Preparing for the End of the School Year

Welcome! Thank you for attending today's webinar The presentation will begin shortly around 10:05 a.m.

- All attendees are muted. Please do not unmute yourself if the program allows you to.
- Please use the "Question" feature to submit a question. Questions will be addressed:
 - During the presentation by topic when appropriate
 - End of the presentation in summary as time allows
 - Questions not addressed will be answered via email, phone, or HCA Support
- We apologize if technical issues keep you from participating
- This webinar is being recorded and will be available on the SEBB BA website 🗀
- Closed Captioning is available click on "Show Captions" at the bottom of your screen @
- Please send all employee related questions or scenarios via HCA Support
- Contact Outreach & Training (O&T) at 1-800-700-1555 for urgent matters

 Health Care Authority







Preparing for the End of the School Year

School Employees Benefits
Outreach & Training
May 30, 2025.

Washington State Health Care Authority

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES BENEFITS BOARD

Agenda

- 1 End of the school year actions
- 5 Approved Leave
- 2 Returning Eligible Employees
- (6) Terminating Coverage
- Employees not returning next school year
- 7 Retiree/Continuation Coverage
- 4 Worked 630th hour in August
- 8 Reminders, Tips & Resources





Actions at the end of each school year

School Year: September 1-August 31

Plan Year: January 1-December 31

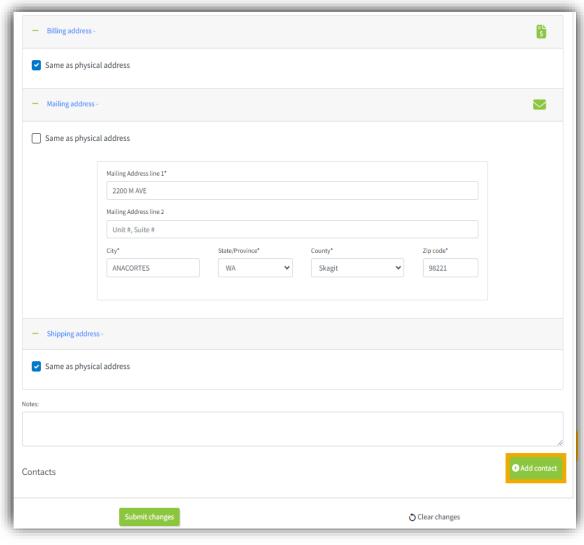
2025 Annual Open Enrollment: October 27 –November 24, 2025



Organization Profile

Add/Update contact information

- Add/Remove contacts
 - Can assign multiple contact types:
 - Benefit Specialist
 - Insurance/Billing
 - LTD
 - Other
 - Payroll
 - Superintendent
- Name, phone # and email address







Managing Admin Access

Send Admin Access request using the HCA Support portal

- For public and school benefits administrators only
 - Benefits administrator inquiry
 - Select SEBB Program
 - Select "Is this inquiry related to the Benefits 24/7 online enrollment system?" YES
 - Add/Remove admin access
 - Admin Information

Welcome to the Washington State Health Care Authority support portal. Please select the option below that best describes you.



I am a resident of Washington State and do not currently work for a state agency. I am making a request on behalf of myself or someone else.

Note: You MUST have (or create) a Secure Access Washington (SAW) account to submit and view responses for HCA Support inquiries.

View login and SAW account instructions



Agency to agency inquiry

I am a(n):

- Active employee of a Washington State agency that uses WaTech's Office 365 managed services.
- PEBB benefits administrator and I am making a request related to my work with HCA.

Note: If you are a SEBB benefits administrator or your agency does not use WaTech's Office 365 managed service, please use the public login.

View login instructions



Managing Admin Access cont.

Managing Administrator access

- Requires Authorizing Security Designee approval
 - Submit Benefits administrator inquiry form
 - Is this inquiry related to the Benefits 24/7 online enrollment system? Yes
 - Add/Remove admin access
- Admin roles are responsible for managing access
 - Can add or remove edit and read only access only
- Notify HCA for incorrect <u>admin email addresses</u> in Benefits 24/7



Benefits Admin inquiry

Send Benefits Admin inquiry using the HCA Support portal

- For public and school benefits administrators only
 - Benefits administrator inquiry
 - Select SEBB Program
 - Select "Is this inquiry related to the Benefits 24/7 online enrollment system?" NO
 - Select 'What does your Benefits 24/7 inquiry relate to?

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Public inquiry

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View login instructions

Benefits Admins should not use the "general support" form!





Returning Eligible Employees

WAC 182-31-040 How do school employees establish eligibility for the employer contribution toward school employees benefits board (SEBB) benefits and when do SEBB benefits begin?



Returning eligible employees

Benefit Elections

- Benefit elections remain the same until the end of the plan year. (December 31, 2025)
 - Plan selections
 - FSA/DCAP contributions
 - No eligibility worksheet required
 - No change in eligibility status
 - Eligible-Eligible

Annual Open Enrollment

- Next Open Enrollment (OE):
 Monday, October 27 –
 Monday, November 24, 2025
- Enrollment changes must be received no later than the last day of open enrollment (November 24, 2025)
- Changes are effective
 January 1 of the following year

Making Changes

- Changes made anytime
 - ✓ Name, address, email and phone#
 - ✓ Enroll, reduce or decline employeepaid LTD (EOI may be required)
 - ✓ Apply, cancel or change supplemental life, AD&D
 - ✓ Submit SOE events
 - ✓ Start, stop, or change HSA contribution
 - ✓ Attest to Tobacco premium surcharge
 - ✓ Remove ineligible dependents (SOE)





Employees not returning next school year

WAC 182-31-050 When does eligibility for the employer contribution for school employees benefits board (SEBB) benefits end?



Employee not returning next school year



Markus is an eligible school employee at Granite Falls SD. He submits his letter of resignation effective August 5.

Employer contribution towards SEBB benefits will end August 31.

- Complete and provide the *C-3 worksheet*
- Terminate employee's coverage no earlier than month of coverage ending (August 1)
 - Coverage will not end automatically at the end of each school year (August 31)
- SEBB Program will mail SEBB Continuation Coverage Election Notice no later than 14 days after coverage has been terminated in Benefits 24/7
 - SEBB Continuation Coverage Election Notice includes enrollment forms
 - Employee can apply for SEBB Continuation Coverage using Benefits 24/7 or mail-in the SEBB Continuation Coverage election/change form Washington State



Health Care Authority

Retiring Employees



Jackson is an eligible employee at Heights SD. He is retiring and submits his letter of resignation effective June 10. He has elected to enroll in PEBB Retiree Insurance coverage effective July 1.

Employer contribution towards SEBB benefits will end June 30.

- Complete and provide the *C-4 worksheet*
- Terminate employee's coverage no earlier than month of coverage ending (June 1)
- SEBB Program will mail the SEBB Continuation Coverage Election Notice no later than 14 days after coverage has been terminated in Benefits 24/7
 - Employee can apply for Continuation Coverage and PEBB Retiree coverage using Benefits 24/7
- Employee may request a PEBB Retiree Enrollment guide
 - Download enrollment guide on the PEBB Retiree website or call 1-800-200-1004 Washington State
- Benefits Admin can order the enrollment guide on the SEBB BA website



Defining Layoff



Change in employment status due to a SEBB organization's lack of funds or organizational change.

- Employee will <u>lose eligibility</u> if:
 - Change in employment status (due to layoff) <u>results in the termination</u> of the <u>employment relationship</u>
- Employee would <u>remain eligible</u> if:
 - Change in employment status <u>does not</u>
 <u>result in the termination</u> of the
 <u>employment relationship</u>, unless change
 in employment status ends earlier than the
 end of the school year



When benefits may end earlier

Employees who have already worked 630 hours in the school year will maintain coverage through the end of the school year (August 31).

 Do not terminate coverage for employees not working during the summer months

Employer contribution may end earlier than the end of the school year if:

f the	then eligibility for the employer contribution wil end on
SEBB organization terminates the employment relationship.	The last day of the month in which the employer-initiated termination notice is effective
School employee terminates the employment relationship.	The last day of the month in which the school employee's resignation is effective.
school employee's work pattern is revised such that the school employee is no longer anticipated to work ix-hundred thirty hours during the school year.	The last day of the month in which the change is effective
School employee returns from approved leave without pay and maintained or established eligibility as Jescribed in WAC 182-31-040 (4)(d), who subsequently has a change in work pattern that, had the work pattern been in effect at the start of the school year, would not have resulted in the school employee being anticipated to work the minimum hours to meet SEBB eligibility for the employer contribution in the school year.	The last day of the month in which the change is effective
Nine-to-ten-month school employee, hired late in the year and eligible for the employer contribution as described in WAC 182-31-040 (4)(c)(i), who subsequently has a change in work pattern such that the school employee is no longer eligible under the criteria described in WAC 182-31-040 (4)(c)(i).	The last day of the month in which the change is effective
Neelve-month school employee, hired late in the year and eligible for the employer contribution as described in WAC 182-31-040 (4)(c)(ii), who subsequently has a change in work pattern such that the school employee is no longer eligible under the criteria described in WAC 182-31-040 (4)(c)(ii).	The last day of the month in which the change is effective
School employee hired later in the year and eligible for the employer contribution as described in WAC 182- 31-040 (4)(c), who is no longer anticipated to work six hundred thirty hours the next school year.	The last day of the month in which the change in the anticipation occurs.



hca.wa.gov/sebb-benefits-admins/eligibility/when-eligibility-benefits-ends

Health Care Authority

Washington State

Laid Off Employees



Tiffany is an eligible school employee at Grandview SD. She received notification of her lay off which will result in the termination of her employment relationship effective April 20.

Employer contribution towards SEBB benefits will end April 30.

- Complete and provide the C-1 worksheet
- Terminate employee's coverage no earlier than month of coverage ending (April 1)
- SEBB Program will mail the SEBB Continuation Coverage Election Notice no later than
 14 days after coverage has been terminated in Benefits 24/7
 - SEBB Continuation Coverage Election Notice includes enrollment forms
 - Employee can apply for SEBB Continuation Coverage using Benefits 24/7 **or** mail-in the SEBB Continuation Coverage election/change form
- Complete and provide D-1 worksheet if employees returns to work





Worked 630th hour in August

Eligible?

Yes, no, yes, no ©



Works 630th Hour in August



Savanah is an employee at Bremerton SD and was anticipated to **only** work 550 hours in the school year but reaches 630 hours worked on August 5.

<u>Anticipated</u> to work 630 hours in the next school year.

- Eligible for benefits effective Sept 1
- Provide eligibility *D-4 worksheet*
- Employee may make new elections during annual OE
 - Changes are effective January 1



Not anticipated to work 630 hours in the next school year

- Does not become eligible for coverage in the new school year
- No eligibility worksheet required
 - No change in eligibility status
 - Ineligible-Ineligible



Health Care Muthority



Works 630th Hour in August cont.



Savanah is an employee at Bremerton SD and was anticipated to **only** work 550 hours in the school year but reaches 630 hours worked on August 5.

Two-year lookback

- Worked the past two school years at least 630 hours per year, and
- Is returning to the same type of position(s) and same SEBB organization
 - Presumed eligible for SEBB benefits on September 1
 - Complete and provide the *D-4 worksheet*

SEBB organization may rebut this by notifying the school employee, in writing, of the specific reasons why the employee is not anticipated to work 630 hours in the next school year.





Approved Leave

WAC 182-31-110 What options are available if a school employee is approved for the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) or the Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) program?



Leaving on Approved Leave- FMLA



Victoria is an eligible school employee at Central SD. She is placed on approved FMLA in August. Her approved leave ends October 16.

Complete and provide the C-1 worksheet

Anticipated to work 630 hours in next school year (2025-2026)

- SEBB Benefits coverage continue uninterrupted with no new elections
 - SEBB organization is responsible for determining FMLA eligibility
 - May continue supplemental life and AD&D, and employee-paid LTD insurance
 - No action required in Benefits 24/7
- Employee may make new elections during next Annual Open Enrollment
 - Changes are effective January 1

Employee-paid LTD waived for the first 90 days (WAC 182-31-110)



Leaving on Approved Leave- FMLA/ PFML



Emma is an eligible school employee at Lakes SD. She is approved for FMLA and PFML in August. Her FMLA lasts until October 30. Her PFML overlaps FMLA for another 4 weeks – ending November 27.

Complete and provide the C-2 worksheet

Goes on approved LWOP.

- As a result, she is not anticipated to work 630 hours this school year
 - Routinely monitor employees work hours to establish eligibility
- Employer contribution towards SEBB benefits will end November 30
 - When approve Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) ends
- Employment Security Department is responsible for determining Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) eligibility

 **Texas AMAC 103, 700, 030, (MAC 103, 31, 110)

 **Texas AMAC 103, 700, 030, (MAC 103, 31, 110)

HOOL EMPLOYEES BENEFITS BOARD

Refer to WAC 192-700-020. (WAC 182-31-110)

Returning from Approve LWOP Rule

A school employee who returns from approved leave without pay will **maintain** or **establish eligibility** for the employer contribution toward SEBB benefits if:

• Their work schedule, had it been in **effect at the start of the school year** (September 1), would have resulted in the school employee being anticipated to work the minimum (630) hours to meet SEBB eligibility for the employer contribution in the school year

A school employee who regains eligibility, **establishes eligibility** for the employer contribution toward SEBB benefits as of the **date they returned from approved leave without pay**.



Returning from Approve LWOP



Harrison lost benefits while going on Approve LWOP on January 1. He is now returning to work on March 15 and will work a **full-time schedule**. He is unlikely to reach 630 hours, however, if his **full-time work schedule**, had it been in effect at the **start of the school year** (September 1), He would regain eligibility for SEBB benefits on the day he returned from Approved LWOP (March 15). He experienced a break in coverage.

• Complete and provide the *D-1 worksheet*

Add eligible employee with date of eligibility of March 15.

- Employee may make new elections no later than 31 days after the date of eligibility
- Coverage effective April 1



Returning from Approve LWOP cont.



Mia lost benefits while going on Approve LWOP on February 5. She is now returning to work on April 17 and has decided to work one day per week. If her new work schedule, had it been in effect at the start of the school year (September 1), she would unlikely be able to work the minimum (630) hours to meet SEBB eligibility in the school year.

Complete and provide the D-1 worksheet

SEBB Organizations should determine how many hours the school employee would have worked if:

- Working 8 hours per week/52 weeks per year (8 X 52= 416 hours)
 - Employee is not eligible for the employer contribution
 - Routinely monitor employees work hours to establish eligibility



How do school employees establish eligibility. (WAC 182-31-040)

D-1 Worksheet

Employee returning from LWOP:

- ✓ Is anticipated to work at least 630 hours in the school year **or**
- ✓ Their work schedule, had it been in effect at the start of the school year, would have resulted in the employee being anticipated to work the minimum hours to meet SEBB eligibility for the employer contribution in the school year or
- ✓ Is returning from active duty

SEBB Benefit Eligibility Washington State Mealth Care Authority 1-1: Employee who lost eligibility for the employer contribution due to leaving work of	a
authorized Leave Without Pay (LWOP), worker's compensation, Paid Family and Med PFML - which is not concurrent with FMLA), layoff that results in employment ending military duty (USERRA), applying for disability retirement or appealing a grievance, as eturning to work.	ical Leave Lactive
imployee Name:	
EBB Organization:	
ate notice provided to employee: - Notice should be provided to the employee within a reasonable time frame as part of the return to work procesemployee is determined to be eligible, they must have no less than ten calendar days after the date of receiving accurates.	
1. Requirements for Maintaining or Regaining Eligibility (VAC R2-31-040 and R2-30-080(3))	
Employee returning from LWOP:	Enter a Y or N
a) Is anticipated to work at least 630 hours in the school year Or. Their work schedule - had it been in effect at the start of the school year - would have resulted in the employee being anticipated to work the minimum hours to meet SEBB eligibility for the employer contribution in the school year. Or. Is returning from active duty. b) Previously lost the employer contribution by no longer being anticipated to work at least 630 hours due to leaving work for at least one of the following reasons: Called to active military duty (USERRA), Authorized Leave Without Pay (LWOP), Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML - which is not concurrent with FMLA), Appealing a grievance (WAC 182-31-120) Applying for a disability retirement, Receiving time-loss benefits under workers' compensation Employment ends due to layoff (as defined in WAC 182-31-020)	y
2. Eligibility Decision	Decision
If you answered "Yes" to all of the requirements in section 1, the employee is eligible for the employer contribution. Continue with section 3.	Yes
If you answered "No" to any of the requirements, the employee is not eligible for the employer contribution. Routinely monitor the employee's eligible hours to determine potential eligibility based on the appropriate B-1 or B-2 worksheet. Skip to section 6.	





Terminating Coverage

WAC 182-31-050 When does eligibility for the employer contribution for school employees benefits board (SEBB) benefits end?



Terminating coverage

When to terminate coverage

- Terminate coverage <u>no earlier than the</u> <u>month of coverage ending</u> for employees:
 - Leaving your SEBB Organization
 - No longer eligible
 - Not eligible the next school year
- Example:
 - Last day: August 10
 - Enter term date: No earlier than August 1
- Provide appropriate C series worksheet

Employees losing eligibility at the end of the school year

- Terminate coverage
 - Before August 12 cut off date to be removed from September billing file
 - Coverage will not end automatically at the end of each school year (August 31)
 - Provide appropriate C series worksheet

Health Care Authority

Employee never eligible



Human Resources (HR) notified the Benefits Office that John Martin was eligible for SEBB Benefits on May 7. Benefits Office entered him into Benefits 24/7. HR then notified the Benefits Office on May 20 that the employee never worked and has accepted a new position at another SEBB Organization.

• Complete and provide the A-1 worksheet

Terminate employee as soon as notified by Human Resources (May 20)

- Complete and provide the A-2 worksheet
- Enter Termination reason "Employee never eligible"
 - Benefit End Date Auto populates with an effective date: June 1
 - No termination date is required
 - Submit changes

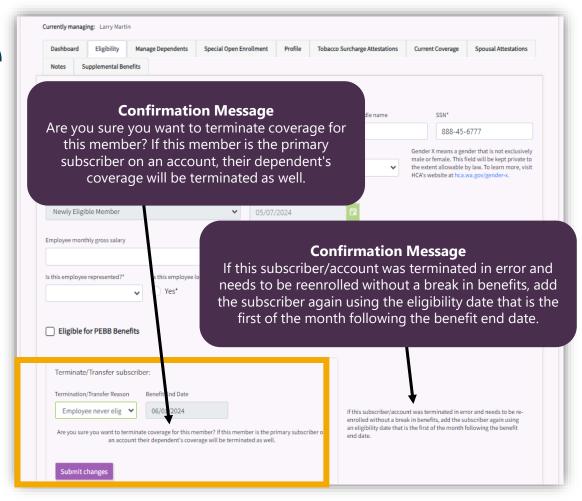


Employee never eligible

Search for subscriber

- Eligibility Tab
 - Terminate/Transfer subscriber field
 - Enter Termination reason
 - Benefit End Date Auto populates
 - Submit changes

Send O&T secure message using HCA Support to correct any errors with termination dates.







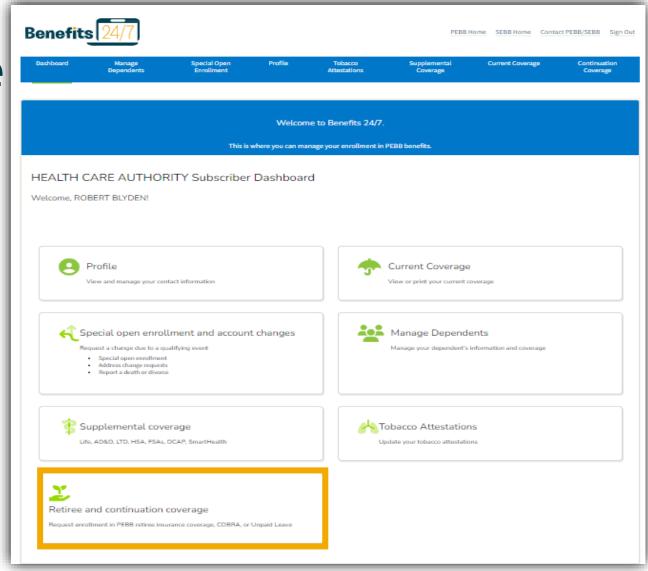
PEBB Retiree and Continuation Coverage



Requesting Retiree/ Continuation Coverage

Subscriber Dashboard

- Profile & current coverage
- SOE and account changes
- Manage dependents
- Supplemental coverage
- Tobacco Attestation
- Retiree and continuation coverage
 - Request enrollment in PEBB Retiree Insurance coverage, COBRA or Unpaid Leave continuation coverage





Retiree/Continuation coverage Inquiry

Retirees and continuation coverage subscribers can send request.

- Select "For public and school retiree/continuation coverage"
 - Select Retiree and continuation coverage
 - Accounting, Appeals,
 Add/Remove dependent,
 medical/dental plan changes,
 eligibility and enrollment
 - Select Benefits appeal request

Welcome to the Washington State Health Care Authority support portal. Please select the option below that best describes you.



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Note: You MUST have (or create) a Secure Access Washington (SAW) account to submit and view responses for HCA Support inquiries.

View login and SAW account instructions



Agency to agency inquiry

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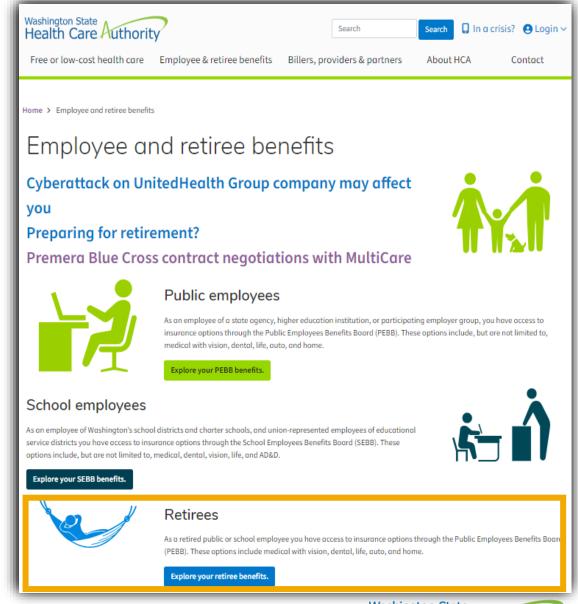
View login instructions



PEBB Retiree Health Insurance Webinars

Outreach and Training (O&T) is offering online PEBB Retiree Insurance webinars.

- Employees can register on the HCA Retiree website
- Access or print the 2025
 PEBB Retiree Enrollment
 Guide
 - Contact PEBB Customer
 Service at 1-800-200 1004







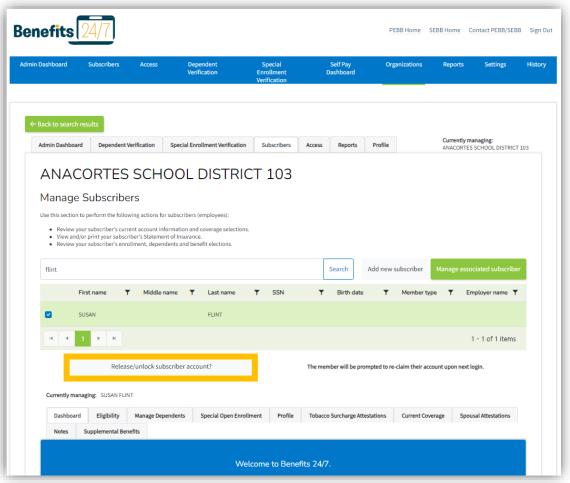
Troubleshooting Benefits 24/7 Access



Employee Troubleshooting Benefits 247

Release/Unlock subscriber account

- Used when subscriber has forgotten answers to their security questions.
 - Verify subscriber information
- Used to release/unlock previously claimed subscriber SAW account.
 - Step 1-Check box next to name
 - Step 2-Click Manage Associated subscriber



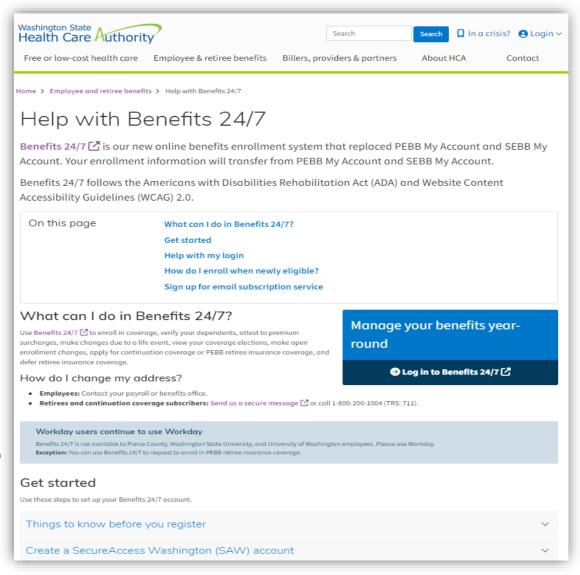


Employee Resource

Visit the help with Benefits 24/7 webpage.

- What can I do in Benefits 24/7?
- Get started
- Help with my login
- How do I enroll when newly eligible?
- Sign up for email subscription service

For help logging in to your Benefits 24/7 account-**Call 1-866-335-0043**.





Benefits Admin Troubleshooting

Benefits Admin is being sent to their subscriber acct rather than administrator acct or Benefits 24/7 is not recognizing the SAW account used

- If redirected to the verification process page (Last name, DOB, and last 4 of SSN)?
 - Do not enter your subscriber information
 - Release/unlock subscriber account
 - Clear History (Browsing history, cookies and other site data and cached images and files.)
 - Log in using your correct SAW Admin account with your work email

SAW email address **MUST MATCH EXACTLY** the email address entered in Benefits 24/7 manage access tile.

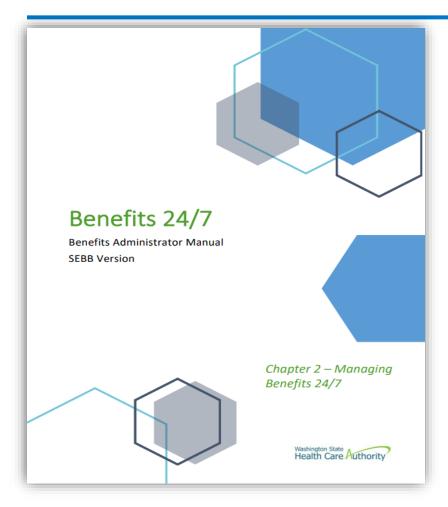
- Do not create a new SAW account. Verify Benefits 24/7 and SAW email address matches
- Check additional spaces or periods
 Go to SAW website directly to change/update any SAW account information!



Subscriber date of birth



Benefits Admin Resource



Benefits 24/7 BA Manual Chapter 2

- Need instructions on Troubleshooting employee access
 - Employee attempting to claim their account for the first time:
 Page 13-14
 - Releasing an old SAW account for an employee: Pages 15-16







Reminders, Tips & Resources



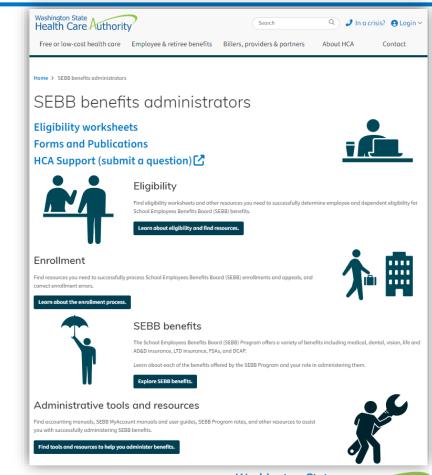
Benefit Admin Resource

SEBB Benefits Administrator website

Eligibility, Enrollment, Benefits,
 Administrative tools and resources, and
 Training Resources

Contact Outreach & Training

- 1-800-700-1555
- Online via <u>HCA Support</u> secure messaging system
 - support.hca.wa.gov/hcasupport





Benefit Admin Resource

SEBB Benefits Admin Training Send training request using HCA Support

- Attn: O&T Training Request
- Provide dates & times available, hours available and subjects requested

Benefits 24/7, BA website overview, eligibility worksheets and HCA support overview

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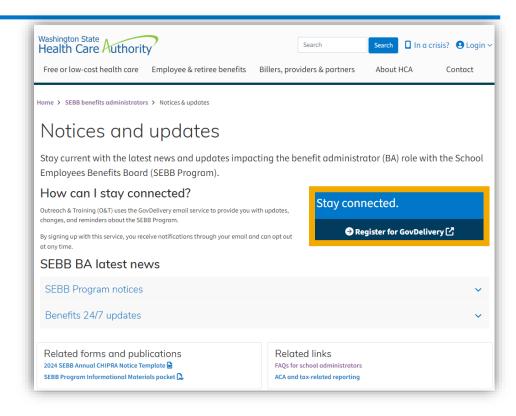


Sign Up for GovDelivery

GovDelivery emails provide BAs with updates, changes, and reminders about the SEBB Program.

SEBB Benefits Admin's website

- Notices and updates
 - Register for GovDelivery





Employee Communications

SEBB May Intercom Newsletter mailed and emailed May 15, 2025.

- Includes article about:
 - Getting started with behavioral health care
 - Preparing for Retiree insurance coverage
 - Summer safety and travel tips
 - Domestic/International travel
 - New way to submit appeals
 - Five unknown benefits you have
 - Path to a tobacco-free life.



A conversation that matters

Taking care of your whale self includes taking care of your mental health. Often, we don't recognize when we need support for our mental health. If you had a broken leg, most people . Prolonged anger or imitability would seek treatment immediately. . Difficulty communicating Starting with mental health treatment can be daunting, but you're not alone.

The National Alliance on Mental Iliness (NAMI), nami, org, provides the following statistics:

- 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year
- 1 in 20 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year
- 1 in 6 U.S. youth age 6 to 17 experience a mental health disorder each year
- 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among people. age 10 to 14

Struggles with mental health don't mean you're broken or wrong, and there are resources to help you.

What signs should I be aware of?

HCA 20-0119 (5/25)

If you or someone you know is having a mental health crisis, it's important to get help immediately. But that's not the only time you should consider connecting with mental health services. When you stop feeling like yourself, it's time to think about mental health care. Mental health

conditions can take many forms, but the following list has some of the more common symptoms ("Worning Signs and Symptoms," nami.org):

- · Loss of interest in things that used to bring you joy
- Excessive warry, fear, or sadness
- or handling relationships or
- responsibilities Inability to cope with problems
- and daily activities · Changes in sleep or eating habits
- Overuse of substances like drugs or alcohol
- · Multiple physical ailments without obvious causes
- · Thoughts of suicide

The Mental Health America Screening, available at mhascreening.org, is a free and anonymous tool to help determine if you're experiencing symptoms that could be because of a mental health condition.

How do I get started?

If you need help with getting started with mental health care, a great first step is to talk to your primary care provider. They can connect you with resources and set you up with a provider who specializes in mental health. If you don't have a primary care provider, that's okay. You can contact your medical plan and ask for help with getting connected with a provider and getting an appointment set up.

What are the different types of providers?

Depending on your mental health needs, there are many different types of providers. The following list comes from NAMI (nami.org)

Counselors, clinicians, and therapists are trained

to evaluate a person's mental health and use therapeutic techniques based on specific training programs. Working with one of these mental health professionals can lead to symptom reduction and better ways of thinking, feeling, and living. They generally have earned a master's degree in a mental healthrelated field.

Psychologists are trained to evaluate a person's mental health using interviews. evaluations, and testing. They can make diagnoses and provide individual and group therapy. They have earned a doctoral degree in clinical psychology or another specialty such as counseling or education.

Psychiatrists are licensed medical doctors who have completed psychiatric training. They can prescribe and monitor medications, provide therapy, and diagnose mental health conditions

(continued on next page)



Employee Secure Online Appeals Portal

GovDelivery sent on April 28, 2025.

- SEBB Appeals Unit launched a new online appeals portal that's Fast, secure, and paperless
- Request a brief adjudicative proceeding:
 - Employer decision
 - Upload a copy of employer's decision
 - SEBB Program decision
 - Follow appeal instructions on the decision letter
- Check status of online requests



4.28.2025

New way for employees to send appeals to the SEBB Program and reminder about entering enrollments

Dear Benefits Administrators,

On April 1, 2025, the SEBB Appeals Unit launched an all-new online appeals portal. Employees can use this secure online portal to request a brief adjudicative proceeding (a simplified legal hearing, also referred to as an appeal) of an employer decision or a SEBB Program decision and have it immediately go to the SEBB Appeals Unit.

The online appeal portal has advantages over the paper form—it's a fast, secure, paperless way to submit an appeal. Requests are sent instantly to the SEBB Appeals Unit, reducing overall processing and wait times. Appellants can also check the status of their requests online instead of having to call or wait for acknowledgment letters.

Circumstances when this could apply

Employee disagrees with an employer decision:

The employee must first appeal to their employer using the paper form. If
the employee does not agree with the employer's final decision and
wishes to appeal to the SEBB Program using the online portal, the
employee must upload a copy of the employer's decision to the portal. For
more information, visit the SEBB benefits administrators appeals process
webpage.



Employee Secure Online Appeals Portal Instructions

- 1. Select "Public Inquiry" and log in to Secure Access Washington (SAW)
- 2. Select "Make A Request"
- 3. Select "For Public and school employees" category
- 4. Select "Benefits appeal request"
- 5. Select primary account holder
- 6. Select relationship to the appellant
- 7. Appeal form will populate
- 8. Click Submit

Welcome to the Washington State Health Care Authority support portal. Please select the option below that best describes you.



I am a resident of Washington State and do not currently work for a state agency. I am making a request on behalf of myself or someone

Note: You MUST have (or create) a Secure Access Washington (SAW) account to submit and view responses for HCA Support inquiries.

View login and SAW account instructions



Agency to agency inquiry

I am a(n):

- Active employee of a Washington State agency that uses WaTech's Office 365 managed services.
- PEBB benefits administrator and I am making a request related to

Note: If you are a SEBB benefits administrator or your agency does not use WaTech's Office 365 managed service, please use the public

View login instructions



Employee Enrollment Guidelines

GovDelivery sent on April 28, 2025.

SEBB Program has observed instances of Benefits Administrators (BA) entering employee enrollments using their own BA login without a signed paper form from the school employee.

- Do not use BA login to enter employee enrollments unless you obtain a signed paper form from the employee on file
 - No official record that employee authorized benefit elections



SCHOOL EMPLOYEES BENEFITS BOARD

4.28.2025

BA guidelines for entering employee enrollments

We've observed some instances where a Benefits Administrator (BA) may enter employee enrollments into Benefits 24/7 using their own BA login without obtaining a signed paper form from the employee. While this might seem efficient, it is not advisable and could expose your organization to unnecessary risk.

Please carefully follow these guidelines:

- Do not use your BA login to enter enrollments in Benefits 24/7 for employees unless you have a signed paper form from the employee on file. Without this documentation, there is no official record that the employee authorized the benefit elections.
- When assisting employees with enrollments, ensure that either you or the employee is logged into the employee's own account.

Why is this important?

Entering enrollments without a proper record places your organization at risk. In cases of disputes, the absence of verified employee authorization could result in financial liabilities, compliance issues, or audit findings.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. For further clarification or assistance, please reach out to our Outreach & Training team via HCA Support or call 1-800-700-1555.



This is not advisable and could expose your organization to unnecessary risk! https://doi.org/10.2016/nc.wa.gov/sebb-benefits-admins/notices-and-updates

Employee Enrollment Guidelines cont.

 When assisting employees, ensure BA or employee is logged directly into the employee's subscriber account

Why is this important?

• Entering enrollments without a record places your organization at risk. In cases of disputes, the absence of verified employee authorization could result in financial liabilities, compliance issues, or audit findings

Washington State Health Care Authority

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Policy update & premium surcharge refunds

GovDelivery sent on May 15, 2025.

Effective January 1, 2025, Spousal surcharge no longer applies when a PEBB or SEBB employee covers a spouse/SRDP who is eligible for PEBB or SEBB coverage as an employee but chose to waive coverage in favor of being covered under their spouse's PEBB or SEBB plan.

• Question 5 If the coverage offered by the spouse/SRDP's employer is through the SEBB or PEBB Program, then the answer to question 5 should be "No".

Letters were mailed May 16, 2025 to 76 SEBB Subscribers.



SCHOOL EMPLOYEES BENEFITS BOARD

5.15.2025

Policy update and premium surcharge refunds for affected employees

Dear Benefits Administrators,

The Health Care Authority (HCA) is updating how the spouse or state-registered domestic partner (SRDP) premium surcharge is applied. Effective January 1, 2025, the surcharge no longer applies when a SEBB employee oovers a spouse or SRDP who is eligible as a PEBB employee but waives PEBB health plan coverage for their spouse's SEBB coverage. This also applies in reverse situations (i.e., PEBB eligible employee covering a spouse/SRDP eligible for SEBB). Please review the following and take action to provide a refund to affected employees.

Example: Bill is a SEBB eligible employee who has enrolled his spouse, Tina, in his SEBB medical, dental, and vision coverage. Tina is a PEBB eligible employee enrolled in SEBB coverage who has waived her PEBB medical, dental, and vision to be enrolled on Bill's SEBB coverage.

What we're doing

HCA is applying this change retroactively to January 1, 2025. Refunds will be issued to employers with affected employees who:

- · Covered a spouse/SRDP under their SEBB health plan coverage, and
- · The spouse/SRDP waived their PEBB coverage, and
- The employee either attested "Yes" or failed to attest and incurred the surcharge

Refunds will be issued to the applicable employers as a credit on their next invoice.

HCA has updated the attestations in Benefits 24/7 for affected employees to reflect this policy change going forward.

Mailing to affected employees

HCA will send affected employees (approximately 75) a formal <u>letter</u> explaining the policy change and the refund process.



New/Updated Benefits 24/7 Admin Reports

Benefits 24/7 admin reports were posted March 15, 2025.

Benefit election snapshot (New)

 Report retrieves and displays the subscriber account elections and attestation surcharges

Termed Accounts (New)

 Report retrieves and displays organization termination events that occurred on or in-between the report's search parameter

Spousal re-attestation for an organization

 Report shows a list of subscribers who need to complete their spousal re-attestations for the upcoming OE effective year

 Washington State Health Care Mark 20, 2025

HOOL EMPLOYEES BENEFITS BOARD

Reports updated in Benefits 24/7 on May 29, 2025.

HCA Support Portal/ Benefits 24/7 Tips

- ✓ Provide BA business phone #
- ✓ Do not use benefits or payroll department usernames
- ✓ Have employee's SSN ready when waiting in phone queue
- ✓ Enter newly eligible employees who have multiple last names with a hyphen (**Example**: Jones-Morris)
- ✓ Employees should contact Benefits office for all account issues

- ✓ Do not submit multiple tickets on the same employee issue
- ✓ Include employees full name, full SSN, Benefits Admins name, school district and BA phone #
- ✓ Submit HCA support ticket for urgent account issues then contact
 1-800-700-1555
- ✓ Do not use the profile tab when updating employee addresses



Upcoming Webinars



August 1: SEBB Preparing for the start of the new school year

October 10: SEBB Pre-Annual Open Enrollment (OE) (Tentative)

October 17: SEBB FSA and DCAP OE webinar (Tentative)

Where to register:

hca.wa.gov/sebb-benefits-admins/training-schedule

All webinars are recorded and posted to the BA website.

hca.wa.gov/sebb-benefits-admins/training-materials-and-recordings



Q&A

We will now address some of the questions that did not get answered during the webinar.

- Any questions that do not get addressed today will be responded to by phone, email or HCA Support request
- Employee specific questions or scenarios should be sent through HCA Support request

After the webinar, participants will receive a follow up email that includes a brief survey. We would greatly appreciate your feedback.



Thank you for participating!



