

2023 MEDICARE PART D INFORMATION

You are receiving the following information because you (and certain family members, if applicable) are eligible for health coverage under Okeechobee County School Board Employee Benefit Plan. Okeechobee County School Board is required by federal law to explain how its prescription drug benefits may affect those plan participants who are covered, or may become covered in the near future, by Medicare.

If You Are Not Covered Under Medicare

If you or your family member(s) are not, and do not expect to be, covered under Medicare any time between now and the end of the calendar year, then these Creditable Coverage materials are for informational purposes only and do not require you to take any action at this time. We do recommend your holding the attached Creditable Coverage Notice in a safe place in case you need it in the future.

If You or a Family Member Is Covered Under Medicare

Starting January 1, 2006, Medicare prescription drug coverage became available to all people with Medicare, regardless of health, income, or current health care coverage. Anyone with Medicare was able to join a Medicare drug plan to get this new coverage. However, you may not need or want to join a Medicare drug plan if you choose to be covered under the Okeechobee County School Board Employee Benefit Plan. This will help you decide if you should do anything other than enroll in the prescription drug coverage offered by Okeechobee County School Board.

Steps to Help You Decide Which Plan to Take

1. Compare the prescription coverage available under Okeechobee County School Board Employee Benefit Plan and the coverage being offered by Medicare.

The attached Creditable Coverage Notice explains that the prescription drug coverage provided under the Okeechobee County School Board, Employee Benefit Plan is as good if not better than standard Medicare Part D prescription coverage.

2. Compare the price of prescription coverage under the Okeechobee County School Board Employee Benefit Plan and Medicare.
3. If you choose to enroll in Medicare Part D prescription coverage, understand the effect this will have on you and your eligible family members' eligibility for the Okeechobee County School Board, Employee Benefit Plan.

Once You Have Decided

Once you decide which plan(s) you will choose, be sure to:

- keep the attached Creditable Coverage Notice in a safe place in case you need it to enroll for prescription coverage.
- follow Medicare's instructions for timely enrollment if you choose prescription coverage under that plan; and
- if you choose to enroll in our Employee Benefit Plan, do so by the deadline.

If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact Benefits/Payroll Dept at 863-462-5000.

Important Notice from Okeechobee County School Board About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with Okeechobee County School Board and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether or not you want to join a Medicare drug plan. If you are considering joining, you should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered at what cost, with the coverage and costs of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

There are two important things you need to know about your current coverage and Medicare's prescription drug coverage:

1. Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) that offers prescription drug coverage. All Medicare drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.
2. Okeechobee County School Board has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Okeechobee County School Board, 's Employee Benefits Plan is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore considered Creditable Coverage. Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.

When Can You Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from October 15th through December 7th.

However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan.

What Happens to Your Current Coverage If You Decide to Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current Okeechobee County School Board coverage will not be affected. Details of the Plan's prescription drug benefits are included in the separate benefits booklet previously provided to you as part of (or along with) the Plan's Summary Plan Description. In addition, keep in mind that your current coverage pays for other health expenses for you and, if applicable, your eligible dependents, in addition to prescription drugs, and you will still be eligible to receive all of your current health and prescription drug benefits even if you choose to enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan. If you are enrolled in both the Plan and a Medicare prescription drug plan, your prescription coverage under the Plan will be coordinated with the Medicare prescription drug benefit.

If you do decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current Okeechobee County School Board coverage, be aware that you and your dependents may not be able to get this coverage back.

When Will You Pay a Higher Premium (Penalty) to Join a Medicare Drug Plan?

You should also know that if you drop or lose your current coverage with Okeechobee County School Board and don't join a Medicare drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following November to join.

For More Information about this Notice or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage

Contact the person or office listed below for further information. NOTE: You'll get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage through Okeechobee County School Board changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

For More Information about Your Options under Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare & You" handbook. You'll get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare drug plans.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

- Visit www.medicare.gov
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of your copy of the "Medicare & You" handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help
- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Remember: Keep this Creditable Coverage notice. If you decide to join one of the Medicare drug plans, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show whether or not you have maintained creditable coverage and whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

Date:	October 2023
Name of Entity/Sender:	Okeechobee County School Board,
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