

**VENTURA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION**

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

**REGULATION NO. 4154.1**

**ADOPTED: 02/14/96**

**CLASSIFICATION: Personnel**

**REVISED:**

**SUBJECT: Certificated Employee Retiree Benefits Plan**

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**PURSUANT TO AB 528 (CHAPTER 991), of 1985 AND AB 1953 (CHAPTER 561), OF 1986**

**Retired certificated employees, spouses of retired certificated employees, and surviving spouses of former certificated employees** of the Ventura County Office of Education [hereinafter referred to as PARTICIPANT(S)] may purchase medical and dental plan coverage equal to that provided for active certificated employees. Participants eligible to receive health plan coverage paid by the Ventura County Office of Education may purchase dental plan coverage under the provisions of this regulation. Children or dependents (except spouse) of retired certificated employees are not eligible for coverage under provisions of this regulation.

**A retired certificated employee** is defined as a former certificated employee of the Ventura County Office of Education who, immediately upon separation from the County Office, began receiving a monthly benefit from any public retirement system.

**A certificated employee** is defined as a member of the State Teachers' Retirement System as defined by Section 22133 of the Education Code.

**A surviving spouse** is defined as the spouse of a retired certificated employee at the time of retirement. Proof of marital status, at the date of retirement, will be required upon application for coverage under the plan.

The Ventura County Office of Education shall not be responsible for notification of any participant regarding availability of coverage provided by this Board of Education policy.

Participants who retired prior to October 1, 1986 may enroll during 1986, 1987 or 1988 open enrollment periods only. Open enrollment shall be September 1 through September 30. For 1986 only, the open enrollment period shall be extended to October 30. Employees retiring after October 1, 1986 may enroll within 30 days following termination of active service. Participants previously covered by the retiree's eligibility for medical coverage paid by the Ventura County Office of Education may enroll within 30 days of expiration of eligibility for paid coverage. If enrollment does not take place at these specified times, coverage will not be available at any future time. If multiple plans are available, a participant may change plans during the annual open enrollment period.

A participant who cancels coverage or allows coverage to lapse for any reason shall not be eligible for future coverage.

Evidence of insurability is not required; however, if the participant is confined to a hospital or home for medical treatment at the time of enrollment, benefits shall be postponed until the fifteenth day following the termination of that confinement. Enrollment must still occur at the times specified above. This exclusion shall not apply to individuals currently enrolled in the active employees' health plan who transfer to the retiree plan without a break in coverage.

Medicare B is required for enrollment or continued enrollment in this plan, if the participant qualifies to purchase it. Eligibility for enrollment is conditioned on the effective assignment of any Medicare benefits for which the participant would be eligible.

Charges for the Ventura County Schools plans (PPO plan administered by Blue Shield, HMO plan administered by VIP and dental plan administered by Delta Dental) shall be determined by the Ventura County Schools Self-Funding Authority and adjusted to include the state approved indirect cost rate for the Ventura County Office of Education. **All payments shall be made to the VENTURA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION.** Payments shall be due the first (1<sup>st</sup>) day of each month in advance. If the payment is not received within 30 days of the due date, coverage shall be canceled back to the first day of the month (the due date). If coverage is canceled for failure to pay, the coverage shall not be reinstated. Checks returned by the bank for any reason shall constitute non-payment and will result in cancellation of coverage back to the first day of the month (due date) of the non-payment. The Ventura County Office of Education shall not be responsible for notification of past-due amounts; however, at least one attempt will be made to contact participants if payment is not received by the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) of the month.

The Ventura County Office of Education shall notify each participant of the revised rate at least 30 days in advance of any rate change.

All notices shall be mailed, via regular U. S. Mail, to the last known address of the participant. The participant shall be responsible for providing the Ventura County Office of Education with written notice of any change of address or change in status.