LACTATION ACCOMMODATION

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

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

Lactation accommodations shall be granted unless limited circumstances exist as specified in law. (Labor Code 1031, 1032; 29 USC 207)

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

The County Superintendent or designee shall provide a written response to any employee who was denied the accommodation(s). (Labor Code 1034)

The Santa Cruz COE shall include this policy in its employee handbook or in any set of policies that the Santa Cruz COE makes available to employees. In addition, the Superintendent or designee shall distribute the policy to new employees upon hire and when an employee makes an inquiry about or requests parental leave. (Labor Code 1034)

Break Time and Location Requirements

The Santa Cruz COE shall provide a reasonable amount of break time to accommodate an employee each time the employee has a need to express breast milk for an infant child. (Labor Code 1030)

To the extent possible, any break time granted for lactation accommodation shall run concurrently with the break time already provided to the employee. Any additional break time used by a non-exempt employee for this purpose shall be unpaid. (Labor Code 1030; 29 USC 207)
The employee shall be provided the use of a private room or location, other than a bathroom, which may be the employee's work area or another location that is in close proximity to the employee's work area. The room or location provided shall meet the following requirements: (Labor Code 1031; 29 USC 207)

1. Is shielded from view and free from intrusion while the employee is expressing milk
2. Is safe, clean, and free of hazardous materials, as defined in Labor Code 6382
3. Contains a place to sit and a surface to place a breast pump and personal items
4. Has access to electricity or alternative devices, including, but not limited to, extension cords or charging stations, needed to operate an electric or battery-powered breast pump
5. Has access to a sink with running water and a refrigerator or, if a refrigerator cannot be provided, another cooling device suitable for storing milk in close proximity to the employee's workspace

If a multipurpose room is used for lactation, among other uses, the use of the room for lactation shall take precedence over other uses for the time it is in use for lactation purposes. (Labor Code 1031)

Dispute Resolution

An employee may file a complaint with the Labor Commissioner at the California Department of Industrial Relations for any alleged violation of Labor Code 1030-1034. (Labor Code 1034) (cf. 4144/4244/4344 - Complaints)

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
200-262.4 Educational equity; prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex
CIVIL CODE
43.3 Right of mothers to breastfeed in any public or private location
GOVERNMENT CODE
12926 Definition of sex; breastfeeding
12940 Unlawful discriminatory employment practices
12945 Unlawful discrimination based on pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions
LABOR CODE
1030-1034 Lactation accommodation
6382 Procedure for listing hazardous substances
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 2
11035-11051 Unlawful sex discrimination; pregnancy and related medical conditions
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29
207 Fair Labor Standards Act; lactation accommodation
Management Resources:
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS PUBLICATIONS
Rest Periods/Lactation Accommodation, Frequently Asked Questions
CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH PUBLICATIONS
Lactation Accommodation for Employers
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION PUBLICATIONS
Lactation Support Program Toolkit
FEDERAL REGISTER
Reasonable Break Time for Nursing Mothers, December 21, 2010, Vol. 75, No. 244, pages 80073-80079
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL PUBLICATIONS
The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding, 2011
HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION PUBLICATIONS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, PUBLICATIONS
Frequently Asked Questions- Break Time for Nursing Mothers
Fact Sheet #73: Break Time for Nursing Mothers under the FLSA, rev. April 2018
WEB SITES
California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Labor and Standards Enforcement: http://www.dir.ca.gov/dlse
California Department of Public Health: http://www.cdph.ca.gov
California Women, Infants and Children Program: http://www.wicworks.ca.gov
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: http://www.cdc.gov
Health Resources and Services Administration: http://www.hrsa.gov

U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division, Break Time for Nursing Mothers: http://www.dol.gov/whd/nursingmothers