

Hello, MSEA Member,

### **THE NEW GRAD REQUIREMENTS**

Dr. Trani and his team are visiting high schools each Friday to discuss ramifications and gather ideas regarding the new graduation requirements, the CCCC class, and the impact on the bell schedules.

MSEA continues to talk with the superintendent and his team. Last week art and band teachers provided important information to the district; and this week, three SPED teachers will also sit down with the district's team and discuss how this new program will impact our most vulnerable students.

After last week's meeting with MSEA, the district office expected to have a new FAQ document emailed out to everyone by last Friday. However, HR notified me today that it will be coming out later this week. Apparently, it was a more extensive project than originally anticipated.

Watch for it later this week in your work emails. I will also post it in our MSEA Members Only Facebook Group.

### **MSEA SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY COMPETITION**

Each year, MSEA provides two \$500 scholarships to MSEA dependents pursuing secondary education. Follow the link below, and get those kids writing!

[http://www.mseak.org/uploads/7/5/5/4/75541625/scholarship\\_flyer\\_2021.pdf](http://www.mseak.org/uploads/7/5/5/4/75541625/scholarship_flyer_2021.pdf)

### **PERSONAL TIME OFF CASH-IN FORM**

Our MSEA Negotiated Agreement allows us to cash in 3 days of our personal leave by May 1st and roll 4 days of personal leave into next year. (District is considering whether or not to allow us to roll 5 days this year like they did last year, but they have not finalized that decision as yet.)

If you wish to cash in your leave, follow this link to the form: [https://matsuk12.na2.documents.adobe.com/public/esignWidget?wid=CBFCIBAA3AAA BLblqZhDktC-xDoanG3G0W1i0J3PkGDa8bsWjZU6hnON\\_GIWYfxW78URNQCwyIV0tNy6Vm3s\\*](https://matsuk12.na2.documents.adobe.com/public/esignWidget?wid=CBFCIBAA3AAA BLblqZhDktC-xDoanG3G0W1i0J3PkGDa8bsWjZU6hnON_GIWYfxW78URNQCwyIV0tNy6Vm3s*)

### **PEHT VIDEO WORKSHOPS**

NOW is a great time to look at your health insurance needs and usage for this past year to determine what will be the best plan option for you and your family. MSEA has asked the Public Education Health Trust (PEHT) to will hold virtual workshops in April/May to help you work through the options and answer any questions you might have. The dates of those workshops have not yet been set.

In mid-April we publish the health insurance rates for the following year.

You can find details about your usage such as the amount of deductibles and out of pocket expenses paid at <https://mibenefits.ebms.com/auth/login>.

### **ORTHODONTIA VOTE NEXT WEEK**

Next week we vote on which health plans we should offer that include orthodontia. The following information I sent out last week. I want to be sure everyone is aware this vote is coming up and that they have a full understanding of it.

Last month, MSEA surveyed all members regarding whether we should offer one or two health insurance/dental plans that do not include orthodontia. Currently, all three of our plans include orthodontia. (See survey results below.)

The Public Education Health Trust (PEHT) does not provide the option for each member to individually choose whether to purchase orthodontia. Instead, a member chooses either Plan A/B, C/B, or F/B. It is MSEA that decides whether or not to include orthodontia in some or all of the plans. If you purchase your health insurance through the PEHT, you are buying orthodontia.

Currently, all members with health coverage pay \$308.40 every year for ortho coverage whether they access the benefit or not. Ortho coverage provides \$2,000 as a **lifetime** benefit per covered family member. This year alone, all members combined paid a total of \$344,483 for the ortho benefit. In 2019 and 2020 combined, 295 of 1,117 members used the ortho benefit. Twenty-eight of those members met the \$2000 lifetime maximum.

In two weeks, MSEA will ask its members to vote on whether we should offer plan(s) that do not include orthodontia and, if so, which plan(s).

#### **The following are the current plans we offer:**

A (Highest premium, lowest deductible)

C (Moderate premium, moderate deductible)

F (Lowest premium, highest deductible)

Starting in July we will offer a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP). This will make it possible to create a Health Savings Account (HSA).

To view the current plan options, please go to: <https://pehtak.com/plans/mat-su-education-association>

One more point of consideration: The American Fidelity representative said that a member can use their program to help manage the costs of orthodontia. You can contact Nate Leslie here: <https://americanfidelity.com/matsuk12>

527 responses



Accepting responses



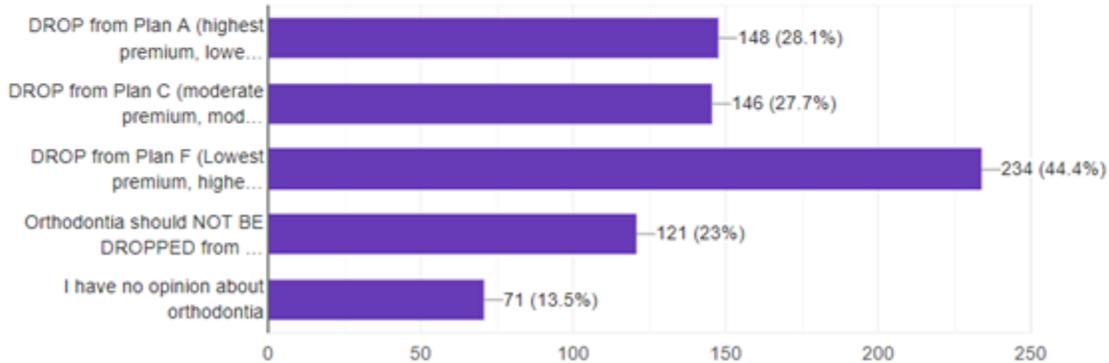
Summary

Question

Individual

From which plan or plans do you think we should drop ortho? Choose one or more:

527 responses



### NOT SURE WHETHER TO VACCINATE? TALK WITH DR. ZINK

The district office emailed out the following information to you, but they want to be sure everyone is aware of the following opportunity. They have asked the union locals to also provide the information to its members.

Dear MSBSD Employees,

On Wednesday, March 24th from 4-5pm, Alaska Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Anne Zink will be hosting a ECHO Video teleconference about vaccinations for MSBSD employees. Dr. Zink and her team will provide information about vaccinations and answer questions. Please join us for this informative meeting! **Link to the Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84106953070>

### VOTING FOR MSEA AREA REPRESENTATIVES BEGINS 3/24

We will be voting on MSEA Area Representatives from 3/24 through 3/30. Watch your emails for the link to vote. There are 13 seats open and 25 candidates running, so this is a competitive election. Area Reps serve at large, therefore, you will be voting for candidates that may or may not be in your building.

I would like to express my appreciation for all of the members who have decided to run for the office. They are essential for MSEA to be able to serve its membership and, therefore, our

students. The ballot will have pictures and biographies of those candidates who submit the information for inclusion. Below is the list of candidates.

Agnes Bowers  
Alexandria Byrd  
Annette Durbin  
Brooke Gerkin  
Bryan Kirby  
Cristina Casillo  
Edward Reilly  
Heather Fortune  
Jackie Cunningham  
John Notestine  
Joseph Shaubach  
Justin LaCoss  
Kathleen Yerbich  
Kathy Budd  
Kim Flinn  
Lance Petrie  
Margo Merrill  
Mary Dooher  
Nicholas Cunningham  
Redona Grazio  
Sarah Heintzman  
Stephen Murray  
Susan Van Gorder  
Tammy Fisher  
Tim Walters  
Tonia Kushin

### **2021-2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR**

The School Board passed the calendar for next year. Because of all the disruption this year, they have chosen to pass a one-year calendar instead of the typical three-year calendar.

Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District  
 School Calendar  
 2021 - 2022

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>JULY</b>						
				1	2	3
4	H	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**August**

11	Work Day for Teachers (WD)*
12-16	Professional Development Days (PD)*
17	Work Day for Teachers (WD)*
18	School Opens for Grades 1-12 (SO)
25	First Day for Kindergarten

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>JANUARY</b>						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	H	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>AUGUST</b>						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	WD	PD	PD	14
15	PD	WD	SO	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

**September**

6	Labor Day Holiday (H)*
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**October**

1	Professional Development Day (PD)*
15	Quarter 1 Ends (41 Days)
28	Parent Conference Day (PC)*
29	Professional Development Day (PD)*

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>FEBRUARY</b>						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	PC	PD	26
27	28					

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>						
			1	2	3	4
5	H	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

**November**

11	Professional Development Day (PD)*
25-26	Thanksgiving Holiday (H)*

**December**

16	Quarter 2 Ends (39 Days)
17	Work Day for Teachers (WD)*
20-30	Winter Vacation (V)*
24	Christmas Holiday (H)*
31	New Years Day (H)*

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>MARCH</b>						
		1	2	Q3	WD	5
6	V	V	V	V	V	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>OCTOBER</b>						
					PD	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	Q1	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	PC	PD	30
31						

**January**

17	Martin Luther King Jr. Day (H)*
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**February**

24	Parent Conference Day (PC)*
25	Professional Development Day (PD)*

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>APRIL</b>						
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>NOVEMBER</b>						
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	PD	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	H	H	27
28	29	30				

**March**

3	Quarter 3 Ends (41 Days)
4	Work Day for Teachers (WD)*
7-11	Spring Vacation (V)*

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>MAY</b>						
1	2	3	4	5	PD	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	SC	21
22	WD	24	25	26	27	28
29	H	31				

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>DECEMBER</b>						
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	Q2	WD	18
19	V	V	V	V	H	25
26	V	V	V	V	H	

**May**

6	Professional Development Day (PD)*
20	School Closes (SC)/Quarter 4 Ends (49 Days)
23	Work Day for Teachers (WD)*

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>JUNE</b>						
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

\*Indicates no school for students