

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? (1) Eligibility shall be determined solely by the criteria that most closely describes the school employee's work circumstance.

(2) All hours worked by an employee in their capacity as a school employee must be included in the calculation of hours for determining eligibility. All hours for which a school employee receives compensation from a school employees benefits board (SEBB) organization during an approved leave (e.g., sick leave, personal leave, bereavement leave) or a paid holiday must be included when determining how many hours a school employee is anticipated to work, or did work, in the school year.

(3) A school employee may establish eligibility for the employer contribution toward SEBB benefits by stacking of hours from multiple positions within one SEBB organization. A school employee may not gain eligibility by stacking of hours from multiple SEBB organizations.

(4) School employee eligibility criteria shall be determined in the following order:

(a) A school employee is eligible for the employer contribution toward SEBB benefits if they are anticipated to work at least 630 hours per school year. The eligibility effective date shall be determined as follows:

(i) If the school employee's first day of work is on or after September 1st but not later than the first day of school for the current school year as established by the SEBB organization, they are eligible for the employer contribution on the first day of work; or

(ii) If the school employee's first day of work is at any other time during the school year, they are eligible for the employer contribution on that day.

(b) A school employee is presumed eligible for the employer contribution at the start of the school year, as described in (a) of this subsection, if they:

(i) Worked at least 630 hours in each of the previous two school years; and

(ii) Are returning to the same type of position (teacher, paraeducator, food service worker, custodian, etc.) or combination of positions with the same SEBB organization.

Note: A SEBB organization rebuts this presumption by notifying the school employee, in writing, of the specific reasons why the school employee is not anticipated to work at least 630 hours in the current school year and how to appeal the eligibility determination.

(c) A school employee who is not anticipated to work 630 hours within the school year because of the time of year they are hired but is anticipated to work at least 630 hours the next school year, establishes eligibility for the employer contribution toward SEBB benefits as of their first working day if they are:

(i) A nine to 10 month school employee anticipated to be compensated for at least 17.5 hours a week in six of the last eight weeks counting backwards from the week that contains the last day of school; or

(ii) A 12 month school employee anticipated to be compensated for at least 17.5 hours a week in six of the last eight weeks counting backwards from the week that contains August 31st, the last day of the school year.

(d) 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, would have resulted in the school em-

ployee being anticipated to work the minimum hours to meet SEBB eligibility for the employer contribution in the school year. A school employee who regains eligibility under this subsection, establishes eligibility for the employer contribution toward SEBB benefits as of the date they returned from approved leave without pay.

(5) A school employee who is not anticipated to work at least 630 hours in the school year as described in subsection (4)(a) of this section, may later be eligible for SEBB benefits when:

(a) Their work pattern is revised in such a way that they are now anticipated to work 630 hours in the school year. The school employee becomes eligible for the employer contribution toward SEBB benefits on the date their work pattern is revised; or

(b) They actually worked 630 hours in the school year. The school employee becomes eligible for the employer contribution toward SEBB benefits on the date they actually worked 630 hours.

(6) If the school employee is not eligible under subsection (4) or (5) of this section, they may be eligible for SEBB benefits if their SEBB organization is engaging in local negotiations regarding eligibility for school employees as described in WAC 182-30-130.

(7) When SEBB benefits begin:

(a) For a school employee who establishes eligibility under subsection (4)(a)(i) of this section, medical, dental, vision, basic life insurance, basic accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance, employer-paid long-term disability (LTD) insurance, employee-paid LTD insurance (unless the school employee declines the employee-paid LTD insurance as described in WAC 182-30-080(1)), and if eligible, benefits under the salary reduction plan begin on the first day of work for the new school year. Supplemental life insurance and supplemental AD&D insurance begin on the first day of the month following the date the contracted vendor receives the required form or approves the enrollment.

(b) For a school employee who establishes eligibility under subsection (4)(a)(ii), (c), (d), or (5) of this section, medical, dental, vision, basic life insurance, basic AD&D insurance, employer-paid LTD insurance, employee-paid LTD insurance (unless the school employee declines the employee-paid LTD insurance as described in WAC 182-30-080(1)), and if eligible, benefits under the salary reduction plan begin on the first day of the month following the date the school employee becomes eligible for the employer contribution toward SEBB benefits. Supplemental life insurance and supplemental AD&D insurance begin on the first day of the month following the date the contracted vendor receives the required form or approves the enrollment.

Exceptions:

- (1) When a school employee establishes eligibility for the employer contribution toward SEBB benefits as described under subsection (4)(d) or (5) of this section, at any time in the month of August, SEBB benefits begin on September 1st only if the school employee is also determined to be eligible for the employer contribution toward SEBB benefits for the school year that begins on September 1st.
- (2) When a school employee who is called to active duty in the uniformed services under Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) loses eligibility for the employer contribution toward SEBB benefits, they regain eligibility for the employer contribution toward SEBB benefits the day they return from active duty. Employer-paid SEBB benefits will begin the first day of the month in which they return from active duty (see WAC 182-30-080(3)).

[Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, and Policy Resolution SEBB 2022-01. WSR 23-14-021 (Admin #2023-02.03), § 182-31-040, filed 6/23/23, effective 1/1/24. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160 and Policy resolutions SEBB 2021-11 and 2021-12. WSR 21-13-116 (Admin #2021-01.03), § 182-31-040, filed 6/21/21, effective 1/1/22. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160 and SEBB policy resolutions 2020-01, 2020-02, and 2020-05. WSR 20-16-064 (Admin #2020-01), § 182-31-040, filed 7/28/20, effective 8/28/20. Statutory

Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, 2017 3rd sp.s. c 13, 2018 c 260, and SEBB policy resolutions. WSR 19-14-093 (Admin #2019-01), § 182-31-040, filed 7/1/19, effective 8/1/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160 and SEBB policy resolutions. WSR 19-01-055 (Admin #2018-01), § 182-31-040, filed 12/14/18, effective 1/14/19.]