



# UPDATE

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Rebecca Harper, SBTA-President

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## **Dependent Benefit Verification**

If you have dependents receiving health care benefits with the district, then you received a letter asking you to verify your dependents status by bringing in documentation and Social Security numbers of each. The reason for this is twofold: one, the district is trying to keep our health care costs down by removing benefits for those that are not eligible for dependent status; and two, a new state law came into effect that required employers to provide Social Security numbers to their health care providers.

SBTA has no problem with the district conducting the verification of dependent benefits. However, we have concerns with how this is being conducted. I have spoken to both Mohammad Islam (Assistant Superintendent of Business Services) and Derek Harris (Interim Director of Employee Benefits). We have agreed to the following:

- If all of your dependents are listed on your 2008 IRS 1040 form, then you only need to bring in a copy of the first page of that document for verification purposes
- You can meet with American Fidelity Assurance (AFA) but if you are not comfortable with that arrangement, you can meet with district personnel in the benefits office instead
- AFA is not supposed to sell you any products, but if they do, then you can stop the meeting and finish with the benefits office
- You have until December 15, 2009 to provide the district with your dependents information
- If you have problems with the process, you can direct your questions to Derek Harris
- To make an appointment with either AFA or the benefits office there are several phone numbers: 381-1114, 381-1341, 381-1342, 381-1388

If you have new changes to your dependent coverage (births, marriages, deaths, change in employment status, etc) those still need to be taken care of within thirty (30) days of the occurrence.

## **Membership**

If you are a member, you will be receiving your current membership card in the next few days. If there is any information that needs to be corrected, please see your site representatives. They will be able to help you. Maxine, who takes care of membership in our office, will be able to properly update all changes **if** she gets the information prior to the end of October. Otherwise, changes may not get processed before the beginning of January 2010. As members, you should be receiving The California Educator and NEA Today magazines. If you are not getting these, and you are a member, it could be due to an incorrect address on file.

If you did not receive a membership card, then you are probably not a member. If you would like to be, your site reps can get you the necessary form needed to sign up for membership. Your site rep can also explain to you the benefits of membership.

## **2010-2011 School Calendar**

The school calendar is available online on the district website: [www.sbcusd.com](http://www.sbcusd.com). First, click on 'School Year Calendars'. Then click on '2010-2011 Modified Traditional Calendar'. Even though it says Modified Traditional Calendar, it contains the 4 track calendar as well. The district is planning on printing and distributing them around January.