

Wellness Program

1 message

Smith, Greg <gsmith@wdpsd.com>

Fri, Jan 11, 2013 at 1:07 PM

To: Wellness <wellness@wdpsd.com>

Cc: John Zegers <JZegers@wdpsd.com>, Kevin Hanson <KHanson@wdpsd.com>, Russ Gerke <RGerke@wdpsd.com>, "Held, Kathleen" <KHeld@wdpsd.com>, "Lau, Jason" <JLau@wdpsd.com>, Jim Finley <JFinley@wdpsd.com>, Amy LaPierre <ALaPierre@wdpsd.com>

Good Afternoon,

John, Kevin and I just completed a review of our Wellness program status with both WEA and Bellin Health. As we near the halfway point in the school year, our euphoria regarding participation numbers and the progress of our wellness program has taken a slight hit, and we need your assistance.....for all of our benefit, not to mention the benefit to you personally, in regards to your health.

While we had ninety-five percent of the personnel on WEA take the biometric testing, we are currently at less than ninety percent of our personnel who have **completed** the four step assessment process. This is huge as this percentage (of less than ninety percent) eliminates a three percent reduction in our insurance premiums (from the WEA forecast of a five percent increase) for the 2013-14 school year. This means we ALL pay three percent more in health care premiums for the 2013-14 school year.

Currently we have twenty-eight staff members who have started the process but have not completed the four steps for one reason or another. If we get these twenty-eight records complete, we meet the criteria established by WEA. I want to share some pertinent facts for everyone to consider;

1. Remember that per state law, the district "could" be assessing each of us 12.6% of our group health care costs. By successfully negotiating health premiums with WEA, and initiating the wellness program, we have kept health care premiums under six percent.
2. Beginning next year, participation and completion of the health care assessment will become mandatory in order to save us health care premium dollars. Those who choose to not participate will pay a higher monthly premium than those who do participate.
3. (For those WEA staff members not yet completed with all four steps in the assessment process) It is not too late to earn your \$100 if you complete the four steps.
4. If you do not have a personal physician, Katie (the nurse practitioner) in the Wellness Clinic can serve as your personal physician, help you fill out the wellness certificate and can sign off on the certificate in order to satisfy and complete the assessment process.
5. If you have had a physician refuse to sign your wellness certificate, or if you have to answer "no" to questions on the wellness certificate, that DOES NOT automatically eliminate you from completing the process, nor should your doctor fail to sign the form because you have to answer a question no. This is simply a tool to assist you and your physician in developing a road map of appropriate health care steps to take depending on your age and current health status. If you need assistance in explaining this to your personal physician, you can contact Katie or Sara for their assistance.

In closing, we need to remember that this program and the realized savings is not all about money. Corporations, school districts, etc., all over our country are placing more priority on employee health, which "yes" does equate to a healthier workforce, which does mean more productivity, etc. etc. BUT what is most important to you OR SHOULD BE.....is you are investing in your own health for your benefit and that of your significant others, children, and grandchildren.

Make that commitment to invest in your health today!! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, your building Principal or one of your building's wellness coordinators.

Thank you for your cooperation!!

Greg
District Wellness Coordinator