



# PROPOSED RULE MAKING

## CR-102 (December 2017) (Implements RCW 34.05.320)

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FILED

DATE: September 25, 2019

TIME: 12:59 PM

WSR 19-20-040

**Agency:** Health Care Authority School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB) Admin # 2019-02

**Original Notice**

**Supplemental Notice to WSR** \_\_\_\_\_

**Continuance of WSR** \_\_\_\_\_

**Preproposal Statement of Inquiry was filed as WSR** 19-16-142 ; or

**Expedited Rule Making--Proposed notice was filed as WSR** \_\_\_\_\_ ; or

**Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4) or 34.05.330(1); or**

**Proposal is exempt under RCW** \_\_\_\_\_.

**Title of rule and other identifying information:** (describe subject)

**The following sections in Chapter 182-30 WAC are revised:**

182-30-090 When may a subscriber change health plans?

182-30-100 When may a subscriber enroll or revoke an election and make a new election under the premium payment plan, medical flexible spending arrangement (FSA), or dependent care assistance program (DCAP)?

**Hearing location(s):**

Date:	Time:	Location: (be specific)	Comment:
November 5, 2019	10:00 AM	Health Care Authority Cherry Street Plaza <b>Sue Crystal Conf Rm 106A</b> 626 8 <sup>th</sup> Ave, Olympia WA 98504	Metered public parking is available street side around building. A map is available at: <a href="https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/program/Driving-parking-checkin-instructions.pdf">https://www.hca.wa.gov/assets/program/Driving-parking-checkin-instructions.pdf</a> or directions can be obtained by calling: (360) 725-1000

**Date of intended adoption:** Not sooner than November 6, 2019 (Note: This is **NOT** the **effective** date)

**Submit written comments to:**

Name: HCA Rules Coordinator

Address: PO Box 42716, Olympia WA 98504-2716

Email: [arc@hca.wa.gov](mailto:arc@hca.wa.gov)

Fax: (360) 586-9727

Other:

By (date) November 5, 2019

**Assistance for persons with disabilities:**

Contact Amber Lougheed

Phone: (360) 725-1349

Fax: (360) 586-9727

TTY: Telecommunication Relay Services (TRS): 711

Email: [amber.lougheed@hca.wa.gov](mailto:amber.lougheed@hca.wa.gov)

Other:

By (date) October 22, 2019

**Purpose of the proposal and its anticipated effects, including any changes in existing rules:** The Health Care Authority (HCA) continues to develop rules to implement legislation that created the new school employees' benefits board (SEBB) program. The purpose of this proposal is to amend some of the Special Open Enrollment (SOE) rules.

**Making technical amendments to:**

- Amended WAC 182-30-090 to add a SOE that allows a subscriber who is changing employment from a SEBB Organization to a school district that straddles county lines or is in a county that borders Idaho or

Oregon to be able to make new elections. Also added another SOE that states if the subscriber's current health plan becomes unavailable due to the subscriber's or a subscriber's dependent's entitlement to Medicare, the subscriber must select a new health plan;

- Amended WAC 182-30-100 to add a new SOE that allows a subscriber who is changing employment from a SEBB Organization to a school district that straddles county lines or is in a county that borders Idaho or Oregon they may be able to make new elections.

**Reasons supporting proposal:** See purpose statement

**Statutory authority for adoption:** RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160

**Statute being implemented:** ESSB 6241

**Is rule necessary because of a:**

Federal Law?  Yes  No  
 Federal Court Decision?  Yes  No  
 State Court Decision?  Yes  No

If yes, CITATION:

**Agency comments or recommendations, if any, as to statutory language, implementation, enforcement, and fiscal matters:** N/A

**Name of proponent:** (person or organization) Health Care Authority  Private  
 Public  
 Governmental

**Name of agency personnel responsible for:**

	Name	Office Location	Phone
Drafting:	Rob Parkman	PO Box 42716, Olympia WA 98504-2716	360-725-0883
Implementation:	Barbara Scott	PO Box 42716, Olympia WA 98504-2716	360-725-0880
Enforcement:	Scott Palafox	PO Box 42716, Olympia WA 98504-2716	360-725-1858

**Is a school district fiscal impact statement required under RCW 28A.305.135?**  Yes  No

If yes, insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the school district fiscal impact statement by contacting:

Name:  
 Address:  
 Phone:  
 Fax:  
 TTY:  
 Email:  
 Other:

**Is a cost-benefit analysis required under RCW 34.05.328?**

Yes: A preliminary cost-benefit analysis may be obtained by contacting:

Name:  
 Address:  
 Phone:

Fax:  
TTY:  
Email:  
Other:

No: Please explain: RCW 34.05.328 does not apply to Health Care Authority rules unless requested by the Joint Administrative Rules Review Committee or applied voluntarily.

**Regulatory Fairness Act Cost Considerations for a Small Business Economic Impact Statement:**

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, **may be exempt** from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act (see chapter 19.85 RCW). Please check the box for any applicable exemption(s):

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.061 because this rule making is being adopted solely to conform and/or comply with federal statute or regulations. Please cite the specific federal statute or regulation this rule is being adopted to conform or comply with, and describe the consequences to the state if the rule is not adopted.

Citation and description:

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt because the agency has completed the pilot rule process defined by RCW 34.05.313 before filing the notice of this proposed rule.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under the provisions of RCW 15.65.570(2) because it was adopted by a referendum.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(3). Check all that apply:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(b)<br>(Internal government operations) | <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(e)<br>(Dictated by statute)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(c)<br>(Incorporation by reference)     | <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(f)<br>(Set or adjust fees)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(d)<br>(Correct or clarify language)    | <input type="checkbox"/> RCW 34.05.310 (4)(g)<br>((i) Relating to agency hearings; or (ii) process requirements for applying to an agency for a license or permit) |

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt under RCW \_\_\_\_\_.

Explanation of exemptions, if necessary:

**COMPLETE THIS SECTION ONLY IF NO EXEMPTION APPLIES**

If the proposed rule is **not exempt**, does it impose more-than-minor costs (as defined by RCW 19.85.020(2)) on businesses?

No Briefly summarize the agency's analysis showing how costs were calculated. These rules do not apply to small businesses.

Yes Calculations show the rule proposal likely imposes more-than-minor cost to businesses, and a small business economic impact statement is required. Insert statement here:

The public may obtain a copy of the small business economic impact statement or the detailed cost calculations by contacting:

Name:  
Address:  
Phone:  
Fax:  
TTY:  
Email:  
Other:

**Date:** September 25, 2019

**Name:** Wendy Barcus

**Title:** HCA Rules Coordinator

**Signature:**



**WAC 182-30-090 When may a subscriber change health plans?** A subscriber may change health plans at the following times:

(1) **During the annual open enrollment:** A subscriber may change health plans during the school employees benefits board (SEBB) annual open enrollment period. The subscriber must submit the required enrollment forms to change their health plan. A school employee submits the enrollment forms to their SEBB organization. A subscriber on continuation coverage submits the enrollment forms to the SEBB program. The required enrollment forms must be received no later than the last day of the annual open enrollment. Enrollment in the new health plan will begin January 1st of the following year.

(2) **During a special open enrollment:** A subscriber may revoke their health plan election and make a new election outside of the annual open enrollment if a special open enrollment event occurs. A special open enrollment event must be an event other than an employee gaining initial eligibility for SEBB benefits. The change in enrollment must be allowable under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) and Treasury regulations, and correspond to and be consistent with the event that creates the special open enrollment for the subscriber, the subscriber's dependent, or both. To make a health plan change, the subscriber must submit the required enrollment forms. The forms must be received no later than sixty days after the event occurs. A school employee submits the enrollment forms to their SEBB organization. A subscriber on continuation coverage submits the enrollment forms to the SEBB program. In addition to the required forms, a subscriber must provide evidence of the event that created the special open enrollment. New health plan coverage will begin the first day of the month following the later of the event date or the date the form is received. If that day is the first of the month, the change in enrollment begins on that day. If the special open enrollment is due to the birth, adoption, or assumption of legal obligation for total or partial support in anticipation of adoption of a child, health plan coverage will begin the month in which the birth, adoption, or assumption of legal obligation for total or partial support in anticipation of adoption occurs. Any one of the following events may create a special open enrollment:

(a) Subscriber acquires a new dependent due to:

(i) Marriage or registering a state registered domestic partnership;

(ii) Birth, adoption, or when the subscriber has assumed a legal obligation for total or partial support in anticipation of adoption; or

(iii) A child becoming eligible as an extended dependent through legal custody or legal guardianship.

(b) Subscriber or a subscriber's dependent loses other coverage under a group health plan or through health insurance coverage, as defined by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA);

(c) Subscriber has a change in employment status that affects the subscriber's eligibility for the employer contribution toward their employer-based group health plan;

(d) Subscriber has a change in employment from a SEBB organization to a public school that straddles county lines or is in a county that borders Idaho or Oregon, which results in the subscriber having

different medical plans available. The subscriber may change their election if the change in employment causes:

(i) The subscriber's current medical plan to no longer be available, in this case the subscriber may select from any available medical plan; or

(ii) The subscriber has one or more new medical plans available, in this case the subscriber may select to enroll in a newly available plan.

(iii) As used in this subsection the term "public school" shall be interpreted to not include charter schools and educational service districts.

(e) The subscriber's dependent has a change in their own employment status that affects their eligibility for the employer contribution under their employer-based group health plan;

**Note:** As used in (d) of this subsection special open enrollment "employer contribution" means contributions made by the dependent's current or former employer toward health coverage as described in Treasury Regulation 26 C.F.R. 54.9801-6.

~~((e))~~ (f) Subscriber or a subscriber's dependent has a change in residence that affects health plan availability. If the subscriber moves and the subscriber's current health plan is not available in the new location the subscriber must select a new health plan, otherwise there will be limited network providers and covered services;

**Exception:** A dental plan is considered available if a provider is available within 50 miles of the new address.

~~((f))~~ (g) A court order requires the subscriber or any other individual to provide insurance coverage for an eligible dependent of the subscriber (a former spouse or former state registered domestic partner is not an eligible dependent);

~~((g))~~ (h) Subscriber or a subscriber's dependent becomes entitled to coverage under medicaid or a state children's health insurance program (CHIP), or the subscriber or a subscriber's dependent loses eligibility for coverage under medicaid or CHIP;

~~((h))~~ (i) Subscriber or a subscriber's dependent becomes eligible for state premium assistance subsidy for SEBB health plan coverage from medicaid or CHIP;

~~((i))~~ (j) Subscriber or a subscriber's dependent becomes entitled to coverage under medicare, or the subscriber or a subscriber's dependent loses eligibility for coverage under medicare. If the subscriber's current health plan becomes unavailable due to the subscriber's or a subscriber's dependent's entitlement to medicare, the subscriber must select a new health plan as described in WAC 182-30-085(1);

(k) Subscriber or a subscriber's dependent's current health plan becomes unavailable because the subscriber or enrolled dependent is no longer eligible for a health savings account (HSA). The authority may require evidence that the subscriber or subscriber's dependent is no longer eligible for an HSA;

~~((j))~~ (l) Subscriber or a subscriber's dependent experiences a disruption of care for active and ongoing treatment that could function as a reduction in benefits for the subscriber or the subscriber's dependent. The subscriber may not change their health plan election if the subscriber's or dependent's physician stops participation with the subscriber's health plan unless the SEBB program determines that a continuity of care issue exists. The SEBB program will consider but not limit its consideration to the following:

(i) Active cancer treatment such as chemotherapy or radiation therapy;

(ii) Treatment following a recent organ transplant;

- (iii) A scheduled surgery;
- (iv) Recent major surgery still within the postoperative period;

or

- (v) Treatment for a high-risk pregnancy.

(3) If the school employee is having premiums taken from payroll on a pretax basis, a health plan change will not be approved if it would conflict with provisions of the salary reduction plan authorized under RCW 41.05.300.

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 19-14-093, filed 7/1/19, effective 8/1/19)

**WAC 182-30-100 When may a school employee enroll or revoke an election and make a new election under the premium payment plan, medical flexible spending arrangement (FSA), or dependent care assistance program (DCAP)?** A school employee who is eligible to participate in the salary reduction plan as described in WAC 182-31-060 may enroll, or revoke their election and make a new election under the premium payment plan, medical flexible spending arrangement (FSA), or dependent care assistance program (DCAP) at the following times:

(1) When newly eligible under WAC 182-31-040 and enrolling as described in WAC 182-30-080(1).

(2) **During annual open enrollment:** An eligible school employee may elect to enroll in or opt out of participation under the premium payment plan during the annual open enrollment by submitting the required form to their school employees benefits board (SEBB) organization. An eligible school employee may elect to enroll or reenroll in the medical FSA, DCAP, or both during the annual open enrollment by submitting the required forms to their SEBB organization, the HCA or applicable contracted vendor as instructed. All required forms must be received no later than the last day of the annual open enrollment. The enrollment or new election becomes effective January 1st of the following year.

**Note:** School employees enrolled in a high deductible health plan (HDHP) with a health savings account (HSA) cannot also enroll in a medical FSA in the same plan year. School employees who elect both will only be enrolled in the HDHP with a HSA.

(3) **During a special open enrollment:** A school employee who is eligible to participate in the salary reduction plan may enroll or revoke their election and make a new election under the premium payment plan, medical FSA, or DCAP outside of the annual open enrollment if a special open enrollment event occurs. The enrollment or change in election must be allowable under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) and Treasury regulations, and correspond to and be consistent with the event that creates the special open enrollment. To make a change or enroll, the school employee must submit the required form to their SEBB organization. The SEBB organization must receive the required form and evidence of the event that created the special open enrollment no later than sixty days after the event occurs.

For purposes of this section, an eligible dependent includes any person who qualifies as a dependent of the school employee for tax purposes under IRC 26 U.S.C. Sec. 152 without regard to the income limitations of that section. It does not include a state registered domestic partner unless the state registered domestic partner otherwise qualifies as a dependent for tax purposes under IRC 26 U.S.C. Sec. 152.

(a) **Premium payment plan.** A school employee may enroll or revoke their election and elect to opt out of the premium payment plan when any of the following special open enrollment events occur, if the requested change corresponds to and is consistent with the event. The enrollment or election to opt out will be effective the first day of the month following the later of the event date or the date the required form is received. If that day is the first of the month, the enrollment or change in election begins on that day. If the special open enrollment is due to the birth, adoption, or assumption of legal obligation for total or partial support in anticipation of adoption of a child, the enrollment or change in election will begin the first of the month in which the event occurs.

(i) School employee acquires a new dependent due to:

- Marriage;
- Registering a state registered domestic partnership when the dependent is a tax dependent of the school employee;
- Birth, adoption, or when the school employee has assumed a legal obligation for total or partial support in anticipation of adoption; or
- A child becoming eligible as an extended dependent through legal custody or legal guardianship.

(ii) School employee's dependent no longer meets SEBB eligibility criteria because:

- School employee has a change in marital status;
- School employee's domestic partnership with a state registered domestic partner who is a tax dependent is dissolved or terminated;
- An eligible dependent child turns age twenty-six or otherwise does not meet dependent child eligibility criteria;
- An eligible dependent ceases to be eligible as an extended dependent or as a dependent with a disability; or
- An eligible dependent dies.

(iii) School employee or a school employee's dependent loses other coverage under a group health plan or through health insurance coverage, as defined by Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA);

(iv) School employee has a change in employment status that affects the school employee's eligibility for their employer contribution toward their employer-based group health plan;

(v) The school employee's dependent has a change in their own employment status that affects their eligibility for the employer contribution toward their employer-based group health plan;

**Exception:** For the purposes of special open enrollment, "employer contribution" means contributions made by the dependent's current or former employer toward health coverage as described in Treasury Regulation 26 C.F.R. 54.9801-6.

(vi) School employee or a school employee's dependent has a change in enrollment under an employer-based group health plan during its annual open enrollment that does not align with the SEBB annual open enrollment;

(vii) School employee or a school employee's dependent has a change in residence that affects health plan availability;

(viii) School employee's dependent has a change in residence from outside of the United States to within the United States, or from within the United States to outside of the United States, and that change in residence resulted in the dependent losing their health insurance;

(ix) A court order requires the school employee or any other individual to provide insurance coverage for an eligible dependent of

the school employee (a former spouse or former state registered domestic partner is not an eligible dependent);

(x) School employee or a school employee's dependent becomes entitled to coverage under medicaid or a state children's health insurance program (CHIP), or the school employee or a school employee's dependent loses eligibility for coverage under medicaid or CHIP;

(xi) School employee or a school employee's dependent becomes eligible for state premium assistance subsidy for SEBB health plan coverage from medicaid or CHIP;

(xii) School employee or a school employee's dependent becomes entitled to coverage under medicare or the school employee or a school employee's dependent loses eligibility for coverage under medicare;

(xiii) School employee or a school employee's dependent's current health plan becomes unavailable because the school employee or enrolled dependent is no longer eligible for a HSA. The HCA may require evidence that the school employee or a school employee's dependent is no longer eligible for a HSA;

(xiv) School employee or a school employee's dependent experiences a disruption of care for active and ongoing treatment, that could function as a reduction in benefits for the school employee or a school employee's dependent. The school employee may not change their health plan election if the school employee's or dependent's physician stops participation with the school employee's health plan unless the SEBB program determines that a continuity of care issue exists. The SEBB program will consider but not limit its consideration to the following:

- Active cancer treatment such as chemotherapy or radiation therapy;
- Treatment following a recent organ transplant;
- A scheduled surgery;
- Recent major surgery still within the postoperative period; or
- Treatment for a high-risk pregnancy.

(xv) School employee or school employee's dependent becomes eligible and enrolls in a TRICARE plan, or loses eligibility for a TRICARE plan.

(xvi) Subscriber has a change in employment from a SEBB organization to a public school that straddles county lines or is in a county that borders Idaho or Oregon, which results in the subscriber having different medical plans available. The subscriber may change their election if the change in employment causes:

• The subscriber's current medical plan to no longer be available, in this case the subscriber may select from any available medical plan; or

• The subscriber has one or more new medical plans available, in this case the subscriber may select to enroll in a newly available plan.

• As used in this subsection the term "public school" shall be interpreted to not include charter schools and educational service districts.

If the subscriber is having premiums taken from payroll on a pre-tax basis, a plan change will not be approved if it would conflict with provisions of the salary reduction plan authorized under RCW 41.05.300.

(b) **Medical FSA.** A school employee may enroll or revoke their election and make a new election under the medical FSA when any one of the following special open enrollment events occur, if the requested change corresponds to and is consistent with the event. The enrollment



or new election will be effective the first day of the month following the later of the event date or the date the required form and evidence of the event that created the special open enrollment is received by the SEBB organization. If that day is the first of the month, the enrollment or change in election begins on that day. If the special open enrollment is due to the birth, adoption, or assumption of legal obligation for total or partial support in anticipation of adoption of a child, the enrollment or change in election will begin the first of the month in which the event occurs.

(i) School employee acquires a new dependent due to:

- Marriage;
- Registering a state registered domestic partnership when the dependent is a tax dependent of the school employee;
- Birth, adoption, or when the school employee has assumed a legal obligation for total or partial support in anticipation of adoption; or
- A child becoming eligible as an extended dependent through legal custody or legal guardianship.

(ii) School employee's dependent no longer meets SEBB eligibility criteria because:

- School employee has a change in marital status;
- School employee's domestic partnership with a state registered domestic partner who qualifies as a tax dependent is dissolved or terminated;
- An eligible dependent child turns age twenty-six or otherwise does not meet dependent child eligibility criteria;
- An eligible dependent ceases to be eligible as an extended dependent or as a dependent with a disability; or
- An eligible dependent dies.

(iii) School employee or a school employee's dependent loses other coverage under a group health plan or through health insurance coverage, as defined by HIPAA;

(iv) School employee or a school employee's dependent has a change in employment status that affects the school employee's or a dependent's eligibility for the medical FSA;

(v) A court order requires the school employee or any other individual to provide insurance coverage for an eligible dependent of the school employee (a former spouse or former state registered domestic partner is not an eligible dependent);

(vi) School employee or a school employee's dependent becomes entitled to coverage under medicaid or CHIP, or the school employee or a school employee's dependent loses eligibility for coverage under medicaid or CHIP;

(vii) School employee or a school employee's dependent becomes entitled to coverage under medicare.

(c) **DCAP.** A school employee may enroll or revoke their election and make a new election under the DCAP when any one of the following special open enrollment events occur, if the requested change corresponds to and is consistent with the event. The enrollment or new election will be effective the first day of the month following the later of the event date or the date the required form and evidence of the event that created the special open enrollment is received by the SEBB organization. If that day is the first of the month, the enrollment or change in election begins on that day. If the special open enrollment is due to the birth, adoption, or assumption of legal obligation for total or partial support in anticipation of adoption of a

child, the enrollment or change in election will begin the first of the month in which the event occurs.

(i) School employee acquires a new dependent due to:

- Marriage;
- Registering a domestic partnership if the state registered domestic partner qualifies as a tax dependent of the school employee;
- Birth, adoption, or when the school employee has assumed a legal obligation for total or partial support in anticipation of adoption; or
- A child becoming eligible as an extended dependent through legal custody or legal guardianship.

(ii) School employee or a school employee's dependent has a change in employment status that affects the school employee's or a dependent's eligibility for DCAP;

(iii) School employee or school employee's dependent has a change in enrollment under an employer-based group health plan during its annual open enrollment that does not align with the SEBB annual open enrollment;

(iv) School employee changes dependent care provider; the change to the DCAP election amount can reflect the cost of the new provider;

(v) School employee or school employee's spouse experiences a change in the number of qualifying individuals as defined in IRC 26 U.S.C. Sec. 21 (b) (1);

(vi) School employee's dependent care provider imposes a change in the cost of dependent care; school employee may make a change in the DCAP election amount to reflect the new cost if the dependent care provider is not a qualifying relative of the school employee as defined in IRC 26 U.S.C. Sec. 152.