

COVID-19 Update



OSPI Grading Updates

Based on input from an OSPI Workgroup and that of other stakeholders, OSPI announced an Emergency Rule Change yesterday with a clearer directive around grading, particularly at the high school level. OSPI grading guidance as of April 21 can be [found here](#) and a synopsis of this guidance from Supt. Reykdal himself can be [viewed here](#).

VEA will now collaborate with VPS around a second local update to district grading guidelines to reflect these changes from OSPI. Stay tuned!

Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP) Election Changes due to COVID-19

In light of school closures, day care disruptions, and general-purpose day camp closures this summer due to the COVID-19 state of emergency, many people are wondering whether they can change their 2020 DCAP elections under SEBB. **If your costs for dependent or elder care have changed, that change creates something called a special open enrollment (SOE) and you have 60 days from the date of the cost change to increase or decrease your annual election.**

The change must be consistent with the event that creates the SOE. For example, if costs decrease because your day care closed, you can only decrease your election. Likewise, if you were forced to switch to a more expensive facility because your regular daycare was closed, you can only increase your election. Keep in mind that decreasing your elections can only lower the annual contribution to the amount you have already contributed so far this year.

To make the change, you must submit the [SEBB Change in Status form](#) to VPS HR/Benefits along with proof of the cost change.

You can also change your Medical FSA elections only if you experience an SOE event that allows this change. Those events are more limited than the dependent care options, however. **Please contact VPS HR/Benefits for further details.**

Certificated Evaluations Update #2



VEA and VPS have collaborated around [a second local update to certificated evaluation processes](#), in accordance with guidance from OSPI (found [here](#), under the Teacher & Principal Evaluations dropdown).

Three key updates include:

- merely missing evidence shall not prompt a score of “unsatisfactory”
- remote options are available to hold evaluation conferences
- evaluations must be submitted electronically by Friday, June 12th.

If there are further changes in guidance from OSPI, VEA will work again with VPS to update our local plan for evaluations.

WEA's Certification PD



The WEA has released its May offerings to participate in

Certification 101, ESA Certification 101, Professional Growth Plan (PGP) and/or National Board Information Session trainings (including some Saturday dates). To review dates and times and/or to register for one or more of these courses, please visit this [WEA webpage](#).

Clock hours will be provided and courses are free. Registrants will receive the Zoom link at the completion of their registration. Within 24-48 hours of the course start date, participants will receive an email with additional Zoom/Course information. We are still eagerly awaiting online PD offerings in the areas of Cultural Responsiveness and STEM. Stay tuned!