



Raising achievement and closing the gaps for ALL students.

# Tip-Off

November 9, 2021

## Student in NEED? Contact the NSEA CHILDREN’S FUND



Where there is a child in need, there is likely a teacher willing to help by opening their wallet. With many teachers already on limited budgets, filling each and every student need just isn’t possible.

Our members see children who go without coats in winter weather, who come to school in the same clothes every day and who can’t see the whiteboard because they lack much-needed vision care.

That’s why the NSEA Children’s Fund was created. Since 1994, donors to the Children’s Fund have provided close to \$1 million to help children in need – to buy them clean clothes, mittens, warm hats and shoes, or to pay for eye doctor and dentist appointments. Donors have even purchased public bus passes for students when they had no other way to get to school.

During the pandemic in 2020, the NSEA Board of Directors, along with NSEA-Retired, directed a combined \$60,000 to food banks serving all 93 Nebraska counties to help reach students and families who needed meals.

Contributions to the Children’s Fund are tax-deductible, and every penny goes to help children. NSEA covers the administrative costs out of its own budget.

Local associations are encouraged to host fundraisers and challenge other associations to contribute to the fund. For more information, to make a donation or to request help for a child in need, call 1-800-742-0047 or go to [www.nsea.org/childrensfund](http://www.nsea.org/childrensfund).

## Committee Spotlight

OEA is a member run organization. There are many places within our association that you can participate in. Committees are a great start, we have MANY! To make the work happen, they need individuals to participate in them.

Our Comp and Benefits Committee is the place to share your thoughts on the Master Agreement or issues that are impacting your working conditions. This committee will identify what topics the negotiation team will take to the table to negotiate with the district. Knowing your contract is an essential part of being a teacher and a Union member. Over the years, many individuals have advocated for every item in our contract, there is a reason why it is in there. Things can change and once in the contract the language can be amended. If a program no longer exists or it has changed, then it should be reflected in the contract.

We are in year 1 of a 2-year contract, so the committee has time to really go through and identify the issues that our members want to address. This committee is being led by two dynamic individuals, Diana Casey and Lee Perez. They meet every third Thursday of the month at 4:45 via ZOOM. To be part of this committee please visit [www.omahaoea.org](http://www.omahaoea.org) to sign up and to get the link for the meeting.

## 2021/2022

### Committee Meetings

All meetings @ 4:45pm

Meetings will be held via ZOOM until further notice. All links will be sent out the day before the meeting to those who are on the email list from last year and those who have contacted the office to let us know what committee they are interested in.

Visit the website for further committee information.

[www.Omahaoea.org](http://www.Omahaoea.org)

11/11 Governance

11/16 PACE

11/17 Membership

11/18 PCR

11/18 Comp/Benefits

11/24 Retirement not meeting

11/25 EMAC not meeting  
(Event planned for 11/22)

11/25 NewGEN not meeting

12/7 Instructional Advocacy

Scheduled Event

11/22 EMAC Game Night

## Thanksgiving Break

Thanksgiving break is from November 22-26. Staff are not responsible for any activities that are being offered during that week. If your building is offering services to students and families, you are not obligated to participate. If you choose to participate, compensation must be offered at the rate of \$28.50. If events/sessions are being held, the week may look different at each building. You should not feel pressured to participate.



## EHA Rate Announced

The EHA Board of Directors has announced the following rate and benefit change decisions for the 2022-23 contract year effective September 1, 2022.

### Premium Rate Change:

The medical rates for all Active Employee plans will increase by 6.14%.

The medical rates for all Early Retiree plans will increase by 6.14%.

The dental rates for all participants will increase by 0.00%.

The overall increase for medical and dental coverage combined is **5.84%**.

## Benefit Changes

### 1. Deductibles:

a. The \$3,600 deductible plan will increase by \$200 In-Network/ \$400 Out-of-Network, bringing the deductible to \$3,800 In-Network / \$7,600 Out-of-Network. The family deductible increases to \$7,600 In-Network / \$15,200 Out-of-Network.

### 2. Out-of-Pocket limits (including deductible, coinsurance, and copayments for medical and pharmacy services):

a. The \$3,600 plan Out-of-Pocket limit will increase by \$100 In-Network / \$300 Out-of-Network, bringing the total Out-of-Pocket to \$4,350 In-Network / \$13,000 Out-of-Network. The family Out-of-Pocket increases to \$8,700 In-Network / \$26,000 Out-of-Network.

### 3. Upcoming change to your prescription drug plan

A prescription drug list (PDL) is the list of medications covered by your pharmacy benefit plan. Drugs on this list usually cost you much less than those that aren't. EHA works with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska (BCBSNE) and Prime Therapeutics (Prime) to help keep medicine affordable, and we regularly look at the drug list to make sure it's meeting as many plan members' needs as possible. Starting Sept. 1, 2022, our new drug list will be PDL 40. This list can be found at [NebraskaBlue.com/DrugList](http://NebraskaBlue.com/DrugList). We will provide more information about this change in coming months. In the meantime, we encourage you to make sure your drugs are included on PDL 40 or talk to your prescriber or pharmacist about trying an alternative. Please contact BCBSNE using the number on the back of your member ID card with any questions.

**If you have any questions,  
don't hesitate to contact the OEA.  
Remember this is for the 2022/2023 contract year.**

## School Board Contact Teams (SBCT)

OEA is seeking strong advocates for the School Board Contact Team. Teams are given OEA positions on selected topics to share with your assigned School Board Buddy. Two OEA members are assigned to each Board member, and you will meet with your Board buddy together. This is your chance to talk directly to a School Board and share concerns on behalf of the Association and your colleagues. The School Board Contact teams make a difference. Contact Robert at [robert.miller@nsea.org](mailto:robert.miller@nsea.org) or Becca Dingwell at [becca.dingwell@nsea.org](mailto:becca.dingwell@nsea.org) if you are interested in participating.



### OEA Tip-Off

The OEA Tip-Off is a bi-monthly publication printed for members of the Omaha Education Association.

### Direct Inquiries to:

Robert Miller  
[robert.miller@nsea.org](mailto:robert.miller@nsea.org)  
402-346-0400

Sue Perkins  
Communications Specialist  
[sue.perkins@nsea.org](mailto:sue.perkins@nsea.org)  
Visit us on the web at:  
[www.omahaoea.org](http://www.omahaoea.org)