

**WAC 182-12-171 When is a retiring employee or a retiring school employee eligible to enroll in public employees benefits board (PEBB) retiree insurance coverage?** A retiring employee or a retiring school employee is eligible to continue enrollment or defer enrollment in public employees benefits board (PEBB) insurance coverage as a retiree if they meet procedural and substantive eligibility requirements as described in subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section. An elected and full-time appointed official of the legislative and executive branch of state government is eligible as described in WAC 182-12-180.

(1) **Procedural requirements.** A retiring employee or a retiring school employee must enroll or defer enrollment in PEBB retiree insurance coverage as described in (a) through (d) of this subsection:

(a) To enroll in PEBB retiree insurance coverage, the required form must be received by the PEBB program no later than 60 days after the employee's or the school employee's own employer-paid coverage, Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) coverage, or continuation coverage ends. The effective date of PEBB retiree insurance coverage is the first day of the month after the employee's or the school employee's employer-paid coverage, COBRA coverage, or continuation coverage ends;

**Note:** Enrollment in the PEBB program's medicare advantage (MA) or medicare advantage-prescription drug (MA-PD) plan may not be retroactive. If a subscriber elects to enroll in a MA plan, and the required forms are received by the PEBB program after the date the PEBB retiree insurance coverage is to begin, the subscriber and their enrolled dependents will be enrolled in a plan with the same contracted vendor during the gap month(s) prior to when MA coverage begins. If a subscriber elects to enroll in a MA-PD plan, and the required forms are received by the PEBB program after the date the PEBB retiree insurance coverage is to begin, the subscriber and their enrolled dependents will be enrolled in Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) Classic during the gap month(s) prior to when the MA-PD coverage begins.

(b) The employee's or the school employee's first premium payment for PEBB retiree insurance coverage and applicable premium surcharges are due to the health care authority (HCA) no later than 45 days after the election period ends as described in (a) of this subsection. Following the employee's or the school employee's first premium payment, premiums and applicable premium surcharges must be paid as described in WAC 182-08-180 (1)(c); and

(c) If a retiring employee or a retiring school employee elects to enroll a dependent in PEBB health plan coverage, the dependent must be enrolled in the same PEBB medical and PEBB dental plan as the retiring employee or the retiring school employee;

**Exception:** If a retiring employee or a retiring school employee selects a medicare supplement plan or MA-PD plan, nonmedicare enrollees will be enrolled in the UMP Classic. If a retiring employee or a retiring school employee selects any other medicare plan, they must also select a nonmedicare plan with the same contracted vendor available to nonmedicare enrollees.

(d) To defer enrollment in PEBB retiree insurance coverage, the employee or the school employee must meet substantive eligibility requirements in subsection (2) of this section and defer enrollment as described in WAC 182-12-200 or 182-12-205.

(2) **Substantive eligibility requirements.**

An employee who is eligible for PEBB benefits through an employing agency, or a school employee who is eligible for SEBB benefits through a SEBB organization or basic benefits through an educational service district as defined in RCW 28A.400.270 who ends public employment may enroll or defer enrollment in PEBB retiree insurance coverage if they meet procedural and substantive eligibility requirements.

To be eligible to continue enrollment or defer enrollment in PEBB retiree insurance coverage, the employee or the school employee must be vested in and eligible to retire under a Washington state-sponsored retirement plan when the employee's or school employee's own employer-paid coverage, COBRA coverage, or continuation coverage ends. An exception to the requirement to be vested in and eligible to retire under a Washington state-sponsored retirement plan is provided for em-

ployees of an employer group in (c)(i) of this subsection. To satisfy the requirement to immediately begin to receive a monthly retirement plan payment as described in (a), (b), (c)(ii), and (d) of this subsection, the employee or school employee must begin receiving a monthly retirement plan payment no later than the first month following the employee's or school employee's own employer-paid coverage, COBRA coverage, or continuation coverage ending.

(a) A retiring employee of a state agency must immediately begin to receive a monthly retirement plan payment, with exceptions described below:

(i) A retiring employee who receives a lump sum payment instead of a monthly retirement plan payment is only eligible if the department of retirement systems offered the employee the choice between a lump sum actuarially equivalent payment and the ongoing monthly payment, as allowed by the plan; or

(ii) A retiring employee who is a member of a Plan 3 retirement plan, also called a separated employee (defined in RCW 41.05.011(25)), must meet their Plan 3 retirement eligibility criteria. The employee does not have to receive a retirement plan payment to enroll in PEBB retiree insurance coverage.

(b) A retiring employee of a Washington higher education institution who is a member of a higher education retirement plan (HERP) must immediately begin to receive a monthly retirement plan payment, or meet their HERP plan's retirement eligibility criteria, or be at least age 55 with 10 years of state service;

(c) A retiring employee of an employer group participating in PEBB insurance coverage under contractual agreement with the authority must be eligible to retire as described in (c)(i) or (ii) of this subsection to be eligible to continue PEBB retiree insurance coverage.

(i) A retiring employee who is eligible to retire under a retirement plan sponsored by an employer group or tribal government that is not a Washington state-sponsored retirement plan must meet the same age and years of service requirements as if they were a member of public employees retirement system Plan 1, if their date of hire with that employer group or tribal government was before October 1, 1977, or Plan 2, if their date of hire with that employer group or tribal government was on or after October 1, 1977.

(ii) A retiring employee who is eligible to retire under a Washington state-sponsored retirement plan must immediately begin to receive a monthly retirement plan payment, with exceptions described in (a)(i) and (ii) of this subsection.

(iii) A retired employee of an employer group that ends participation in PEBB insurance coverage is no longer eligible to continue enrollment in PEBB retiree insurance coverage if they enrolled after September 15, 1991. Any retiree who loses eligibility for this reason may continue health plan enrollment as described in WAC 182-12-146.

(iv) A retired employee of a tribal government employer that ends participation in PEBB insurance coverage is no longer eligible to continue enrollment in PEBB retiree insurance coverage. Any retiree who loses eligibility for this reason may continue health plan enrollment as described in WAC 182-12-146.

(d) A retiring school employee must immediately begin to receive a monthly retirement plan payment, with exceptions described below:

(i) A retiring school employee who ends employment before October 1, 1993; or

(ii) A retiring school employee who receives a lump sum payment instead of a monthly retirement plan payment is only eligible if the

department of retirement systems offered the school employee the choice between a lump sum actuarially equivalent payment and the ongoing monthly payment, as allowed by the plan, or the school employee enrolled before 1995; or

(iii) A retiring school employee who is a member of a Plan 3 retirement system, also called a separated employee (defined in RCW 41.05.011(25)), must meet their Plan 3 retirement eligibility criteria; or

(iv) A school employee who retired as of September 30, 1993, and began receiving a monthly retirement plan payment from a Washington state-sponsored retirement system (as defined in chapters 41.32, 41.35 or 41.40 RCW) is eligible if they enrolled in a PEBB health plan no later than the HCA's annual open enrollment period for the year beginning January 1, 1995.

(3) A retiring employee or a retiring school employee and their enrolled dependents who are eligible for medicare must enroll and maintain enrollment in both medicare Parts A and B if the employee or the school employee retired after July 1, 1991. If a retiree or an enrolled dependent becomes eligible for medicare after enrollment in PEBB retiree insurance coverage, they must enroll and maintain enrollment in medicare Parts A and B to remain enrolled in a PEBB retiree health plan. If an enrollee who is eligible for medicare does not meet this procedural requirement, the enrollee is no longer eligible for enrollment in a PEBB retiree health plan. The enrollee's eligibility will end as described in the termination notice sent by the PEBB program. The enrollee may continue PEBB health plan enrollment as described in WAC 182-12-146.

**Note:** For the exclusive purpose of medicare Part A as described in this subsection, "eligible" means the enrollee is eligible for medicare Part A without a monthly premium.

(4) Washington state-sponsored retirement plans include:

- (a) Higher education retirement plans;
- (b) Law enforcement officers' and firefighters' retirement system;
- (c) Public employees' retirement system;
- (d) Public safety employees' retirement system;
- (e) School employees' retirement system;
- (f) State judges/judicial retirement system;
- (g) Teachers' retirement system; and
- (h) State patrol retirement system.

(i) The two federal retirement systems, Civil Service Retirement System and Federal Employees' Retirement System, are considered Washington state-sponsored retirement systems for Washington State University Extension for an employee covered under PEBB benefits at the time of retirement.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021 and 41.05.160. WSR 23-14-015 (Admin #2023-01), § 182-12-171, filed 6/23/23, effective 1/1/24. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, and Policy Resolution PEBB 2022-03. WSR 22-13-160 (Admin #2022-02.03), § 182-12-171, filed 6/21/22, effective 1/1/23. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, 42 C.F.R. § 422.62(b) and § 423.38(c) and PEBB policy resolution 2020-05. WSR 20-16-063 (Admin #2020-02), § 182-12-171, filed 7/28/20, effective 1/1/21. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, and PEBB policy resolution. WSR 19-17-073 (Admin #2019-01), § 182-12-171, filed 8/20/19, effective 1/1/20; WSR 18-20-117 (Admin #2018-02), § 182-12-171, filed 10/3/18, effective 1/1/19; WSR 17-19-077 (Order 2017-01), § 182-12-171, filed 9/15/17, effective

1/1/18. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.021, 41.05.160, 2016 c 67, and PEBB policy resolutions. WSR 16-20-080, § 182-12-171, filed 10/4/16, effective 1/1/17. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160, 2015 c 116, and PEBB policy resolutions. WSR 15-22-099 (PEBB Admin # 2015-01 Rev 1), § 182-12-171, filed 11/4/15, effective 1/1/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160 and 2013 2nd sp.s. c 4. WSR 14-20-058 (PEBB Admin 2014-02), § 182-12-171, filed 9/25/14, effective 1/1/15. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160 and 2012 2nd sp.s. c 3. WSR 13-22-019 (Admin. 2013-01), § 182-12-171, filed 10/28/13, effective 1/1/14. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160. WSR 12-20-022 (Order 2012-01), § 182-12-171, filed 9/25/12, effective 11/1/12. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160 and 2011 c 8. WSR 11-22-036 (Order 11-02), § 182-12-171, filed 10/26/11, effective 1/1/12. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160. WSR 10-20-147 (Order 10-02), § 182-12-171, filed 10/6/10, effective 1/1/11; WSR 09-23-102 (Order 09-02), § 182-12-171, filed 11/17/09, effective 1/1/10; WSR 08-20-128 (Order 08-03), § 182-12-171, filed 10/1/08, effective 1/1/09; WSR 07-20-129 (Order 07-01), § 182-12-171, filed 10/3/07, effective 11/3/07; WSR 06-11-156 (Order 06-02), § 182-12-171, filed 5/24/06, effective 6/24/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160, 41.05.350, and 41.05.165. WSR 05-16-046 (Order 05-01), § 182-12-171, filed 7/27/05, effective 8/27/05. Statutory Authority: RCW 41.05.160 and 41.05.165. WSR 04-18-039, § 182-12-171, filed 8/26/04, effective 1/1/05.]