

SIMI EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION / CTA / NEA JANUARY 8, 2016
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SEA WAVES

As We Begin 2016...

Health Benefits — Important PPO Plan Information!

January 1st begins the new medical year including new deductibles for the Anthem Blue Cross PPO plan (the HMO and Kaiser plans do not have yearly deductibles). Also, the PPO network under our health provider ASCIP, has implemented Blue Distinction Center+ for knee, hip and spine surgeries.

ASCIP, along with other PPO networks in the state, have evaluated orthopedic surgery groups and hospitals based on several factors: the expertise of the medical team; the amount of times the surgery has been performed at the hospital; and the hospital's track record for successful procedures. The Blue Distinction+ hospitals represent quality and reasonable cost.

As a result of this change, you will need to find out which surgery groups and hospitals are covered for these procedures in your area by consulting the website provider.bcbs.com, or you can call the Member Services phone number on the back of your insurance card for more information.

Another resource for District PPO plan users is an advocacy program call Compass. This program helps you navigate through the health care system for finding doctors, resolving billing problems, and understanding your insurance benefits. When you call and register for your Compass Health Care Consultant at 800-513-1667, you will qualify for a \$25 visa gift card.

Retirement Deadlines

January 15th is the deadline to receive \$400 per month toward medical insurance, up to 24 months or until Medicare age. Also, all members who submit their retirement papers to the district by February 1st will receive a \$1000 signing bonus on their last district pay check.

IEP Guidelines/ Protocols

Through the ongoing Special Education Round Table meetings between SEA and the District, a set of IEP Guidelines has been developed. Several copies have been provided to your SEA site reps for placement on staff tables for your review. These protocols were developed to address concerns from members who attend IEP meetings. If you have questions, please email SEA and your questions/concerns will be addressed at the Special Education Round Table meetings. The next meeting is February 10th, 3:30 pm, SEA Office. All members, including general and special education teachers, speech therapists and nurses are invited to attend.

Job Share Meeting

Reminder! If you are interested in job sharing for the 2016-2017 school year and have not found a job share partner, there will be a Job Share meeting on Thursday, January 28th, 3:30 pm, in the SEA Office. This will also be a time for questions and answers about how the job share program works.

Aeries

Yes, we are aware that Aeries is a work in progress every year, and that there are problems using the grading program. However, there is an expectation that all classroom instructors will input tests, assignments, projects, etc., on a regular basis for parents to view how their children are performing in each class. It is now part of the contract that all teachers are using Aeries. If you are not using Aeries at all, or feel uneasy about how to use the program, SEA is working with the district to get individual help for those who request it. Please take advantage of this help if you need it. Please email SEA with your request.

