

Independent School District No. 701

800 E. 21st Street
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746


BUSINESS OFFICE

SCOTT WIRTANEN, Business Manager

(218) 208-0849 FAX (218) 208-0861

August, 2013

TO: All ISD #701 Staff

FROM: Scott Wirtanen, Business Manager 

RE: Information regarding the Affordable Care Act and MNsure

As you are aware, in 2010 the President signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Effective January 1, 2014, all U.S. citizens and legal residents will be required to have or obtain qualifying health insurance coverage or pay a tax penalty unless they meet certain criteria and receive an exemption from this requirement.

As your employer, we are required to inform you about the new Health Insurance Exchanges that are being formed to provide individuals an option for health insurance coverage. Beginning in October, 2013, Minnesota residents will be able to shop for qualifying coverage through MNsure, Minnesota's new health insurance Marketplace. MNsure is a Marketplace created to allow individuals to obtain health insurance and potentially qualify for Medical Assistance, MinnesotaCare, and tax credits to make premiums and cost sharing more affordable.

Enclosed with this memo is information regarding MNsure, including a phone number where you can obtain more information regarding this new Marketplace. Please be aware that the coverage offered through Ind. School District No. 701 - Hibbing meets the "minimum value" standard set by the Affordable Care Act.

You can access information regarding MNsure at www.MNsure.org and may reach the MNsure Contact Center beginning September 3, 2013 at 1-855-3MNsure (1-855-366-7873).

Additionally, the Affordable Care Act also requires employers to provide all eligible employees with a Summary of Benefits and Coverage for our health plan. These can be found on the school district website as follows:

➤ Go to – <http://www.hibbing.k12.mn.us>

- Under the “District” tab, go to the Business Office
- Under the “Business Office” tab, go to Benefits Information
- Under “Benefits Information”, click on the Health Benefit Summary you would like to view in the “Resources” section of the page

A copy of the Summary of Benefits and Coverage can also be made available to you upon request.

If you have any questions or need additional information regarding the Affordable Care Act and/or MNsure, please feel free to contact me at 218-208-0849 – ext. 1.

MNsure Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage: For Employees whose Employers offer health coverage

General Information

When key parts of the health care law known as the Affordable Care Act take effect, there will be a new place to buy health insurance in Minnesota: MNsure. To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about MNsure and employment-based health coverage offered by your employer.

What is MNsure?

MNsure is designed to help you find health insurance that meets your needs and fits your budget. MNsure 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 for health insurance plans sold through MNsure or free or low-cost insurance from Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare. Open enrollment for health insurance coverage through MNsure begins in October 2013 for coverage starting January 1, 2014.

Can I Save Money on my Health Insurance Premiums through MNsure?

Yes. You may qualify to save money and lower or eliminate your monthly premium. You may qualify for a tax credit or MinnesotaCare 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 MNsure?

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 or MinnesotaCare through MNsure 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, a reduction in certain cost-sharing, or MinnesotaCare if your employer does not offer coverage that meets certain standards. If the cost of a plan from your employer for you, the employee only, is more than 9.5% of your household income for the year, or if the coverage does not meet the "minimum value" standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit.¹ If you are seeking help paying costs for health coverage through MNsure, you will need information about the cost and value of your employer coverage to complete an online or paper application. If your employer offers health coverage to you, ask your employer to complete and give you the Health Coverage from Jobs (Appendix A) form. If your employer does not offer coverage to you, you do not need your employer to complete the Health Coverage from Jobs (Appendix A) form.

Note: If you purchase a health plan through MNsure 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 MNsure are made on an after-tax basis.

How Can I Get More Information?

There is help available to you to evaluate your coverage options through MNsure, including your eligibility for coverage through MNsure and its cost. Please visit www.mnsure.org for more information, including an online application for health insurance coverage, or call 1-855-3MNsure (1-855-366-7873).

¹ 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.