enforcement of Privacy Policy**

The Library places the highest priority on the effective implementation of the Privacy Policy by the Library staff. All employees are expected to have a working understanding of the privacy policy in effect and must adhere to the

provisions of the Library's Privacy Policy and procedures.

To assist in policy implementation, a designated Person in Charge will be on duty at the Main Library during all hours that Library facilities are open to the public.

An employee may not disclose the personally identifiable information of a user contained in library circulation or registration records except in accordance with Privacy Policy and procedures.

The Person in Charge may, however, disclose private information to proper authorities contrary to the Privacy Policy only if the employee reasonably believes that an individual faces a real and imminent threat of bodily harm that could be averted by the prompt disclosure of such information in accordance with Policy 11-9. If an employee releases the information, they must report the matter to the Executive Director or designee as soon as possible.

Employees who violate the Library's Privacy Policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

The employee's obligation to protect the privacy of library users under federal and state laws is perpetual and thus extends beyond the term of employment. (Adopted 8 Sep 2004; Last Revised 17 Dec 2024, Effective 1 Jan 2025)

## **9-10.5 Vaccinations**

All employees will be granted up to two hours paid time off work per year to receive any vaccinations or boosters occurring during their scheduled work time. Employees are to work with their managers to schedule proper time to obtain any vaccines and boosters.

### **Confidentiality**

Confidentiality and respect to our employees' rights are important to us. Records documenting vaccinations and declinations will be maintained by Human Resources. Only key Human Resources staff will have access to vaccine compliance records. All information received under this policy will be kept confidential to the greatest extent possible. Sharing of information shall be based on a need-to-know basis and only to the level required to notify management personnel regarding those employees who are not in compliance with this policy.

No employee will be discriminated, harassed, or retaliated against for their vaccination status. (Adopted 19 Oct 2021, Last Revised 17 Dec 2024, Effective 1 Jan 2025)

## **9-11 SEPARATION**

### **9-11.1 Resignation**

An employee who intends to resign is requested to give advance notice in writing to their manager. Resignations should state the reason and the effective date. The effective date should be the last day the employee is scheduled to work. Managers and exempt employees are asked to give a four-week notice of intent to resign. Non-exempt employees are asked to give a two-week notice. After official notice is given, employees may not use vacation or personal time to shorten that period. Employees are required to be physically present on their last scheduled day of employment. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

### **9-11.2 Exit Interview**

A resigning employee will have the opportunity to have an exit interview with the Human Resources Manager, Deputy Director, or Executive Director. Direct reports of the Executive Director exit interviews may also include the Board President. (Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 21 May 2019, Effective 1 Jul 2019)

Policy 9 Comprehensive Review: Adopted 13 Nov 1996; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)

## **8-1 Media Relations**

The Palatine Public Library District (the Library) provides information regarding library activities to appropriate media representatives on an impartial basis. All media releases relative to the implementation of Board decisions will be reviewed by a Board member prior to release. Other publicity shall be under the direction of the Executive Director. The Board of Trustees complies with the Illinois Open Meetings Act and the Illinois Freedom of Information Act.

**(Approved 13 Aug 1986; Last Revised 5 Jan 2026, Effective 1 Feb 2026)**