Long Term Disability

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company

Special Education District of Lake County SEDOL Plan Benefits
Original Plan Effective Date: July 1, 2024

Explore the coverage that helps you protect your income and your lifestyle.

What is Long-Term Disability Insurance?
Long-Term Disability (LTD) insurance can help replace a portion of your income if you are unable to work for an extended period of time due to a sickness or accidental injury. It helps to provide the day to day peace of mind that comes from knowing that, during the time you would be recovering from a significant event in your life, you may not have to shoulder the additional burden of wondering how you're going to pay for the things that would still have to be paid for.

Why Should I Consider LTD Insurance?
You may have already purchased home, auto and life insurance to protect yourself against the threat of loss. And, you may already have health insurance to protect you against the cost of medical bills. But, have you protected one of your most valuable assets – your ability to work and earn a living?

Nobody ever thinks it will happen to them, but unfortunately, it can. The car accident, the illness, the slip on an icy sidewalk, the fall down steps or off a bike. And, sometimes these events can deprive you of one of your most important and valuable assets—your ability to earn an income. A disability absence from work can potentially last for several years. That's a long time to survive without a steady income. While some people may be able to survive without working for a few months by tapping into their savings, what happens after that? Would you be able to meet your financial obligations if you became disabled and were unable to work for an extended period? Recent statistics have shown:

More than half of Americans (or 51 percent) have less than three months' worth of expenses covered in an emergency fund. [1] More than one in four of today's 20-year-olds can expect to be out of work for at least a year because of a disabling condition before they reach the normal retirement age.[2]

Your employer recognizes the need for you to protect your ability to earn an income and is offering you the opportunity to enroll in Long Term Disability insurance coverage from MetLife. The plan is being made available to you with the convenience of payroll deduction so you don't have to worry about mailing monthly payments.

Eligibility Requirements

Long Term Disability:
All Active Full Time Employees working at least 21 hours per week are eligible to participate.

How is "Disability" defined under the Plan?

Generally, you are considered disabled and eligible for long term benefits if, due to sickness, pregnancy or accidental injury, you are receiving appropriate care and treatment and are complying with the requirements of the treatment and you are unable to earn more than 80% of your predisability earnings at your own occupation for any employer in your national economy, and you are unable to perform each of the material duties of your own occupation.

Following the Own Occupation period,you are considered disabled if, due to sickness, pregnancy or accidental injury, you are receiving appropriate care and treatment and complying with the requirements of treatment and you are unable to earn 80%of your predisability earnings for any employer and you are unable to perform the duties of any gainful occupation for which you are reasonably qualified taking into account your training, education and experience.

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For a complete description of this and other requirements that must be met, refer to the Certificate of Insurance/Summary Plan Description provided by your Employer or contact your MetLife benefits administrator with any questions

What is the benefit amount?

Long Term Disability:

The Long Term Disability benefit replaces a portion of your predisability monthly earnings, less other income you may receive from other sources[1] during the same Disability (e.g., Social Security, Workers' Compensation, vacation pay etc.).

The Benefit amount is 60% of your predisability monthly earnings.

What is the maximum monthly benefit?

The amount of Long Term Disability benefit may not exceed the maximum monthly benefit established under the plan, regardless of your annual salary amount. The maximum under this plan is $5,000.

If I do not enroll during my group's initial open enrollment period can I still purchase coverage at a later date?

Yes, employees who do not elect coverage during the initial 31-day open enrollment period may still elect coverage at future enrollments. You may be required to submit a Statement of Health or meet certain pre-existing condition limitations.

When do benefits begin and how long do they continue?

Benefits begin after the end of the elimination period. The elimination period begins on the day you become disabled and is the length of time you must wait while being disabled before you are eligible to receive a benefit. Your elimination period for Long Term Disability is 180 days.

Your plan's maximum benefit period and any specific limitations are described in the Certificate of Insurance/Summary Plan Description provided by your Employer , or contact your MetLife benefits administrator with any questions

Additional Disability Plan Benefits:

Coverage with Your Best Interests in Mind…

When you are ill or injured for a long time, MetLife® believes you need more than a supplement to your income. That's why we offer return-to-work services and financial incentives and assistance in obtaining Social Security Disability Benefits to help you get the maximum benefits from your coverage.

Services to Help You Get Back to Work Can Include:

Nurse Consultant or Case Manager Services:

Specialists who personally contact you, your physician and your employer to coordinate an early return-to-work plan when appropriate.

Vocational Analysis:

Help with identifying job requirements and determining how your skills can be applied to a new or modified job with your employer.

Job Modifications:

Adjustments (e.g., redesign of work station tools) that enable you to return to work.

Retraining:

Development programs to help you return to your previous job or educate you for a new one.

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Financial Incentives:
Allow employees to receive Disability benefits or partial benefits while attempting to return to work.

The Services of Social Security Specialists:
Once you are approved for Disability benefits, Metlife can help you obtain Social Security Disability benefits. Our specialists can guide you through the initial application and appeals processes and may also help you access legal assistance from attorneys or vendors to pursue Social Security benefits.

What is the Monthly premium?

1. To determine your premium, refer to the chart below that shows the rates for all ages per $100 of covered salary
2. Select the age banded rate that applies to you

Premiums Rates for LTD								
Monthly Benefit	**Employee's Age**							
	Under 30	**30-39**	**40-44**	**45-49**	**50-54**	**55-59**	**60-64**	**65+**
60%	0.028	0.094	0.137	0.194	0.265	0.317	0.317	0.289

3. Complete the following premium calculation worksheet

Monthly Premium Calculation Worksheet:	
A. Annual Earnings = ***PLEASE NOTE:*** *If your annual earnings exceed $100,000 the premium is based on $100,000 due to the maximum benefit cap. Use $100,000 in this calculation.*	$
B. monthly Earnings = (*A divided by 12*)	$
C. Your monthly Earnings divided by 100 = (B *divided by 100*)	$
D. Estimated monthly Premium you will pay = (*C multiplied by the applicable age-banded rate*)	$

Premiums are based on your current age as of the effective date of coverage. At each policy anniversary, future costs will change as your age increases. Due to rounding, your actual payroll deducted premium amount may vary slightly.

Answers to Some Important Questions…

Q. Are my benefits taxable?

A. If you pay your premiums with after tax-dollars, your benefit in the event of disability would be tax free. Taxation of benefits can occur if all or a portion of the benefit is paid for with pre-tax contributions.3

Q. Can I return to work part-time and still receive a benefit?

A. Yes. As long as you are disabled and meet the terms of your disability plan, you may qualify for adjusted disability benefits.

Your plan offers financial incentives designed to help you to return to work when appropriate, even on a part-time basis. While disabled, you may receive up to 100% of your predisability earnings for 12 months when combining benefits, While disabled, you may receive up to 100% of your predisability earnings when combining benefits, Rehabilitation Incentives and other income sources such as Social Security Disability Benefits and state disability benefits, and part-time earnings. other income sources such as Social Security Disability Benefits and state disability benefits, and part-time earnings.

With the Rehabilitation Incentive you can get a 10% increase in your monthly benefit.

The Family Care Incentive provides reimbursement up to $400 per month for eligible expenses, such as child care, during the first 12 months of disability.

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You may be eligible for the Moving Expense Incentive if you incur expenses in order to move to a new residence recommended as part of the Rehabilitation Program. Expenses must be approved in advance.

Q. Are there any exclusions for pre-existing conditions?

A. Yes. Your plan may not cover a sickness or accidental injury that arose in the months prior to your participation in the plan. A complete description of the pre-existing condition exclusion is included in the Certificate of Insurance/Summary Plan Description provided by your Employer.

Q. Can my benefits be reduced?

A. Yes. Your monthly LTD benefit will be reduced by other income you receive or are eligible to receive, such as:

- Workers' Compensation benefits
- Social Security Disability or Retirement benefits
- State or public employee retirement or disability plan benefits
- Third Party Liability payments (minus attorney fees)
- Sick pay
- Salary continuation, vacation pay
- Return to work earnings as outlined in your Certificate

If the total of the other income you receive or are eligible to receive exceeds your LTD monthly benefits, you may still be eligible for a minimum benefit of $100. Please review your Certificate of Insurance/Summary Plan Description for specific details or contact your benefits administrator with any questions.

Q. Are there any exclusions to my coverage?

A. Yes. Your plan does not cover any Disability which results from or is caused or contributed to by:

War, whether declared or undeclared, or act of war, insurrection, rebellion, or terrorist act;
Active participation in a riot;
Intentionally self-inflicted injury or attempted suicide;
Commission of or attempt to commit a felony.

For Long Term Disability, limited benefits apply for specific conditions, such as, mental or nervous disorders or diseases, alcohol, drug, or substance abuse or addiction, neuromuscular, musculoskeletal or soft tissue disorders and chronic fatigue syndrome and related conditions.

Other limitations or exclusions to your coverage may apply. Please review your Certificate of Insurance provided by your Employer for specific details or contact your benefits administrator with any questions.

1. Bankrate July 2021 Emergency Savings Survey, https://www.bankrate.com/banking/savings/emergency-savings-survey-july-2021/
2. Social Security Fact Sheet, https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityfacts/materials/pdf/factsheet.pdf, January 2018
3 Pursuant to IRS Circular 230, MetLife is providing you with the following notification: The information contained in this document is not intended to (and cannot) be used by anyone to avoid IRS penalties. This document supports the promotion and marketing of insurance products. You should seek advice based on your particular circumstances from an independent tax advisor.

The "Plan Benefits" provides only a brief overview of the LTD plan. A more complete description of the benefits provisions, conditions, limitations, and exclusions will be included in the Certificate of Insurance. If any discrepancies exist between this information and the legal plan documents, the legal plan documents will govern.

Long Term Disability ("LTD") coverage is provided under a group insurance policy (Form GPNP99, GPNP15-2T, GPNP15-3T or G.2130-S) issued to your employer by MetLife. Like most group insurance policies, MetLife group policies contain certain exclusions, elimination periods, reductions, limitations and terms for keeping them in force. State variations may apply.

[1] Under certain circumstances, MetLife may estimate the amount of income you may receive from other sources.

MetLife, its agents, and representatives may not give legal or tax advice. Any discussion of taxes herein or related to this document is for general information purposes only and does not purport to be complete or cover every situation. Tax law is subject to interpretation and legislative change. Tax results and the appropriateness of any product for any specific taxpayer may vary depending on the facts and circumstances. You should consult with and rely on your own independent legal and tax advisers regarding your particular set of facts and circumstances. Like most insurance policies, insurance policies offered by MetLife and its affiliates contain certain exclusions, exceptions, waiting periods, reductions, limitations, and terms for keeping them in force. Please contact MetLife or your plan administrator for complete details.

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