

GARDNER EDGERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT USD 231

2027 HEALTH PLAN NOTICES

FOR YOUR FILES

This packet contains legal notices for participants in group health plan(s) sponsored by Gardner Edgerton School District USD 231. The notices included in this packet are:

- HIPAA Special Enrollment Notice
- HIPAA Notice of Privacy Practices
- Michelle's Law Enrollment Notice
- Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act Initial Notice
- Medicare Part D Notice of Creditable Coverage
- Premium Assistance Under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage
- COBRA Rights General Notice

Note: The following voluntary benefits are portable:

- Voluntary Term Life Insurance
- Critical Illness Insurance
- Accident Insurance
- Hospital Indemnity Insurance
- Identity Theft + Cyber Protection
- Legal Insurance

Portability means, if you leave the district, you can take (port) these voluntary plans with you. You must contact the carrier within 30 days of ending employment to take advantage of this option.

The government-mandated SBCs (Summary of Benefits and Coverage) and Benefit Summaries are housed on the USD 231 benefits web portal at www.usd231benefits.com

HIPAA Notice of Special Enrollment Rights

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) requires group health plans to provide a special enrollment opportunity to an employee (or COBRA enrollee) upon the occurrence of specific events. This Chart summarizes the qualifying events and the corresponding special enrollment rights. This notice is being provided to ensure that you understand your right to apply for the **USD 231 Group Health Care Plan**. You should read this notice even if you plan to waive coverage at this time.

EVENT	SPECIAL ENROLLMENT RIGHT
Acquisition of New Dependent(s) due to Marriage	➤ Employee may enroll the employee (if not previously enrolled). ➤ Employee may also enroll newly-eligible spouse and/or newly-eligible stepchild(ren).
Acquisition of New Child due to birth or adoption (including placement for adoption)	➤ Employee may enroll the employee (if not previously enrolled). ➤ Employee may also enroll spouse and/or newly-eligible child(ren).
Gain Eligibility for Premium Assistance Subsidy under Medicaid or CHIP	➤ Employee may enroll the employee and the spouse or child(ren) who have become eligible for the premium assistance.
Loss of Other Health Coverage if due to: ➤ Loss of eligibility. ○ Death of spouse; divorce, legal separation ○ Child loses status (e.g. reaches age limit) ○ Employment change (e.g. termination, reduction in hours, unpaid FMLA) ➤ Expiration of COBRA maximum period ➤ Moving out of HMO plan's service area ➤ Other employer terminates their plan (or discontinues employer contributions)	➤ Employee may enroll the employee (if not previously enrolled). ➤ Employee may also enroll spouse and/or children who have lost other health coverage. Note: Person losing the Other Health Coverage must have had the other coverage since the date of this employer plan's most recent enrollment opportunity.
Loss of Medicaid or CHIP coverage	➤ Employee may enroll the employee and the spouse or child(ren) who have lost Medicaid/CHIP entitlement.

Notes:

1. HIPAA Special Enrollees must be given 30 days (from the date of the event) to enroll.
2. For events related to Medicaid/CHIP, the special enrollment period is 60 days.
3. Special enrollment, if elected, must take effect no later than the first day of the month following the enrollment request. If the event is the birth or adoption of a child, the special enrollment must take effect retroactively on the date of birth or adoption (or placement for adoption).

To request special enrollment or obtain more information, please contact:

Amy Jackson, Benefits Manager, Gardner Edgerton USD 231, 231 E. Madison Street, Gardner, KS 66030

Phone: 913-856-2013, Email: jacksonal@usd231.com

Dated: October 1, 2026 – For Plan Year 2027

HIPAA NOTICE OF PRIVACY PRACTICES

Your Information. Your Rights. Our Responsibilities.

This notice is effective October 1, 2026

This notice describes:

- How medical information about you may be used and disclosed and how you can get access to this information;
- How health information about you may be used and disclosed;
- Your rights with respect to your health information; and
- How to file a complaint concerning a violation of the privacy or security of your health information, or of your rights concerning your information

Please review this notice carefully.

You have a right to a copy of this notice (in paper or electronic form) and to discuss it with Amy Jackson at 913-856-2013, jacksonal@usd231.com if you have any questions.

YOUR RIGHTS

You have the right to:

- Consent to most uses and disclosures of your health information
- Get a copy of your health and claims records
- Correct your health and claims records
- Request confidential communication
- Ask us to limit the information we share
- Get a list of those with whom we've shared your information, including but not limited to, health care providers who have received your information through certain third parties
- Get a copy of this privacy notice
- Discuss this notice with someone in our program
- Choose someone to act for you
- File a complaint if you believe your privacy rights have been violated

YOUR CHOICES

You have some choices in the way that we use and share information as we:

- Answer coverage questions from your family and friends
- Provide disaster relief
- Market our services and sell your information

With your consent or as otherwise permitted under HIPAA, we can use and share your information as we:

- Process and Pay Claims
- Communicate with applicable providers treating you
- Administer the Plan
- Coordinate benefits with other coverage
- Fulfill your requests to share information with your consent
- Comply with applicable laws and regulations

OUR USES AND DISCLOSURES

We may use and share your information as we:

- Help manage the health care treatment you receive, including but not limited to, helping with medical emergencies, communicating within our program and with our contractors
- Run our organization
- Pay for your health services
- Administer your health plan
- Help with public health and safety issues such as reporting crimes and threats of crimes and suspected child abuse and neglect
- Aid scientific research
- Comply with the law
- Respond to organ and tissue donation requests and work with a medical examiner or funeral director
- Address workers' compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests
- Respond to lawsuits, legal actions, court orders, audits and evaluations

In these circumstances, we must protect your information and limit how we use and share it. To the extent that we have your substance use disorder patient records, subject to 42 CFR part 2, we will not share that information for investigations or legal proceedings against you without (1) your written consent or (2) a court order and a subpoena.

YOUR RIGHTS

When it comes to your health information, you have certain rights. This section explains your rights and some of our responsibilities to help you.

Get a copy of health and claims records

- You can ask to see or get a copy of your health and claims records and other health information we have about you. Ask us how to do this.
- We will provide a copy or a summary of your health and claims records, usually within 30 days of your request. We may charge a reasonable, cost-based fee.

Ask us to correct health and claims records

- You can ask us to correct your health and claims records if you think they are incorrect or incomplete. Ask us how to do this.
- We may say "no" to your request, but we'll tell you why in writing within 60 days.

Request confidential communications

- You can ask us to contact you in a specific way (for example, home or office phone) or to send mail to a different address.
- We will consider all reasonable requests, and must say "yes" if you tell us you would be in danger if we do not.

Provide consent when we use or share your information for most purposes

- You may provide a single consent for all future uses or disclosures for treatment, payment or health care operations purposes.

Ask us to limit what we use or share

- You can ask us not to use or share certain health information for treatment, payment, or our health care operations after you have provided consent for all those purposes.
- We are not required to agree to your request, and we may say “no” if, for example, if it could affect your care. If we agree to your request, we may still share this information in the event that you need emergency treatment.

Get a list of those with whom we’ve shared information

- You can ask for a list (accounting) of the times we’ve shared your health information for six years prior to the date you ask, who we shared it with, and why.
- We will include all the disclosures except for those about treatment, payment, and health care operations, and certain other disclosures (such as any you asked us to make). We’ll provide one accounting a year for free but will charge a reasonable, cost-based fee if you ask for another one within 12 months.

Get a copy of this privacy notice

You can ask for a paper copy of this notice at any time, even if you have agreed to receive the notice electronically. We will provide you with a paper copy promptly.

Discuss this notice with someone in our program

You can ask questions or obtain more information about this notice and our privacy practices by calling or emailing the contact person at the top of this notice.

Choose someone to act for you

- If someone has authority to act as your personal representative, such as if someone has your medical power of attorney or if someone is your legal guardian, that person can exercise your rights and make choices about your health information.
- We will make sure the person has this authority and can act for you before we take any action.

File a complaint if you feel your rights are violated

- You can complain if you feel we have violated your rights by contacting us using the information on page 1.
- You can file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights by sending a letter to 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20201, calling 1-877-696-6775, or visiting <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/filing-a-complaint/index.html>.
- We will not retaliate against you for filing a complaint.

YOUR CHOICES

For certain health information, you can tell us your choices about what we share. If you have a clear preference for how we share your information in the situations described below, please contact us. Tell us what you want us to do, and we will follow your instructions.

In these cases, you have both the right and choice to tell us to:

- Share information with your family, close friends, or others involved in payment for your care or payment for your care;
- Share information in a disaster relief situation; or
- Share information with someone authorized to act on your behalf

If you are not able to tell us your preference, for example if you are incapacitated, we may share your information if we believe it is in your best interest or permitted by law. We may also share your information when needed to lessen a serious and imminent threat to health or safety.

- If someone has authority to act as your personal representative, such as if someone has your medical power of attorney or if someone is your legal guardian, that person can exercise your rights and make choices about your health information. We will make sure the person has this authority and can act for you before we take any action.

In these cases we never share your information unless you give us written permission:

- Marketing purposes (except as expressly permitted by HIPAA);
- Sale of your information; or
- Any other use or disclosure requiring your prior authorization under applicable law.

You may revoke any authorization at any time, except to the extent we have already relied on the authorization by notifying us in writing

OUR USES AND DISCLOSURES

How do we typically use or share your health information?

We typically use or share your health information in the following ways.

Help manage the health care treatment you receive & communicate within our substance use disorder programs and with contractors

We can use your health information and share it with professionals who are treating you.

We can share your information within our substance use disorder programs and with an organization that has administrative control over our substance use disorder program, and with contractors who help us run our substance use disorder program.

Example: A doctor sends us information about your diagnosis and treatment plan so we can arrange additional services.

Run our organization

- We can use and disclose your information to run our organization and contact you when necessary. We may also use and share your information to prevent multiple enrollments in withdrawal management or maintenance treatment substance use disorder programs, to report participation in treatment required by the criminal justice system and to report prescribed substance use disorder treatment medications to a state prescription drug monitoring program when required by law.
- We are not allowed to use genetic information to decide whether we will give you coverage and the price of that coverage. This does not apply to long term care plans.

Example: We use health information about you to develop better services for you.

Pay for your health services

We can use and disclose your health information as we pay for your health services.

Example: We share information about you with your dental plan to coordinate payment for your dental work.

Administer your plan

We may disclose your health information to your health plan sponsor for plan administration.

Example: Your company contracts with us to provide a health plan, and we provide your company with certain statistics to explain the premiums we charge.

How else can we use or share your health information?

We are allowed or required to share your information in other ways – usually in ways that contribute to the public good, such as public health and research. We have to meet many conditions in the law before we can share your information for these purposes. And in all cases, if we have substance use disorder patient records about you, subject to 42 CFR part 2, we cannot use or share information in those records in civil, criminal, or legislative investigations or proceedings against you without (1) your consent or (2) a court order or subpoena.

Help with public health and safety issues

We can share health information about you for certain situations such as:

- Preventing disease
- Helping with product recalls
- Reporting adverse reactions to medications
- Reporting suspected abuse, neglect, or domestic violence
- Preventing or reducing a serious threat to anyone's health or safety

For your medical emergencies

We can share your information during a bona fide medical emergency with the personnel and health care providers responding to your emergency, even when you are unable to consent because of the emergency. We can also share your identifying information to assist the federal Food and Drug Administration in notifying you or your doctor about unsafe products you may be using.

Aid scientific research

We can use or share your information for health research. Researchers cannot include any patient identifying information in their reports about the research.

Comply with the law

We will share information about you if state or federal laws require it, including with the Department of Health and Human Services if it wants to see that we're complying with federal privacy law.

Respond to organ and tissue donation requests and work with a medical examiner or funeral director

- We can share health information about you with organ procurement organizations.
- We can share health information with a coroner, medical examiner, or funeral director when an individual dies.

Address workers' compensation, law enforcement, and other government requests

We can use or share health information about you:

- For workers' compensation claims
- For law enforcement purposes or with a law enforcement official
- With health oversight agencies for activities authorized by law

- For special government functions such as military, national security, and presidential protective services

Legal Proceedings, court orders, and respond to lawsuits and legal actions

We may use or share your health information as permitted or required by law when responding to legal proceedings. This includes disclosures in response to a valid court order, warrant, subpoena, or other lawful process, consistent with HIPAA's rules for judicial and administrative proceedings (45 CFR §164.512(e)) and law enforcement requests (45 CFR §164.512(f)). When responding to legal requests, we disclose only the information required and follow all conditions and limitations imposed by HIPAA. We can share health information about you in response to a court or administrative order, or in response to a subpoena. With respect to information related to substance use disorder program, we must follow certain procedures before using or sharing your information for investigations and legal proceedings.

- We will not use or share your information or provided testimony about your information in any civil, administrative, criminal or legislative proceedings against you with your written consent or a court order.
- We will only respond to a court order to use or share your health information if it is accompanied by a subpoena or other similar legal mandate requiring us to comp.
- We will only use or share your information in proceedings against you based on a court order after we have received notice and an opportunity to be heard or you tell us that you have received notice.
- We may use or share your information to respond to legal proceedings against our substance use disorder program based on a court order and you may not be notified in advance. You have the right to seek to overturn or change the court order after you learn about it.

With respect to substance use disorder program we may use or disclose your information in order to:

Respond to management and financial audits and substance use disorder program evaluations

We can use or share your information to improve the quality of our services, obtain needed credentials, and cooperate with oversight agencies for activities authorized by law, as long as those who view or receive the information agree to destroy or return the information when they are finished and agree not to use it against you.

Assist with cause of death inquiries

We can share patient identifying information about a deceased patient as required or allowed by laws that collect information relating to cause of death.

Report suspected child abuse and neglect or prevent or reduce crime

We will only report the information required by law. We may report to law enforcement when a patient commits or threatens to commit a crime within our program or against our staff.

Communicate within our program and with contractors

We may use and disclose your information within our health plan and with organizations that help us administer our program, including contractors and business associates who perform services for us. These disclosures occur only as permitted by HIPAA for health care operations.

OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- We may use and disclose your protected health information as permitted or required by HIPAA and other applicable laws. Certain uses and disclosures require your written authorization.
- We are required by law to maintain the privacy and security of your protected health information.
- We will let you know promptly if a breach occurs that may have compromised the privacy or security of your information.
- We must follow the duties and privacy practices described in this notice and give you a copy of it.
- We will not use or share your information other than as described in this notice unless you tell us we can in writing. If you tell us we can, you may change your mind at any time. Let us know in writing if you change your mind.

For more information see: www.hhs.gov/ocr/privacy/hipaa/understanding/consumers/noticepp.html.

REDISCLASURE ACCORDING TO HIPAA

When you consent to uses and disclosures for all future treatment and payment purposes and to run our business, we may share your information with other substance use disorder treatment programs, doctors' offices, and health care businesses for those activities. If the person who receives it is subject to HIPAA, then they are allowed to use and share your information again without your consent for the purposes that HIPAA allows. Your information still cannot be used in legal proceedings against you unless (1) you consent or (2) based on a Part 2 court order and a subpoena (or similar legal requirement).

CHANGES TO THE TERMS OF THIS NOTICE

We are required to follow the terms of this notice that are currently in effect. We can change the terms of this notice, and the changes will apply to all information we have about you. The new notice will be available upon request, on our web site, and we will mail a copy to you.

Michelle's Law Enrollment Notice

Pursuant to Michelle's Law, you are being provided with the following notice because the Gardner Edgerton School District USD 231 group health plan provides dependent coverage beyond age 26 and bases eligibility for such dependent coverage on student status. Please review the following information with respect to your dependent child's rights under the plan in the event student status is lost.

When a dependent child loses student status for purposes of Gardner Edgerton School District USD 231 group health plan coverage as a result of a medically necessary leave of absence from a post-secondary educational institution, the Gardner Edgerton School District USD 231 group health plan will continue to provide coverage during the leave of absence for up to one year, or until coverage would otherwise terminate under the Gardner Edgerton School District USD 231 group health plan, whichever is earlier.

In order to be eligible to continue coverage as a dependent during such leave of absence:

The Gardner Edgerton School District USD 231 group health plan must receive written certification by a treating physician of the dependent child which states that the child is suffering from a serious illness or injury and that the leave of absence (or other change of enrollment) is medically necessary.

To obtain additional information, please contact: Amy Jackson at 913-856-2013, **jacksonal@usd231.com**

Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act Initial Notice

ENROLLMENT NOTICE

If you have had or are going to have a mastectomy, you may be entitled to certain benefits under the Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 1998 (WHCRA). For individuals receiving mastectomy-related benefits, coverage will be provided in a manner determined in consultation with the attending physician and the patient, for:

- All stages of reconstruction of the breast on which the mastectomy was performed;
- Surgery and reconstruction of the other breast to produce a symmetrical appearance;
- Prostheses; and
- Treatment of physical complications of the mastectomy, including lymphedema.

These benefits will be provided subject to the same deductibles and coinsurance applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under this plan. These benefits will be provided subject to the same deductibles and coinsurance applicable to other medical and surgical benefits provided under this plan. If you would like more information on WHCRA benefits, call your plan administrator at 913-856-2013.

Important Notice from Gardner Edgerton School District USD 231 About Your Prescription Drug Coverage and Medicare

This notice pertains to all four BlueKC Medical Plans

Please read this notice carefully and keep it where you can find it. This notice has information about your current prescription drug coverage with Gardner Edgerton School District Health Plan and about your options under Medicare's prescription drug coverage. This information can help you decide whether or not you want to join a Medicare drug plan. If you are considering joining, you should compare your current coverage, including which drugs are covered at what cost, with the coverage and costs of the plans offering Medicare prescription drug coverage in your area. Information about where you can get help to make decisions about your prescription drug coverage is at the end of this notice.

There are two important things you need to know about your current coverage and Medicare's prescription drug coverage:

1. Medicare prescription drug coverage became available in 2006 to everyone with Medicare. You can get this coverage if you join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan or join a Medicare Advantage Plan (like an HMO or PPO) that offers prescription drug coverage. All Medicare drug plans provide at least a standard level of coverage set by Medicare. Some plans may also offer more coverage for a higher monthly premium.
2. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City (BlueKC) has determined that the prescription drug coverage offered by the Gardner Edgerton School District USD 231 Health Plan is, on average for all plan participants, expected to pay out as much as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage pays and is therefore considered **Creditable Coverage**. Because your existing coverage is Creditable Coverage, you can keep this coverage and not pay a higher premium (a penalty) if you later decide to join a Medicare drug plan.

When Can You Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

You can join a Medicare drug plan when you first become eligible for Medicare and each year from **October 15 to December 7**.

However, if you lose your current creditable prescription drug coverage, through no fault of your own, you will also be eligible for a two (2) month Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to join a Medicare drug plan.

What Happens To Your Current Coverage If You Decide to Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan, your current coverage will not be affected. If you decide to join a Medicare drug plan and drop your current

coverage, be aware that you and your dependents will be able to get this coverage back.

When Will You Pay A Higher Premium (Penalty) To Join A Medicare Drug Plan?

You should also know that if you drop or lose your current coverage with Gardner Edgerton School District Group Health Care Plan and don't join a Medicare drug plan within 63 continuous days after your current coverage ends, you may pay a higher premium (a penalty) to join a Medicare drug plan later.

If you go 63 continuous days or longer without creditable prescription drug coverage, your monthly premium may go up by at least 1% of the Medicare base beneficiary premium per month for every month that you did not have that coverage. For example, if you go nineteen months without creditable coverage, your premium may consistently be at least 19% higher than the Medicare base beneficiary premium. You may have to pay this higher premium (a penalty) as long as you have Medicare prescription drug coverage. In addition, you may have to wait until the following October to join.

For More Information About This Notice Or Your Current Prescription Drug Coverage...

Contact the person listed below for further information. **NOTE:** You'll get this notice each year. You will also get it before the next period you can join a Medicare drug plan, and if this coverage through Gardner Edgerton School District changes. You also may request a copy of this notice at any time.

For More Information About Your Options Under Medicare Prescription Drug Coverage...

More detailed information about Medicare plans that offer prescription drug coverage is in the "Medicare & You" handbook. You'll get a copy of the handbook in the mail every year from Medicare. You may also be contacted directly by Medicare drug plans.

For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage:

- Visit www.medicare.gov
- Call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (see the inside back cover of your copy of the "Medicare & You" handbook for their telephone number) for personalized help

- Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

If you have limited income and resources, extra help paying for Medicare prescription drug coverage is available. For information about this extra help, visit Social Security on the web at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call them at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Remember: Keep this Creditable Coverage notice. If you decide to join one of the Medicare drug plans, you may be required to provide a copy of this notice when you join to show whether or not you have maintained creditable coverage and, therefore, whether or not you are required to pay a higher premium (a penalty).

Date:10/01/2026

Name of Entity/Sender: Amy Jackson

Contact: Benefits Manager

Address: 231 E. Madison Street,
Gardner, KS 66030

Phone Number: 913-856-2013

Premium Assistance Under Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

If you or your children are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP and you're eligible for health coverage from your employer, your state may have a premium assistance program that can help pay for coverage, using funds from their Medicaid or CHIP programs. If you or your children aren't eligible for Medicaid or CHIP, you won't be eligible for these premium assistance programs but you may be able to buy individual insurance coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace. For more information, visit www.healthcare.gov.

If you or your dependents are already enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP and you live in a State listed below, contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office to find out if premium assistance is available.

If you or your dependents are NOT currently enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, and you think you or any of your dependents might be eligible for either of these programs, contact your State Medicaid or CHIP office or dial **1-877-KIDS NOW** or www.insurekidsnow.gov to find out how to apply. If you qualify, ask your state if it has a program that might help you pay the premiums for an employer-sponsored plan.

If you or your dependents are eligible for premium assistance under Medicaid or CHIP, as well as eligible under your employer plan, your employer must allow you to enroll in your employer plan if you aren't already enrolled. This is called a "special enrollment" opportunity, and **you must request coverage within 60 days of being determined eligible for premium assistance.**

If you have questions about enrolling in your employer plan, contact the Department of Labor at www.askebsa.dol.gov or call **1-866-444-EBSA (3272).**

If you live in one of the following states, you may be eligible for assistance paying your employer health plan premiums. The following list of states is current as of July 31, 2026. Contact your State for more information on eligibility –

To see if any other states have added a premium assistance program since January 31, 2026, or for more information on special enrollment rights, contact either:

U.S. Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration
dol.gov/agencies/ebsa
866-444-EBSA (3272)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
cms.hhs.gov
877-267-2323, Menu Option 4, ext. 61565

STATE	WEBSITE/EMAIL	PHONE
Alabama Medicaid	myalhipp.com	855-692-5447
Alaska Medicaid	Premium Payment Program: myakhipp.com Medicaid Eligibility: health.alaska.gov/dpa Email: customerservice@myakhipp.com	866-251-4861
Arkansas Medicaid	http://myarhipp.com/	855-MyARHIPP (855-692-7447)
California Medicaid	dhcs.ca.gov/hipp Email: hipp@dhcs.ca.gov	916-445-8322 916-440-5676 (fax)
Colorado Medicaid and CHIP	Medicaid: healthfirstcolorado.com CHIP: hcpf.colorado.gov/child-health-plan-plus HIBI: mycohibi.com	800-221-3943 Relay 711 800-359-1991 Relay 711 855-692-6442
Florida Medicaid	flmedicaidprecovery.com/flmedicaidprecovery.com/hipp/index.html	877-357-3268

Georgia Medicaid	HIPP: medicaid.georgia.gov/health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp CHIPRA: medicaid.georgia.gov/programs/third-party-liability/childrens-health-insurance-program-reauthorization-act-2009-chipra	678-564-1162, press 1 678-564-1162, press 2
Indiana Medicaid	HIPP: https://www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/ All other Medicaid: in.gov/medicaid	800-403-0864 800-457-4584
Illinois – Medicaid	Website https://abe.illinois.gov email: mhfs.boc.hipp@illinois.gov	HIPP: 217-524-8268
Iowa Medicaid and CHIP	Medicaid: hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid CHIP: hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/iowa-health-link/hawki HIPP: hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/fee-service/hipp	800-338-8366 800-257-8563 888-346-9562
Kansas Medicaid	kancare.ks.gov	800-792-4884 HIPP: 800-967-4660
Kentucky Medicaid and CHIP	KI-HIPP: chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms/member/Pages/kihipp.aspx KI-HIPP Email: KIHIPPPROGRAM@ky.gov KCHIP: kynect.ky.gov Medicaid: chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dms	KI-HIPP: 855-459-6328 KCHIP: 877-524-4718
Louisiana Medicaid	ldh.la.gov/healthy-louisiana or www.ldh.la.gov/lahipp	Medicaid: 888-342-6207 LaHIPP: 877-697-6703
Maine Medicaid	Enrollment: mymaineconnection.gov/benefits Private health insurance premium: maine.gov/dhhs/ofi/applications-forms	Enroll: 800-442-6003 Private HIP: 800-977-6740 TTY/Relay: 711
Massachusetts Medicaid and CHIP	mass.gov/masshealth/pa Email: masspremassistance@accenture.com	800-862-4840 TTY/Relay: 711
Minnesota Medicaid	mn.gov/dhs/health-care-coverage	800-657-3672
Missouri Medicaid	dss.mo.gov/mhd/participants/pages/hipp.htm	573-751-2005
Montana Medicaid	HIPP: dphhs.mt.gov/MontanaHealthcarePrograms/HIPP HIPP Email: HSHIPPProgram@mt.gov	800-694-3084
Nebraska Medicaid	ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov	855-632-7633 Lincoln: 402-473-7000 Omaha: 402-595-1178
Nevada Medicaid	Medicaid: dhcfp.nv.gov	800-992-0900
New Hampshire Medicaid	dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/medicaid/health-insurance-premium-program Email: DHHS.ThirdPartyLiabi@dhhs.nh.gov	603-271-5218 or 800-852-3345, ext. 15218
New Jersey Medicaid and CHIP	Medicaid: state.nj.gov/humanservices/dmahs/clients/medicaid CHIP: njfamilycare.org/index.html	Medicaid: 800-356-1561 CHIP Premium Assist: 609-631-2392 CHIP: 800-701-0710 TTY/Relay: 711
New York Medicaid	health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid	800-541-2831
North Carolina Medicaid	medicaid.ncdhhs.gov	919-855-4100
North Dakota Medicaid	hhs.nd.gov/healthcare	844-854-4825
Oklahoma Medicaid and CHIP	insureoklahoma.org	888-365-3742
Oregon Medicaid	healthcare.oregon.gov/Pages/index.aspx	800-699-9075

Pennsylvania Medicaid and CHIP	Medicaid: pa.gov/en/services/dhs/apply-for-medicaid-health-insurance-premium-payment-program-hipp.html CHIP: dhs.pa.gov/CHIP/Pages/CHIP.aspx	Medicaid: 800-692-7462 CHIP: 800-986-KIDS (5437)
Rhodelsland Medicaid and CHIP	eohhs.ri.gov	855-697-4347 or 401-462-0311 (Direct Rlte)
SouthCarolina Medicaid	scdhhs.gov	888-549-0820
SouthDakota Medicaid	dss.sd.gov	888-828-0059
Texas Medicaid	hhs.texas.gov/services/financial/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-program	800-440-0493
Utah Medicaid and CHIP	UPP: medicaid.utah.gov/upp/ UPP Email: upp@utah.gov Adult Expansion: medicaid.utah.gov/expansion/ Utah Medicaid Buyout Program: medicaid.utah.gov/buyout-program/ CHIP: chip.utah.gov	UPP: 877-222-2542
Vermont Medicaid	dvha.vermont.gov/members/medicaid/hipp-program	800-250-8427
Virginia Medicaid and CHIP	coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/famis-select coverva.dmas.virginia.gov/learn/premium-assistance/health-insurance-premium-payment-hipp-programs	Medicaid/CHIP: 800-432-5924
Washington Medicaid	hca.wa.gov	800-562-3022
West Virginia Medicaid and CHIP	dhhr.wv.gov/bms/mywvhipp.com/	Medicaid: 304-558-1700 CHIP: 855-699-8447
Wisconsin Medicaid and CHIP	dhs.wisconsin.gov/badgercareplus/p-10095.htm	800-362-3002
Wyoming Medicaid	health.wyo.gov/healthcarefin/medicaid/programs-and-eligibility	800-251-1269



Health Insurance Marketplace Coverage Options and Your Health Coverage

PART A: General Information

Since key parts of the health care law took effect in 2014, there is another way to buy health insurance: the Health Insurance Marketplace. To assist you as you evaluate options for you and your family, this notice provides some basic information about the Marketplace and employment based health coverage offered by your employer.

What is the Health Insurance Marketplace?

The Marketplace is designed to help you find health insurance that meets your needs and fits your budget. The Marketplace offers "one-stop shopping" to find and compare private health insurance options. You may also be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your monthly premium right away. Typically, you can enroll in a Marketplace health plan during the Marketplace's annual Open Enrollment period or if you experience a qualifying life event.

Can I Save Money on my Health Insurance Premiums in the Marketplace?

You may qualify to save money and lower your monthly premium, but only if your employer does not offer coverage, or offers coverage that doesn't meet certain standards. The savings on your premium that you're eligible for depends on your household income.

Does Employer Health Coverage Affect Eligibility for Premium Savings through the Marketplace?

Yes. If you have an offer of health coverage from your employer that meets certain standards, you will not be eligible for a tax credit through the Marketplace and may wish to enroll in your employer's health plan. However, you may be eligible for a tax credit that lowers your monthly premium, or a reduction in certain cost-sharing if your employer does not offer coverage to you at all or does not offer coverage that meets certain standards. If the cost of a plan from your employer that would cover you (and not any other members of your family) is more than **10.22%** of your household income for the year, or if the coverage your employer provides does not meet the "minimum value" standard set by the Affordable Care Act, you may be eligible for a tax credit.¹

Note: If you purchase a health plan through the Marketplace instead of accepting health coverage offered by your employer, then you may lose the employer contribution (if any) to the employer-offered coverage. Also, this employer contribution -as well as your employee contribution to employer-offered coverage- is often excluded from income for Federal and State income tax purposes. Your payments for coverage through the Marketplace are made on an after-tax basis.

How Can I Get More Information?

For more information about your coverage offered by your employer, please check your summary plan description or contact: **Amy Jackson, Benefits Manager, 913-856-2013, jacksonal@usd231.com**

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The Marketplace can help you evaluate your coverage options, including your eligibility for coverage through the Marketplace and its cost. Please visit HealthCare.gov for more information, including an online application for health insurance coverage and contact information for a Health Insurance Marketplace in your area.

1. An employer-sponsored health plan meets the "minimum value standard" if the plan's share of the total allowed benefit costs covered by the plan is no less than 60 percent of such costs (Section 36B(c)(2)(C)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986)

PART B: Information About Health Coverage Offered by Your Employer

This section contains information about any health coverage offered by your employer. If you decide to complete an application for coverage in the Marketplace, you will be asked to provide this information. This information is numbered to correspond to the Marketplace application.

3. Employer name Gardner Edgerton School District		4. Employer Identification Number (EIN) 48-0699834	
5. Employer address 231 E. Madison Street		6. Employer phone number 913-856-2013	
7. City Gardner	8. State KS	9. ZIP code 66030	
10. Who can we contact about employee health coverage at this job? Amy Jackson			
11. Phone number (if different from above)		12. Email address jacksonal@usd231.com	

Here is some basic information about health coverage offered by this employer:

- As your employer, we offer a health plan to:

☐ All employees. Eligible employees are:

☒ Some employees. Eligible employees are:

Full-time employees (as defined by USD 231) working 30+ hours per week. Part-time employees (as defined by USD 231) working 20+ hours per week

- With respect to dependents:

☒ We do offer coverage. Eligible dependents are:

Legal spouse. Dependent children up to the end of the year in which they turn 26. Disabled children over age 26 (with proof of disability).

☐ We do not offer coverage.

☒ If checked, this coverage meets the minimum value standard, and the cost of this coverage to you is intended to be affordable, based on employee wages.

****** Even if your employer intends your coverage to be affordable, you may still be eligible for a premium discount through the Marketplace. The Marketplace will use your household income, along with other factors, to determine whether you may be eligible for a premium discount. If, for example, your wages vary from week to week (perhaps you are an hourly employee or you work on a commission basis), if you are newly employed mid-year, or if you have other income losses, you may still qualify for a premium discount.

If you decide to shop for coverage in the Marketplace, [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) will guide you through the process.

General Notice of COBRA Continuation Coverage Rights

**** Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA ****

Introduction

You're getting this notice because you recently gained coverage or may become covered under the Gardner Edgerton USD 231 Group Health Plan (the Plan). This notice has important information about your right to COBRA continuation coverage, which is a temporary extension of coverage under the Plan. **This notice explains COBRA continuation coverage, when it may become available to you and your family, and what you need to do to protect your right to get it.** When you become eligible for COBRA, you may also become eligible for other coverage options that may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage.

The right to COBRA continuation coverage was created by a federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA). COBRA continuation coverage can become available to you and other members of your family when group health coverage would otherwise end. For more information about your rights and obligations under the Plan and under federal law, you should review the Plan's Summary Plan Description or contact the Plan Administrator.

You may have other options available to you when you lose group health coverage. For example, you may be eligible to buy an individual plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace. By enrolling in coverage through the Marketplace, you may qualify for lower costs on your monthly premiums and lower out-of-pocket costs. Additionally, you may qualify for a 30-day special enrollment period for another group health plan for which you are eligible (such as a spouse's plan), even if that plan generally doesn't accept late enrollees.

What is COBRA continuation coverage?

COBRA continuation coverage is a continuation of Plan coverage when it would otherwise end because of a life event. This is also called a "qualifying event." Specific qualifying events are listed later in this notice. After a qualifying event, COBRA continuation coverage must be offered to each person who is a "qualified beneficiary." You, your spouse, and your dependent children could become qualified beneficiaries if coverage under the Plan is lost because of the qualifying event. Under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage must pay for COBRA continuation coverage.

If you're an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- Your hours of employment are reduced, or
- Your employment ends for any reason other than your gross misconduct.

If you're the spouse of an employee, you'll become a qualified beneficiary if you lose your coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- Your spouse dies;

- Your spouse's hours of employment are reduced;
- Your spouse's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- Your spouse becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); or
- You become divorced or legally separated from your spouse.

Your dependent children will become qualified beneficiaries if they lose coverage under the Plan because of the following qualifying events:

- The parent-employee dies;
- The parent-employee's hours of employment are reduced;
- The parent-employee's employment ends for any reason other than his or her gross misconduct;
- The parent-employee becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (Part A, Part B, or both);
- The parents become divorced or legally separated; or
- The child stops being eligible for coverage under the Plan as a "dependent child."

Sometimes, filing a proceeding in bankruptcy under title 11 of the United States Code can be a qualifying event. If a proceeding in bankruptcy is filed with respect to the Gardner Edgerton USD 231 Group Health Plan, and that bankruptcy results in the loss of coverage of any retired employee covered under the Plan, the retired employee will become a qualified beneficiary. The retired employee's spouse, surviving spouse, and dependent children will also become qualified beneficiaries if bankruptcy results in the loss of their coverage under the Plan.

When is COBRA continuation coverage available?

The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to qualified beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator has been notified that a qualifying event has occurred. The employer must notify the Plan Administrator of the following qualifying events:

- The end of employment or reduction of hours of employment;
- Death of the employee;
- Commencement of a proceeding in bankruptcy with respect to the employer; or
- The employee's becoming entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both).

For all other qualifying events (divorce or legal separation of the employee and spouse or a dependent child's losing eligibility for coverage as a dependent child), you must notify the Plan Administrator within 60 days after the qualifying event occurs. You must provide this notice to: Amy Jackson, Benefits Manager – 913-856-2013 jacksonal@usd231.com

How is COBRA continuation coverage provided?

Once the Plan Administrator receives notice that a qualifying event has occurred, COBRA continuation coverage will be offered to each of the qualified beneficiaries. Each qualified beneficiary will have an independent right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. Covered employees may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their spouses, and parents may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children.

COBRA continuation coverage is a temporary continuation of coverage that generally lasts for 18 months due to employment termination or reduction of hours of work. 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.

There are also ways in which this 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage can be extended:

Disability extension of 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage

If you or anyone in your family covered under the Plan is determined by Social Security to be disabled and you notify the Plan Administrator in a timely fashion, you and your entire family may be entitled to get up to an additional 11 months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 29 months. The disability would have to have started at some time before the 60th day of COBRA continuation coverage and must last at least until the end of the 18-month period of COBRA continuation coverage. In order to determine if you or a covered member of your family qualify for the disability extension, you must send documentation received from Social Security verifying the disability determination to: **Amy Jackson, Benefits Manager, phone: 913-856-2013 jacksonal@usd231.com**

Second qualifying event extension of 18-month period of continuation coverage

If your family experiences another qualifying event during the 18 months of COBRA continuation coverage, the spouse and dependent children in your family can get up to 18 additional months of COBRA continuation coverage, for a maximum of 36 months, if the Plan is properly notified about the second qualifying event. This extension may be available to the spouse and any dependent children getting COBRA continuation coverage if the employee or former employee dies; becomes entitled to Medicare benefits (under Part A, Part B, or both); gets divorced or legally separated; or if the dependent child stops being eligible under the Plan as a dependent child. This extension is only available if the second qualifying event would have caused the spouse or dependent child to lose coverage under the Plan had the first qualifying event not occurred.

Are there other coverage options besides COBRA Continuation Coverage?

Yes. Instead of enrolling in COBRA continuation coverage, there may be other coverage options for you and your family through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicare, Medicaid, **Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**, or other group health plan coverage options (such as a spouse's plan) through what is called a "special enrollment period." Some of these options may cost less than COBRA continuation coverage. You can learn more about many of these options at **www.healthcare.gov**.

Can I enroll in Medicare instead of COBRA continuation coverage after my group health plan coverage ends?

In general, if you don't enroll in Medicare Part A or B when you are first eligible because you are still employed, after the Medicare initial enrollment period, you have an 8-month special enrollment period¹ to sign up for Medicare Part A or B, beginning on the earlier of:

- The month after your employment ends; or
- The month after group health plan coverage based on current employment ends.

If you don't enroll in Medicare and elect COBRA continuation coverage instead, you may have to pay a Part B late enrollment penalty and you may have a gap in coverage if you decide you want Part B later. If you elect COBRA continuation coverage and later enroll in Medicare Part A or B before the COBRA continuation coverage ends, the Plan may terminate your continuation coverage. However, if Medicare Part A or B is effective on or before the date of the COBRA election, COBRA coverage may not be discontinued on account of Medicare entitlement, even if you enroll in the other part of Medicare after the date of the election of COBRA coverage.

If you are enrolled in both COBRA continuation coverage and Medicare, Medicare will generally pay first (primary payer) and COBRA continuation coverage will pay second. Certain plans may pay as if secondary to Medicare, even if you are not enrolled in Medicare.

For more information visit <https://www.medicare.gov/medicare-and-you>.

If you have questions

Questions concerning your Plan or your COBRA continuation coverage rights should be addressed to the contact or contacts identified below. For more information about your rights under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), including COBRA, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and other laws affecting group health plans, contact the nearest Regional or District Office of the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefits Security Administration (EBSA) in your area or visit www.dol.gov/ebsa. (Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website.) For more information about the Marketplace, visit www.HealthCare.gov

Keep your Plan informed of address changes

To protect your family's rights, let the Plan Administrator know about any changes in the addresses of family members. You should also keep a copy, for your records, of any notices you send to the Plan Administrator.

Plan contact information

Amy Jackson, Benefits Manager
Gardner Edgerton USD 231
231 E. Madison Street, Gardner, KS 66030
Phone: 913-856-2013, Email: jacksonal@usd231.com
Dated: October 1, 2026 – For Plan Year 2027

¹ <https://www.medicare.gov/sign-up-change-plans/how-do-i-get-parts-a-b/part-a-part-b-sign-up-periods>.