

# SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION

for the

## FLEXIBLE BENEFITS PLAN

For The Employees of

# GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PLAN EFFECTIVE DATE:  
OCTOBER 1, 1990

PLAN DOCUMENT EFFECTIVE DATE:  
NOVEMBER 1, 2010

GROUP NUMBER:  
5158

PLAN NUMBER:  
501

Flex Claims Processed By:

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SUMMARY

# GREAT FALLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS FLEXIBLE BENEFITS PLAN

## INTRODUCTION

We have amended the "Flexible Benefits Plan" that we previously established for you and other eligible employees. Under this Plan, you will be able to choose among certain benefits that we make available. The benefits that you may choose are outlined in this Summary Plan Description. We will also tell you about other important information concerning the amended Plan, such as the rules you must satisfy before you can join and the laws that protect your rights.

One of the most important features of our Plan is that the benefits being offered are generally ones that you are already paying for, but normally with money that has first been subject to income and Social Security taxes. Under our Plan, these same expenses will be paid for with a portion of your pay before Federal income or Social Security taxes are withheld. This means that you will pay less tax and have more money to spend and save.

Read this Summary Plan Description carefully so that you understand the provisions of our amended Plan and the benefits you will receive. This SPD describes the Plan's benefits and obligations as contained in the legal Plan document, which governs the operation of the Plan. The Plan document is written in much more technical and precise language. If the non-technical language in this SPD and the technical, legal language of the Plan document conflict, the Plan document always governs. Also, if there is a conflict between an insurance contract and either the Plan document or this Summary Plan Description, the insurance contract will control. If you wish to receive a copy of the legal Plan document, please contact the Administrator.

This SPD describes the current provisions of the Plan which are designed to comply with applicable legal requirements. The Plan is subject to federal laws, such as the Internal Revenue Code and other federal and state laws which may affect your rights. The provisions of the Plan are subject to revision due to a change in laws or due to pronouncements by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or other federal agencies. We may also amend or terminate this Plan. If the provisions of the Plan that are described in this SPD change, we will notify you.

We have attempted to answer most of the questions you may have regarding your benefits in the Plan. If this SPD does not answer all of your questions, please contact the Administrator (or other plan representative). The name and address of the Administrator can be found in the Article of this SPD entitled "General Information About the Plan."

## I ELIGIBILITY

### 1. When can I become a participant in the Plan?

Before you become a Plan member (referred to in this Summary Plan Description as a "Participant"), there are certain rules which you must satisfy. First, you must meet the eligibility requirements and be an active employee. After that, the next step is to actually join the Plan on the "entry date" that we have established for all employees. The "entry date" is defined in Question 3 below. You will also be required to complete certain application forms before you can enroll in the Plan.

**2. What are the eligibility requirements for our Plan?**

You will be eligible to join the Plan as of your date of hire with us. Of course, if you were already a participant before this amendment, you will remain a participant.

**3. When is my entry date?**

Once you have met the eligibility requirements, your entry date will be the first day of the month coinciding with or following the date you met the eligibility requirements.

**4. What must I do to enroll in the Plan?**

Before you can join the Plan, you must complete an application to participate in the Plan. The application includes your personal choices for each of the benefits which are being offered under the Plan. You must also authorize us to set some of your earnings aside in order to pay for the benefits you have elected.

**II  
OPERATION**

**1. How does this Plan operate?**

Before the start of each Plan Year, you will be able to elect to have some of your upcoming pay contributed to the Plan. These amounts will be used to pay for the benefits you have chosen. The portion of your pay that is paid to the Plan is not subject to Federal income or Social Security taxes. In other words, this allows you to use tax-free dollars to pay for certain kinds of benefits and expenses which you normally pay for with out-of-pocket, taxable dollars. However, if you receive a reimbursement for an expense under the Plan, you cannot claim a Federal income tax credit or deduction on your return. (See the Article entitled "General Information About Our Plan" for the definition of "Plan Year.")

**III  
CONTRIBUTIONS**

**1. How much of my pay may the Employer redirect?**

Each year, you may elect to have us contribute on your behalf enough of your compensation to pay for the benefits that you elect under the Plan. These amounts will be deducted from your pay over the course of the year.

**2. What happens to contributions made to the Plan?**

Before each Plan Year begins, you will select the benefits you want and how much of the contributions should go toward each benefit. It is very important that you make these choices carefully based on what you expect to spend on each covered benefit or expense during the Plan Year. Later, they will be used to pay for the expenses as they arise during the Plan Year.

**3. When must I decide which accounts I want to use?**

You are required by Federal law to decide before the Plan Year begins, during the election period (defined below). You must decide two things. First, which benefits you want and, second, how much should go toward each benefit.

#### **4. When is the election period for our Plan?**

You will make your initial election on or before your entry date. (You should review Section I on Eligibility to better understand the eligibility requirements and entry date.) Then, for each following Plan Year, the election period will be the 30 day period prior to the beginning of each Plan Year. (See the Article entitled "General Information About Our Plan" for the definition of Plan Year.)

#### **5. May I change my elections during the Plan Year?**

Generally, you cannot change the elections you have made after the beginning of the Plan Year. However, there are certain limited situations when you can change your elections. You are permitted to change elections if you have a "change in status" and you make an election change that is consistent with the change in status. Currently, Federal law considers the following events to be a change in status:

- Marriage, divorce, death of a spouse, legal separation or annulment;
- Change in the number of dependents, including birth, adoption, placement for adoption, or death of a dependent;
- Any of the following events for you, your spouse or dependent: termination or commencement of employment, a strike or lockout, commencement or return from an unpaid leave of absence, a change in worksite, or any other change in employment status that affects eligibility for benefits;
- One of your dependents satisfies or ceases to satisfy the requirements for coverage due to change in age, student status, or any similar circumstance; and
- A change in the place of residence of you, your spouse or dependent that would lead to a change in status, such as moving out of a coverage area for insurance.

In addition, if you are participating in the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account, then there is a change in status if your dependent no longer meets the qualifications to be eligible for dependent care.

There are detailed rules on when a change in election is deemed to be consistent with a change in status. In addition, there are laws that give you rights to change health coverage for you, your spouse, or your dependents. If you change coverage due to rights you have under the law, then you can make a corresponding change in your elections under the Plan. If any of these conditions apply to you, you should contact the Administrator.

If the cost of a benefit provided under the Plan increases or decreases during a Plan Year, then we will automatically increase or decrease, as the case may be, your salary redirection election. If the cost increases significantly, you will be permitted to either make corresponding changes in your payments or revoke your election and obtain coverage under another benefit package option with similar coverage, or revoke your election entirely.

If the coverage under a Benefit is significantly curtailed or ceases during a Plan Year, then you may revoke your elections and elect to receive on a prospective basis coverage under another plan with similar coverage. In addition, if we add a new coverage option or eliminate an existing option, you may elect the newly-added option (or elect another option if an option has

been eliminated) and make corresponding election changes to other options providing similar coverage. If you are not a Participant, you may elect to join the Plan. There are also certain situations when you may be able to change your elections on account of a change under the plan of your spouse's, former spouse's or dependent's employer.

These rules on change due to cost or coverage do not apply to the Health Flexible Spending Account, and you may not change your election to the Health Flexible Spending Account if you make a change due to cost or coverage for insurance.

You may not change your election under the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account if the cost change is imposed by a dependent care provider who is your relative.

## **6. May I make new elections in future Plan Years?**

Yes, you may. For each new Plan Year, you may change the elections that you previously made. You may also choose not to participate in the Plan for the upcoming Plan Year. If you do not make new elections during the election period before a new Plan Year begins, we will consider that to mean you have elected not to participate for the upcoming Plan Year.

## **IV BENEFITS**

### **1. What benefits are offered under the Plan?**

Under our Plan, you can choose to receive your entire compensation or use a portion to pay for the following benefits or expenses during the year.

### **2. Health Flexible Spending Account**

The Health Flexible Spending Account enables you to pay for expenses allowed under Sections 105 and 213(d) of the Internal Revenue Code which are not covered by insurance and save taxes at the same time. The Health Flexible Spending Account allows you to be reimbursed by the Employer for out-of-pocket medical, dental and/or vision expenses incurred by you and your dependents.

Drug costs, including insulin, may be reimbursed. Beginning January 1, 2011, you may be reimbursed for "over the counter" drugs only if those drugs are prescribed for you. If you incur "over the counter" drug costs during the Grace Period, you may not be reimbursed for those amounts, only if those drugs are prescribed for you. You may not, however, be reimbursed for the cost of other health care coverage maintained outside of the Plan, or for long-term care expenses. A list of covered expenses is available from the Administrator.

The most that you can contribute to your Health Flexible Spending Account each Plan Year is \$5,000. In order to be reimbursed for a health care expense, you must submit to the Administrator an itemized bill from the service provider. Amounts reimbursed from the Plan may not be claimed as a deduction on your personal income tax return. Expenses under this Plan are treated as being "incurred" when you are provided with the care that gives rise to the expenses, not when you are formally billed or charged, or you pay for the medical care.

You may be reimbursed for expenses for any child until the end of the calendar year in which the child reaches age 26. A child is a natural child, stepchild, foster child, adopted child, or a child placed with you for adoption. If a child gains or regains eligibility due to these new rules, that qualifies as a change in status to change coverage.

**Newborns' and Mothers' Health Protection Act:** Group health plans generally may not, under Federal law, restrict benefits for any hospital length of stay in connection with childbirth for the mother or newborn child to less than 48 hours following a vaginal delivery, or less than 96 hours following a cesarean section. However, Federal law generally does not prohibit the mother's or newborn's attending provider, after consulting with the mother, from discharging the mother or her newborn earlier than 48 hours (or 96 hours as applicable). In any case, plans and issuers may not, under Federal law, require that a provider obtain authorization from the plan or the issuer for prescribing a length of stay not in excess of 48 hours (or 96 hours).

**Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act:** This plan, as required by the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998, will reimburse up to plan limits for benefits for mastectomy-related services including reconstruction and surgery to achieve symmetry between the breasts, prostheses, and complications resulting from a mastectomy (including lymphedema). Contact your Plan Administrator for more information.

### **3. Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account**

The Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account enables you to pay for out-of-pocket, work-related dependent day-care cost with pre-tax dollars. If you are married, you can use the account if you and your spouse both work or, in some situations, if your spouse goes to school full-time. Single employees can also use the account.

An eligible dependent is someone for whom you can claim expenses on Federal Income Tax Form 2441 "Credit for Child and Dependent Care Expenses." Children must be under age 13. Other dependents must be physically or mentally unable to care for themselves. Dependent Care arrangements which qualify include:

- (a) A Dependent (Day) Care Center, provided that if care is provided by the facility for more than six individuals, the facility complies with applicable state and local laws;
- (b) An Educational Institution for pre-school children. For older children, only expenses for non-school care are eligible; and
- (c) An "Individual" who provides care inside or outside your home: The "Individual" may not be a child of yours under age 19 or anyone you claim as a dependent for Federal tax purposes.

You should make sure that the dependent care expenses you are currently paying for qualify under our Plan.

The law places limits on the amount of money that can be paid to you in a calendar year from your Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account. Generally, your reimbursements may not exceed the lesser of: (a) \$5,000 (if you are married filing a joint return or you are head of a household) or \$2,500 (if you are married filing separate returns); (b) your taxable compensation; (c) your spouse's actual or deemed earned income (a spouse who is a full time student or incapable of caring for himself/herself has a monthly earned income of \$250 for one dependent or \$500 for two or more dependents).

Also, in order to have the reimbursements made to you from this account be excludable from your income, you must provide a statement from the service provider including the name, address, and in most cases, the taxpayer identification number of the service provider on your tax form for the year, as well as the amount of such expense as proof that the expense has been incurred. In addition, Federal tax laws permit a tax credit for certain dependent care expenses you may be paying for even if you are not a Participant in this Plan. You may save more money if you take advantage of this tax credit rather than using the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account under our Plan. Ask your tax adviser which is better for you.

#### **4. Premium Expense Account**

A Premium Expense Account allows you to use tax-free dollars to pay for certain premium expenses under various insurance programs that we offer you. These premium expenses include:

- Health care premiums under our self-funded medical plan.
- Group term life insurance premiums.

Under our Plan, we will establish sub-accounts for you for each different type of coverage that is available. Also, certain limits on the amount of coverage may apply.

The Administrator may terminate or modify Plan benefits at any time, subject to the provisions of any contracts providing benefits described above. Also, your coverage will end when you leave employment, are no longer eligible under the terms of any coverage, or when coverage terminates.

Any benefits to be provided by insurance will be provided only after (1) you have provided the Administrator the necessary information to apply for insurance, and (2) the insurance is in effect for you.

If you cover your children up to age 26 under your insurance, you can pay for that coverage through the Plan.

## **V BENEFIT PAYMENTS**

### **1. When will I receive payments from my accounts?**

During the course of the Plan Year, you may submit requests for reimbursement of expenses you have incurred. Expenses are considered "incurred" when the service is performed, not necessarily when it is paid for. The Administrator will provide you with acceptable forms for submitting these requests for reimbursement. If the request qualifies as a benefit or expense that the Plan has agreed to pay, you will receive a reimbursement payment soon thereafter. Remember, these reimbursements which are made from the Plan are generally not subject to federal income tax or withholding. Nor are they subject to Social Security taxes. The provisions of the insurance contracts will control what benefits will be paid and when. You will only be reimbursed from the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account to the extent that there are sufficient funds in the Account to cover your request.

## **2. What happens if I don't spend all Plan contributions during the Plan Year?**

If you have not spent all the amounts in your Health Flexible Spending Account or Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account by the end of the Plan Year, you may continue to incur claims for expenses during the "Grace Period." The "Grace Period" extends 2 1/2 months after the end of the Plan Year, during which time you can continue to incur claims and use up all amounts remaining in your Health Flexible Spending Account or Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account.

Any monies left at the end of the Plan Year and the Grace Period will be forfeited. Obviously, qualifying expenses that you incur late in the Plan Year or during the Grace Period for which you seek reimbursement after the end of such Plan Year and Grace Period will be paid first before any amount is forfeited. For the Health Flexible Spending Account, you must submit claims no later than 120 days after the end of the Grace Period. For the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account, you must submit claims no later than 120 days after the end of the Grace Period. Because it is possible that you might forfeit amounts in the Plan if you do not fully use the contributions that have been made, it is important that you decide how much to place in each account carefully and conservatively. Remember, you must decide which benefits you want to contribute to and how much to place in each account before the Plan Year begins. You want to be as certain as you can that the amount you decide to place in each account will be used up entirely.

## **3. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)**

If you take leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act, you may revoke or change your existing elections for health insurance, group-term life insurance and the Health Flexible Spending Account. If your coverage in these benefits terminates, due to your revocation of the benefit while on leave or due to your non-payment of contributions, you will be permitted to reinstate coverage for the remaining part of the Plan Year upon your return. For the Health Flexible Spending Account, you may continue your coverage or you may revoke your coverage and resume it when you return. You can resume your coverage at its original level and make payments for the time that you are on leave. For example, if you elect \$1,200 for the year and are out on leave for 3 months, then return and elect to resume your coverage at that level, your remaining payments will be increased to cover the difference - from \$100 per month to \$150 per month. Alternatively your maximum amount will be reduced proportionately for the time that you were gone. For example, if you elect \$1,200 for the year and are out on leave for 3 months, your amount will be reduced to \$900. The expenses you incur during the time you are not in the Health Flexible Spending Account are not reimbursable.

If you continue your coverage during your unpaid leave, you may pre-pay for the coverage, you may pay for your coverage on an after-tax basis while you are on leave, or you and your Employer may arrange a schedule for you to "catch up" your payments when you return.

## **4. Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA)**

If you are going into or returning from military service, you may have special rights to health care coverage under your Health Flexible Spending Account under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994. These rights can include extended health care coverage. If you may be affected by this law, ask your Administrator for further details.

## **5. What happens if I terminate employment?**

If you terminate employment during the Plan Year, your right to benefits will be determined in the following manner:

(a) You will remain covered by insurance, but only for the period for which premiums have been paid prior to your termination of employment.

(b) You will still be able to request reimbursement for qualifying dependent care expenses from the balance remaining in your dependent care account at the time of termination of employment. However, no further salary redirection contributions will be made on your behalf after you terminate. You must submit claims within 120 days after the end of the Plan Year in which termination occurs.

(c) You will still be able to request reimbursement from the balance remaining in your Health Flexible Spending Account at the time of termination of employment for qualifying medical expenses incurred prior to your termination date. However, no further salary redirection contributions will be made on your behalf after you terminate. You must submit claims within 120 days after the end of the Plan Year in which termination occurs. However, you can elect to continue your participation in the Health Flexible Spending Account for the remainder of the Plan Year, subject to the following conditions. You may only continue to participate in the Health Flexible Spending Account if you have contributed more money than you have taken out in claims. For example, if you elected to contribute an annual amount of \$500 and, at the time you terminate employment, you have contributed \$300 but only claimed \$150, you may elect to continue coverage under the Health Flexible Spending Account. If you elect to continue coverage, then you would be able to continue to receive your health care reimbursements up to the \$500. However, you must continue to pay for the coverage, just as the money has been taken out of your paycheck, but on an after-tax basis. The Plan can also charge you an additional amount (see COBRA Continuation of Coverage section for details) to provide this benefit. If you are eligible to continue participation in the Health Flexible Spending Account, your dependents may also have an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage (see COBRA Continuation of Coverage section for details).

## **6. Will my Social Security benefits be affected?**

Your Social Security benefits may be slightly reduced because when you receive tax-free benefits under our Plan, it reduces the amount of contributions that you make to the Federal Social Security system as well as our contribution to Social Security on your behalf.

## **7. Qualified Reservist Distributions**

If you are a member of a reserve unit and if you are ordered or called to active duty, then you may request a Qualified Reservist Distribution (QRD). A Qualified Reservist Distribution is a distribution of all or a portion of the amounts remaining in your Health Flexible Spending Account. You can only request this distribution if you are called to active duty for a period of 180 days or more or for an indefinite period. The distribution must be made during the period beginning on the date of the call and ending on the last date that reimbursements could otherwise be made under the Plan for the Plan Year which includes the date of the call.

You can receive the amount you have actually contributed minus any reimbursements you have already received (or are in process). The amount you request may be adjusted if needed to conform with your actual account balance. You must request the QRD before the last

day of the Grace Period. Any claims that you submit after the date you request the QRD will not be processed. You can only request one QRDs for a Plan Year.

## **VI HIGHLY COMPENSATED AND KEY EMPLOYEES**

### **1. Do limitations apply to highly compensated employees?**

Under the Internal Revenue Code, highly compensated employees and key employees generally are Participants who are officers, shareholders or highly paid. You will be notified by the Administrator each Plan Year whether you are a highly compensated employee or a key employee.

If you are within these categories, the amount of contributions and benefits for you may be limited so that the Plan as a whole does not unfairly favor those who are highly paid, their spouses or their dependents. Federal tax laws state that a plan will be considered to unfairly favor the key employees if they as a group receive more than 25% of all of the nontaxable benefits provided for under our Plan.

Plan experience will dictate whether contribution limitations on highly compensated employees or key employees will apply. You will be notified of these limitations if you are affected.

## **VII PLAN ACCOUNTING**

### **1. Periodic Statements**

The Administrator will provide you with a statement of your account periodically during the Plan Year that shows your account balance. It is important to read these statements carefully so you understand the balance remaining to pay for a benefit. Remember, you want to spend all the money you have designated for a particular benefit by the end of the Plan Year.

## **VIII GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT OUR PLAN**

This Section contains certain general information which you may need to know about the Plan.

### **1. General Plan Information**

Great Falls Public Schools Flexible Benefits Plan is the name of the Plan.

Your Employer has assigned Plan Number 501 to your Plan.

The provisions of your amended Plan become effective on November 1, 2010. Your Plan was originally effective on October 1, 1990.

Your Plan's records are maintained on a twelve-month period of time. This is known as the Plan Year. The Plan Year begins on October 1 and ends on September 30.

**2. Employer Information**

Your Employer's name and address are:

Great Falls Public Schools  
1100 4th Street South  
Great Falls, Montana 59403

**3. Plan Administrator Information**

The name, address and business telephone number of your Plan's Administrator are:

Great Falls Public Schools  
1100 4th Street South  
Great Falls, Montana 59403  
406-268-6010

The Administrator keeps the records for the Plan and is responsible for the administration of the Plan. The Administrator will also answer any questions you may have about our Plan. You may contact the Administrator for any further information about the Plan.

**4. Service of Legal Process**

The name and address of the Plan's agent for service of legal process are:

Great Falls Public Schools  
1100 4th Street South  
Great Falls, Montana 59403

**5. Type of Administration**

The type of Administration is Employer Administration.

**6. Claims Submission**

Claims for expenses should be submitted to:

Allegiance Benefit Plan Management, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4346  
Missoula, Montana 59806

Website: [www.allegianceflexadvantage.com](http://www.allegianceflexadvantage.com)

Phone: (877)424-3570

Fax: (877)424-3539

**IX  
ADDITIONAL PLAN INFORMATION**

**1. Claims Process**

You should submit all reimbursement claims during the Plan Year. For the Health Flexible Spending Account, you must submit claims no later than 120 days after the end of the Grace Period. However, if you terminate employment during the Plan Year, you must submit

your Health Flexible Spending Account claims within 120 days after the end of the Plan Year in which termination occurs. For the Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account, you must submit claims no later than 120 days after the end of the Grace Period. However, if you terminate employment during the Plan Year, you must submit your Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account claims within 120 days after the end of the Plan Year in which termination occurs. Any claims submitted after that time will not be considered.

Claims for benefits that are insured or self-funded will be reviewed in accordance with procedures contained in the policies. All other general claims or requests should be directed to the Administrator of our Plan. If a claim under this Plan is denied in whole or in part, you or your beneficiary will receive written notification from the Plan. The notification will include the reasons for the denial, with reference to the specific provisions of the Plan on which the denial was based, a description of any additional information needed to process the claim and an explanation of the claims review procedure. Within 180 days after denial, you or your authorized representative may submit a written request for reconsideration of the claim to the Administrator. The Plan Administrator will have a maximum of 60 days from the date the written appeal is received to make a final decision regarding the appeal. You may have additional rights for some reimbursement decisions to appeal to a Federal District Court with Jurisdiction, however, in order to do so you must first have exhausted all of your rights to appeal the claim to the Plan Administrator as stated above.

## **X CONTINUATION COVERAGE RIGHTS UNDER COBRA**

Under federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA), certain employees and their families covered under the Health Flexible Spending Account may have the right to elect to continue coverage under the Health Flexible Spending Account for the remainder of the Plan Year (called "COBRA continuation coverage"), where coverage under the Health Flexible Spending Account would otherwise end. This notice is intended to inform Plan participants and beneficiaries, in summary fashion, of their rights and obligations under the continuation coverage provisions of COBRA, as amended. This notice is intended to reflect the law and does not grant or take away any rights under the law. The law applies to employers who normally employ twenty (20) or more employees.

The Administrator is responsible for administering COBRA continuation coverage. Complete instructions on COBRA, as well as election forms and other information, will be provided by the Administrator to Plan participants who become Qualified Beneficiaries under COBRA. Whenever "Plan" is used in this section, it means the Health Flexible Spending Account.

COBRA Continuation Coverage is available to any Qualified Beneficiary\* whose coverage would otherwise terminate due to a Qualifying Event. COBRA Continuation Coverage under this provision will begin on the first day following the date coverage terminates.

\*Qualified Beneficiary for the purposes of this section means only an Employee, former Employee who is eligible to continue coverage in accordance with applicable provisions of federal COBRA law.

### Qualifying Events:

Qualifying Events for former Employee participants, for purposes of this section, are the following events, if that event causes a loss of coverage under the Health Flexible Spending Account:

1. Termination (other than by reason of gross misconduct) of the former Employee participant's employment; or
2. Reduction in hours of the former Employee participant's employment.

Giving Notice of a Qualifying Event:

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to Qualified Beneficiaries only after the Administrator has been timely notified that a Qualifying Event has occurred. The employer (if the employer is not the Administrator) will notify the Administrator of the Qualifying Event within 30 days following the date coverage ends when the Qualifying Event is:

- (a) termination of or reduction of hours of employment,
- (b) death of the employee,

**NOTICE PROCEDURES:**

The Plan Administrator is:  
*Great Falls Public Schools*  
*1100 4<sup>th</sup> Street South*  
*Great Falls, MT 59403*

The Plan Administrator is responsible for administering COBRA Continuation Coverage.

Any notice you provide must be **in writing**. You must mail, fax or hand-deliver your notice to the address above.

If mailed, your notice must be postmarked no later than the last day of the required notice period. Any notice you provide must state:

- the **name of the plan(s)** under which you lost or are losing coverage,
- the **name and address of the employee** covered under the plan,
- the **name(s) and address(s) of the Qualified Beneficiary(s)**, and
- the **Qualifying Event** and the **date** it happened.

If the Qualifying Event is a **divorce or legal separation**, your notice must include **a copy of the divorce decree or the legal separation agreement**.

Notice of Election to Continue Coverage:

When the Administrator is notified of a Qualifying Event, the Administrator will notify the Qualified Beneficiary of the right to elect COBRA continuation coverage, if applicable. Notice of this right will be sent within fourteen (14) days after the Administrator receives notice of the Qualifying Event from the Employer or Employee.

A Qualified Beneficiary has sixty (60) days from the date coverage would otherwise be lost or sixty (60) days from the date of notice from the Administrator, whichever is later, to elect to continue coverage. Failure to elect continuation coverage within that period will cause coverage to end.

### Monthly Contribution Amounts:

A Qualified Beneficiary who elects to continue coverage must pay the full cost of COBRA continuation coverage. Monthly contribution amounts for COBRA continuation coverage must be paid in advance to the Administrator. The monthly payment for coverage will be an amount equal to one hundred and two percent (102%) of the former Employee participant's monthly contribution amount prior to the Qualifying Event.

Payment of any reimbursement requests submitted by a COBRA participant during the period of COBRA coverage will be contingent upon timely payment of the monthly contributions by the COBRA participant. Monthly contributions are due the first of the month for each month of coverage. A grace period of thirty (30) days from the first of the month will be allowed for payment. Payment will be made in a manner prescribed by the Administrator.

### When Cobra Continuation Coverage Ends:

COBRA Continuation Coverage under the Health Flexible Spending Account will cease at the end of the Plan Year for any COBRA participant.

### Questions:

Any questions about COBRA Continuation Coverage may be directed to the Administrator or to the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) office. Addresses and phone numbers of these offices are available through the EBSA website of [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa).

### Address Changes:

COBRA participants should keep the Administrator informed of any changes in the family addresses and should also keep a copy, for his/her records, of any notices sent to the Administrator.

## **IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS**

If you have questions about your COBRA continuation coverage, you should contact the Plan Administrator or its designee. For more information about your rights under ERISA, including COBRA, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA). Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website at [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa).

## **KEEP YOUR PLAN ADMINISTRATOR INFORMED OF ADDRESS CHANGES**

In order to protect your family's rights, you should keep the Plan Administrator informed of any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator or its designee.

## **XI SUMMARY**

The money you earn is important to you and your family. You need it to pay your bills, enjoy recreational activities and save for the future. Our flexible benefits plan will help you keep more of the money you earn by lowering the amount of taxes you pay. The Plan is the result of our continuing efforts to find ways to help you get the most for your earnings.

If you have any questions, please contact the Administrator.