

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) about State Disability Insurance (SDI)

Q: What is SDI?

A: SDI is a partial wage replacement benefit plan for employees who pay into SDI and who are out of work due to a non-work-related illness, injury, or pregnancy. Your weekly benefit amount is approximately 55% of your earnings. There is a 7 day waiting period in which you are not paid any SDI benefits at the beginning of your claim.

Q: What does “coordinating benefits” mean?

A: If you choose to coordinate benefits, you would turn any money you receive from SDI to the District. This money would “buy back” sick leave. This may help keep you in a fully paid status for longer than if you are out sick and are just using your sick leave.

Q: Do I have to coordinate benefits?

A: No, you don't. If you don't choose to coordinate benefits and you have enough sick leave to carry you through your leave, you may not receive any money from SDI because you can't collect full pay from us and also receive money from SDI.

Q: How do I apply for SDI?

A: Go to their website, [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov) and go to “File & Manage a Claim”. It is quicker to file online than it is to send in a paper application.

Q: How does this work?

A: You file a claim online (you are not considered a “State Worker”). SDI then sends us, the District, a form to fill out in which we have to tell them whether or not you will be coordinating benefits. SDI also sends a letter to your doctor. HR will need to know if you plan to coordinate benefits or not.

Q: How soon can I file a claim?

A: You can't file your claim until you are actually off of work.

Q: How does it work if I do decide to coordinate benefits?

A: SDI will mail you a debit card - KEEP THIS CARD for up to 3 years! They will also send you a statement of what they are loading on the card showing the dates that you are being paid for by them.

1. They will load and re-load the same debit card
2. You can go to the bank it's drawn upon and get cash which you can bring in to Payroll (must be the **exact amount** of the statement showing what you are being paid) or you can deposit it into your own account and write the District a check in that **exact amount**.
3. You must bring in the statement with you when you bring in the money so that Payroll can properly enter the SDI information into the system.