

Personnel

HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS

AR 4154 (a)

AR 4254 (a)

Retired Employees

AR 4354 (a)

Any former 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 employees. The plan also shall be available to any surviving spouse/domestic partner of a former employee who either retired from the district or was, at the time of death, employed by the district and a member of the State Teachers' Retirement System or California Public Retirement System. (Education Code 7000)

A retired employee or surviving spouse/domestic partner shall be allowed to enroll in the coverage within 30 days of losing active employee coverage. (Education Code 7000)

COBRA/Cal-COBRA Continuation Coverage

Covered district employees and their qualified beneficiaries shall be offered the opportunity to continue health 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. 4117.4 - Dismissal)

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

3. Divorce or legal separation of the covered employee
4. Covered employee's 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)

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Continuation coverage shall be terminated in accordance with the district's insurance plan and in accordance with 26 USC 4980B and 26 CFR 54.4980B-6.

However, a former employee who, prior to January 1, 2005, worked for the district for at least five years and who was age 60 or older on the date employment ended, or his/her qualified beneficiaries which includes dependent children or spouse/former spouse/domestic partner, may continue benefits until the earlier of any of the following events: (Health and Safety Code 1373.621; Insurance Code 10116.5)

1. The date the individual reaches age 65
2. The date the individual is covered under any other group health plan not maintained by the district, regardless of whether that coverage is less valuable
3. The date the individual becomes entitled to Medicare benefits
4. For a qualified beneficiary, five years from the date on which continuation coverage was scheduled to end for the qualified beneficiary
5. The date on which the district terminates its agreement with the health service plan and ceases to provide coverage for any active employees through that plan, in which case the former employee and/or his/her qualified beneficiary shall have a right to a conversion plan

The Superintendent or designee shall notify covered employees and qualified beneficiaries of the availability of conversion and continuation coverage. This notification shall include the statement in Labor Code 2800.2 encouraging individuals to examine their options carefully before declining such coverage. (Labor Code 2800.2)

(cf. 4112.9/4212.9/4312.9 - Employee Notifications)

Temporary Subsidized Premium for COBRA/Cal-COBRA

Under either of the following circumstances, a former employee and his/her qualified beneficiaries shall pay 35 percent of the premium amount they would otherwise be required to pay for health care continuation coverage: (26 USC 139C, 6432 Note; Health and Safety Code 1366.25; Insurance Code 10128.455)

1. The employee is involuntarily terminated, other than by reason of gross misconduct, between September 1, 2008 and March 31, 2010, or a later date if extended by law
2. The employee's eligibility for continuation coverage is due to a reduction in hours and he/she subsequently experiences an involuntary termination between March 2, 2010 and March 31, 2010, or a later date if extended by law

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The district shall seek reimbursement of district payments toward the normal employee share of the premium as allowed by law. (26 USC 139C, 6432; Health and Safety Code 1366-25; Insurance Code 10128.55)

The premium reduction shall apply until one of the following dates, whichever comes first: (26 USC 6432 Note)

1. Fifteen months after the first day of the first month for which the premium reduction applies to the assistance eligible individual
2. The first date that the assistance eligible individual becomes eligible for Medicare coverage or other group health plan coverage, with certain exceptions specified by law
3. The date the assistance eligible individual ceases to be eligible for continuation coverage for other reasons as noted in the section "Continuation of Coverage" above

Because the premium reduction will be offset by an increase in income tax liability for individuals who earn more than \$125,000 for the tax year (or \$250,000 for married couples filing a joint federal income tax return), such individuals may choose to permanently waive their right to the subsidy. (26 USC 6432)

The Superintendent or designee shall, within 14 days of receiving notice of the qualifying event, notify assistance eligible individuals of the availability of the subsidy and the option to enroll in different coverage if the district permits assistance eligible individuals to elect enrollment in different coverage. Assistance eligible individuals shall have 60 days from the date the notice is provided to elect coverage. (26 USC 6432 Note; Health and Safety Code 1366.24, 1366.25; Insurance Code 10128.55)

In order to receive reimbursement of district payments toward the normal employee share of the premium as allowed by law, the Superintendent or designee shall maintain records regarding assistance eligible individuals and the amounts paid by the district in accordance with 26 USC 6432.

When disabled by an injury resulting from a violent act sustained while performing his/her job duties, 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)

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ORCUTT UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT
Orcutt, California