

Oregon Educators Benefit Board Outreach Network

The Oregon Educators Benefit Board Outreach Network is a representative group of school district, education service district and community college employees from entities throughout Oregon. The Outreach Network provides the OEBB with qualitative information about the development of the OEBB benefit plans and programs, OEBB's affects on members and member's issues and concerns, and the quality of OEBB's communications to members.

The ideal Outreach Network member is one who remains objective and unbiased, is energetic, is respected by colleagues, possesses the ability to clearly explain complicated matters to others, has a desire to make a direct impact on his or her peers' lives and is connected to the community.

The Network members' responsibilities will include gathering data and reporting perceptions and reactions of their peers; guiding and assisting colleagues with questions and concerns about OEBB; directing members to OEBB staff for further assistance or clarification; and identifying emergent issues of their peers in their respective geographic region as a communications advisory group for the OEBB. The information gathered will assist the Board and staff to shape programs and messaging to achieve short- and long-term goals. The Outreach Network will not, however, have authority to direct program development or communications, but will be a vital communications advocate among school districts, OEBB and its members. The Board's expectation is that the Outreach Network will provide timely and candid feedback of emerging issues or developments among school and education service district employees.

Oregon Educators Benefit Board Outreach Network Member Selection Process

We recognize the importance of helping to make the transition to the OEBB as smooth and as seamless as possible as employees begin preparing to receive new benefit plans from OEBB.

Knowing this, we at the OEBB are making it a top priority to get information to our members so they are better equipped to make important decisions about the health and benefit plans they will choose for themselves and their families.

One of several educational and outreach efforts we have created to assist members in learning more about the OEBB and its future plans is the Outreach Network. The importance of this program, we feel, is to fully-engage employees in a process that will ultimately impact their lives.

With your support, and the help of self-appointed volunteer leaders, the Outreach Network can be successful in bringing the OEBB's message and information to many more people than we could hope to reach through more traditional forms of communication.

The Outreach Network members – those volunteers who apply to represent the program – will be a mobilizing group of individuals who will ultimately help the OEBB make better decisions during future planning because of the two-way communication the Board will receive from the member serving in the districts and regions.

Questions for Outreach Network Members Completion

Please answer the following questions and return to Scott Rupp, OEBB Communications Coordinator, along with you contact information.

It may be helpful to interview potential members to select the right one for your location. Following are some sample questions:

1. Please describe why you are interested in being an Outreach Network member.
2. What type of experience have you had in getting people involved or interested in an activity or idea?
3. Some of the responsibilities of this position include gathering information from employees about their perceptions of the OEBB, reporting the thoughts and ideas of your co-workers to the OEBB, giving out the OEBB information and fielding questions about the OEBB's benefit plans. Tell me how you will accomplish these tasks.
4. Enthusiasm, support and a positive attitude are important traits of an Outreach Network member. Tell me about a time when you spread a positive message or helped someone overcome a challenge.
5. What special skills do you have that will help you promote the OEBB Health Benefit Program to your co-workers?

Key Messages

It is essential that school employees hear consistent messages about the OEBB benefit program regardless of their location. We ask that all of you refer to the key messages below before addressing employees.

How do I explain the Oregon Educators Benefit Board?

With the passing of Senate Bill 426, signed by the Governor on March 21, 2007, the Oregon Educators Benefit Board (OEBB) was established in the Department of Administrative Services.

The law changes the way K-12 school districts and education service districts

(ESDs) provide medical benefits such as health, dental and vision insurance to school district and education service district employees.

As charged by Senate Bill 426, the Board has made its top priority to seek high-quality benefit plans from providers to serve our members and their families.

The Board was created to offer school district and education service district employees and their dependents high-quality health, dental and other benefit plans at an affordable cost.

The intent of the bill was to put more money directly in Oregon's classrooms by saving school districts money on health insurance. Savings is expected because the size of the pool will provide more buying power and will reduce administrative costs associated with duplicating services for separate group administrators.

Studies by several groups throughout the past decade indicate that by pooling insurance, potential savings can add up to millions of dollars annually, but only time will tell how much is actually saved through the pool.

Additionally, with the creation of the OEBC, the rate of medical inflation affecting school districts is expected to slow because the Board will be better equipped to design and deliver a plan it sees as most beneficial to its members -- like proactive and preventive care, evidence-based health coverage, and providing members with increased awareness and education of health related topics.

For more information, please visit www.oregon.gov/das/oebb.

The OEBC Outreach Network Seeks Members

The Oregon Educators Benefit Board Outreach Network is recruiting energetic and informed people to become members of a volunteer group that will help shape the future of the OEBC. Members will help us promote the OEBC's benefit plans and programs, encourage a healthy lifestyles among co-workers, and communicate the comments and concerns of peers to the Board to help them make informed future decisions about the benefit plans if will offer.

- Member responsibilities include:
 - ♦ Generating excitement for the OEBC benefit plans and programs
 - ♦ Serving as a liaison to the OEBC regarding program progress
 - ♦ Contributing a few hours per month, plus current job responsibilities, to help educate district employees

- Activities include:
 - ♦ Participation in conference calls with other Outreach Network members
 - ♦ Planning or coordinating local events that promote the OEBC

- ◆ Providing information about the OEGB to co-workers
- ◆ Rallying support among co-workers
- ◆ Promoting the OEGB benefit plans using materials provided
- ◆ Gathering peer feedback of the OEGB programs and services

Apply today.
Call OEGB at (503) 378-4606 or
e-mail OEGB.info@state.or.us for more information.

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Yes, I am interested in becoming an OEGB Outreach Network member. I want to:

- ◆ Build positive anticipation for the upcoming program changes
- ◆ Encourage understanding of how to get the most from the OEGB benefit plans
- ◆ Promote healthy lifestyles among my co-workers
- ◆ Serve as a liaison between the OEGB and my peers regarding benefit plans
- ◆ Spend a few hours each month coordinating the updating of information about the OEGB benefit plans

Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Date: _____ Phone #: _____

E-mail: _____ School District: _____

Job Title: _____

Note: When applying, please answer the questions below and submit along with this form for consideration.