

ARTICLE XXV

Health/Dental/Vision Insurance Benefits

Health, dental, and vision insurance coverage is available through the District. The District shall make contributions, as approved each year, on behalf of an employee whose assignment is fifteen (15) or more hours per week on a regular continuous basis and enrolled in the health/dental/vision insurance program. The employee may enroll for coverage during his/her first month of employment or during the first month he/she qualifies for coverage. Upon resignation from the District, an employee's health/dental/vision insurance will terminate at the end of the month during which the employee's resignation was effective, unless the resignation is in lieu of Education Code 44929.21 or when the employee worked the entire school year, and chooses to resign effective the end of the school year, the employee shall maintain health benefits for two (2) additional months. Open enrollment shall be during the last two (2) months of each enrollment year.

The District shall notify all employees, prior to the open enrollment period, of all changes in the health/dental/vision insurance coverage and costs offered by the District.

Employees on an unpaid leave of absence of more than one (1) pay period may continue to participate in the District health and dental programs, subject to the carrier's rules and regulations, by remitting in advance the total remaining cost of such benefit program for the period of the unpaid leave.

When an employee retires after fifteen (15) or more years of service in the District at age 55 or over, the District shall pay fifty percent (50%) health insurance coverage for retiree and dependents up to age sixty-five (65). Employees retiring prior to July 1, 1996, shall have ten (10) or more years of service in the District in order to qualify for the fifty percent (50%) health insurance coverage for retiree and dependents up to age sixty-five (65). The age referred to herein applies to the age of the retiree. Any employee who retires after June 30, 2006, under the provisions of this article, may not also participate in the health insurance coverage for retirees and dependents delineated in Article XXIII—Early Retirement.

Health benefits for survivors of a bargaining unit member who had been with the District for a minimum of five (5) years and who had health benefits shall be provided by the District at the rate of one (1) month for each three (3) years of service, limited to a maximum of six (6) months.

Effective January 1, 2005, the District will offer the option for employees to enroll dependents in Delta Dental (including orthodontia for children only) with the premium costs paid by the employee.

The president of the Hacienda La Puente Teachers Association will appoint members to serve on the District Insurance Committee. The number of voting representatives on the committee from each employee group will be in proportion to the percentage of that employee group's benefit eligible members. Release-time will be provided for committee meetings. The District Insurance Committee shall:

- Review utilization data
- Monitor the benefits plans and their cost
- Be responsible for the communication and dissemination of health benefit information to district benefit-eligible employees

- Recommend to the Board of Education the health, dental and vision plans for all benefit-eligible employees.

Effective July 1, ~~2014~~ **2023**, the district's contribution toward health/dental/vision benefits offered by the district for eligible employees shall be increased by ~~\$900~~ **\$1,000** bringing the district's annual contribution to a total of ~~\$11,900~~ **\$12,900**.

If during any year the cost of the HLPTA health/dental/vision coverage is less than the total district and employee/retiree contributions, the excess amount will remain in the insurance fund to absorb future health plan costs and/or reduce future employee/retiree contributions. If during any year the cost of HLPTA health/dental/vision coverage exceeds the total of the District's contribution and the balance in the insurance fund account, the amount of any shortfall will be paid by the employee/retiree. *(The parties agree that at the time of the ratification of this Contract, this language is not in practice, but the language remains until successor language can be negotiated.)*

After the first two years of joining Riverside Employer/Employee Partnership for Benefits (REEP), the District and HLPTA will negotiate how any future equity surplus or deficit funds generated by the HLPTA bargaining unit shall be used.

~~*The district and HLPTA have agreed through a separate Memorandum of Understanding to explore the impact of the Affordable Care Act Excise Tax ("Cadillac Tax") and a two-tiered rate structure and to begin to capture unexpended health and welfare funds in 2016-2017.*~~