



# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

## Welcome to the School District of Philadelphia

### Benefits and Retirement Overview\*

For

### **32BJ Employees**

Inside you will find a summary overview of the benefits for which you are eligible as a SDP 32BJ employee.  
Please visit our website often for updates, forms, and notifications.

**Benefits Office, Suite G-10**  
Phone: 215-400-4630  
Fax: 215-400-4631  
Email: [benefits@philasd.org](mailto:benefits@philasd.org)

**Retirement Office, Suite G-8**  
Phone: 215-400-4680  
Fax: 215-400-4681  
Email: [retirement@philasd.org](mailto:retirement@philasd.org)

**Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 9am-5pm. After hours by advance appointment only.

Revised 01/2021

\*This overview is for informational purposes only and is subject to change at the School District of Philadelphia's discretion.

## Health Coverage

Medical coverage is provided by your national union, Building Service 32BJ Benefit Fund at 800-551-3225. Prescription, dental, and vision benefits are provided by 32BJ Health & Welfare, located at 455 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street Philadelphia, PA 19123 or 215-627-9220.

## Open Enrollment

*Open Enrollment occurs annually in May.* This is your opportunity to elect or cancel Wage Continuation coverage. Building Service 32BJ Benefit Fund handles Open Enrollment requests related to medical coverage.

## Life Insurance

As a new School District of Philadelphia (SDP) employee represented by 32 BJ, you are entitled to a term life insurance policy of \$25,000, through The Hartford Life Insurance Company **at no cost to you** within 30 days of employment. However, if after such time you wish to elect life insurance, you are required to wait until the annual Open Enrollment period. Life insurance coverage becomes effective the first day following the conclusion of probation.

If you pass away during active service at SDP, your beneficiaries receive the full benefit, pending Hartford's approval. If you have not designated a beneficiary(ies), the full benefit is assigned to your next of kin. Original, signed Beneficiary forms must be submitted in person or by mail.

All employees, who leave active service (retired or otherwise), have 31 days to convert all or part of the non-paid-up portion (\$2,000 in the case of eligible retirees) of their active policies to a self-billing policy directly with Hartford. All Life Insurance forms can be found on our website at <https://www.philasd.org/benefits>.

### *Supplemental Term Life Insurance*

In addition to the benefits we currently offer, you have the option to purchase additional term life insurance through convenient payroll deductions. The Hartford Supplemental Term life insurance plan is offered on a guaranteed issue basis up to \$150,000 without proof of good health within 30 days of hire. A professional advisor from Benefit Harbor is available to assist with the enrollment process. The advisors ensure that you have a complete understanding of coverage and various features available to you.

If you want to enroll, call Benefit Harbor at 1-888-391-3841 and a counselor will guide you through the enrollment process. The call center hours are Mondays through Thursdays from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, and Fridays from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. You also have an option to enroll online at: <https://www.memberbenefitlogin.com/ees/psd.html>

32BJ also provides life insurance administered by MetLife. It is for \$25,000. It also covers AD&D. For information, you can go on [www.seiu32bj.org](http://www.seiu32bj.org), select the 32BJ funds icon and click on MetLife under Important Links. Or you can call (877) 605-8300.

## Wage Continuation (Salary Continuance)

As a 32 BJ employee of the SDP, you may purchase Wage Continuation coverage to protect yourself from sustained salary loss due to an **approved** health related absence that extends beyond your sick time. **During your initial eligibility as a new hire, you have a 30-day window from your start date, to enroll or waive Wage Continuation coverage.** Existing employees beginning a new position have a 30-day window to enroll or waive this benefit. **After the conclusion of 30 days from your start date as a new hire or existing employee in a new position, you may only enroll or cancel coverage during the annual Open Enrollment period held May 1 to May 31 effective July 1.**

Should you elect Wage Continuation coverage, as a new hire, you are not eligible to utilize the program and are not charged deductions until the conclusion of your probationary period.

Should you need to utilize the wage continuation, you must have an approved health related absence, and will be required to exhaust all banked personal illness days, and at the conclusion of a short waiting period, you will be compensated a daily amount consistent with 75 percent of your salary for up to 1 year, pursuant to the Health Services department's approval.

The cost of this indemnity program is dependent upon your amount of accumulated sick leave, number of years of service, and salary. If you have used sick days prior to approved enrollment in Wage Continuation, the rate at which you are charged will be based upon the number of sick days banked at the time.

<b>Wage Continuation Premium Rates</b>			
<i>32 BJ Employees</i>			
<u>Accumulated Sick Leave</u>	<u>Total Annual Waiting Period</u>	<u>Employee Share After 3 years of Employment***</u>	<u>Employee Share First 3 years of Employment***</u>
Less than 10 days	7 work days	\$3.15	\$2.10
10 but less than 30 days	6 work days	\$4.50	\$1.50
30 but less than 60 days	5 work days	\$0.52	\$0.52
60 but less than 90 days	4 work days	\$0.00	
90 but less than 120 days	3 work days	\$0.00	
120 but less than 150 days	2 work days	\$0.00	
150 but less than 180 days	1 work day	\$0.00	
180 days and over	0 work day		

\*Rates are based upon every \$100 gross per pay.

Use the below formula to calculate your per pay Wage Continuation deduction.

Formula	Biweekly Gross pay (before taxes)	÷	100	×	Rate listed in the chart above	=	Total biweekly premium
Less than 10 days	\$1300.00	÷	100	×	\$2.10	=	\$27.30 per pay
10 but less than 30 days	\$1300.00	÷	100	×	\$1.50	=	\$19.50 per pay
30 or more days	\$1300.00	÷	100	×	\$0.52	=	\$6.76 per pay

**Please note:** Enrollment in the Wage Continuation program does not guarantee eligibility of use. You must be approved by the Health Services Department for use of this program. Payments made towards Wage Continuation are not refundable whether it is cancelled, not used, or upon separation from the District.

**Employees may only cancel Wage Continuation coverage during the Annual Open Enrollment period.**

### **403(b) and 457(b) Retirement Savings Plans**

A 403(b) or 457(b) plan are voluntary retirement plans offered to employees of the School District of Philadelphia. At any time during your employment you may contribute a portion of your salary on a pre-tax (traditional) or an after-tax (Roth) basis to an authorized SDP program-participating carrier.

All contributions are made by employees; there is no employer match or contribution to either 403(b) or 457(b) plan. While you are an active employee, you may be eligible to withdrawal from these accounts per the rules of section 403(b) and 457(b) of the IRS Code and the School District of Philadelphia Plan Documents.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please contact any of these agents directly to determine which plan best meets your financial needs and to begin the enrollment process. The carrier of your choice will assist you with the necessary forms.

The **approved** providers for the School District's 403(b) and 457(b) Plans are:

<b>AIG Retirement Services</b>	(877) 889-1589
<b>Equitable Advisors</b>	1-800-628-6673
<b>Lincoln Investment Planning</b>	800-242-1421 extension 1434

More information on the program, the benefits of participating and a comparison of the programs can be found on our website, <https://www.philasd.org/benefits/>.

## Flexible Spending Accounts

Flexible Spending Accounts (FSAs) allow you to set aside money on a pre-tax basis through payroll deductions to pay for eligible health care, dependent care, and / or commuter/parking expenses. This provides a tax break to cover out-of-pocket health and dependent care expenses. When employees purchase benefits on a pre-tax basis, their compensation is reduced for purposes of calculating wages subject to federal and F.I.C.A. taxes and, in most states, state income tax. For residents of Pennsylvania, state taxes are saved on Health Care FSA elections, but not Dependent Care FSA elections.

### The “Use It or Lose It” Rule:

If you do not use all the money you have contributed to any FSA account, you will lose any remaining balance in the account at the end of the eligible claims period. This rule exists under the IRS guidelines for tax-advantaged plans; **it applies to the medical and dependent care FSA only.** The plan year runs from January 1 through December 31. You have a two-and-a-half-month grace period to use all deposited contributions. In summary, you have until March 15 of the next year to use up your balance from the previous year.

If you resign, retire or separate from the District any time during the year, you have 90 days to submit any claims from the beginning of the plan year to your separation date. Below are the tax-advantaged FSA accounts we offer through **Baker Tilly Vantegen**, our third-party administrator. You may elect to enroll in the flexible spending programs (Parking, Transit, Dependent, and/or Medical). You will be able to complete your enrollment beginning the second week of your employment by logging on to [www.philasdflexbenefits.com](http://www.philasdflexbenefits.com) to begin the enrollment process. Enrollment in Medical and Dependent Care must be completed within the first 90 days of employment or you will need to wait until the annual open enrollment in November.

### Enrollment:

Enrollment is different for each program:

- Employees may enroll for the Commuter Reimbursement Accounts at any time throughout the year.
- The Dependent Care and Medical Flexible Spending Accounts become effective to newly hired employees after 90 days of service. You must complete your enrollment at <http://www.philasdflexbenefits.com> within 90 days of date of hire.
- Employees can enroll during the annual Open Enrollment period in November for a January 1 effective date.

Elections are made based on the calendar year (January through December) and are deducted from all paychecks during the year, with the exception that parking and transit are not taken in the last pay of three pay months, Medical and Dependent Care elections cannot be changed throughout the year.

## Medical Flexible Spending Account (FSA)

Also known as Health FSA, you can use your pre-tax contributions to pay for eligible health care costs such as:

- medical and dental out-of-pocket expenses and co-pays
- eye exams, contact lenses/solutions and glasses
- prescription drugs
- orthodontia and dental care
- medical devices such as hearing aids and diabetic testing supplies

**Please be aware that if you pay for a service in full and later receive a reimbursement from the insurer, only the out-of-pocket expense is eligible for the FSA reimbursement.** *Example: You visit the dentist and pay for the full charge of \$150. Your dental carrier then sends you a reimbursement check for \$100. You may only claim the \$50 of out of pocket expense. Contact Employee Benefits Center at 1-800-307-0230 between 8:30AM – 5:30PM EST Monday through Friday if you need to make an adjustment.*

## Dependent Care Account (DCA)

A DCA allows you to get reimbursed for eligible child care expenses that enable you and your spouse to be employed.

Typical eligible expenses are:

- The costs of babysitter, daycare, after-school care, Pre-K program, and day camp for dependents **under** 13 years old, must be your dependent under federal tax rules.
- Services must be for the physical care of the child, not for education, meals, etc.
- Expenses for overnight camps and kindergarten are **not** eligible for reimbursement.

## Commuter and Parking Reimbursement Accounts (CRA)

A CRA allows you to use pre-tax contributions to pay for eligible mass transit, parking, and van-pooling expenses.

- Transit Account – to be used for public transportation such as costs for SEPTA monthly passes, tokens, and regional rails. NOTE: the IRS does not permit manual claims for these benefits – you may only access this benefit by using your debit card.
- Parking Account – to be used for parking costs at or near your work location, or the parking costs at a train station where you get transportation to work.
- You have the ability to adjust future Transit or Parking contributions to avoid excess or shortage by completing election changes on the <http://www.philasdflexbenefits.com> site.
- You have to pay out of pocket (post tax) for any amount over the IRS monthly limits.

### Contribution Limits:

The IRS sets a monthly reimbursement limit annually, please refer to the below for the current plan year and eligible expenses for each plan type.

Plan	Maximum Election Limits (as of 1/1/2021)	Examples of Eligible Expenses
Medical	\$2,750 Annually	Copays for office visits and prescriptions, deductibles, amounts above plan limits, eye exams and glasses, contact lenses, orthodontia, not covered medical and dental expenses
Dependent Care	\$5,000 annually	Day care, day camp, preschool, pre-kindergarten
Transit CRA	\$270 per month	Subway or bus passes, van or car-pooling costs
Parking CRA	\$270 per month	Parking expenses incurred to park your vehicle near your employer or near mass transit/commuter facilities

Visit [www.philasdflexbenefits.com](http://www.philasdflexbenefits.com) for more information about the FSA plans, and a list of eligible expenses, and forms.

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## Additional Benefits Information

### Voluntary Benefits

The School District of Philadelphia has partnered with Winston Benefits to offer the following voluntary benefits:

- Whole Life
- Accident
- Critical Illness
- Pet Insurance
- Identity Theft

These benefits are optional but you may find that they are appropriate to address your needs. There are no changes to your core benefits, and electing these benefits has no impact on those enrollments. To enroll in these voluntary benefits log onto <https://sso.philasd.org/cas/login> and click on the Winston Icon.

**Please keep in mind that as a new hire, you must enroll within 30 days of your date of hire. If you do not enroll during your new hire window, you must wait until the next Open Enrollment period to elect your benefits.**

For more information, visit our website <https://www.philasd.org/benefits/voluntary-benefits/>

### Tuition Discounts

The School District of Philadelphia has collaborated with several educational institutions to offer tuition discounts to District employees and their families:

[Drexel Online](#)  
[Holy Family University](#)  
[Peirce College](#)

Unfortunately, the District does not offer tuition reimbursement at this time. You may be able to receive loan forgiveness under the [Public Service Loan Forgiveness program](#). Visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/repay-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/public-service>. Visit <https://www.philasd.org/benefits/home/tuition-discounts-and-educational-partners/> for the most up to date information.

### Guidance Resources

We are pleased to offer all employees and their families' access to support through the ComPsych Guidance Resources. There is no cost to employees or their families and all information is confidential. No personally identifiable information is sent to the District. This support is designed to assist employees and their families in resolving personal problems (e.g., marital, financial or emotional problems; family issues; substance/alcohol abuse).

On the web: <https://www.guidanceresources.com>

Web ID: SDP

By phone: 833-812-5180

TDD: 800.697.0353

### Leave Policy

Employees on probation are not granted leave until probation is completed. After completing probation, you are entitled to leave for personal reasons (personal leave), personal illness and for vacation consistent with the following:

**Personal Leave Days:** If you begin SDP employment at the beginning of the school year, you will receive **three (3) days per year** for emergencies and for matters that cannot be accomplished during non-working hours. You will receive a prorated number of days if you begin employment after the beginning of the school year. The prorated amount will not exceed 3 days. At the beginning of the following school year after your original appointment, you will receive 3 full personal days.

Personal leave cannot be accumulated for use in another year. If you do not exhaust your personal days by the end of the school year, the unused time is placed in a frozen personal leave bank, which you will be unable to utilize. If, however, a 10-month employee has accumulated 30 days or more in his or her personal leave bank, he or she is permitted to use up to a maximum of 2 additional personal leave days from that bank per year. There is no limit on the number of personal days you can accumulate over the course of your SDP service.

**Personal Illness Days:** If you begin SDP employment at the beginning of the school year, you receive **ten (10) days per year** for personal illness. You receive a prorated number of days for your first year if you begin employment after the start of the school year. The prorated amount will not exceed 10 days. At the beginning of the following school year after your original your appointment, you receive 10 full personal illness days. Personal illness days can accumulate as days not used in prior school years may be used in the future. There is no limit on the number of personal illness days you may accumulate.

**Vacation Days:** Appointed **12-month SDP employees** accrue vacation days on a monthly basis. **10-month employees do not accrue vacation time; however, they are not required to work during winter, spring or summer breaks when schools are closed.**

Eligible employees accrue vacation leave in accordance with the following schedule:

Length of Uninterrupted service to July 1	Vacation Days	Monthly Accrual	Vacation Bank Maximum
Appointed January 1 through April 30	5	.83	10
Six Months to Four Years	10	.83	20
Four Years to Eight Years	15	1.25	30
Eight Years to Fifteen Years	20	1.67	40
Over Fifteen Years	22	1.83	44

**Vacation leave is accrued during the pay covering the 15<sup>th</sup> calendar day of the month.**

SDP employees may accumulate no more unused vacation days than an amount equal to twice their yearly allocation. Once you accumulate such an amount, you are not be permitted to accrue additional days that would exceed that amount. Upon your separation from SDP employment you will receive 100 percent compensation for all unused vacation, subject to taxes. 12-month represented employees may take 1 week of unpaid vacation time per year in addition to his or her vacation. Requests for such time should be submitted in the same manner as requests for vacation.

You can view your leave balance through the Employee Payroll Information application or by checking your paycheck. Your School District of Philadelphia email name and password are used for access. If you do not know the name and password, call the Technology Help Desk at (215) 400-5555 for assistance. Please note that the balances shown are all subject to a post separation audit. Your paycheck references this.

From the School District of Philadelphia main website (<http://www.philasd.org>) go to the Employee Portal. In the Employee section, enter your email name and password. Your email user name should exclude the "@philasd.org" designation.

Launch the "Payroll Information" application. Enter the last four digits of your social security number when prompted. You can then select Leave Balances tab.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

Employee Payroll Information

Home

Please choose a selection from the list below.

**Employee Payroll Information**

Employee Information	Select
Pay Statements	Select
W2 Forms	Select
Leave Balances	Select

Home

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## pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System

5 N 5th Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1905  
**Toll-Free Number:** 1.888.773.7748  
**Local Number:** 1.717.787.8540  
**Fax Number:** 1.717.772.3860  
**Hours (Mon-Fri)** 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### **Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS)-Mandatory Pension Plan**

PSERS is one of the largest public pension plans in the nation. Participation in this benefit is **mandatory**. This defined benefit plan guarantees you a monthly lifetime benefit based on your age, final average salary and the number of credited service years after you reach a certain combination of age and/or service, provided you are vested.

Beginning July 1, 2019, employees who are members of PSERS will default into a hybrid retirement, pre-tax contribution plan called class T-G, if you are contributing to PSERS **and** hired for the first time on or after 7/1/2019. The hybrid plan consists of a defined benefit (DB) pension plan with PSERS and a 401(a) defined contribution plan (DC) with Voya Financial. You will have the option to switch to one of two other plans, a Class T-H, which is also a hybrid plan, or Class DC plan, which would be contributions to Voya **only**. **Switching plans is irrevocable**. More information is explained below.

#### *PSERS Membership*

When you become a new member of PSERS, you will receive a *Welcome Packet*. The *Welcome Packet* will include reference to creating a Member Self Service (MSS) account to access the *Active Member Handbook*, a *Nomination of Beneficiaries* (PSRS-187) form, and an *Application for Multiple Service Membership* (PSRS-1259). If applicable, you will also receive a *Class T-H and DC Election Packet*.

PSERS is a defined benefit retirement plan, which means your retirement benefit is determined by a defined formula. PSERS' basic formula to calculate retirement benefits is based on a pension multiplier, your credited years of service, and your final average salary.

All full-time and part-time salaried employees are members of PSERS from day one of employment and must make retirement contributions. "Full-time," for retirement purposes, is defined as employees who work 5 or more hours a day, 5 days a week or its equivalent (25 or more hours a week).

*Part-time hourly and part-time per diem employees* must meet minimum service requirements to qualify for PSERS membership (500 hours or 80 days in one school year). If you fall under this category, you may waive membership in PSERS and can only do so through their MSS account. To qualify for the waiver, the part-time employee must have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) and request a waiver within the first school year they qualify for PSERS membership. When you waive membership in PSERS, you forfeit all future rights to benefits for that waived school year. If you attain membership, you will be required to contribute towards PSERS and/or Voya even if membership was waived prior. If you choose to contribute towards your pension, you will not contribute to a 401(a) with Voya until PSERS membership has been attained. If you do not meet the threshold for membership prior to the school year ending, you will receive a reimbursement of your contributions from PSERS. If you attain membership within the school year, you will see contributions towards your 401(a) with Voya deducted unless you opt to switch to the defined contribution only plan.

**NOTE:** If you are currently a PSERS retiree, your monthly benefit will stop upon re-employment unless you are hired under emergency or extracurricular employment (the provisions of Act 2004-63).

#### **Voya Financial**

Voya is one of the largest Defined Contribution record keepers in the country with 6,000 employees throughout the U.S. and 47,000 employer retirement plans to more than 4.5 million plan participants.

## Membership Class of Service

The law governing PSERS sets the terms of membership classes as a Voya participant. Your membership class is determined by the date you become a member of PSERS or if you change your class election. The investment lineup for the 401(a) plan can be found on PSERS' website here: [https://www.psers.pa.gov/Employers/Pages/403\(b\)-Updates-and-Clarifications.aspx](https://www.psers.pa.gov/Employers/Pages/403(b)-Updates-and-Clarifications.aspx)

### Contributions

Employee contribution rates are based on a member's date of hire and class of service and are set by law. The rates are based on a combined hybrid plan where contributions go to both a PSERS and Voya account or an account that goes only to Voya. The contribution rate for each class is below:

Membership Class	DB Member Contributions (PSERS)	DC Member Contributions (VOYA)	Total Contribution
<b>Class T-G (default)*</b>	<b>5.50%</b>	<b>2.75%</b>	<b>8.25%</b>
Class T-H	4.50%	3.00%	7.50%
Class DC	0.00%	7.50%	7.50%

\*Part time hourly and part time per diem employees will default to class T-G only contributing to a PSERS account at 5.5% of gross salary

Each class has a "shared risk" provision that could cause the total contribution levels to fluctuate 3.00% in increments of .75% for the DC plan. With a "shared risk" program, you benefit when investments of the fund perform well and share some of the risk when investments underperform. The employee contribution rate may not go below the above listed base rates.

Purchase of Service-purchasing service credit is when you add additional service to your PSERS account by paying contributions and interest for an eligible period that service and salary would have been reported, but was not. Please contact PSERS directly to check your eligibility to purchase service for the period you believe you did not receive credit.

*Vesting* will differ for both PSERS and Voya. Please contact PSERS and Voya individually to obtain more information about vesting and your vesting schedule.

### The "Footprint" Rule

The "footprint rule" that was utilized in Act 120 of 2010 remains for current employees who leave and return. Therefore, **members who have pre-hybrid tier membership who leave and return to service will be re-enrolled in the class of service to which they belonged prior to the new plans effective 7/1/19.**

If you have former service credited with the Pennsylvania State Employees' Retirement System (SERS) for work performed for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (for example, Department of Public Welfare, Labor & Industry, Transportation, etc.), you may elect multiple service, which combines state and school service. You will receive an election form with the PSERS *Welcome Packet*. **You have only 365 days from the date of your enrollment letter to make your multiple service election.**

### Keeping Your Data Current

Throughout the year, PSERS and Voya will send you important publications and notifications pertaining to your retirement account. For you to receive this information, you must ensure your demographic information is accurate and current. Please be sure to monitor your salary, service, and demographic information for accuracy. You may contact the Retirement Department if you notice any discrepancies.

**Contacting PSERS:** If you have any questions, please contact the PSERS Member Service Center by calling toll-free, 1.888.773.7748. Hours of operation are each business day from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. You may also email [ContactPSERS@pa.gov](mailto:ContactPSERS@pa.gov). Please visit [psers.pa.gov](http://psers.pa.gov) for more, detailed information.

**Contacting Voya:** If you have any questions, please contact the PSERS Member Service Center by calling toll-free, 1.833.432.6627. Hours of operation are each business day from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please visit [PSERSDCvoya.com](http://PSERSDCvoya.com) for more, detailed information.

## **Resigning/Retiring**

Upon your decision to resign/retire from the SDP, you must notify the Retirement Department. Notification of Retirement/Resignation forms are located on the SDP's website under Retirement or available in the Retirement Department.

## **Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA**

**This notice explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect your right to receive it.** When you become eligible for COBRA, you may also become eligible for other coverage options that may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage.

The right to COBRA continuation coverage was created by a federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). COBRA continuation coverage can become available to you and other members of your family when group health coverage would otherwise end. For more information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under federal law, you should review the Plan's Summary Plan Description or contact the Plan Administrator.

**You may have other options available to you when you lose group health coverage.** For example, you may be eligible to buy an individual plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace. By enrolling in coverage through the Marketplace, you may qualify for lower costs on your monthly premiums and lower out-of-pocket costs. Additionally, you may qualify for a 30-day special enrollment period for another group health plan for which you are eligible (such as a spouse's plan), even if that plan generally doesn't accept late enrollees.

### ***What is COBRA continuation coverage?***

COBRA continuation coverage is a continuation of Plan coverage when it would otherwise end because of a life event. This is also called a "qualifying event." Specific qualifying events are listed later in this notice. After a qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a "qualified beneficiary." You, your spouse, and your dependent children could become qualified beneficiaries if coverage under the Plan is lost because of the qualifying event. Under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage must pay for COBRA continuation coverage.

If you're an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- Your hours of employment are reduced, or
- Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

If you're the spouse of an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- Your spouse dies
- Your spouse's hours of employment are reduced;
- Your spouse's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- Your spouse becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); or
- You become divorced or legally separated from your spouse.

Your dependent children will become qualified beneficiaries if they lose coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- The parent-employee dies;
- The parent-employee's hours of employment are reduced;
- The parent-employee's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- The parent-employee becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (Part A, Part B, or both);
- The parents become divorced or legally separated; or
- The child stops being eligible for coverage under the Plan as a "dependent child."

### ***When is COBRA continuation coverage available?***

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator has been notified that a qualifying event has occurred. The employer must notify the Plan Administrator of the following qualifying events:

- The end of employment or reduction of hours of employment;
- Death of the employee; or
- The employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both).

**\*\*\*For all other qualifying events (divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child's losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), you must notify 32 BJ within 30 days after the qualifying event occurs.**

### ***How is COBRA continuation coverage provided?***

Once the Plan Administrator receives notice that a qualifying event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. Each qualified beneficiary will have an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Covered employees may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their spouses, and parents may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children.

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage that generally lasts for 18 months due to employment termination or reduction of hours of work. Certain qualifying events, or a second qualifying event during the initial period of coverage, may permit a beneficiary to receive a maximum of 36 months of coverage.

Retirees with 30 or more years of service will also be entitled to continue medical health insurance on a self-pay basis under the Pennsylvania Law Acts 110/43 (COBRA) until age 65, after coverage is terminated by the District.

When the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hour of employment, and the employee became entitled to Medicare benefits less than 18 months before the qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage for qualified beneficiaries other than the employee lasts until 36 months after the date of Medicare entitlement. For example, if a covered employee becomes entitled to Medicare 8 months before the date on which his employment terminates, COBRA continuation coverage for his spouse and children can last up to 36 months after the date of Medicare enrollment, which is equal to 28 months after the date of the qualifying event (36 months minus 8 months). Otherwise, when the qualifying event is the end of employment or reduction of the employee's hours of employment, COBRA continuation coverage generally lasts for only up to a total of 18 months.

There are also ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended:

### ***Disability extension of 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage***

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by Social Security to be disabled and you notify the Plan Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family may be entitled to get up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 29 months. The disability would have to have started at some time before the 60th day of COBRA continuation coverage and must last at least until the end of the 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage.

### ***Second qualifying event extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage***

If your family experiences another qualifying event during the 18 months of COBRA continuation coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get up to 18 additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 36 months, if the Plan is properly notified about the second qualifying event. This extension may be available to the spouse and any dependent children getting COBRA continuation coverage if the employee or former employee dies; becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); gets divorced or legally separated; or if the dependent child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child. This extension is only available if the second qualifying event would have caused the spouse or dependent child to lose coverage under the Plan had the first qualifying event not occurred.

### ***Special Enrollment Notice***

If you are declining enrollment for yourself and/or your dependents (including your spouse) because of other health insurance coverage, you may be able to enroll yourself and/or your dependents in this pay in the future, provided that you request enrollment within 30 days after your other coverage terminates. In addition, if you have a new dependent as a result of marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption, you may be able to enroll yourself and your dependents, provided that you request enrollment within 30 days after the marriage, birth, adoption, or placement for adoption.

### ***Are there other coverage options besides COBRA Continuation Coverage?***

Yes. Instead of enrolling in COBRA continuation coverage, there may be other coverage options for you and your family through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicaid, or other group health plan coverage options (such as a spouse's plan) through what is called a "special enrollment period." Some of these options may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage. You can learn more about many of these options at [www.healthcare.gov](http://www.healthcare.gov).

*If you have questions*

Questions concerning your Plan or your COBRA continuation coverage rights should be addressed to the contact or contacts identified below. For more information about your rights under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), including COBRA, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) in your area or visit [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa). (Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website.) For more information about the Marketplace, visit [www.HealthCare.gov](http://www.HealthCare.gov).

**Keep your Plan informed of address changes-**To protect your family's rights, let the Plan Administrator know about any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator.

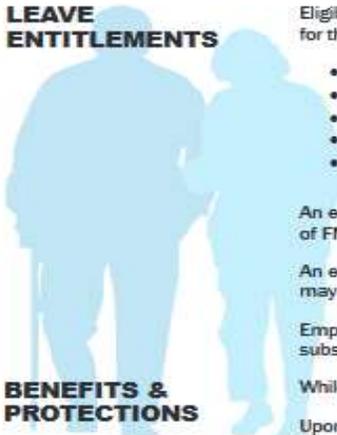
**Other information-**All employees are covered by Independence Blue Cross Family of Companies. The monthly cost to continue coverage under these plans depends on the type of coverage and family status. Other available health insurance plans include dental, vision, and prescription coverage.

**Plan contact information-**It is not necessary to contact the School District at the time of your separation from employment for information on COBRA. A notification of the COBRA election will be mailed to the employee's home address by 32 BJ.

# EMPLOYEE RIGHTS UNDER THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION

## LEAVE ENTITLEMENTS



Eligible employees who work for a covered employer can take up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave in a 12-month period for the following reasons:

- The birth of a child or placement of a child for adoption or foster care;
- To bond with a child (leave must be taken within 1 year of the child's birth or placement);
- To care for the employee's spouse, child, or parent who has a qualifying serious health condition;
- For the employee's own qualifying serious health condition that makes the employee unable to perform the employee's job;
- For qualifying exigencies related to the foreign deployment of a military member who is the employee's spouse, child, or parent.

An eligible employee who is a covered servicemember's spouse, child, parent, or next of kin may also take up to 26 weeks of FMLA leave in a single 12-month period to care for the servicemember with a serious injury or illness.

An employee does not need to use leave in one block. When it is medically necessary or otherwise permitted, employees may take leave intermittently or on a reduced schedule.

Employees may choose, or an employer may require, use of accrued paid leave while taking FMLA leave. If an employee substitutes accrued paid leave for FMLA leave, the employee must comply with the employer's normal paid leave policies.

While employees are on FMLA leave, employers must continue health insurance coverage as if the employees were not on leave.

Upon return from FMLA leave, most employees must be restored to the same job or one nearly identical to it with equivalent pay, benefits, and other employment terms and conditions.

An employer may not interfere with an individual's FMLA rights or retaliate against someone for using or trying to use FMLA leave, opposing any practice made unlawful by the FMLA, or being involved in any proceeding under or related to the FMLA.

An employee who works for a covered employer must meet three criteria in order to be eligible for FMLA leave. The employee must:

- Have worked for the employer for at least 12 months;
- Have at least 1,250 hours of service in the 12 months before taking leave;\* and
- Work at a location where the employer has at least 50 employees within 75 miles of the employee's worksite.

\*Special "hours of service" requirements apply to airline flight crew employees.

## BENEFITS & PROTECTIONS

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

## REQUESTING LEAVE

Generally, employees must give 30-days' advance notice of the need for FMLA leave. If it is not possible to give 30-days' notice, an employee must notify the employer as soon as possible and, generally, follow the employer's usual procedures.

Employees do not have to share a medical diagnosis, but must provide enough information to the employer so it can determine if the leave qualifies for FMLA protection. Sufficient information could include informing an employer that the employee is or will be unable to perform his or her job functions, that a family member cannot perform daily activities, or that hospitalization or continuing medical treatment is necessary. Employees must inform the employer if the need for leave is for a reason for which FMLA leave was previously taken or certified.

Employers can require a certification or periodic recertification supporting the need for leave. If the employer determines that the certification is incomplete, it must provide a written notice indicating what additional information is required.

## EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES

Once an employer becomes aware that an employee's need for leave is for a reason that may qualify under the FMLA, the employer must notify the employee if he or she is eligible for FMLA leave and, if eligible, must also provide a notice of rights and responsibilities under the FMLA. If the employee is not eligible, the employer must provide a reason for ineligibility.

Employers must notify its employees if leave will be designated as FMLA leave, and if so, how much leave will be designated as FMLA leave.

## ENFORCEMENT

Employees may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division, or may bring a private lawsuit against an employer.

The FMLA does not affect any federal or state law prohibiting discrimination or supersede any state or local law or collective bargaining agreement that provides greater family or medical leave rights.

For additional information or to file a complaint:

**1-866-4-USWAGE**

(1-866-487-9243) TTY: 1-877-889-5627

**www.dol.gov/whd**

U.S. Department of Labor | Wage and Hour Division





## New Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage

Form Approved OMB No. 1210-0149

### PART A: General Information

When key parts of the health care law take effect in 2014, there will be a new way to buy health insurance: the Health Insurance Marketplace. To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about the new Marketplace and employment-based health coverage offered by your employer.

#### What is the Health Insurance Marketplace?

The Marketplace is designed to help you find health insurance that meets your needs and fits your budget. The Marketplace offers "one-stop shopping" to find and compare private health insurance options. You may also be eligible for a new kind of tax credit that lowers your monthly premium right away. Open enrollment for health insurance coverage through the Marketplace begins in October 2013 for coverage starting as early as January 1, 2014.

#### Can I Save Money on my Health Insurance Premiums in the Marketplace?

You may qualify to save money and lower your monthly premium, but only if your employer does not offer coverage, or offers coverage that doesn't meet certain standards. The savings on your premium that you're eligible for depends on your household income.

#### Does Employer Health Coverage Affect Eligibility for Premium Savings through the Marketplace?

Yes. If you have an offer of health coverage from your employer that meets certain standards, you will not be eligible for a tax credit through the Marketplace and may wish to enroll in your employer's health plan. However, you may be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your monthly premium or a reduction in certain cost-sharing if your employer does not offer coverage to you at all or does not offer coverage that meets certain standards. If the cost of a plan from your employer that would cover you (and not any other members of your family) is more than 9.5% of your household income for the year, or if the coverage your employer provides does not meet the "minimum value" standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit.

**Note:** If you purchase a health plan through the Marketplace instead of accepting health coverage offered by your employer, then you may lose the employer contribution (if any) to the employer-offered coverage. Also, this employer contribution -as well as your employee contribution to employer-offered coverage- is often excluded from income for Federal and State income tax purposes. Your payments for coverage through the Marketplace are made on an after-tax basis.

#### How Can I Get More Information?

For more information about your coverage offered by your employer, please check your summary plan description or contact:

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

[www.philasd.org/offices/benefits](http://www.philasd.org/offices/benefits)

440 N. Broad Street-Suite G10, Philadelphia, PA 19130

Phone: 215-400-4630

The Marketplace can help you evaluate your coverage options, including your eligibility for coverage through the Marketplace and its cost. Please visit [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) for more information, including an online application for health insurance coverage and contact information for a Health Insurance Marketplace in your area.

<sup>1</sup> An employer-sponsored health plan meets the "minimum value standard" if the plan's share of the total allowed benefit costs covered by the plan is no less than 60 percent of such costs.

## PART B: Information About Health Coverage Offered by Your Employer

This section contains information about any health coverage offered by your employer. If you decide to complete an application for coverage in the Marketplace, you will be asked to provide this information. This information is numbered to correspond to the Marketplace application.

3. Employer Name School District of Philadelphia (SDP)		4. Employer Identification Number (EIN) 23-6004102	
5. Employer Address Employee Benefits 440 North Broad St, Suite G10		6. Employer Phone Number 215-400-4630	
7. City Philadelphia	8. State PA	9. Zip Code 19130	
10. Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job?  EMPLOYEE BENEFITS			
11. Phone Number (if different from above) 215-400-4630		12. Email Address Benefits@Philasd.org	

Here is some basic information about health coverage offered by this employer:

• As your employer, we offer a health plan to:

All employees.

Some employees. Eligible employees are: **Determined pursuant to employee job classification and the Collective Bargaining Agreements in which the School District of Philadelphia participates.**

• With respect to dependents:

We do offer coverage. Eligible dependents are: **As defined in the policies and Collective Bargaining Agreements referenced above.**

We do not offer coverage.

If checked, this coverage meets the minimum value standard, and the cost of this coverage to you is intended to be affordable, based on employee wages.

\*\* Even if your employer intends your coverage to be affordable, you may still be eligible for a premium discount through the Marketplace. The Marketplace will use your household income, along with other factors, to determine whether you may be eligible for a premium discount. If, for example, your wages vary from week to week (perhaps you are an hourly employee or you work on a commission basis), if you are newly employed mid-year, or if you have other income losses, you may still qualify for a premium discount.

If you decide to shop for coverage in the Marketplace, [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) will guide you through the process.

### EXPLANATION OF HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE NOTIFICATION

Effective January 1, 2014 the Affordable Care Act (also known as Healthcare Reform) requires all individuals to have health insurance or incur a financial penalty. To assist all individuals in purchasing this required insurance, Health Insurance Marketplaces are being put in place.

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

SEIU 32BJ	215-627-9220
32BJ Services Benefit Fund	800-551-3225
Office of Talent Switchboard	215-400-4600
Prospective Employees	215-400-4600 option 1
Current Employee Staffing	215-400-4600 option 2 Email: <a href="mailto:staffing@philasd.org">staffing@philasd.org</a>
Employee Benefits Office	215-400-4630 Email: <a href="mailto:benefits@philasd.org">benefits@philasd.org</a>
Retirement & Resignation Office	215-400-4680 Email: <a href="mailto:retirement@philasd.org">retirement@philasd.org</a>
Unemployment Office	215-400-4140
Employee Health Services	215-400-4660 Email: <a href="mailto:employeehealth@philasd.org">employeehealth@philasd.org</a>
Employee Records	215-400-4600 option 7 Email: <a href="mailto:employeerecords@philasd.org">employeerecords@philasd.org</a>
Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS)	215-443-3495 or 1-888-773-7748 <a href="http://www.psers.pa.gov">http://www.psers.pa.gov</a>