

SHENENDEHOWA CENTRAL SCHOOL
Clifton Park, New York

BENEFITS BOOKLET

FOR

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE
SUPPORT STAFF

Compiled by the Office of Human Resources

Effective: 07/01/2016
Approved by the Board of Education: 06/21/2016

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT STAFF

Aquatics Director	Charles Dunham
Asst. Director of Information Services	Dorothy VanDenburg
Asst. Director of Information Services	Brian Gidley
Asst. Director of Transportation	Bernice Thomas
Athletic Trainer	Erick Knizek
Budget Analyst	Jodie Gilheany
Director of Facilities	Kenneth Patenaude
Director of Operations	Jay Tourtellot
Director of Transportation	Alfred Karam
District Treasurer	Rebecca Hull
Human Resources Generalist	Jennifer Cornell
Purchasing Coordinator	Gregory Mayo
Research Assistant	Holly Greene
Research Assistant	Michele Carlson
School Lunch Director	Katherine Headwell

Section 1

PAID ABSENCE BENEFITS

A. VACATION

Newly hired staff shall receive a vacation entitlement of twenty-one (21) days if employed on July 1. If hired after July 15, employees are entitled to receive vacation time, pro-rated at the rate of one and three-quarter (1.75) days per month for each month remaining in the fiscal year, and credited on the July 1st following his/her date of appointment. If the administrator is hired on or before the 15th of the month, credit will be given for that month. Vacation will also be pro-rated during the last year of employment.

Vacation may be accrued up to forty-two (42) days. Accumulated vacation days in excess of forty-two (42) will be lost as of November 2.

If, on any November 1st during the period of continuous employment, the employee has accumulated **more than** forty-two (42) days of vacation said employee may sell back to the District days in excess of forty-two (42), up to a maximum of ten (10) days, at the per diem in effect as of that date.

Any remaining vacation entitlement will be paid upon termination of employment. Vacation days may not be used, in the final year of this Agreement or of any extension hereof, to extend the employee's right to compensation beyond the time that right would otherwise expire, to increase the amount otherwise due during that year, or to shorten the period during which the employee bears the continuing obligation to perform the duties of that position. Accumulated unused vacation days, upon separation from the District, shall be compensated at the existing daily rate (1/240).

B. HOLIDAYS

All employees are entitled to the following paid holidays, provided school is not in session: Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Day, Friday following Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King's Birthday, Presidents Day, Good Friday and Memorial Day.

All staff shall be entitled to three (3) additional holidays to be determined.

C. SICK LEAVE

Sick leave accruals for new employees shall be pro-rated for the number of full months worked during the first year, and credited on his/her date of appointment. If the employee is hired on or before the 15th of the month, credit will be given for that month. The District shall provide annual sick leave of twelve (12) days each year. Sick leave may be accumulated to a maximum of two hundred forty (240) days.

D. PERSONAL BUSINESS LEAVE

The District shall provide annual personal business leave of four (4) days each year for business which cannot be conducted outside of regular school hours. Personal business leave for new employees shall be pro-rated for the number of full months worked during the first year, and credited on his/her date of appointment. If the employee is hired on or before the 15th of the month, credit will be given for that month. Prior approval from the Superintendent or designee is required prior to the use of personal business leave.

Upon written request and sufficient documentation by an employee of need and purpose, the Superintendent may approve an additional number of personal business leave days. Such requests will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

E. PERSONAL FAMILY ILLNESS LEAVE

The District shall provide annual personal family illness leave of three (3) days each year for family illness. Personal family illness leave accruals for new employees shall be pro-rated for the number of full months worked during the first year, and credited on his/her date of appointment. If the employee is hired on or before the 15th of the month, credit will be given for that month. Any remaining days on June 30th roll to sick leave until the maximum sick leave accumulation of two hundred forty (240) days is reached.

Should personal family illness leave days be exhausted as a result of serious illness of an immediate family member (as defined in Section I.F below), an employee may request from the Superintendent to use a specific number of available accumulated sick leave as personal family illness leave. Such request shall be in writing and provide information that is deemed to be sufficient by the Superintendent to make a reasoned decision as to the request.

F. BEREAVEMENT

The District shall provide bereavement leave of up to four (4) days for death of a member of the immediate family. Immediate family is defined as spouse, mother/father, mother/father-in-law, sister/brother, sister/brother-in-law, son/daughter, son/daughter-in-law, grandparent, grand-child, step parents, step

son/daughter, step sister/brother, or near relative who resides in the same household. If travel time is required to attend the funeral, and it cannot be done in the allotted time, it may be taken and charged against accumulated personal or family illness leave. These days are available for each such death and are not accumulated.

SECTION II

UNPAID ABSENCE BENEFITS

A. PERSONAL LEAVE

Personal leaves of absence may be granted at the discretion of the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

B. CHILD-REARING LEAVE

Certified

Child-rearing leaves of absence shall be granted, up to two (2) years in length unless prohibited by law. For probationary employees, such leave shall be an interruption of the requirements of serving a probationary period. An employee will not accumulate additional leave days during such leave or accrue other benefits except as covered by law.

The school district shall permit employees to use sick leave benefits for any period of actual disability that may be associated with pregnancy and/or child-birth. In such event, the employee will be required to submit a certification of the period of disability from the attending physician.

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Child-rearing leaves of absence, up to one (1) year in length (as specified by Civil Service Law), will be granted. For probationary employees, such leave shall be an interruption of the requirements of serving a probationary period. An employee will not accumulate additional leave days during such leave or accrue other benefits except as covered by law.

The school district shall permit employees to use sick leave benefits for any period of actual disability that may be associated with pregnancy and/or childbirth. In such event, the employee will be required to submit a certification of the period of disability from the attending physician.

SECTION III
COMPENSATION

The annual salary for the period July 1st through June 30th, in years subsequent to the year of hire, shall be determined by the Board of Education and the Superintendent.

SECTION IV
GROUP INSURANCE BENEFITS

A. BASIC GROUP LIFE INSURANCE

Each employee will be eligible for a fully paid group term life insurance policy equivalent to five (5) times the individual's current annual salary, with a cap of three hundred fifty thousand (\$350,000) dollars.

The above policy may be continued for the amount of his/her basic group life insurance which is in effect at the time of resignation or retirement. Upon resignation, said policy may be converted to an individual life insurance policy for the full amount of the monthly premium rate published by the insuring company at the time of the employee's resignation. Upon retirement, the employee may continue said policy for the full cost of the District's monthly premium costs. The amount of life insurance that may be continued after retirement is as follows:

Under age 67	100%
Age 67 and over	50%

B. LONG-TERM DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE

The District will provide a long-term disability income plan on a non-contributory basis. This will become effective after one hundred eighty (180) calendar days of disability and will pay benefits equal to sixty-six and two-thirds (66-2/3%) percent of salary, up to age sixty-five (65), if disabled from performing the duties of his/her occupation.

C. HEALTH INSURANCE

The District shall provide each full-time employee with health insurance, prescription drug coverage and dental insurance.

The District shall pay eighty-five (85%) percent of the cost of the insurance premium (individual and family) and prescription drug plan for all current District employees who participate in any health insurance program. This shall also apply to District employees who transfer to the District Administrative Support Staff Group.

The District will pay eighty (80%) percent of the cost of the health insurance premium (individual and family) and prescription drug plan for those employees hired from outside the District, who participate in any health insurance program.

The following benefits apply:

- All CDPHP co-pays for services shall be twenty (\$20) dollars for each occurrence.
- All prescription drug co-pays shall be ten (\$10) dollars for generic and twenty (\$20) dollars for preferred brand name, thirty (\$30) dollars for non-preferred brand name.
- Mail order shall be zero (\$0) dollars/forty (\$40) dollars for generic and all other prescriptions, respectively.
- The major medical deductibles for the Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield program shall be two hundred fifty (\$250) dollars/five hundred (\$500) dollars. The lifetime maximum coverage under the Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield program shall be an unlimited amount.
- CANARX on a voluntary basis by employees made available as soon as practicable.

A mental health rider is included with Capital District Physicians' Health Plan (CDPHP).

The District will pay forty-eight (48%) percent of the cost of the premium for the dental insurance for employees who participate in the dental insurance program.

D. HEALTH INSURANCE BUYOUT

Employees, who have proof of alternate health insurance coverage, shall have the option of withdrawing from the District's health insurance plan or electing different coverage. Such employees must provide the District annually with proof of alternate health insurance coverage and shall execute any and all documents deemed necessary to qualify for the payment. A new employee, who initially declines enrollment in District health insurance coverage, and provides proof of alternate health insurance coverage at the time of hire, will be considered eligible for the health insurance buy-out.

The term "health insurance" includes medical, prescription and dental coverage for purposes of the health insurance buyout.

In the event of such withdrawal or change in coverage, the District shall pay to such employee, annually, within thirty (30) days following the next December 31st, the following sums:

<u>Coverage Change</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Family or two person coverage to no coverage	\$2,000.00
Family or two person coverage to individual coverage	\$1,500.00
Individual coverage to no coverage	\$1,000.00
New hire to no coverage	\$1,000.00

In the event an employee who has elected withdrawal or selected a different coverage option leaves District employment or re-enters the plan following a qualifying event before the end of the year, the District will pay, within thirty (30) days following December 31st, a pro rata portion of the amount specified above.

In case of such withdrawal, the District shall no longer be required to contribute toward the cost of such insurance for the balance of the year, or in the case of a change in coverage, to pay the amount required for the original coverage the employee had selected.

An employee having withdrawn may re-enroll in one of the health insurance plans offered by the District if he/she is no longer covered by such alternative health insurance in accordance with the rules, regulations and procedures of the District's insurance carriers. Such conditions now include the death of a spouse or other qualifying event.

E. PREMIUM CONVERSION PLAN

The district has implemented a voluntary premium conversion plan meeting the requirements of applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code (IRS) and related regulations, in order that contributions made by members toward medical insurance (including health, prescription drug, and dental) premiums may be made through such a plan. For those individuals choosing to participate in the voluntary premium conversion plan, the premium will be deducted from pretax earnings, and therefore, the employee's net contributions to the plan, in effect, will be less than the applicable employee contribution for health insurance and prescription drug coverage and dental insurance, as indicated above.

In the event Federal law is changed to no longer allow a premium conversion plan the District will pay the applicable employer percent share of the cost of the insurance premium (individual and family) for all employees who participate in any health insurance program and dental insurance program.

F. PHYSICALS

The District will assume the cost of a biennial physical examination if not covered by the employee's insurance, which will be provided upon employee's request, with documentation that the physical was conducted forwarded to the Office of Human Resources.

G. WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE

Each employee is insured against loss as a result of compensable accidents on the job. All approved medical bills will be paid by the District. Days of work lost beyond those paid from sick leave will be compensated according to the State Workers' Compensation formula.

H. EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The District contracts with Deer Oaks EAP Services to provide help or assistance to employees or their family members with personal problems such as substance abuse, stress, depression, anxiety, phobias, marriage, children, aged parents, gambling, financial, legal [one (1) per year], or other problems. The services are free and completely confidential. Further information can be obtained from the Benefits Office.

I. LIABILITY INSURANCE

The District will assume the cost of:

- general liability coverage for bodily injury and property damage claims
- school professional legal liability coverage for alleged wrongful acts

The coverage shall protect the District and all employees for at least one million (\$1,000,000) dollars. Such policies will be approved by the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.

SECTION V

RESIGNATION AND RETIREMENT

A. RESIGNATION NOTICE

A DASS member who resigns for whatever purpose, or submits a letter of retirement from the district, shall provide a minimum 30-day notice, unless mutually agreed upon otherwise.

B. NEW YORK STATE TEACHERS' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (NYSTRS)

Certified

1. All certified staff are covered for membership in the NYSTRS. There are six (6) retirement tiers in effect under the NYSTRS. Please contact the Office of Human Resources for more information.
 - a. Tier I - Career Plan: for members who last joined on or before June 30, 1973. The District pays for all mandatory contributions.
 - b. Tier II - New Plan: for members who joined after June 30, 1973 and before July 1, 1976. The District pays all mandatory contributions.
 - c. Tier III - CO-ESC Plan: for members who joined between July 1, 1976 and August 31, 1983 (CO-ESC stands for "Coordinated-Escalator.") Members must contribute three (3%) percent of their annual salary toward retirement benefits.
 - d. Tier IV - Coordinated Retirement Plan: for members who joined on or after September 1, 1983. Members must contribute three (3%) percent of their annual salary toward their retirement benefits.
 - e. Tier V – for members who joined on or after January 1, 2010. Members must contribute three and one-half (3 ½%) percent of their annual salary toward their retirement benefits.
 - f. Tier VI – for employees who joined on or after April 1, 2012. From April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2013, Tier 6 members contribute three and one-half (3 ½%) percent of their gross salary toward their retirement benefits. Beginning April 1, 2013, the contribution rate in a given school year is based upon regular compensation in the school year two years prior (or, for the first three school years, projected salary as provided by the employer, as follows:

Wages	Contribution Rate
\$45,000 or less	3%
More than \$45,000 to \$55,000	3.5%
More than \$55,000 to \$75,000	4.5%
More than \$75,000 to \$100,000	5.75%
More than \$100,000 to \$179,000	6%

2. In addition to normal retirement benefits, all plans provide disability retirement benefits and death benefits. However, it is critical that questions regarding specific coverage be directed to the NYSTRS or the Office of Human Resources.

C. NEW YORK STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM (NYSERS)

Classified

1. All non-certified staff classified by Civil Service are covered for membership in the NYSERS. There are six (6) retirement tiers in effect under the present NYSERS. Please contact the Office of Human Resources for more information.
 - a. Tier I - New Career Plan (Section 75-i): For members who joined prior to 7/1/73. Minimum retirement age is fifty-five (55) and members are not required to contribute.
 - b. Tier II - New Career Plan (Section 75-i): For members who joined between July 1, 1973 and July 26, 1976. Members are not required to contribute.
 - c. Tier III (Articles 14 and 15): For members who joined between July 27, 1976 and August 31, 1983. Effective October 1, 2000, until an employee either accrues ten (10) years of service credit or has been a member of the Retirement System for ten (10) years after their date of membership, employees are required to contribute three (3%) percent of their gross earnings toward their retirement benefits.
 - d. Tier IV (Article 15): For members who joined between September 1, 1983 and December 31, 2009. Effective October 1, 2000, until an employee either accrues ten (10) years of service credit or have been a member of the Retirement System for ten (10) years after their date of membership, employees are required to contribute three (3%) percent of their gross earnings toward their retirement benefits.
 - e. Tier V (Article 15): For members who joined between January 1, 2010 and March 31, 2012. Members are required to contribute three (3%) percent of their gross earnings toward their retirement benefits for all their years of public service.

- f. Tier VI (Article 15): For employees who joined on or after April 1, 2012. Effective April 1, 2013, Tier 6 members are required to contribute a specific percentage of their gross earnings, as shown below, for all years of public service after their date of membership:

Wages	Contribution Rate
Up to \$45,000	3%
\$45,000.01 to \$55,000	3.5%
\$55,000.01 to \$75,000	4.5%
\$75,000.01 to \$100,000	5.75%
Over \$100,000	6%

2. In addition to normal retirement benefits, all plans provide disability retirement benefits and death benefits. However, it is essential that specific questions regarding coverage be directed to the NYSERS or the Office of Human Resources. The Office of Human Resources has beneficiary change forms for the retirement system.
3. Accumulated sick leave, up to one hundred sixty-five (165) days, may be applied as additional service credit to retirement on a calendar day basis. This section covers all six tiers in the retirement system.

D. SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security pays benefits when you retire, become disabled or die. It also pays Medicare benefits. Other members of your family may also be eligible for benefits when you become entitled, though you must meet eligibility requirements for each benefit.

E. INCENTIVE

The employee will be reimbursed up to seventy (70) days of accumulated sick leave credits upon effectuating their resignation for purposes of retirement to the Board of Education. The employee must have been employed a minimum of seven (7) years in the district in order to qualify for this incentive.

F. MEDICAL COVERAGE FOR RETIREES

The District will pay eighty-five percent (85%) of individual medical coverage for the retiree hired to the group prior to February 1, 2013. If coverage is for more than individual coverage, the eighty-five (85%) percent factor of the individual rate will be applied toward the multiple-person coverage plan.

The District will pay eighty (80%) percent of individual medical coverage for the retiree hired to the group after February 1, 2013. If coverage is for more than

individual coverage, the eighty (80%) percent factor of the individual premium rate will be applied toward the two-person or multiple-person coverage plan.

Should the retired employee predecease his/her spouse, the survivor would be entitled to the same percentage of coverage enjoyed by the employee at time of death, unless the surviving spouse is already covered under other employment at equal or better coverage. The surviving spouse is entitled to single coverage only. The retiree may defer participation in the health plan until such time that there is no longer coverage under their other plan; however, the level of coverage and contribution share will be determined by the date of retirement.

G. PRESCRIPTION COVERAGE

The District will cover eighty-five percent (85%) of individual cost of prescription plan for the retiree hired to the group prior to February 1, 2013.

The District will pay eighty (80%) percent of individual prescription coverage for the retiree hired to the group after February 1, 2013.

Should the retired employee predecease his/her spouse, the survivor would be entitled to the same percentage of coverage enjoyed by the employee at time of death, unless the surviving spouse is already covered under other employment at equal or better coverage. The surviving spouse is entitled to single coverage only. The retiree may defer participation in the prescription plan until such time that there is no longer coverage under their other plan; however, the level of coverage and contribution share will be determined by the date of retirement.

H. DENTAL COVERAGE

The retiree may continue to participate in the current plan if he/she pays one hundred (100%) percent of the monthly premium. The retiree may defer participation in the plan until such time that there is no longer coverage under their other plan.

SECTION V

OTHER BENEFITS

A. DIRECT DEPOSIT

You may have your entire paycheck automatically deposited into checking or savings accounts of participating institutions. Payroll Direct Deposit Authorization forms are available in the Office of Human Resources.

B. CREDIT UNION

The TCT Credit Union provides the opportunity for savings and loans at preferred rates to employees via payroll deductions. Loans are available to members and dividends on savings are paid quarterly. In addition, other member services include share certificates, holiday clubs, vacation clubs, ATM, new and used auto or Boat/RV loans, student loans, Visa card, traveler's checks, money orders, credit life insurance and credit disability program.

C. TAX SHELTERED ANNUITIES (T.S.A)

The primary objective of a T.S.A. is to induce you to save money for retirement purposes by granting current income tax exemptions.

Payroll will deduct contributions, each payday, to the T.S.A. program from your earnings prior to the computation of your taxes. The amount of your contribution will be exempt from Federal and State income taxes, but subject to F.I.C.A. (Social Security) tax. Your contribution will then be sent to the company with which you have your program.

It is the employee's responsibility to select a company from the District's approved list and to make the initial contacts and arrangements for the T.S.A. Once the employee chooses a company, they will also have to determine the amount that they wish deducted from their paychecks and for how long according to a formula determined by the Federal tax laws.

D. TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

Individuals will be eligible to receive reimbursement for tuition for approved courses of study or training if directly related to the person's present position or the person's growth as an employee with the Shenendehowa Central School District. Reimbursement shall be provided for one (1) course per academic term

(Fall, Spring, Summer). The reimbursement amount per credit shall be no greater than the rate per credit of comparable course at SUNY-Albany. Such courses must be approved, in advance, and the individual must complete the course with a satisfactory grade (C or higher) in order to qualify for the reimbursement. The course must meet outside the normal workday of the individual and personal leave may not be charged in regard to meeting the requirements of the course. Accrued vacation leave may be charged in regard to meeting course requirements.

E. CONFERENCES AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Conferences and related expenses will be paid by the District, with prior approval of Superintendent or designee.

F. BUSINESS RELATED TRAVEL

With pre-approval, the District will reimburse the employee for mileage reimbursement, based upon Federal Internal Revenue Service rates.