Extended personal leaves for academic study, educational and professional growth will be considered for approval by the Superintendent on the basis of an accompanying academic study plan. The purpose of the activity would be to expand the teacher's range of professional experience and/or abilities. The purpose of the plan would be to translate the experience into the classroom in productive learning activities. Included must be plans for classroom activities related to the proposed leave prior to, during, and following the requested period of absence. The employee will review the plan in conference with the Assistant Superintendent of Personnel/Educational Services. Upon acceptance by the Assistant Superintendent, the plan will be reviewed by the Superintendent and a recommendation will be made to the Board of Education. There must be a compelling reason for the leave to be scheduled during the school year due to a concern for instructional consistency in the classroom.