

HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS

The Governing Board recognizes that health and welfare benefits are essential to promote employee health and productivity and are an important part of the compensation offered to employees. The district shall provide health and welfare benefits for employees in accordance with state and federal law and subject to negotiated employee agreements.

(cf. 4140/4240/4340 - Bargaining Units)
(cf. 4141/4241 - Collective Bargaining Agreement)
(cf. 4151/4251/4351 - Employee Compensation)
(cf. 4300 - Administrative and Supervisory Personnel)

Employees who are not in bargaining units shall receive health and welfare benefits as specified in Board policy and administrative regulation.

(cf. 4121 - Temporary/Substitute Personnel)

For purposes of granting benefits, a registered domestic partner and his/her child shall have the same rights, protections, and benefits as a spouse and spouse's child. (Family Code 297.5, 300)

The district shall offer full-time employees who work an average of 30 hours or more per week and their dependents up to age 26 years a health insurance plan that includes coverage for essential health benefits, pays at least 60 percent of the medical expenses covered under the terms of the plan, and meets all other requirements of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

With respect to eligibility to participate in the health benefits plan or the level of health benefits provided, the district shall not discriminate in favor of employees who are among the highest paid 25 percent of all district employees. (26 USC 105; 42 USC 300gg-16)

Continuation of Coverage

Retired certificated employees, other employees who would otherwise lose coverage due to a qualifying event specified in law and administrative regulation, and their qualified beneficiaries may continue to participate in the district's group health and welfare benefits in accordance with state and federal law.

Unless otherwise provided for in the applicable collective bargaining agreement, covered employees and their qualified beneficiaries may receive continuation coverage by paying the premiums, dues, and other charges, including any increases in premiums, dues, and costs incurred by the district in administering the program.

Confidentiality

The Superintendent or designee shall not use or disclose any employee's medical information the district possesses without the employee's authorization obtained in accordance with Civil Code 56.21, except for the purpose of administering and maintaining employee benefit plans and for other purposes specified in law. (Civil Code 56.20)

(cf. 4112.6/4212.6/4312.6 - Personnel Files)

HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS (continued)

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

7000-7008 Health and welfare benefits, retired certificated employees

17566 Self-insurance fund

35208 Liability insurance

35214 Liability insurance (self-insurance)

44041-44042 Payroll deductions for collection of premiums

44986 Leave of absence, state disability benefits

45136 Benefits for classified employees

CIVIL CODE

56.10-56.16 Disclosure of information by medical providers

56.20-56.245 Use and disclosure of medical information by employers

FAMILY CODE

297-297.5 Rights, protections and benefits under law; registered domestic partners

GOVERNMENT CODE

12940 Discrimination in employment

22750-22944 Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act

53200-53210 Group insurance

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

1366.20-1366.29 Cal-COBRA program, health insurance

1367.08 Disclosure of fees and commissions paid related to health care service plan

1373 Health services plan, coverage for dependent children who are full-time students

1373.621 Continuation coverage, age 60 or older after five years with district

1374.58 Coverage for registered domestic partners, health service plans and health insurers

INSURANCE CODE

10116.5 Continuation coverage, age 60 or older after five years with district

10128.50-10128.59 Cal-COBRA program, disability insurance

10277-10278 Group and individual health insurance, coverage for dependent children

10604.5 Annual disclosure of fees and commissions paid

12670-12692.5 Conversion coverage

LABOR CODE

2800.2 Notification of conversion and continuation coverage

4856 Health benefits for spouse of peace officer killed in performance of duties

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CODE

2613 Education program; notice of rights and benefits

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 1

7 Definition of marriage, spouse

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 26

105 Self-insured medical reimbursement plan; definition of highly compensated individual

4980B COBRA continuation coverage

4980H Penalty for noncompliance with employer-provided health care requirements

5000A Minimum essential coverage

6056 Report of health coverage provided to employees

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 29

1161-1168 COBRA continuation coverage

Legal Reference: (continued next page)

HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS (continued)

Legal Reference: (continued)

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 42

300gg-300gg95 *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, especially:*

300gg-16 *Group health plan; nondiscrimination in favor of highly compensated individuals*

1395-1395g *Medicare benefits*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 26

54.4980B-1-54.4980B-10 *COBRA continuation coverage*

54.4980H-1-54.4980H-6 *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*

1.105-11 *Self-insured medical reimbursement plan*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 45

164.500-164.534 *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)*

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATIONS

Health Policy: Implications of Covered California for School Boards, Districts and Personnel.

Governance Brief, January 2013

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE NOTICES

2011-1 *Affordable Care Act Nondiscrimination Provisions Applicable to Insured Group Health Plans*

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY PUBLICATIONS

Fact Sheet: Final Regulations Implementing Employer Shared Responsibility Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) for 2015

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Employment Development Department: <http://www.edd.ca.gov>

Internal Revenue Service: <http://www.irs.gov>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services:
<http://www.cms.gov>

U.S. Department of Labor: <http://www.dol.gov>

Policy **VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

adopted: June 24, 1997 Visalia, California

revised: March 14, 2006

revised: November 10, 2010

revised: November 13, 2012

revised: March 29, 2016

HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS**Affordability of Health Coverage**

The Superintendent or designee shall seek written assurance from the district's health insurance carrier(s) that the health plan offered to full-time district employees and their dependents meets all requirements of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. (42 USC 300gg-300gg95; 26 USC 4980H; 26 CFR 54.4980H-1-54.4980H-6)

The Superintendent or designee also shall ensure that each employee's contribution to the employee-only health coverage does not exceed 9.5 percent of his/her modified household income, as defined in 26 USC 5000A. The Superintendent or designee shall calculate the affordability of the coverage using one or more of the following methods in a uniform and consistent basis for all employees within the same category: (26 USC 4980H; 26 CFR 54.4980H-4-54.4980H-5)

1. The district shall ensure that the lowest cost employee-only coverage does not exceed 9.5 percent of wages paid to the employee by the district for the calendar year as reported on the employee's W-2 tax form. For an employee not offered coverage for an entire calendar year, the wages shall be adjusted to reflect the period for which coverage was offered.
2. The district shall ensure that the employee's required monthly contribution for the lowest cost employee-only coverage does not exceed 9.5 percent of an amount equal to 130 hours multiplied by the employee's hourly rate of pay on the first day of the plan year or his/her lowest hourly pay during the calendar month, whichever is lower.
3. The district shall ensure that the employee's contribution does not exceed 9.5 percent of a monthly amount determined as the federal poverty line for a single individual for the applicable calendar year, divided by 12.

Retired Certificated Employees

Any former certificated employee who retired from the district under any public retirement system and his/her spouse/domestic partner shall be permitted to enroll in the health and welfare and/or dental care benefit plan currently provided for certificated employees. The plan also shall be available to any surviving spouse/domestic partner of a former certificated employee who either retired from the district under any public retirement system or was, at the time of death, employed by the district and a member of the State Teachers' Retirement System. (Education Code 7000)

A retired certificated employee or surviving spouse/domestic partner shall be allowed to enroll in the coverage within 30 days of losing active employee coverage. If he/she does not enroll during this initial enrollment period, he/she may be denied further opportunity to do so. (Education Code 7000)

HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS**COBRA/Cal-COBRA Continuation Coverage**

Covered district employees and their qualified beneficiaries shall be offered the opportunity to continue health and disability insurance coverage when they otherwise would lose coverage due to one of the following qualifying events: (Health and Safety Code 1366.21, 1366.23, 1373; Insurance Code 10128.51, 10128.53, 10277; 26 USC 4980B; 26 CFR 54.4980B-4)

1. Death of the covered employee
2. Termination or reduction in hours of the covered employee's employment, other than termination by reason of the employee's gross misconduct

(cf. 4118 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

(cf. 4218 - Dismissal/Suspension/Disciplinary Action)

3. Divorce or legal separation of the covered employee
4. The covered employee becoming entitled to Medicare benefits
5. A dependent child ceasing to be a dependent child of the covered employee

Continuation health coverage shall be the same as provided to similarly situated individuals under the group benefit plan. (Health and Safety Code 1366.23; Insurance Code 10128.53; 26 USC 4980B)

The Superintendent or designee shall notify the health care service plan administrator of a qualifying event listed in item #1, 2, or 4 above, within 30 days of the event. A covered employee or qualified beneficiary shall notify the service plan administrator of a qualifying event listed in item #3 or 5 above within 60 days of the event or of the date that the beneficiary would lose coverage, whichever is later. (26 USC 4980B; 29 USC 1163, 1166; 26 CFR 54.4980B-6)

Continuation coverage shall be terminated in accordance with the district's insurance plan and federal and state law. (26 USC 4980B; 26 CFR 54.4980B-6; Health and Safety Code 1373.621; Insurance Code 10116.5)

Disability Insurance

The Superintendent or designee shall give notice of disability insurance rights and benefits to each new employee and each employee leaving work due to pregnancy, nonoccupational illness or injury, the need to provide care for any sick or injured family member, or the need to bond with a minor child within the first year of the child's birth or placement in connection with foster care or adoption. (Unemployment Insurance Code 2613)

(cf. 4157.1/4257.1/4357.1 - Work-Related Injuries)

(cf. 4161/4261/4361 - Leaves)

(cf. 4161.1/4361.1 - Personal Illness/Injury Leave)

(cf. 4161.8/4261.8/4361.8 - Family Care and Medical Leave)

(cf. 4261.1 - Personal Illness and Injury Leave)

All Personnel

AR 4154(c)

4254

HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS

4354

When disabled by an injury sustained from a violent act while performing duties within the scope of employment and performing creditable employment, a certificated or classified employee may continue in the district health and dental care plans upon meeting criteria specified by law. The employee shall pay all employer and employee premiums and related administrative costs. (Education Code 7008)

Regulation

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VISALIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Visalia, California