



# Update - Stay Connected

May 26, 2021

## **Certificated Contracts for 2021-2022**

Human Resources will continue to utilize Employee Access to electronically disseminate, accept, and retain certificated employment contracts for the 2021-2022 school year. Begun last year, this process has eliminated the need for manually signing and returning paper contracts. As such, contracts are no longer sent via email as was the practice in previous years. Instead, all certificated staff will be provided information on how to access their 2021-2022 contracts using Employee Access and to acknowledge acceptance with an electronic signature.

Contract will be available through Employee Access beginning Friday, May 28. Complete instructions of how to view and accept certificated contracts will be emailed to all certificated staff this Friday, May 28. The window to electronically sign 2021-2022 contracts is <u>Friday, May 28 through Friday, June 11, 2021</u>.

## FINAL WEEK: Submit Professional Funds NOW!!

**DEADLINE** to submit your Professional Fund packets to Accounting is next Tuesday, June 1 by 4PM. Late forms will not be accepted and/or failure to provide receipts totaling the amount of your PF's will result in a deduction from your July paycheck. **DO NOT** contact Accounting to confirm receipt of your PF packet. You will be contacted **ONLY** if there are issues with your submission.

### What you need:

- Most of your Professional Fund questions can be answered by reading your Professional Fund form and reviewing the district <u>PF Q&A LWSD</u>
- Guidelines, allowable expenses, and unallowable expenses can be found on the <u>Prof Fund Reimbursement</u>
   Form LWSD
- If after review you still have questions, please send to askprofessionalfund@lwsd.org

#### **Allowable Expenses:**

- Home internet, you can claim \$50/month. It does not matter if bundled amount is more or less.
- Cell phone data, you can claim \$41.67/month. It does not matter if bundles amount is more or less.
- Union dues, simply complete the LWEA Dues Receipt <u>LWEA Dues Receipt</u>
- Allowable expenses, and unallowable expenses can be found on the <u>Prof Fund Reimbursement Form LWSD</u>

#### **Options for Submitting PF Packets:**

- Send completed packets to LWSD Accounting Dept (located at the RC) through inter-district mail
- Mail to LWSD Accounting Dept., PO Box 97039, Redmond WA, 98073-9739.
- Deliver to the LWEA office box located outside office door (New Location)
  - 8575 164<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Suite 100, Redmond
  - Send email to <u>Terri</u> if you drop off packet
  - Final pickup will be at 3:45 on June 1
- DO NOT hand deliver to RC
- Electronic copies will not be accepted





## **LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT YEAR**



Educators are asking what school will look like next year. Here's what we know so far:

- Our <u>COVID-related LOUs</u> sunset on June 30, 2021. That means we will need to return to
  the bargaining table this summer (probably in July) to define any necessary working
  conditions for the 21-22 school year.
- The Department of Health has put out their initial K-12 COVID-19 Requirements for the 21-22 school year. This guidance may change. DOH is aware that everyone needs information now to plan ahead, and any changes to the guidance will be in response to the trajectory of the disease.
- OSPI, the State Board of Education, Labor & Industries, and probably Governor Inslee, will also release guidance and requirements for the 21-22 school year. We need to wait for all the requirements and guidance before we begin discussions with the District.

As the disease circulates less in our communities and more people are vaccinated, safety precautions may be relaxed or rolled back. DOH K-12 guidance includes expectations for face coverings, ventilation, cleaning & disinfecting, distancing, handwashing & respiratory etiquette, responding to symptomatic and COVID positive individuals, reporting cases and outbreaks, extracurriculars, and testing & vaccination. Some topics, like attestation, aren't included. Next year, we know that the District will continue to maintain a COVID-19 safety plan and have safety supervisors in every building. The DOH guidance is clear that decisions about implementing their guidance are best made locally and in collaboration with local public health officials.

# Kaiser HMO Contract and UW Contract Evaluation Effective June 1, 2021

If you have a Kaiser HMO plan and receive care at UW Medicine read important information on possible contract changes <a href="here">here</a>. This information only effects employees with the following **HMO** plans: Kaiser Permanente NW, Kaiser Core, and Kaiser NW Sound Choice. If you need to verify the plan you are currently enrolled in login to <a href="here">SEBB My Account</a>.

**LWEA** 

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**Office Staff** 

Office Manager: Terri Neely
Admin Assistant: Diana Wagner
UniServ Rep: Laura-Lee Barron

### LWEA Officers and Executive Committee

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Vice President:
Katie Badger
LWEA Office / 425-822-

Primary Rep:
Patti Cook
Rush / 425-936-2690

Intermediate Rep:
Mary Kay Weinmeister
Rockwell / 425-936-2670

Middle School Rep: <u>Kyla Thompson</u> Finn Hill / 425-936-2340

High School Rep: Rachelle Horner EHS / 425-936-1500

Specialists Rep:

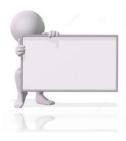
Marilyn Hargraves

LWHS / 425-936-1700

Special Services Rep: <u>Cookie Grant-Suggs</u> Rush / 425-936-2690

Ethnic Minority Rep:
Cathey Hettinger
Barton / 425-936-2480

LWEA - this is your union!



## **Long Term Care Tax Beginning January 2022**

In 2019, Washington was the first state to establish a long-term services and support trust to provide a maximum lifetime benefit for Washington residents who have paid into the trust for a set period of time. Here are some basic facts about how the trust will work:

#### How will WA Cares Work? Funding **Benefits Provided** Eligibility WA Employees pay into the trust o Beginning January 2025 those o Pay premiums into the fund for beginning January 1, 2022 eligible may receive benefits at least 10 years without a break of 5 or more years within Worker contribution through Covers services and supports for payroll deduction of \$0.58 per those 10 years1 Washington residents \$100 or 0.58% Examples: professional care, adaptive equipment, training and support for family members who provide care, transportation, This is the maximum allowed under statute – would require legislative action to increase. Typical WA earner making \$52,075 will contribute approximately \$302/year or \$25.17/month o Pay premiums into the fund for 3 of last 6 years prior to applying for benefit personal emergency response system, etc. o Must need assistance with at o Maximum Lifetime benefit of Only pay into the fund while least 3 daily living activities working not once retired or if on unpaid leave/non-work status This amount will be adjusted for inflation over time To count as a year, employee must work at least 500 hours

## How does WA Cares compare to Private Insurance?

### Washington Cares – LTSS

- Requires no certificate of insurability
- Benefit coverage is a lifetime \$36,500 maximum
- This benefit will increase with inflation
- No matter your age or health status you qualify for WA Cares, and the rate is the same
- · Only pay premiums when working, not during unpaid leave, between jobs or after retirement
- Once you've met the 10-year vesting, the benefit will be available, even if it's after you retire
- May be supplemented with other private LTC
- Currently only available for use while a WA resident

#### Private Long-Term Care – LTC Insurance

- · Most require certificate of insurability
- Benefit coverage can vary greatly
- · Plan premiums may be higher with benefit growth
- Older & less healthy individuals may not qualify or be assessed higher rates for plans
- Most plans have increased premiums when starting payments at an older age
- Most require continued payment of premiums when working or not, including time in retirement
- May be able to coordinate with life insurance policies or provide a death benefit
- Portable and able to use in all locations

# **Opting-Out of Washington Cares**

- Opting Out is Permanent! Even with job changes
- Must apply and be approved for exemption
- Must purchase a private long-term care insurance plan or dedicated LTC rider before November 1, 2021
- May apply for the exemption between October 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022
- If you opt out, you may NEVER opt back in!



Look for a district email with more information about LTC, private insurance options, and how to get assistance. This email will be coming out later this week or next.

## **Marketplace**

Ads are run in the Update on a first come, first served basis. All ads must include a home email and/or phone number. Send directly to <u>Terri</u>
Neely in the LWEA office.

All ads are subject to the approval of the LWEA Executive Committee and may be edited for length.



May 31 Memorial Day

June 1
No School – Students &
Teachers

June 2
Teacher Directed Day

June 8
Exec Committee

June 15
Rep Assembly



## **Sprouts of Wonder**

Child care for 24months – 6yrs by an experienced, licensed and Aid/CPR trained staff. Fun, learning and bilingual environment.

Sprouts of Wonder - Family Child Care



## For sale:

Well-maintained and fully functional **office desk and matching filing cabinet**. All parts work and glide easily. Desk measures 59 in wide x 28 in tall x 29 in deep and the file cabinet is 41 in wide x 29 in tall x 18 in deep. \$250 for both or \$150 for one or the other, pictures available. Contact Kim to make an offer: 425-308-3518. (Mili Nelson, LWHS)

**Currently looking for a new roommate** to move into my current apartment on July 1! I live in a wonderful 2 bed/1 bath apartment in the Phinney Ridge neighborhood in Seattle. The apartment has laundry in unit, a parking space, and an incredible view of the Olympics! I also have an Australian Cattle Dog who just turned 1 year old (must be dog friendly but unfortunately we cannot accept any other pets)! Rent: \$975/month plus utilities.

Reach out by email: katycrites@gmail.com