

# *Wickenburg Unified School District 2023* **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

Wickenburg Unified School District 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 claims, 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/wickenburgunifiedschools>



# HOW TO ENROLL

## 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.

## 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.

# 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. Your New Hire Enrollment elections will be made at the Benefits Office.

### 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, you will need to meet with your representative during open enrollment to waive your elections. **You must still complete the beneficiary information.**

# 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.*

# FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNTS

First Financial Administrators, Inc. | [www.ffga.com](http://www.ffga.com) | 1.866.853.3539

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

## MEDICAL FSA

A Health Flexible Spending Account (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. Your plan includes a grace period option, which gives you 2 and ½ months 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

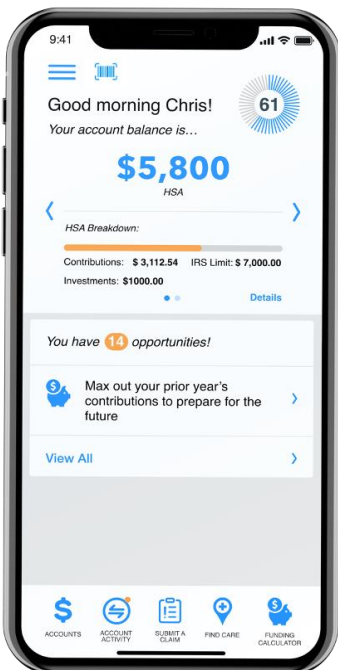
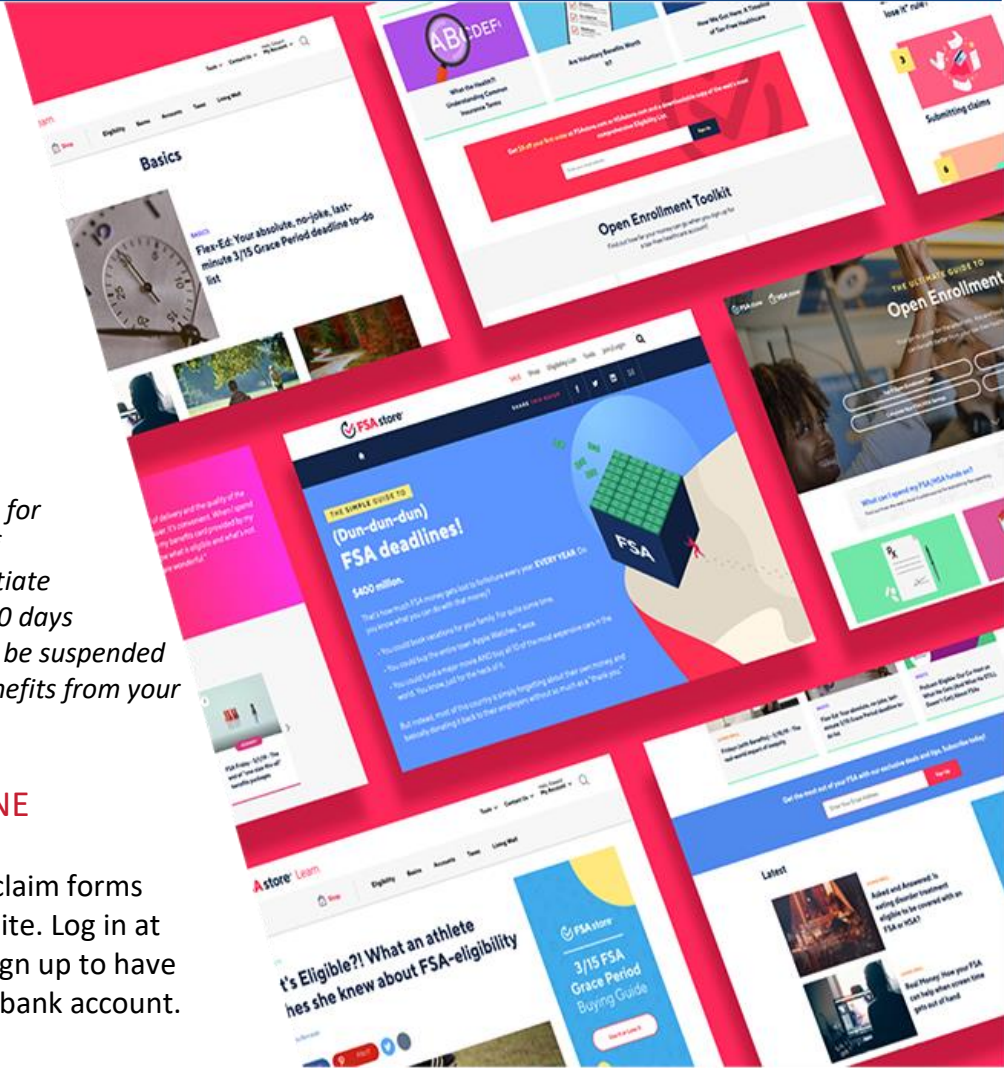
## BENEFITS CARD

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](http://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 Store<sup>SM</sup> or Google Play Store<sup>TM</sup>. 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.





# TEXAS LIFE – PERMANENT LIFE

Texas Life | [www.texaslife.com](http://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 Assurance Company | <https://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 | <https://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.

# CRITICAL ILLNESS INSURANCE

American Fidelity | <https://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.

# ACCIDENT INSURANCE

American Fidelity | <https://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

# VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT PLANS

## 403(b) RETIREMENT PLANS

First Financial Administrators, Inc. | [www.ffga.com](http://www.ffga.com) |  
1.800.523.8422, option 2 | [retirement@ffga.com](mailto: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

Participants may contribute up to \$22,500 for year 2023. Participants aged 50 and older at any time during the calendar year are permitted to contribute an additional \$7,500 in 2023, for a total of \$30,000.

# 457(b) RETIREMENT PLANS

First Financial Administrators, Inc. | [www.ffga.com](http://www.ffga.com) |  
1.800.523.8422, option 2 | [retirement@ffga.com](mailto: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

Participants may contribute up to \$22,500 for year 2023. Participants aged 50 and older at any time during the calendar year are permitted to contribute an additional \$7,500 in 2023, for a total of \$30,000.

# CLEVER RX

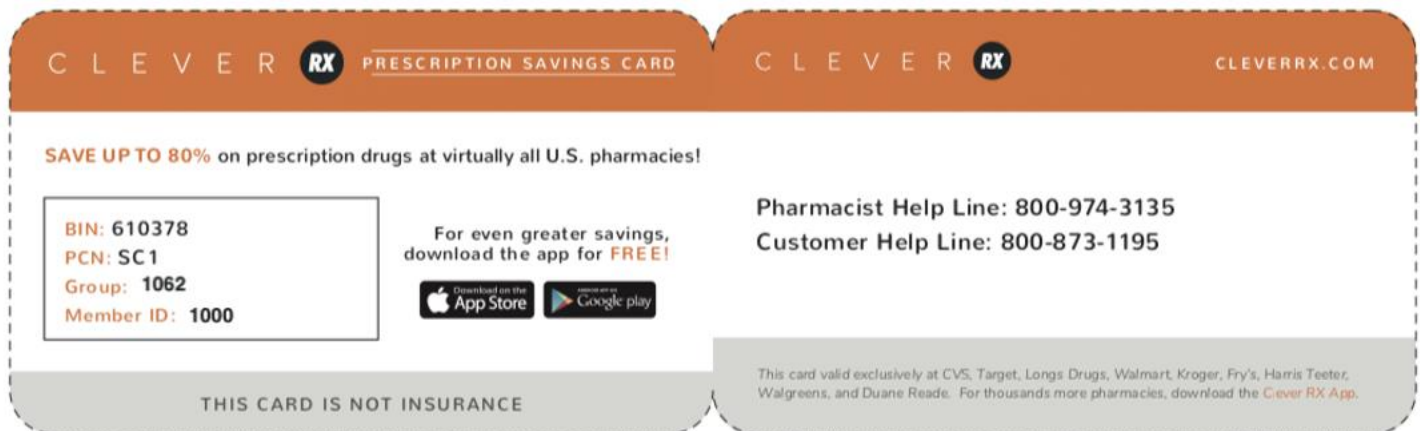
Clever RX | <https://partner.cleverrx.com/ffga> | 1.800.873.1195

Clever RX helps you save money by using a prescription drug savings card. They partner with the healthcare community to bring state-of-the-art, money-savings tools to participants. It helps you save up to 80% off prescriptions drugs and often beats the average copay. Plus, it's completely free. Thanks to Clever RX, you will never overpay for prescriptions again!

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 100% FREE to use.
- Unlock discounts on thousands of medications.
- Save up to 80% on prescription medication – Often beats your copay!
- Download the Clever RX app by using the information on your card below to unlock exclusive savings at over 60,000 pharmacies nationwide.
- Available to use now!

Use Clever RX every time you pay for a medication for instant savings! Download the app or visit the site to price a drug: <https://partner.cleverrx.com/ffga>.



# CONTACT INFORMATION

## WICKENBURG UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BENEFITS OFFICE

101 E. Coconino Street | Wickenburg, AZ.85390

PH: 928.668.5301 | FAX: 928.668.5348

<https://www.wickenburgschools.org/Page/1>

## FIRST FINANCIAL GROUP OF AMERICA

Myrna Gomez, Account Executive

575.915.7715 / [myrna.gomez@ffga.com](mailto:myrna.gomez@ffga.com)

Nicole Brown, Client Service Specialist

800.365.3860 / [nicole.brown@ffga.com](mailto:nicole.brown@ffga.com)

## CONTACTS

BENEFIT	CARRIER	WEBSITE	PHONE
Flexible Spending Accounts	First Financial Administrators, Inc.	<a href="http://www.ffga.com">www.ffga.com</a>	866.853.3539
Permanent Life Insurance	Texas Life	<a href="http://www.texaslife.com">www.texaslife.com</a>	800.283.9233
Disability Insurance	American Fidelity	<a href="http://www.americanfidelity.com">www.americanfidelity.com</a>	800.662.1113
Cancer Insurance	American Fidelity	<a href="http://www.americanfidelity.com">www.americanfidelity.com</a>	800.662.1113
Critical Illness Insurance	American Fidelity	<a href="http://www.americanfidelity.com">www.americanfidelity.com</a>	800.662.1113
Accident	American Fidelity	<a href="http://www.americanfidelity.com">www.americanfidelity.com</a>	800.662.1113
Retirement Accounts	FFGA	<a href="http://www.ffga.com">www.ffga.com</a>	800.523.8422