
Health Care Cost Tips

With both the Aetna PPO and UnitedHealthcare HMO plans, there is a \$10 "co-pay" for some doctor visits. But you should **not** pay the \$10 during the visit (unless the office staff insists).

The main reason not to pay right away is that some doctor visits will not require a \$10 co-pay. For some visits, there will be no charge to you at all. Others will require an out-of-pocket payment, but **not** the \$10 co-pay.

Ask your doctor to submit the claim to your health insurance plan, and let Aetna or UHC process it **first**. If and when you get a bill, you should review it and pay only if it's correct.

This is the same advice if you need emergency or urgent care. Unless the medical provider requires up-front payment at the time of service, **wait for a bill**.

Talk to Your Doctor

Aetna participants are responsible for paying a deductible of up to \$100 per person per year. (This is limited to a maximum of three family members each year.)

If the deductible is charged for a visit to a doctor, chiropractor, physical therapist, or other medical provider you see regularly, you should ask **not** to be billed for any deductible amount.

Many doctors understand the \$100 deductible is a hardship. They also value you as a patient with excellent insurance - which pays them well. Your doctor may agree not to bill you for the \$100 to help you, and keep you as a patient.

Paid Inservices Negotiated for 2009-10

Background Information

Many members would like opportunities for professional growth to improve their knowledge and skills. Most general EAs benefitted from 40 hours of inservice classes MPS offered a few years ago. (The classes were required to meet the "highly qualified" standards of the ESEA law.)

EA Team Bargains Inservices for All Members

From our bargaining surveys, it's clear that paraprofessionals - as well as generals and EAs in other classifications - would like more MPS inservice classes. In bargaining the 2007-08 MBSD-MTEA Educational Assistant Contract, your EA team proposed a contract provision for paid inservice classes specifically for EAs.

The school board's team would not agree to make EA inservices a permanent part of the contract. However, a special agreement was reached last spring to provide all EAs with three hours of paid, inservice classes - as an experiment this school year.

Overview of Inservice Provisions for 2009-10

Several points were bargained for the one-year experiment, including:

- ◆ Establishing a joint education committee of EA representatives and administrators to plan the inservices.
- ◆ Offering inservice classes on a variety of work-related topics, such as: use of technology, special education, PBIS, and instructional support in curriculum, reading/math.
- ◆ Holding classes at various times - Saturdays, after school, and during the October convention days.
- ◆ Allowing EAs to voluntarily attend the special inservices - up to the enrollment maximum for each session.
- ◆ Requiring EAs to register in advance of each session and to record attendance verification at each class.
- ◆ Paying EAs a maximum of three hours for their inservice participation. (After you are paid for three hours, you can attend additional sessions, **without pay**, if there are seats available after the EAs attending with pay have enrolled.)

Technology Will Be Topic for First Session

Your bargaining team agreed to encourage EAs who have not activated their MPS User ID to attend a session on the use of technology. The first MPS inservice class for EAs this fall will be devoted to using the MPS Portal (signing-in, navigating, finding what you need, learning what's available, etc.) and the basics of e-mail (how to send and reply, MPS user rules, etc.).

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Technology Inservice Class Registration

Name:

MPS Employee ID#:

School/Department:

Circle One Session

The 90-minute technology class will be offered four times - twice during the morning of both convention days.

Please circle the **one** session you plan to attend.

Thursday, October 29

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Friday, October 30

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

October 23 Deadline

Your registration form must be received at the MTEA Building no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 23.

Fax Option

You may fax your form to us at 259-7801.

60 Per Class Maximum

Registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

If the class you circle is filled when we receive your form, we will notify you. You may be able to sign up for a different session if space is available.

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This initial session will be 90 minutes in length and presented four times during the convention days later this month. It will be hands-on (you'll be on a computer) and limited to 60 EAs per class. The classes will be held at the MPS Technology Training Center, Room 216, at 6620 West Capitol Drive.

If you want to attend, you need to register by **October 23**. You may sign up at mtea.org or return the form (see left) to the MTEA Building at 5130 West Vliet Street.

Participating as a Delegate to WEAC and NEA RA Meetings

As a local affiliate of the Wisconsin Education Association Council (WEAC) and the National Education Association (NEA), the MTEA participates in the governance of both organizations. Most major policy decisions of WEAC and NEA are made at their annual representative assembly (RA) meetings.

Delegates Are Elected to Two-Year Terms

The MTEA Constitution sets the procedures for electing delegates to the annual policy-setting meetings, RAs, of both WEAC and NEA. To provide continuity of MTEA representation, delegates are elected to two-year terms for both the state and national RAs.

WEAC RA in Spring of 2010 and 2011

The WEAC RA will be held in Green Bay the weekend of April 23-25, 2010. In 2011, the WEAC RA is in Madison on April 29-May 1.

NEA RA in Early July in 2010 and 2011

In 2010, the NEA RA will be held in New Orleans on July 1-6. In 2011, the NEA RA will be in Chicago, on June 30 - July 5.

Delegate Expenses Budgeted for 2009-10

The MTEA Budget for 2009-10 provides funds which will cover the cost of sending 25 educational assistant delegates to the state meeting and 10 delegates to the national meeting in 2010. The per delegate amount is based on the projected costs for travel, meals, and lodging expenses normally incurred by delegates from our area.

Delegation Reflective of MTEA Membership Sought

The constitutions and policies of both WEAC and NEA require efforts to achieve the participation of ethnic-minority members reflective of the state's general population. However, under the MTEA Constitution, our union's goal is a delegation that reflects the educational assistant membership, 65% of which is currently comprised of ethnic minorities.

October 31 Deadline for Candidate Nominations

To become a candidate for a two-year term as an MTEA delegate for the WEAC RA and/or the NEA RA, you need to nominate yourself online at mtea.org. The online application includes a detailed description of the responsibilities and time commitment of delegates.

The deadline for receipt of nominations at the MTEA Building is Saturday, October 31 (before midnight).

Call us at 259-1990 for a paper copy of the form if you are not able to submit your nomination online.