

## Insurance

All insurance programs of the district will be managed as part of the district's risk management program.

### **A. Liability Insurance**

The district will maintain sufficient liability insurance to protect it against claims for the negligent or wrongful acts of its staff or agents. The amount and terms of such insurance protection will be reviewed annually as part of the district's risk management program.

The board will hold individual board members, administrators, staff or agents of the district harmless and defend them from any financial loss, including reasonable attorneys' fees, arising out of any act or failure to act, provided that at the time of the act or omission complained of, the individual so indemnified was acting within the scope of his/her responsibilities or employment and in compliance with the policies and procedures of the district.

The district will provide its staff with insurance protection while they are engaged in the maintenance of order and discipline and in the protection of students, other staff and property. Such insurance protection must include liability insurance covering injury to persons and property and insurance protecting staff from loss or damage of their personal property incurred while so engaged.

A member of the board of directors or the superintendent is immune from civil liability for damages for any discretionary decision or failure to make a discretionary decision within his or her official capacity, but liability will remain on the district for the tortious conduct of the board members and superintendent. The superintendent will obtain errors and omissions insurance in the amounts deemed necessary by the board.

### **B. Property Damage Insurance**

The district will maintain a comprehensive insurance program which will provide adequate coverage, as determined by the board, in the event of loss or damage to school buildings and/or equipment, including motor vehicles.

### **C. Staff Insurance**

The district will develop and maintain an effective program of insurance for its staff. Such programs may include, but are not limited to, unemployment compensation, industrial accident and/or injury insurance, liability and medical insurance.

The district may make available liability, life, health, health care, accident, disability or salary protection insurance or any one of or a combination of these types of insurance and may contribute all or part of the cost of such insurance.

### **D. Unemployment Insurance**

The district will participate in the program lawfully available for fulfilling its unemployment insurance obligation that is most financially and administratively efficient. The unemployment compensation program will be reviewed annually by the board.

Staff eligible under the terms of the unemployment compensation pool agreement with the educational service district will be provided with the unemployment benefits to which they are entitled. The district will maintain the records required by the state employment security department and retain them for not less than four years.

### **E. Workers' Compensation**

The Lind and Ritzville School Districts are self-insured through the Northeast Washington Workers Compensation Cooperative for the purpose of providing industrial insurance

benefits to employees who sustain job-related injuries or occupational diseases. This trust has been approved by Washington State Department of Labor and Industries to administer industrial insurance benefits. Employees of a self-insured business have the same rights and responsibilities as other workers insured through the state of Washington. Employees are protected in two ways:

1. Medical costs resulting from job-related injuries or diseases are paid under the claim; and
2. Injured employees are paid a partial wage replacement while off work due to a job-related injury or disease under the claim when certified off work by their doctor.

When an employee is injured on the job and is unable to perform his or her duties as a result of an on-the-job injury or occupational disease and certified off work by a doctor, the employee may elect to use leave as follows (provided the employer does not elect to keep the employee on full salary through means other than use of accrued leave):

1. Choose unpaid leave, thus receiving only his or her entitled temporary total disability (TTD) benefits, or
2. Elect to use a full day of accumulated leave (sick, annual or other similar benefit) in addition to their entitled TTD benefits, or
3. Elect to use a proportionate share of accumulated leave to make up the difference between the workers' compensation payments and the employee's regular pay at the time of injury.

The superintendent or designee will develop procedures to assure the legal administration of workers' compensation benefits.

## **F. Medical Insurance**

Medical plans are offered in the district on a payroll deduction plan. Staff may select from among those plans which are made available by the district's approval. The district will make a contribution toward approved insurance premiums for each full-time staff member each month in an amount which is determined each year. The district may provide prorated contributions toward premiums for less than full-time staff. In the event of any fully-funded legislative changes for payment of insurance premiums, such funds will be provided automatically as additional contributions.

When a staff member is on leave and the staff member's accumulated paid leave has been exhausted, the district will notify the staff member that the medical insurance benefits are exhausted and the premium is due. The district will accept the premium from the staff member and remit it to the carrier each month during the term of an approved leave of absence.

In compliance with COBRA (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act), the district will offer continuing health care coverage on a self-pay basis to staff members and their dependents following termination (for reasons other than gross misconduct), a reduction in hours, retirement, death, or loss of coverage eligibility to the dependent. These health benefits will be identical to the coverages offered to full-time staff members. For terminated or reduced-hour staff members, the coverage may last up to 18 months or until they become eligible for other health insurance, whichever is earlier. In the event of the staff member's retirement, divorce, separation or death, or loss of dependent eligibility the coverage may last up to 36 months for the staff member and/or qualified beneficiary. The full policy premium plus a 2% administration fee will be paid by the staff member or the beneficiary to the district.

Cross References: Policy 2151  
Policy 5401  
Policy 6500  
Policy 6535  
Policy 6540

Legal References: [RCW 4.24.470](#)

[4.96.010](#)

[28A.320.060](#)

[28A.320.100](#)

[28A.335.010](#)

[28A.400.350](#)

[28A.400.370](#)

[41.50.160](#)

[50.20.050](#)

[50.44.030\(3\)](#)

[50.44.050](#)

[51.32.090](#)

[29 U.S.C. §§ 1161-1168](#)

[Chapter 296-15 WAC](#)

Interscholastic Activities  
Sick Leave  
Risk Management  
Student Insurance  
School District's Responsibility for  
Privately Owned Property  
Liability of officials and members of  
governing body of public agency —  
Definitions  
Tortious conduct of local government  
entities — Liability for damages  
Officers, employees or agents of school  
districts or educational service  
districts, insurance to protect and  
hold personally harmless  
Actions against officers, employees or  
agents of school districts and  
educational service districts —  
Defense, costs, fees — Payment of  
obligation  
School buildings, maintenance,  
furnishing and insuring  
Liability, life, health, health care,  
accident, disability and salary  
insurance authorized — when  
required — Premiums  
Mandatory insurance protection for  
employees  
Restoration of withdrawn contributions  
Disqualification for leaving work  
voluntarily without good cause  
Political subdivisions, instrumentalities  
of this state and other state  
Benefits payable, terms and conditions  
— "Academic year" defined  
Temporary total disability — Partial  
restoration of earning power —  
Return to available work — When  
employer continues wages —  
Limitations  
Consolidated Omnibus Budget  
Reconciliation Act  
Worker's compensation self-insurance  
rules and regulations

Management Resources:

*Policy News*, June 2010

Workers' Compensation

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