

# Employee Benefits New Hire Guide



## Benefits for the 2026 Plan Year



For information and enrollment, access [Whitfield County Schools Benefits](#) or call the Whitfield County Schools Benefits Service Center at (855) 481-1489.

# INTRODUCTION

## Benefits Service Center

Whitfield County Schools is committed to providing a comprehensive benefits package at the most competitive cost. Our extensive benefits package provides financial protection and peace of mind for you and your family.

The district provides a significant financial contribution towards your State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) premiums. Whitfield County Schools also provides basic life insurance coverage and an Employee Assistance Program at no cost to you.

This guide provides a brief overview of your Whitfield County Schools benefits, the enrollment process, your benefits resources, and plan contact information. We encourage you to review this booklet carefully prior to completing your elections.

Your employee elections during enrollment are valid for the entire 2026 plan year unless you have a qualifying life event or change in family status, such as marriage, divorce, birth of a child, or loss/gain of other coverage (supporting documentation required).

Thank you for your dedicated service as a Whitfield County Schools employee, and for the meaningful contributions you make to our district's mission to maximize student growth and achievement by providing challenging and engaging educational experiences in safe and supportive environments.



**We envision an innovative school district that strives for excellence and prepares students for success.**

## Your Benefits Resources

### Benefits Website

Access plan documents, benefit summaries, forms, premium information, benefits presentations and guides, links to insurance company and vendor websites (including SHBP), and more.

Go to [Whitfield County Schools](#) then,

- Departments
- Human Resources
- Benefits

### State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP)

Access Decision Guides, premium information, wellness program information, links to the ADP enrollment portal, links to vendor websites, and more.

- [State Health Benefits Plan](#)
- Call **(800) 610-1863**

### Benefits Service Center

Contact the Whitfield County Schools Benefits Service Center for benefits questions, claims inquiries, assistance with voluntary plan enrollment, and general SHBP inquiries.

**Phone: (855) 481-1489**

**Email: [benefits@wcsbenefits.com](mailto:benefits@wcsbenefits.com)**

Monday - Thursday from 8am to 6pm EST  
Friday from 8am to 5pm EST

  
**benefits  
service center**

## Eligibility

**New Hires:** As a new Whitfield County Schools employee, you are eligible for benefits on the first of the month following 30 days of employment.

**Qualifying Life Events:** You are required to notify SHBP and the Benefits Service Center within 31 days of a Qualifying Life Event (QLE) resulting in a change in covered dependents. No enrollment changes are allowed to your benefits during the plan year, except in the case of a qualifying life event. Qualifying life events include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Marriage or divorce | Birth or adoption of a child
- Gain or loss of other coverage
- Medicare entitlement
- A change in your spouse's employment that affects benefits
- Loss of other group coverage

If you have a qualifying life event, please contact the Benefits Service Center to complete your new elections and update your life insurance beneficiary. You must also provide the necessary documentation to SHBP and/or the Benefits Service Center within 31 days of the change event. If you do not do so, you must wait until the next open enrollment to make any benefit plan changes.

## Understanding Retirement and Social Security Benefits

As a school system employee, it's important to know whether you're contributing to Social Security. For Whitfield County Schools, Social Security taxes are being withheld from your paycheck, and you are earning credits toward federal retirement, disability, or survivor benefits under Title II of the Social Security Act. To qualify for these benefits, most people need 40 credits (roughly 10 years of work).

You are also enrolled in a pension/retirement plan: either TRS, PSERS, or ERS. If you're unsure of your status, review your paycheck or reach out to your Payroll Department for more information. You can find more information about the retirement plans here:

- **TRS:** [Teachers Retirement System](#)
- **PSERS:** [Public School Employees Retirement System](#)
- **ERS:** [Employees Retirement System of Georgia](#)

## Enrollment Instructions

**Medical (SHBP):** Log on to [My State Health Benefits Plan](#). You may need to reset your password. Print and retain your SHBP Confirmation Statement once you have completed your 2026 enrollment.

### **Resetting Your Password**

- Go to [My State Health Benefits Plan](#) and click "Need help signing in?"
- Enter the requested demographic information.
- Follow the instructions to answer security questions. Contact SHBP if you are unable to answer the questions.
- Create a new password and click "Continue."

**Voluntary Benefits (non-medical):** Call the Benefits Service Center at (855) 481-1489 or access [Ware County Schools Benefits](#).

- **Telephonic Enrollment:** The Whitfield County Schools Benefits Service Center is available Monday – Thursday from 8am to 6pm and Friday from 8am to 5pm. You can speak with a trained Benefits Specialist who will answer your questions and complete your enrollment. English and Spanish Benefits Specialists are available to assist you.
- **Online Enrollment:** Access [Ware County Schools Benefits](#) and click "Enroll Now." Then, click on "Get Started Now." Click "Login" in the top right hand corner of the screen, and then click "Sign in with Whitfield County Schools SSO - >." You will be directed to your WCS portal to login. Once signed in, you will be redirected back to the enrollment system as logged in. Complete your benefit elections by clicking "Begin Enrollment" and following the prompts.
- You will receive a Confirmation Statement via email following completion of your enrollment.



## Medical Coverage

### State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP)

Whitfield County Schools participates in the State Health Benefit Plan. Refer to the Active Employee Decision Guide for details.

### SHBP Employer Contribution

The district funds a significant portion of your 2026 health insurance premiums. This financial contribution allows you to receive quality medical plan coverage at a competitive cost.

### Medical Plan Overview

Anthem	
Plan	Description
HRA Gold HRA Silver HRA Bronze	The Gold, Silver, and Bronze HRA plans have different HRA credits, deductibles, coinsurance levels, and out-of-pocket limits. Most services are subject to a deductible. Then you pay coinsurance up to the out-of-pocket maximum. For prescription drugs, you pay a percentage of the retail cost. The HRA plans include a SHBP-funded Health Reimbursement Account (HRA) to provide first-dollar medical and pharmacy expenses. Unused HRA credits roll over to future years.
HMO	This plan has the lowest deductible and provides in-network coverage only. Some services, such as office visits, ER and prescription drugs, are covered at 100% after a copay. For most other services, you are responsible for a deductible and coinsurance until you meet your out-of-pocket maximum.
UnitedHealthcare	
HMO	Same benefits as the Anthem HMO, but utilizes the UnitedHealthcare provider network.
High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP)	Lowest premiums, highest deductible and out-of-pocket maximum. All services including pharmacy are subject to deductible and coinsurance. A Health Savings Account (HSA) is available with this plan.

### Pharmacy Information

- CVS Caremark administers the pharmacy benefits for HRA, HMO, and HDHP members.
- You are not limited to CVS pharmacies for your retail prescription needs. The CVS Caremark pharmacy network is extensive, and participating pharmacy information is available online at [Caremark](#).
- For your convenience, you may purchase a 90-day supply via retail at participating in-network pharmacies.
- Certain drug costs are waived if SHBP is primary and you actively participate in the Coronary Artery Disease (CAD), Diabetes, Asthma Disease Management Programs and/or Medication for Addiction Treatment Programs.

### Online Resources

Access the plan websites to locate participating providers as well as health and wellness tools, plan details, and much more.

#### Anthem

Visit [Anthem](#) and select "Find Care" from the Main Menu and then follow instructions to find a doctor.

#### United Healthcare

Visit [United Healthcare](#) and select "Search for network providers" in the Health plans drop down. Then select your plan and follow search instructions.

### Telemedicine Virtual Visits

The medical plans include a telemedicine benefit that allows you to speak to a participating doctor from home or work through your mobile device, tablet, or computer. You must use in-network providers for coverage to apply. HMO members pay a copay and HRA members pay coinsurance for virtual visits. High Deductible Health Plan members can access this benefit subject to the health plan deductible. Consider this convenient benefit for non-complex medical conditions. Download the LiveHealth Online (Anthem) or the Virtual Visits mobile app (UHC) today!

### Dependent Documentation

- If you wish to add dependent(s) to your health plan at this time, ADP will contact you (by mail and email) to request verification documents. This communication from ADP will include a personalized fax cover sheet with a bar code that must be used when submitting documentation.
- Appropriate documentation must be attached to the fax cover page.
- If you do not receive the request, contact SHBP at (800) 610-1863 to have the request sent to you. **Your dependents will not be covered until the documentation is approved.**

## Medical Plan Designs and Premiums



	Anthem HRA						Anthem & UHC	UHC	
	Gold		Silver		Bronze		HMO	HDHP	
	In	Out	In	Out	In	Out	In-Network Only	In	Out
<b>Deductible</b>									
You	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$1,300	\$3,500	\$7,000
You + Child(ren)/Spouse	\$2,250	\$4,500	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$3,750	\$7,500	\$1,950	\$7,000	\$14,000
You + Family	\$3,000	\$6,000	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$2,600	\$7,000	\$14,000
<b>Medical Out-of-Pocket</b>									
You	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$6,000	\$12,000	\$4,000	\$6,450	\$12,900
You + Child(ren)/Spouse	\$6,000	\$12,000	\$7,500	\$15,000	\$9,000	\$18,000	\$6,500	\$12,900	\$25,800
You + Family	\$8,000	\$16,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$12,000	\$24,000	\$9,000	\$12,900	\$25,800
<b>Coinsurance (Plan Pays)</b>	85%	60%	80%	60%	75%	60%	80%	70%	50%
<b>HRA</b>									
You	\$400		\$200		\$100		N/A	N/A	
You + Child(ren)/Spouse	\$600		\$300		\$150		N/A	N/A	
You + Family	\$800		\$400		\$200		N/A	N/A	
<b>Medical</b>									
ER	Coins after ded		Coins after ded		Coins after ded		\$200 copay	Coins after ded	
Urgent Care	Coins after ded		Coins after ded		Coins after ded		\$35 copay	Coins after ded	
PCP Visit	Coins after ded		Coins after ded		Coins after ded		\$35 copay	Coins after ded	
Specialist Visit	Coins after ded		Coins after ded		Coins after ded		\$45 copay	Coins after ded	
<b>Preventive Care</b>	100%	None	100%	None	100%	None	100%	100%	None
<b>Retail Pharmacy</b>									
Tier 1	15%, Min \$5, Max \$10		15%, Min \$5, Max \$10		15%, Min \$5, Max \$10		\$5 copay	Coinsurance after deductible	
Tier 2	25%, Min \$55, Max \$85		25%, Min \$55, Max \$85		25%, Min \$55, Max \$85		\$55 copay	Coinsurance after deductible	
Tier 3	25%, Min \$85, Max \$130		25%, Min \$85, Max \$130		25%, Min \$85, Max \$130		\$95 copay	Coinsurance after deductible	
<b>Mail Order Pharmacy</b>									
Tier 1	15%, Min. \$12.50, Max \$25		15%, Min \$12.50, Max \$25		15%, Min \$12.50, Max \$25		\$12.50 copay	Coinsurance after deductible	
Tier 2	25%, Min. \$137.50, Max \$212.50		25%, Min \$137.50, Max \$212.50		25%, Min \$137.50, Max \$212.50		\$137.50 copay	Coinsurance after deductible	
Tier 3	25%, Min. \$212.50, Max \$325		25%, Min \$212.50, Max \$325		25%, Min \$212.50, Max \$325		\$237.50 copay	Coinsurance after deductible	
<b>Monthly Premiums</b>	Anthem HRA						Anthem	UHC	UHC
	Gold HRA		Silver HRA		Bronze HRA		HMO	HMO	HDHP
You	\$213.71		\$146.11		\$92.12		\$177.21	\$217.19	\$81.11
You + Child(ren)	\$390.68		\$275.76		\$183.97		\$328.63	\$396.59	\$165.26
You + Spouse	\$531.82		\$389.86		\$276.48		\$455.17	\$539.13	\$253.36
You + Family	\$708.79		\$519.51		\$368.33		\$606.59	\$718.53	\$337.51



## Wellness Program

Sharecare, your wellness program vendor, provides comprehensive well-being and incentive programs for all SHBP members. As you complete wellness activities, you earn incentive points to help you pay for your medical expenses. HDHP members must meet a portion of the deductible before well-being points may be used.

You and your covered spouse are each eligible to receive up to 480 well-being incentive points (a family total of 960) when you complete the activities between January 1 and November 30. Enrolled members choose to redeem well-being incentive points in the Sharecare Redemption Center for either 1) 480 incentive points to apply towards eligible medical / pharmacy expenses or 2) a \$150 Sharecare Rewards Visa Prepaid Card.

Step	Action	Incentive Earned
Step 1	Complete the RealAge Test	Earn 120 in well-being incentive points
Step 2	Complete a biometric screening	Earn 120 in well-being incentive points
Step 3	Complete one of or a combination of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telephonic Coaching Pathway</li> <li>• Online Challenges Pathway</li> </ul>	Earn up to 240 in well-being incentive points

Please refer to the State Health Benefit Plan Decision Guide or access [State Health Benefits Plan](#) for additional details. Download the Sharecare App today to complete activities or redeem well-being incentive points.

### TRICARE

The TRICARE Supplement Plan is an alternative to the State Health Benefit Plan that is offered to members and dependents who are eligible for SHBP coverage and enrolled in TRICARE.



Who is eligible for the TRICARE Supplement Plan?

- Retired military receiving retired, retainer, or equivalent pay
- Retired Reservists between ages 60 and 65
- Retired Reservists under age 60 and enrolled in TRICARE Retired Reserve (TRR)
- Qualified National Guard and Reserve Members enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS)
- Spouses/surviving spouses of any of the above

Coverage Level	Premium
You	\$60.50
You + Spouse / Child(ren)	\$119.50
You + Family	\$160.50

For information about eligibility and benefits, contact (866) 637-9911 or visit [State Health Benefits Plan Supplement Guide](#).

### PeachCare

- You may be eligible for PeachCare (instead of SHBP), offered through the state of Georgia
- Income and other qualifications must be met
- Visit [PeachCare](#) for more information
- Not available through payroll deduction



### Medical Financial Incentive - Married Employees

- **Husband and wife are both Whitfield County Schools employees.**
- Both employees must be enrolled in State Health with You + Spouse or You + Family medical coverage and at least one employee in the couple must be Classified.
- Coverage must be on the Certified employee's record in State Health (if applicable).
- Whitfield County Schools will provide a monthly after-tax contribution, which is a paycheck credit.
- To receive the credit, provide a copy of your SHBP Confirmation Statement to Ginger Stafford, Benefits Specialist.

### Monthly Financial Incentive for SHBP Coverage - Married Employees

Anthem HRA Gold	Anthem HRA Silver	Anthem HRA Bronze	Anthem HMO	UHC HMO	UHC HDHP
\$318.11	\$243.75	\$184.36	\$277.96	\$321.94	172.25

## Dental Coverage



There are three MetLife dental PPO plan options: Base, Standard, and Premium. All options include preventive care at 100% (no deductible) and two cleanings per calendar year. The Base Plan has the lowest premiums and lowest annual maximum benefit but only includes coverage for preventive and basic services. The Standard Plan has higher premiums and a higher annual maximum but does not include orthodontia coverage. The Premium Plan is the richest plan option with the highest annual maximum and orthodontia coverage.

### Going In-Network Saves You and the Plan Money

To locate in-network MetLife dental providers, please follow the below instructions:

- Access [MetLife Dental](#) and click “Find a Participating Dentist”
- Select “PDP Plus” in the search instructions.

### What Is Balance Billing?

Balance billing happens when a dentist who isn’t in your plan’s network charges more than your plan pays. This is a risk when you receive services from an out-of-network dentist.

### The MetLife Dental Member Portal

The MetLife member portal and mobile app help you stay informed, manage your dental plan account, and take advantage of plan features and benefits. Below are some features of the MetLife member portal:

- Provider locator search tool
- Review of your plan and coverage information
- Review of claims and access to your Explanation of Benefits (EOBs)
- Obtain your dental plan ID card



Dental Benefit Highlights	Base Plan	Standard Plan	Premium Plan
<b>Deductible</b>	\$75 Individual \$225 Family	\$75 Individual \$225 Family	\$50 Individual \$150 Family
<b>Type A-Preventive Services:</b> Cleanings (regular and periodontal), exams, fluoride, x-rays, sealants and more	100%	100%	100%
<b>Type B-Basic Services:</b> Fillings, simple extractions, general anesthesia, periodontal scaling, and root planing	80%	80%	80%
<b>Type C- Major Services:</b> Periodontal surgery, major periodontics, bridges, dentures, crowns, and root canals	Not covered	50%	50%
<b>Type D - Orthodontia (adults &amp; children)</b>	Not covered	None	50%
<b>Orthodontia Lifetime Maximum</b>	None	None	\$1,500/Person
<b>Annual Maximum</b>	\$750/Person	\$1,000/Person	\$2,000/Person

Dental Monthly Payroll Premiums			
Coverage Level	Base Plan	Standard Plan	Premium Plan
<b>Employee Only</b>	\$27.26	\$35.51	\$47.48
<b>Employee + Spouse</b>	\$54.49	\$71.00	\$94.95
<b>Employee + Child(ren)</b>	\$57.08	\$74.36	\$99.44
<b>Family</b>	\$87.75	\$114.33	\$152.90

## Vision Coverage

Whitfield County Schools offers two vision plan options through MetLife. With the MetLife vision plans, you may visit any vision provider. However in order to maximize your vision benefit, it is recommended you access participating providers by visiting [MetLife](#). Click “Find a Vision Provider” under “Support”, and follow the search instructions. Be sure to select the **VSP Choice Network**. If you go out-of-network, you pay at the time of service and file a claim for reimbursement, and the benefit is reduced.

The vision plans include a benefit for an eye exam, lenses, and frames (either contacts or eyeglasses). You may select either a \$130 or a \$200 allowance for frames and lenses. The vision plan includes frequency limitations. For both plans, the exam and lens benefit is available once every 12 months. The frame benefit is once every 24 months for the Standard Plan and once every 12 months for the Premium Plan.

Benefit Summary	Standard Plan	Premium Plan
<b>Frames and Lens Allowance</b>	\$130	\$200
<b>Exam and Lens Frequency</b>	Every 12 months	Every 12 months
<b>Frame Frequency</b>	Every 24 months	Every 12 months
Monthly Payroll Premiums	Standard Plan	Premium Plan
<b>Employee Only</b>	\$6.84	\$9.83
<b>Employee + Spouse</b>	\$13.70	\$19.68
<b>Employee + Child(ren)</b> ( <i>children up to age 26</i> )	\$12.86	\$18.49
<b>Family</b>	\$19.69	\$28.30

## Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA)



Two types of Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA's) are available: **1) Healthcare FSA** for medical, dental, vision, pharmacy, and other related expenses and **2) Dependent Care** primarily for dependent day care expenses. Both accounts allow you to pay for out-of-pocket costs with pre-tax dollars, saving you money. Your taxable income is reduced by your annual FSA contributions. Plus, the reimbursements are tax-free.

### Healthcare Flexible Spending Account

You can contribute **up to \$3,400** during 2026 into a Healthcare FSA. Married employees can each contribute up to the maximum. Eligible Healthcare FSA expenses include deductibles, copays, coinsurance, prescription drugs, over-the-counter drugs (no prescription required), dental, and vision expenses.

### Use It or Lose It

Remember to carefully estimate your 2026 expenses when making an election. You must use all the funds in your account by the end of the plan year and claims must be incurred within 2½ months following the last day of the plan year (by March 15, 2027) to be eligible for reimbursement. The IRS requires that any unused money in your account at the end of the plan year is retained by your employer and forfeited by the employee.

### Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account

The Dependent Care FSA enables you to pay for certain dependent care expenses using before-tax dollars. Single individuals and married couples filing jointly may contribute **up to \$7,500** in a Dependent Care FSA for 2026. For married individuals filing separate returns, the **limit is \$3,750**. Eligible dependent care expenses include but are not limited to day care and before and after-school care for children up to age 13 and certain adult day care expenses for incapacitated adult dependents.

### FSA Debit Card

FSA plan members receive a debit card that may be used at the time of service, eliminating the reimbursement process. The IRS requires documentation as appropriate, so retain all receipts for FSA transactions.



### Monthly FSA Administrative Fee

FSA participants pay a **\$3.45** monthly post-tax administrative fee via payroll deduction. Only one fee applies if you are enrolled in both the Dependent Care and the Healthcare FSA.



## Life Insurance

### Employer-Paid Basic Life Insurance

We are pleased to provide an employer-paid basic life insurance benefit in the amount of \$15,000 to all benefits-eligible employees. This valuable benefit provides your family with financial protection in the unfortunate event of your death. The basic life insurance is insured by The Hartford and is provided at no cost to you. This benefit does not reduce due to age.

### Voluntary Life & AD&D Insurance

You may also elect voluntary life insurance for yourself and your dependents through convenient payroll deduction to supplement the basic life benefit. The voluntary life insurance plan is insured by The Hartford, and does not reduce due to age.

The voluntary life plan includes Accidental Death and Dismemberment (AD&D). The AD&D benefit pays in the event of death or loss of limbs, speech, hearing and more caused by a covered accident. (Refer to the Certificate of Coverage for details)

#### Voluntary Life & AD&D Insurance Options

<b>Employee</b>	Up to the lesser of 5 times annual earnings or \$300,000 in \$10,000 increments
<b>Spouse</b> ( <i>common law / domestic spouses not eligible</i> )	Up to \$100,000, not to exceed 100% of the employee amount in \$10,000 increments
<b>Child(ren)</b>	
Age 15 days to 6 months	\$100
Age 6 months to 26 years	\$10,000

**New Employee Open Enrollment Opportunity - No Medical Questions:** You may elect coverage for yourself, your spouse, and your child(ren) at this time with **no health questions**. Future elections will require medical underwriting. The below Voluntary Life & AD&D elections do not require Evidence of Insurability (EOI) at this time:

- Employee coverage up to \$150,000
- Spouse coverage up to \$50,000
- Child(ren) coverage in the amount of \$10,000

#### Employee Voluntary Life & AD&D Monthly Payroll Premiums

Benefit Amount	Age 30	Age 40	Age 50	Age 60
<b>\$50,000</b>	\$4.95	\$6.30	\$14.55	\$39.05
<b>\$100,000</b>	\$9.90	\$12.60	\$29.10	\$78.10
<b>\$150,000</b>	\$14.85	\$18.90	\$43.65	\$117.15

#### Spouse Voluntary Life & AD&D Monthly Payroll Premiums\*

Benefit Amount	Age 30	Age 40	Age 50	Age 60
<b>\$30,000</b>	\$2.97	\$3.78	\$8.73	\$23.43
<b>\$50,000</b>	\$4.95	\$6.30	\$14.55	\$39.05
<b>\$100,000</b>	\$9.90	\$12.60	\$29.10	\$78.10

\*Spouse rates are based on spouse age.

#### Child Voluntary Life & AD&D Monthly Payroll Premiums

Benefit Amount	Up to age 26
<b>\$10,000</b>	\$1.50 per month (covers all children)



**Beneficiary Information:** Your beneficiary is the person(s) who will receive your life insurance benefits when you die. Your beneficiary can be a person or multiple people, charitable institutions, or your estate. Once named, your beneficiary remains on file until you make a change. If your family situation changes, please review the beneficiaries on file and make updates if needed. If you don't name a beneficiary, your life insurance benefits will automatically go to your estate. **Every employee is required to confirm your beneficiary(ies) during your enrollment for both the employer-paid basic life insurance benefit and for the voluntary benefit.**



## Disability Insurance

As a district employee, you accumulate “sick leave” days for which you will receive full pay if you become injured or ill and cannot work. Disability coverage provides an income replacement benefit once your sick days are exhausted.

You select the monthly disability amount of coverage in increments of \$100, from \$400 up to \$7,000, not to exceed 60% of your earnings. You also select when you would like your benefit to start, from 7 different waiting period options. The shortest waiting period is 7 days, and the longest waiting period is 180 days. The plan includes long term disability coverage, and the benefit continues until age 65 or normal retirement age if you remain disabled.

### Pre-Existing Condition Limitation

The plan pays no benefit or a limited benefit for disabilities caused by pre-existing conditions during the first 12 months of your disability coverage. A pre-existing condition is a sickness or injury for which you have been diagnosed or treated during the immediate 6 months prior to your coverage effective date.

### Enroll with No Health Questions

**New Employee Open Enrollment Opportunity - No Medical Questions:** As a new employee, you may elect disability coverage with no medical underwriting.

Disability Monthly Payroll Premiums							
	Option 1 7 day wait	Option 2 14 day wait	Option 3 30 day wait	Option 4 45 day wait	Option 5 60 day wait	Option 6 90 day wait	Option 7 180 day wait
<b>Salary: \$30,000   Benefit: \$500 Monthly</b>							
<b>Monthly Cost</b>	\$6.10	\$5.05	\$4.00	\$3.70	\$3.35	\$3.15	\$1.90
<b>Salary: \$30,000   Benefit: \$1,000 Monthly</b>							
<b>Monthly Cost</b>	\$12.20	\$10.10	\$8.00	\$7.40	\$6.70	\$6.30	\$3.80
<b>Salary: \$30,000   Benefit: \$1,500 Monthly</b>							
<b>Monthly Cost</b>	\$18.30	\$15.15	\$12.00	\$11.10	\$10.05	\$9.45	\$5.70

All benefit options and premiums are available on the enrollment portal or by calling the Benefits Service Center.





# CANCER PLUS CRITICAL ILLNESS



## Cancer Plus Critical Illness

Whitfield County Schools offers voluntary Cancer Plus Critical Illness coverage which provides a dollar benefit in the event of a diagnosis of a covered illness.

### Covered Diagnoses (refer to certificate for details)

Heart attack   Sudden cardiac arrest	25%
Stroke   Coma	100%
Cancer	100%
Skin cancer	10%
Carcinoma in Situ	25%
Coronary artery bypass	25%
Major organ transplant   end stage renal failure	100%
Permanent Paralysis	100%
Diabetes - Type 1	100%
Severe burns	100%
Transient Ischemic Attacks	10%
Ruptured or dissecting aneurysm	10%
Abdominal or thoracic aortic aneurysm	10%
Open heart surgery for valve replacement or repair	25%
Transcatheter heart valve replacement or repair	10%
Coronary angioplasty	10%
Implantable cardioverter defibrillator placement	25%
Pacemaker placement	10%
Benign brain tumor	100%
Bone marrow transplant	25%
Stem cell transplant	25%
Loss of sight, hearing, or speech	100%
Multiple Sclerosis, ALS, Parkinson's Disease	100%
Advanced dementia and Alzheimer's Disease	100%
Huntington's Disease, Muscular Dystrophy	100%
Addison's Disease	10%
Myasthenia Gravis, Systemic Lupus Erythematosus	50%
Systemic Sclerosis	10%
Occupational HIV or Hepatitis B or C	100%
<b>Infectious diseases</b> COVID, polio, rabies, meningitis, Lyme disease, mad cow Disease, flesh eating bacteria, MRSA, sepsis, tuberculosis, bacterial pneumonia, diphtheria, encephalitis, Legionnaire's disease, malaria, necrotizing fasciitis, osteomyelitis, tetanus, Ebola	Covered at 25% unless otherwise noted

### Benefit Options

**Employees:** From \$5,000 to \$30,000 in increments of \$5,000

**Spouses:** From \$5,000 to \$15,000 in increments of \$5,000

- Spouses up to age 70 are eligible to elect this coverage.

**Children:** \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000, or \$10,000

**Employees may elect up to the maximum amount of coverage for yourself, your spouse, and your child(ren) with no health questions.** Employee coverage must be elected in order to cover spouses or children, but the dependent amount can exceed the employee election.

### Wellness Benefit Included

The voluntary Cancer Plus (Critical Illness) plan includes a wellness benefit for covered preventive screenings of **\$50 per covered person per year** (no maximum).

Monthly Payroll Premiums				
Employee Coverage				
Age	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	
< 30	\$1.55	\$3.10	\$6.20	
30-39	\$1.90	\$3.80	\$7.60	
40-49	\$3.55	\$7.10	\$14.20	
50-59	\$6.85	\$13.70	\$27.40	
60-64	\$9.85	\$19.70	\$39.40	
65-69	\$13.25	\$26.50	\$53.00	
70+	\$18.15	\$36.30	\$72.60	
Spouse Coverage				
Age	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$15,000	
< 30	\$1.80	\$3.60	\$5.40	
30-39	\$2.05	\$4.10	\$6.15	
40-49	\$3.85	\$7.70	\$11.55	
50-59	\$8.15	\$16.30	\$24.45	
60-64	\$12.45	\$24.90	\$37.35	
65-69	\$14.85	\$29.70	\$44.55	
70+	\$19.40	\$38.80	\$58.20	
Child Coverage				
Age	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$10,000
To age 26	\$0.20	\$0.50	\$1.00	\$2.00

All options and premiums are available on the enrollment portal or by calling the Benefits Service Center.



## Accident

The Voya Financial accident plan provides a benefit in the event of an unexpected accident resulting in medical treatment. Please refer to the Voya Summary of Benefits or Certificate of Coverage for complete details.

<b>Hospital Care</b> Surgery - Open abdominal, thoracic Blood, plasma, platelets Admission Confinement Transportation Lodging	\$1,000 \$500 \$1,250 \$350/day up to 365 days \$650/trip up to 3 per accident \$150/day up to 30 days
<b>Accident Care</b> Initial doctor visit Urgent care Follow-up doctor treatment Medical equipment Speech & physical therapy X-ray	\$75 \$200 \$75 \$125 \$40 (up to 10 per accident) \$60
<b>Common Injuries</b> Burns - 2nd and 3rd degree Emergency dental work Eye injury Torn knee cartilage Lacerations Tendon, ligament, rotator cuff Concussion Paralysis	\$1,125 to \$12,500 \$75 to \$300 \$80 to \$275 \$175 to \$650 \$25 to \$400 \$350 to \$1,000 \$200 \$13,500 to \$20,000
<b>Injuries - Dislocations</b> Hip Joint Knee Ankle or foot bones (other than toes) Shoulder Elbow, Wrist Partial dislocations	Non-Surgical   Surgical \$3,200   \$6,400 \$2,000   \$4,000 \$1,200   \$2,400 \$1,500   \$3,000 \$900   \$1,800 25% of the non-surgical benefit
<b>Injuries - Fractures</b> Hip Leg Ankle, Forearm, Hand, Wrist Collarbone	Non-Surgical   Surgical \$2,500   \$5,000 \$1,800   \$3,600 \$1,500   \$3,000 \$1,200   \$2,400
<b>Accidental Death and Dismemberment</b>	<b>Employee: \$50,000   Spouse: \$25,000   Child: \$10,000</b>
<b>Additional Covered Benefits</b>	Paralysis, pet boarding, induced coma, general anesthesia, home health care, prescriptions, outpatient IV, lab, traumatic brain injury
<b>Sports Accident Benefit</b> Covers accidents as a result of an organized sporting activity	Pays an additional 25% of the Hospital Care, Accident Care, or Common Injuries benefit to a maximum of \$1,000

Accident Monthly Payroll Premiums	
Coverage Level	Premium
Employee Only	\$8.01
Employee + Spouse	\$13.28
Employee + Child(ren)	\$16.09
Family	\$21.36





## Group Legal Plan

The legal plan is administered by ARAG Legal. ARAG has an extensive local attorney network, and helps cover the costs of legal expenses associated with a variety of needs. The plan includes office and telephonic advice with an attorney for personal legal problems. Contested and uncontested divorce proceedings, as well as many other legal issues, are covered and members can go directly to a participating attorney for services. Emergency service with an attorney is available 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. An online legal center with educational tools and resources is available for all employees, regardless of enrollment in the plan.

This plan provides full coverage for a lengthy list of legal issues with an in-network attorney. The benefits website, [Whitfield County Schools](#), includes instructions to locate in-network attorneys.

**Telephonic and office consultations are available on a variety of matters, including:**

- Family law
- Estate planning and wills
- Real estate
- Tax Matters
- Divorce (contested: up to 30 hours and uncontested: no limit)
- Financial issues
- Traffic offenses
- Document preparation and review
- Juvenile matters
- And more



Legal Plan Monthly Payroll Premium
\$18.25

## Identity Theft



The ID Watchdog from Equifax Identity Protection Plan gives you the tools and protection to stop identity theft early and resolve it quickly. Most victims only discover they have a problem when they are denied credit or receive bills for items never ordered. This benefit provides proactive resources and steps to help protect your personal information. Benefits include but are not limited to:

- Proactive Real Time Credit Monitoring
- Rapid Credit Alerts
- Monthly Credit Score Tracking
- Non-Credit Monitoring
- Social Network Alerts
- Registered Sex Offender Reporting
- Personal VPN
- Password Manager
- 100% Fully-Managed Resolution up to \$2M, including Home Title Fraud
- Cyber crime coverage, including online fraud reimbursement, extortion and ransomware attacks, and counseling for cyberbullying

Coverage Level	Monthly Payroll Premiums
Employee Only	\$8.95
Family	\$17.95



### Real Time Credit Monitoring Included

Credit monitoring watches your credit reports and alerts you to changes in them. If someone tries to use your data to open a credit account, you will know right away, rather than months or years later, when there is more damage and undoing it is more complicated.



## Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Life presents complex challenges. If the unexpected happens, you and your family have simple solutions to help you cope with the stress and changes that may result. That's why Whitfield County Schools provides The Hartford's Ability Assist Counseling Services for all employees.

From the everyday issues like job pressures, relationships, retirement planning, personal grief, loss, or a disability, Ability Assist can be your resource for professional support. You and your family, including your spouse and dependents, can access Ability Assist at any time.

The service includes **unlimited telephonic support and up to 3 face-to-face emotional or work-life counseling sessions** per occurrence per year. Each member of your family can get counseling for their own unique needs. Legal and financial counseling are also available by phone.

<p><b>Emotional or Work-Life Counseling</b></p>	<p>Addresses stress, relationship, or other personal issues you or your family members may face. It's staffed by GuidanceExperts – highly trained master's and doctoral level clinicians who listen to concerns and quickly make referrals to in-person counseling or other resources. Situations may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job pressures</li> <li>• Relationship and marital conflicts</li> <li>• Stress, anxiety, and depression</li> <li>• Work and school disagreements</li> <li>• Substance abuse</li> <li>• Child and elder care referral services</li> </ul>
<p><b>Financial Information and Resources</b></p>	<p>Provides support for the complicated financial decisions for you and your family members. Speak by phone with a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Financial Planner™ Professional on a wide range of financial topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing a budget</li> <li>• Retirement</li> <li>• Getting out of debt</li> <li>• Tax questions</li> <li>• Saving for college</li> <li>• And more</li> </ul>
<p><b>Legal Support and Resources</b></p>	<p>Offers assistance if legal uncertainties arise. Talk to an attorney by phone about the issues that are important to you or your family members. If you require representation, you'll be referred to a qualified attorney in your area with a 25% reduction in customary legal fees thereafter. Topics may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debt and bankruptcy</li> <li>• Guardianship</li> <li>• Buying a home</li> <li>• Power of attorney</li> <li>• Divorce</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health Champion</b></p>	<p>A service that supports you through all aspects of your healthcare issues by helping to ensure that you're fully supported with employee assistance programs and/or work-life services. HealthChampion is staffed by both administrative and clinical experts who understand the nuances of any given healthcare concern. Situations may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-on-one review of your health concerns</li> <li>• Preparation for upcoming doctor's visits / lab work / tests / surgeries</li> <li>• Answers regarding diagnosis and treatment options</li> <li>• Coordination with appropriate health care plan provider(s)</li> <li>• An easy-to-understand explanation of your benefits – what's covered and what's not</li> <li>• Cost estimation for covered / non-covered treatment</li> <li>• Guidance on claims and billing issues</li> <li>• Fee / payment plan negotiation</li> </ul>

**To access services, simply call (800) 96-HELPS (800-964-3577).**

## Perks at Work Employee Discount Program

Whitfield County Schools Perks At Work is your exclusive employee discount platform, designed to help save you money and time. With over 30,000 offers available, you can find the perks that matter to you, from everyday purchases to large special purchases. The platform uses personalization to recommend offers that may be relevant to you in these categories:

- Travel – flights, hotels, car rentals
- Health and fitness
- Electronics
- Tickets for sporting events and miscellaneous entertainment,
- Cars and corporate car rentals
- Home and Garden
- Restaurants
- Flowers and Gifts
- Financial Wellbeing
- Miscellaneous consumer goods

### How to Register

Visit [Perks at Work](#), and click “Sign Up for Free” at the bottom right hand corner of the page. Register by following the instructions to activate your account. Enjoy exclusive savings and rewards on your favorite brands, travel, dining, and more.

Access [Perks at Work](#) to explore this program. You can also invite up to five friends and family members to share in the savings.

## Retirement & College Savings

Whitfield County Schools cares about the financial health of our employees. It’s never too early to plan for retirement and you have several savings plan options available.

### There are 3 components to your retirement plans:

1. Social Security
2. Teachers Retirement System (TRS) or Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS)
3. Personal retirement savings in a 403(b), 457(b), or Roth plans

District employees are required to participate in either TRS or PSERS. In addition to the required retirement plans, you have the option to participate in the supplemental 403(b), 457(b), and Roth options. Your contributions to these plans are made through convenient payroll deduction.

### Teachers Retirement System (TRS)

The following personnel are required to participate in TRS, a state retirement plan, as a condition of employment: certified teacher, administrator, clerical staff, paraprofessional, lead custodian, supervisor, and school nutrition manager. Your TRS account is funded by you and Whitfield County Schools. Employees contribute 6% of earnings and Whitfield County Schools contributes 21.91% of earnings to the account (22.32% as of July 1, 2026). Employees are vested after 10 years of service. Your ultimate benefit is based on a formula that includes years of service, age at retirement, and monthly pay during your two highest paid, consecutive years.

A 30-year employee could retire with a benefit of 60% of his or her highest pay depending upon the payout option chosen.

### Public School Employees Retirement System (PSERS)

The following personnel are required to participate in PSERS, a state retirement plan, as a condition of employment: transportation, school nutrition, maintenance, and custodial staff. The employee contribution for employees hired before July 1, 2012 is \$4 per month for 9 months (\$36 per year). The employee contribution for employees hired on July 1, 2012 or later is \$10 per month for 9 months (\$90 per year). Your retirement benefit will be \$17.00 per month times the number of years of service. Employees are vested after 10 years of service.

### Supplemental Retirement Plans

Employees may supplement their state retirement plan by participating in the 403(b) Plan, the 457(b) Plan, or Roth IRA’s. These plans are available to all employees and you may save pre-tax dollars in funds managed by Modern Woodman or Corebridge Financial.

### College Savings Plan

Path2College offers a college savings fund available to all employees. Path2College helps you maximize savings for college for children and grandchildren. Federal and state tax advantages that help you maximize savings and compounded earnings potential works to help grow your balance over time.

## Pet Insurance



Whitfield County Schools offers pet insurance benefit through Nationwide to help care for these special family members! Pet insurance is enrolled directly with Nationwide, but the premiums are conveniently deducted through payroll.

The plan includes the flexibility to **use any vet** for your pet's services, and **no pre-certifications or pre-approvals** are required. You can get cash back for accidents, illnesses, hereditary conditions, and more! There's never been a better time to protect your pet and plans are available for dogs, cats, birds, and exotic pets. Claims can easily be filed online for reimbursement.

### Plan Features

- Coverage available for accidents, illnesses, and wellness
- Use any licensed veterinarian, anywhere in the world, including emergency and specialty providers
- Unlimited 24/7 pet telehealth support with Nationwide VetHelpline
- Effortless, low-cost pet prescriptions with Nationwide PetRxExpress
- Savings on veterinary care at Petco Veterinarian Services clinics

### What's Covered

- Accidents and injuries
- Common illnesses (upset stomach, allergies, etc.)
- Serious illnesses (cancer, diabetes, etc.)
- Surgeries and hospitalizations
- Diagnostic tests (X-rays, MRIs, CT scans)
- Prescription medications included for all plan options
  - Use any vet or provider (ex. Chewy)
  - Use Pet Rx Express for prescription medications
- Free, 24/7 access to VetHelpline for guidance on any pet health concern
- Lost Pet (due to theft) benefit
- Mortality benefit up to \$1,000
- Optional preventive wellness coverage
- Multi-pet discounts available

### Choose Your Coverage Level

- Deductible options of \$100, \$250, or \$500
- Reimbursement levels of 50%, 70%, or 80%
- Annual maximum coverage of \$2,500 or \$5,000
- Optional wellness coverage of \$450 or \$800

### What's Not Covered

- Boarding
- Grooming
- Pre-existing conditions
  - A pre-existing condition is one which was incurred up to 12 months prior to the effective date of the policy.

### Easy to use

Using a Nationwide pet insurance plan is easy:



Visit any vet, anywhere



Submit a claim from any device



Get reimbursed for eligible expenses once the deductible is met



### Get a Quote

Final cost varies according to plan, species, and zip code. Visit [Pet Insurance/Whitfield County Schools](#) or call (877) 738-7874 for a fast, no obligation quote, today!

## Commonly Used Healthcare Terms

**Carrier** - Insurance company insuring your benefits.

**Coinsurance** – Percentage of medical bills that patient is responsible for; goes into effect after deductible has been met.

**Copay** – The per visit charge paid each time you see your doctor.

**Deductible** – The amount of medical costs you are financially responsible for before coinsurance applies.

**Employee Assistance Program (EAP)** – Program with services to assist with handling life’s problems (stress, mental illness, addiction, workplace issues, etc.)

**Explanation of Benefits (EOB)** – Received from carrier summarizing charges for care received. It will spell out what was billed, how much your carrier paid, and how much you are responsible for.

**In-Network** – Providers that have contracted with your carrier. Going in-network will save you money.

**Out-of-Network** – Providers that have not contracted with your carrier. Going out-of-network will result in reduced coverage, or no coverage at all. Potential balance billing can occur when you go out-of-network.

**Out-of-Pocket Maximum** – The maximum amount you pay for medical expenses before your plan pays 100%.

**Primary Care Provider (PCP)** – Doctor that you typically visit first with health issues; they manage your overall care.

**Participating Dental Provider (PDP) Fee** – Amount dentist has agreed to accept as payment for services from carrier.

**Premium** – Amount deducted from your paycheck to pay your portion of your insurance.

**Preventive care** – Care obtained to prevent major health issues: annual physicals, mammograms, colonoscopies, etc.

**Qualifying Life Event (QLE)** – Event (i.e. marriage, birth of child, gain/loss of coverage), that allows you to make changes to coverage during the year within a specific timeframe, typically 31 days from date of event.

**Summary Plan Description (SPD)** – Overview of provisions of plan, including coverage for specific procedures and applicable legal language.

## Plan Types

- **High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP)** – Typically has individual deductible of at least \$1,700. Most qualified HDHP plans do not have copays, and all care is subject to the deductible and coinsurance.
- **Health Maintenance Organization (HMO)** – Network plans that often require a PCP to manage the patient care. There is no out-of-network coverage, and HMOs sometimes have more plan restrictions.
- **Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA)** – An employer-funded health plan that reimburses employees for qualified medical expenses. Reimbursement dollars received by employees are generally tax-free.

## Medical Savings Account Types

- **Healthcare and Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA)** – Accounts in which pre-tax income is put aside to pay for IRS-qualified medical / dependent care expenses. The FSA is “use it or lose it”: funds must be used by end of plan year or be forfeited. The Whitfield County Schools FSA includes a 2 ½ month grace period to incur claims following the end of the plan year.

## Definition of Dependent

- Legally married spouse
- Naturally or legally adopted child(ren) or stepchild(ren), under age 26
- Child(ren) due to Legal Guardianship
- Natural or legally adopted child(ren) or stepchild(ren) 26 or older who are physically or mentally disabled prior to age 26, and who are primarily dependent on the enrolled member for support



## Important Contact Information

### Enrollment and Benefits Questions

**Benefits Service Center**  
Phone: (855) 481-1489  
Website: [www.wcsbenefits.com](http://www.wcsbenefits.com)  
Email: [benefits@wcsbenefits.com](mailto:benefits@wcsbenefits.com)

### Medical

**Anthem**  
Phone: (855) 641-4862  
Website: [www.anthem.com/shbp](http://www.anthem.com/shbp)

**UnitedHealthcare**  
Phone: (888) 364-6352  
Website: [www.whyuhc.com/shbp](http://www.whyuhc.com/shbp)

**Sharecare**  
Phone: (888) 616-6411  
Website: [www.bewellshbp.com](http://www.bewellshbp.com)

**CVS Caremark**  
Phone: (844) 345-3241  
Website: <http://info.caremark.com/shbp>

**SHBP Eligibility**  
Phone: (800) 610-1863  
Websites: [www.dch.georgia.gov/shbp](http://www.dch.georgia.gov/shbp)  
[www.myshbpga.adp.com](http://www.myshbpga.adp.com)

**Tricare Supplement Plan**  
Phone: (866) 637-9911  
Website: <https://shbp.georgia.gov/tricare-supplement-plan>

**Peachcare**  
Phone: (877) 427-3224  
Website: [www.peachcare.org](http://www.peachcare.org)

### Dental

**MetLife**  
Phone: (800) 942-0854  
Website: [www.metlife.com/dental](http://www.metlife.com/dental)

### Vision

**MetLife**  
Phone: (855) 638-3931  
Website: [www.metlife.com](http://www.metlife.com)

### Flexible Spending Accounts

**Medcom**  
Phone: (800) 523-7542  
Website: [www.medcombenefits.com](http://www.medcombenefits.com)  
[medcomreceipts@medcombenefits.com](mailto:medcomreceipts@medcombenefits.com)

### Life & Disability Insurance

**The Hartford**  
Phone: (866) 547-9124  
Website: [www.thehartford.com](http://www.thehartford.com)

### Critical Illness & Accident

**Voya Financial**  
Phone: (877) 236-7564  
Website: [www.voya.com](http://www.voya.com)

### Group Legal

**ARAG**  
Phone: (800) 247-4184  
Website: [www.araglegal.com](http://www.araglegal.com)

### Identity Theft

**ID Watchdog by Equifax**  
Phone: (800) 970-5182  
Website: [www.idwatchdog.com](http://www.idwatchdog.com)

### Pet Insurance

**Nationwide**  
Phone: (877) 738-7874  
Website: <https://benefits.petinsurance.com/wcsga>

### Retirement Plans

**Teachers Retirement (TRS)**  
Phone: (800) 352-0650  
Website: [www.trsga.com](http://www.trsga.com)

**PSERS**  
Phone: (800) 805-4609  
Website: [www.ers.ga.gov](http://www.ers.ga.gov)

**Corebridge Financial- 403(b) and 457(b)**  
Terry Akins | Phone: (706) 313-3850  
Email: [terry.akins@corebridgefinancial.com](mailto:terry.akins@corebridgefinancial.com)  
Website: [www.corebridgefinancial.com](http://www.corebridgefinancial.com)

**Horace Mann - IRA**  
Jennifer Felton | Phone: (321) 439-8928  
Email: [jennifer.felton@horacemann.com](mailto:jennifer.felton@horacemann.com)

**ValuTeachers - Roth IRA**  
Sandy Thornton | Phone: (423) 402-7498  
Email: [sthornton@valuteachers.com](mailto:sthornton@valuteachers.com)

**Path2College - 529**  
Phone: (877) 424-4377  
Website: [www.Path2College529.com](http://www.Path2College529.com)

### Whitfield County Schools Benefits Service Center

Phone: (855) 481-1489  
Mon-Thurs 8am-6pm, Fri 8am-5pm  
Email: [benefits@wcsbenefits.com](mailto:benefits@wcsbenefits.com)





This guide is a general summary of your benefit options. For specific details, refer to each plan's Certificate or Summary Plan Description (SPD). SPDs for your health insurance can be found on the State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP) website at [State Health Benefits Plan](#). All other plan documents can be found at [www.WhitfieldCountySchoolsBenefits](http://www.WhitfieldCountySchoolsBenefits). Every effort has been made to ensure that this document accurately represents the benefits being offered. However, if there are any discrepancies between the terms in this document and the terms of the plan documents, the plan documents will prevail.