

FABENS ISD 2023-2024 **BENEFITS GUIDE**



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This guide contains a summary of the benefits offered by your employer. If there is a conflict between the terms of this outline of benefits and the actual contracts, the terms of the contracts will prevail.

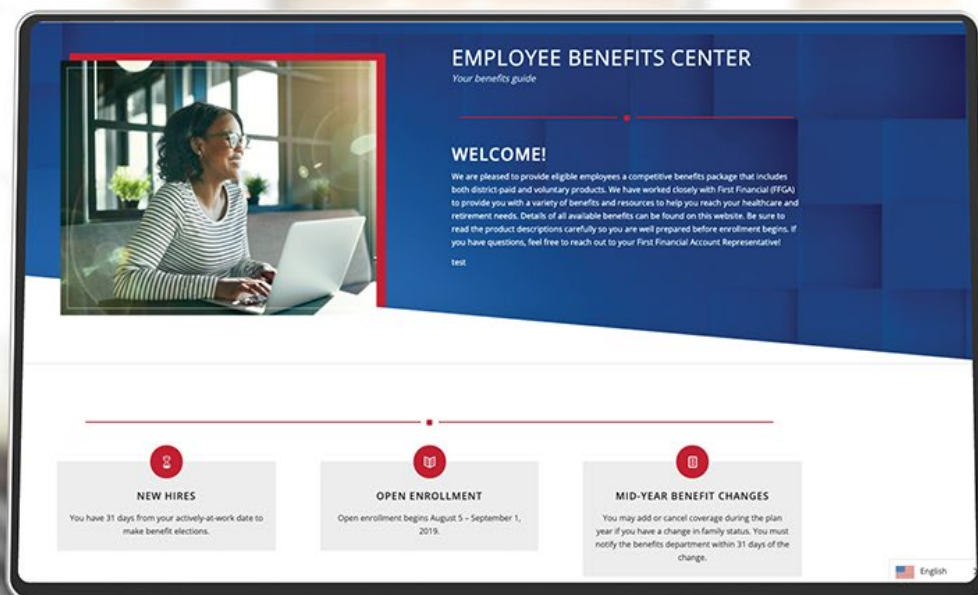
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS CENTER

YOUR ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR BENEFIT INFORMATION

Fabens ISD and First Financial are excited to provide you with a custom website filled with information about your benefits. Visit the Employee Benefits Center to see current benefit options for your employer, as well as find claim forms, important phone number, and enrollment information.

There's no need to register for site access. Simply type the URL below into your browser and you will be directed to your Employee Benefits Center.

<https://ffbenefits.ffga.com/fabensisd>



HOW TO ENROLL

ON-SITE ENROLLMENT

When it's time to enroll in your benefits, your First Financial Account Representative will be on-site to assist you with making your elections. Visit your EBC to view the on-site enrollment schedule.

ENROLLMENT ASSISTANCE CENTER INSTRUCTIONS

Call 855-765-4473 and follow the prompts to be connected to your local First Financial branch office. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (local time) Monday through Friday. There is an option to leave a voice message for a representative to call you back. Phone calls will be returned as soon as possible or the next business day if it is after hours.

ELIGIBILITY

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible employees must be actively at work on the plan effective date for new benefits to be effective.

NEW EMPLOYEES

You have 31 days from your actively-at-work date to make benefit elections.

EXISTING EMPLOYEES

When it's time to enroll in your benefits, your First Financial Account Representative will be available to assist you with making your elections. Your elections can be made anytime during annual enrollment online from your work or home computer. Before enrollment, take time to educate yourself on the available benefits and what options would work best for you and your family by visiting the Employee Benefits Center.

MID-YEAR BENEFIT CHANGES

You may add or cancel coverage during the plan year if you have a change in family status. You must notify the benefits department within 31 days of the change.

QUALIFYING LIFE EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Changes in household, including marriage, divorce, legal separation, annulment, death of a spouse, birth, adoption, placement for adoption, or death of a dependent child
- Loss of health coverage, attributable to your spouse's employment, losing existing health coverage including job-based, individual & student plans, losing eligibility for Medicare, Medicaid, or CHIP, turning 26 and losing coverage through a parent's plan

DECLINING COVERAGE

If you are eligible for benefits but wish to **DECLINE** coverage, please complete the online enrollment either on

SECTION 125 PLANS

SECTION 125 PLAN INFORMATION AND RULES

A Section 125 Plan provides a tax-saving way to pay for eligible medical or dependent care expenses. The funds are automatically deducted from your paycheck on a pre-tax basis.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS

A Section 125 Plan reduces your taxes and increases your spendable income by allowing you to deduct the cost of eligible benefits from your earnings before tax. Plus, the plan is available to you at no cost, and you're already eligible – all you must do is enroll.

IS IT RIGHT FOR ME?

The savings you may experience with a Section 125 Plan are outlined in the example below. For instance, you could potentially take home about \$70 more each month if you participated in your employer's Section 125 Plan – that's a savings of \$840 a year!

You cannot change your benefit elections for the plan year unless the benefits office receives notification in writing within 31 days of the status change. If the benefits office is not notified within 31 days of the status change, no benefit change can be made until the next annual open enrollment.

IRS specified changes in family status include:

- Change in legal married status
- Change in number of dependents
- Termination or commencement of employment
- Dependent satisfies or ceases to satisfy dependent eligibility requirements
- Change in residence or worksite that affects eligibility for coverage

SECTION 125 PLAN SAMPLE PAYCHECK		
	WITHOUT S125	WITH S125
Monthly Salary	\$2,000	\$2,000
Less Medical Deductions	-N/A	-\$250
Taxable Gross Income	\$2,000	\$1,750
Less Taxes (Fed/State at 20%)	-\$400	-\$350
Less Estimated FICA (7.65%)	-\$153	-\$133
Less Medical Deductions	-\$250	-N/A
Take Home Pay	\$1,197	\$1,267
YOU COULD SAVE \$70 PER MONTH IN TAXES BY PAYING FOR YOUR BENEFITS ON A PRE-TAX BASIS!		

**The figures in the sample paycheck above are for illustrative purposes only.*

MEDICAL

TRS-ACTIVECARE

The district's medical plans are offered through TRS. From in- and out-of-network options to comprehensive prescription drug coverage and special health and wellness programs, TRS-ActiveCare has been designed to flexibly meet the needs of nearly half a million public education employees.

BCBSTX

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas | <https://www.bcbstx.com/trsactivecare/> | 1.866.355.5999

TRS-ACTIVECARE PRIMARY

- Copays for doctor visits and generic prescriptions before you meet deductible
- Statewide Network
- Participants must select a primary care provider who will make referrals to specialists
- No out-of-network coverage
- Employee will receive two (2) ID cards (BCBS & Caremark)

TRS-ACTIVECARE HD

- Must meet deductible before plan pays for non-preventive care
- In-network and out-of-network benefits – separate out-of-network deductible/out-of-pocket maximum
- Nationwide network
- Deductible applies to medical and pharmacy
- No requirement for PCP or referrals
- Compatible with health savings account (HSA)
- Employee will receive two (2) ID cards (BCBS & Caremark)

TRS-ACTIVECARE PRIMARY+

- Copays for many services and drugs
- Statewide Network
- Participants must select a primary care provider who will make referrals to specialists
- No out-of-network coverage
- Employee will receive 2 ID cards (BCBS & Caremark)

TRS-ACTIVECARE 2 – CLOSED TO NEW ENROLLEES

- Copays for many drugs and services
- Nationwide network with out-of-network coverage
- Employee will receive two (2) ID cards (BCBS & Caremark)

TRS-ACTIVECARE PLAN PRESCRIPTION BENEFITS

CVS Caremark | <https://info.caremark.com/trsactivecare/> | 1.866.355.5999

When you enroll in a BCBSTX Plan, you automatically receive prescription drug coverage through CVS Caremark

DENTAL INSURANCE

Taking care of your oral health is not a luxury, it is a necessity to long-term optimal health. Dental insurance can greatly reduce your costs when it comes to preventative, restorative, and emergency procedures. Review the plan benefits to see which option is best for you and your family's dental needs. A range of procedures may be covered, such as:

- Comprehensive Exams
- Cleanings
- X-Rays
- Fillings
- Tooth Extractions
- General Anesthesia
- Crowns
- Root Canals

DENTAL MONTHLY PREMIUMS			
	ER RATE	LOW PLAN Employee Cost	HIGH PLAN Employee Cost
EMPLOYEE ONLY	\$10.62	\$0	\$20.22
EMPLOYEE + SPOUSE	\$10.62	\$13.56	\$50.14
EMPLOYEE + CHILD(REN)	\$10.62	\$27.62	\$66.04
EMPLOYEE + FAMILY	\$10.62	\$37.82	\$104.46



VISION INSURANCE

Carrier | www.superior.com | 1.800.507.3800

Proper vision care is essential to your overall well-being. Regular eye exams at any age will help prevent eye disease and keep your vision strong for years to come.

Your employer provides you with a vision plan to take care of you and your family's needs. You must enroll in the vision plan each plan year and premiums are typically paid through payroll deduction. Here are just a few of the areas where you will save money with your plan:

- Eye exams
- Eyeglasses
- Contact lenses
- Eye surgeries
- Vision correction

VISION MONTHLY PREMIUMS	
EMPLOYEE ONLY	\$7.22
EMPLOYEE + SPOUSE	\$12.27
EMPLOYEE + CHILD(REN)	\$13.03
EMPLOYEE + FAMILY	\$19.49



FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS

First Financial Administrators, Inc. | www.ffga.com | 1.866.853.3539

P.O. Box 161968 | Altamonte Springs, FL 32716

MEDICAL FSA

A Medical Flexible Spending Account (Medical FSA) is an IRS-approved program to help you save taxes and pay for out-of-pocket medical expenses not covered under your medical plan. If your plan includes a grace period option, you have additional time to incur and claim against unused funds in the new plan year. Keep in mind that remaining balances after the grace period is exhausted will be forfeited under the use-it-or-lose-it rule.

Your maximum contribution amount for 2023 is \$3,050.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Contributions are automatically deducted from your paycheck on a pre-tax basis, which helps reduce your taxable income and increase your spendable income.
- Your full election will be available to you at the beginning of the plan year.
- Be conservative – any money left in your account at the end of the plan year will be forfeited.
- Use your benefits card to pay for qualified expenses upfront without spending money out of pocket.
- Keep all receipts in case you need to substantiate a claim for tax purposes.

NOTE: The IRS requires proof that all expenses are eligible. Keep all receipts in case you need to substantiate a claim for tax purposes. Your receipt must include the date of purchase or service, amount you were required to pay after insurance, description of the product or service, merchant or provider name, and the patient's name.

DEPENDENT CARE FSA

With a Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account, you can set aside part of your pay on a pre-tax basis to pay for eligible dependent care expenses like childcare, babysitters, and adult day care.

**You may allocate up to \$5,000 per tax year for reimbursement of dependent care services.
If you are married and file a separate tax return, the limit is \$2,500.**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Eligible dependents must be claimed as an exemption on your tax return.
- Eligible dependents must be children under age 13 or an adult dependent incapable of self-care.
- Funds become available as contributions are made to your account.
- Keep all receipts in case you need to substantiate a claim for tax purposes.
- Balances will be forfeited at the end of the runoff or grace period.

FSA RESOURCES

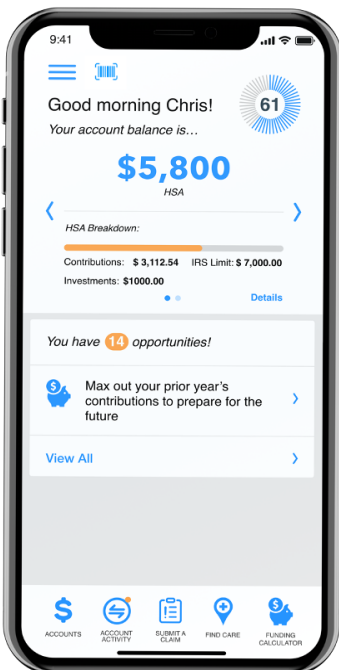
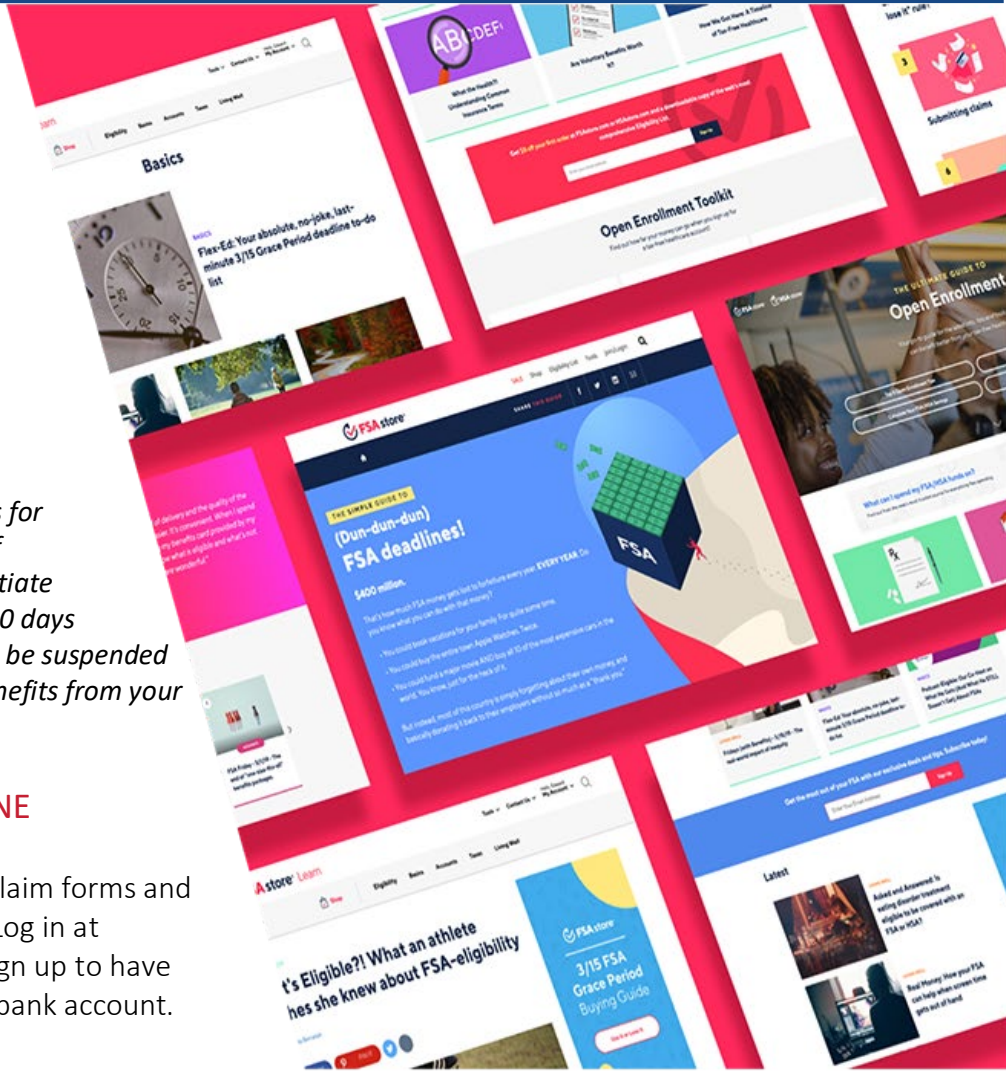
BENEFITS CARD

The First Financial Benefits Card is available to all employees that participate in a Medical FSA and/or a Dependent Care FSA. The Benefits Card gives you immediate access to your money at the point of purchase. Cards are available for participating employees, their spouse and any eligible dependents who are at least 18 years old.

The IRS requires validation of most transactions for FSAs. You must submit receipts for validation of expenses when requested. If you fail to substantiate by providing a receipt to First Financial within 60 days of the purchase or date of service your card will be suspended until the necessary receipt or explanation of benefits from your insurance provider is received.

VIEW YOUR ACCOUNT DETAILS ONLINE

Sign up to view your account balance, find claim forms and check claims status on our secure website. Log in at www.ffga.com. After you log in, you may sign up to have reimbursements directly deposited to your bank account. View the [Portal Log-in Guide](#) now!



FF MOBILE ACCOUNT APP

With the FF Mobile Account App, you can submit claims, view account balance and history, check claims status, view alerts, upload receipts and documentation and more! The FF Mobile Account App is available for Apple® and Android™ devices on either the App StoreSM or Google Play StoreTM. View the FF Mobile Account App [User Guide](#) and [Quick Reference Guide](#).

FSA STORE

First Financial has partnered with the FSA Store to bring you an easy-to-use online store to better understand and manager your account. You can shop for eligible medical items like bandages and contact solution, browse for products and services using the Eligibility List and visit the Learning Center to find answers to commonly asked questions. Visit the store at <http://www.ffga.com/individuals/#stores> for more details and special deals.



TERM LIFE & AD&D INSURANCE

BCBS | www.bcbstx.com | 1.972.766.6900

EMPLOYER-PAID TERM LIFE & AD&D INSURANCE

Life insurance protects your loved ones. It pays a benefit so they can afford to pay for funeral expenses, pay off debt and maintain their current standard of living. It is one of the best ways to show you care. Your employer provides all eligible employees a \$25,000. The cost of this policy is paid for 100% by your employer. This is a term life policy that is in effect while you are employed.

VOLUNTARY TERM LIFE INSURANCE

Voluntary life insurance is term life coverage you can purchase in addition to the basic life plan provided by your employer. It will cover you for a specific period of time while you are employed. Plan amounts are offered in tiers so you can choose the amount of coverage that works best for you and your family. Because it's a group plan, premiums are typically lower, so it's more affordable to gain the peace of mind that life insurance provides. Limitations apply, please see policy for details. Visit the Employee Benefits Center for more details.

TEXAS LIFE – PERMANENT LIFE

Texas Life | www.texaslife.com | 1.800.283.9233

TEXAS LIFE INSURANCE - PERMANENT, PORTABLE LIFE INSURANCE

The peace of mind voluntary, permanent life insurance provides is unmatched. It is a solid companion to your group life insurance plan. Texas Life provides life insurance that you can keep for a lifetime. The plan is easy to purchase, pay for, and keep through the convenience of payroll deduction. Coverage is affordable and dependable. Plus, Texas Life has over a century of experience protecting families and giving the peace of mind only permanent life insurance can provide.

HIGHLIGHT

- You own the policy, even if you change jobs or retire.
- The policy remains in force until you die or up to age 121 if you pay the necessary premium on time.
- It is a permanent, universal life policy which means you can rest easy knowing your loved ones will be well taken care of when you're gone.

DISABILITY INSURANCE

American Fidelity | www.americanfidelity.com | 1.800.662.1113

Have you ever wondered what would happen to your income if you had an accidental injury, sickness, or pregnancy? That is why you need disability coverage. It replaces a portion of income for the period you are unable to work due to those reasons. You can choose the benefit amount, which is the amount of your income to replace, and the waiting period that you begin receiving payments.

How do you decide if you need disability insurance? Consider these questions when making your decision:

- How much employer leave do you have?
- Do you have savings?
- Do you have other income you can rely on, such as from your spouse or from child support?
- How close are you to retirement?
- Could you go on Social Security Disability or take a Disability Retirement?
- What are your other sources of income?

CANCER INSURANCE

American Fidelity | www.americanfidelity.com | 1.800.662.1113

Thousands of Americans are diagnosed with cancer each day. No doubt, the news is devastating, both personally and financially. It's impossible to anticipate a cancer diagnosis, but it is possible to prepare for it with a cancer insurance plan.

It is likely that your major medical coverage will not cover all the costs associated with a cancer diagnosis. Supplementing your major medical with cancer insurance may help you pay for related expenses, such as copays and deductibles, specialists, experimental treatment, specialty hospitals, travel expenses, in-home care and more.

Premiums are paid through convenient payroll deduction to ensure your policy remains in force if you should need it. Benefits are paid directly to you, so you can choose how to spend the money. Visit the Employee Benefits Center and view policy for more details.

CRITICAL ILLNESS INSURANCE

American Fidelity | www.americanfidelity.com | 1.800.662.1113

If you've heard of heart attacks, strokes, organ transplants or paralysis, then you're familiar with critical illness. It's likely you or someone you know has experienced one of these life-altering events. Often times, a critical illness has a powerful impact on people's lives, affecting their livelihood and finances.

A critical illness plan can help with the treatment costs of covered illnesses. Benefits are paid directly to you, unless otherwise assigned, giving you the choice of how to spend the money. Plus, there are plans available to provide coverage for you, your spouse and dependent children.

Prepare now for the unexpected with a critical illness insurance plan. The plan helps you focus on getting well rather than worrying about finances. Visit the Employee Benefits Center and view policy for more details.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE

American Fidelity | www.americanfidelity.com | 1.800.662.1113

The costs associated with an injury can add up. Between hospital visits, exams and treatment, out-of-pocket costs could put you in a financial hardship. An accident plan pays benefits directly to you so you can determine where to spend the money. It's comforting to know that an accident insurance policy can be there through all stages of your care, from initial treatment to follow-up care. Accident coverage is available to you through payroll deduction and may provide a benefit for costs associated with:

- Concussions
- Lacerations
- Broken teeth
- Emergency room visits
- Ambulance, ground or air
- Intensive care unit

GAP INSURANCE

American Fidelity | www.americanfidelity.com | 1.800.662.1113

You may think major medical insurance is enough to cover your needs, but the reality is that many plans may only cover a portion of your overall expenses. It's important to protect yourself in the event of a sudden hospitalization.

A Hospital Gap Insurance plan pays benefits directly to you and is designed to help cover the gap between what your traditional medical plan will cover and the out-of-pocket expenses you will pay. The plan may include benefits you can use to help pay for inpatient hospital stays and surgeries, doctor's office treatments and diagnostic testing costs.

With Hospital Gap Insurance, you can have peace of mind knowing that unexpected medical expenses will less of a financial burden for you and your family members.

LEGAL PLAN

Legal Shield | www.w3.legalshield.com | 1.800.654.7757

Have you ever found yourself in need of legal advice, but aren't sure where to go? A voluntary group legal plan helps fill that need. It provides you with access to professional lawyers at a low monthly rate. For just a few dollars a month, you can consult with a lawyer about having your will prepared, reviewing documents, contesting a traffic ticket, lawsuits, divorce and so much more. Expert legal advice is available at your fingertips.

403(b) RETIREMENT PLANS

First Financial Administrators, Inc. | www.ffga.com |
1.800.523.8422, option 2 | retirement@ffga.com

The 403(b) can be an excellent way to save money for retirement. It can serve as a supplement to a traditional pension plan or other retirement plan(s), or as a stand-alone plan. The 403(b) is a tax deferred retirement plan available to employees of educational institutions and certain non-profit organizations as determined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions and investment earnings in a 403(b) grow tax deferred until withdrawal (assumed to be retirement), at which time they are taxed as ordinary income. The 403(b) is named after the section of the IRS code governing it.

HOW A 403(B) WORKS

Employees enroll and participate through their employer. Contributions to a 403(b) are made on a pre-tax basis through a Salary Reduction Agreement. This is an arrangement where the participating employee agrees to take a reduction in salary. The amount by which the salary is reduced is directed to investments offered through the employer and selected by the employee. These contributions are called elective deferrals and are excluded from the employee's taxable income. Contributions grow tax-deferred until the time of retirement when withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income.

BENEFITS

- Tax deferred growth: no annual taxation on earnings
- Investment options: fixed annuities, variable annuities, or mutual funds
- Competitive interest rates
- Flexibility: start, stop, and adjust your contributions as allowed by your employer's plan.
- Receive periodic account statements

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

In 2024, you can contribute 100 percent of your includible compensation up to \$23,000, whichever is less. If you are age 50 or older, you can contribute up to an additional \$7,500 for a total of \$30,500. *All investing involves risk. Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns.*

457(b) RETIREMENT PLANS

First Financial Administrators, Inc. | www.ffga.com |
1.800.523.8422, option 2 | retirement@ffga.com

A 457(b) plan is a Tax Deferred Retirement Plan available to employees of state and local governmental agencies, including public school employees. They are similar to 401(k) plans because they allow you to place a percentage of your salary into an employer-sponsored plan that helps you save for retirement. You will not have to pay taxes on what you contribute or your earnings made until you withdraw the money.

BENEFITS

- Investment options: fixed annuities, variable annuities, or mutual funds
- Flexibility: start, stop, and adjust your contributions as allowed by your employer's plan
- Receive periodic account statements
- No 10% federal penalty on interest or earnings for early withdrawal
- No current federal income taxes on the money you put into the plan until it is time to take withdrawals

CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

In 2024, you can contribute 100 percent of your includible compensation up to \$23,000, whichever is less. If you are age 50 or older, you can contribute up to an additional \$7,500 for a total of \$30,500. *All investing involves risk. Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns.*

COBRA

First Financial Administrators, Inc. | www.ffga.com | 1.800.523.8422, option 4

Life is full of unexpected events that may impact your health insurance coverage. Under the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, better known as COBRA, you have the right to continue your group health coverage such as medical, dental, vision insurance and flexible spending accounts for a limited period of time.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Temporary continuation of coverage that generally lasts for 18 months due to employment termination or reduction of hours of work, divorce, death or a child no longer qualifying as a dependent. Certain qualifying events, or a second qualifying event during the initial period of coverage, may permit a beneficiary to receive a maximum of 36 months of coverage.
- Either you or your family member are responsible for notifying your employer of a divorce, legal separation or child losing dependent status within 60 days of the event. In the case of termination, death or reduction in hours, your employer will be responsible for letting the provider know that you have the right to continue coverage under COBRA.
- Benefits will remain identical to what you had while employed. However, you will be responsible for paying the full premium, plus any applicable fees.

CONTACT INFORMATION

FABENS ISD BENEFITS OFFICE

821 NE G AVE | FABENS, TX 79838

915-765-2600

www.fabensisd.net

FIRST FINANCIAL GROUP OF AMERICA

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Michaela Schmidt, CSS

915-219-2786 Michaela.schmidt@ffga.com

CONTACTS

BENEFIT	CARRIER	WEBSITE	PHONE
Medical	TRS	trs.texas.gov	888.237.7662
Prescription Benefits	CVS Caremark	www.caremark.com	888.234.0871
Dental	Ameritas	www.ameritas.com	800.755.8844
Vision	Superior	www.superiorvision.com	800.507.3800
Flexible Spending Accounts	First Financial Administrators	www.Ffga.com	866.853.3539
Disability Insurance	American Fidelity Assurance	www.americanfidelity.com	800.662.1113
Cancer Insurance	American Fidelity Assurance	www.americanfidelity.com	800.662.1113
Accident Insurance	American Fidelity Assurance	www.americanfidelity.com	800.662.1113
Critical Illness Insurance	American Fidelity Assurance	www.americanfidelity.com	800.662.1113
Permanent Life Insurance	Texas Life	www.texaslife.com	800.283.9233
Term Life Insurance	BCBS	www.bcbstx.com	972.766.6900