

# JEFFERSON TEACHER/PSRP



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September, 2016

## Open Enrollment Dates Announced



Open Enrollment dates are Monday, September 26-Wednesday November 2, 2016. During this time employees will elect or make changes to their supplemental (dental, vision, life, accident, cancer, flexible spending account, etc.) insurance coverage. If an employee would like to move any of their coverage to pre-tax or post-tax status, this can be completed during Open Enrollment. All employees that work 20 or more hours a week should complete Open Enrollment. Please visit [www.jpschools.org](http://www.jpschools.org) under "Quick Links" for more information.



## Coverage Changes & Revocation Reminders

For Pre-Tax deductions, once you elect an insurance option, you can only change that option during the Annual Enrollment or Open Enrollment period unless you meet a qualifying event/family status change.

You must contact the JPPSS Insurance Team and complete the benefit change within thirty (30) calendar days of the qualifying event or family status change.

*Qualifying events/family status changes include:*

- Getting married, divorced, or legally separated
- Birth, adoption, or placement of adoption of an Eligible child
- Death of your covered spouse or child
- Change in your or your spouse's work status that affects benefit eligibility (for example: starting a new job or leaving a job)
- A change in your child's eligibility for benefits
- Becoming eligible for Medicare or Medicaid
- A significant change in your spouse's health coverage attributable to your spouse's employment

## Share My Lesson



Share My Lesson is a digital platform for U.S. educators to collaborate and share teaching resources and innovative ideas, with a significant emphasis on resources to guide teachers in implementing the new Common Core State Standards. There are more than 300,000 resources. Any educator from preschool to college; can register and start using the site immediately - <https://sharemylesson.com/>.

## Late Take-In Days

Late Take-In days are being implemented as one component of Professional Learning Communities. They are not Professional Development Days. This time is set aside to allow teachers time to collaborate with one another, review student work, share concerns, and find solutions. The goal is to focus on learning and increased student achievement.

The next Late Take-In day is scheduled for Wednesday, September 28, 2016.

## Teacher Planning Time



Article V of the Agreement between the Jefferson Federation of Teachers and the Jefferson Parish School Board states that: The teacher shall have an uninterrupted planning and preparation time each day equal to the length of a daily class period. The planning and preparation time shall be duty free unless circumstances clearly make it unfeasible and no other alternatives exist to rectify the problem. The planning and preparation time shall be used judiciously and appropriately and may include collaborative planning, grade level/departmental meetings, professional development and study groups, provided such shall occur no more than twice each week.

# From The Lawyer's Desk

By Larry Samuel, JFT General Counsel

## "Stuff Happens" ...Part 2



Last month, we emphasized the importance of a paper trail when "stuff happens" at school. We stressed that it's important for educators to follow-up in writing when bad stuff happens, so there is a written record that you did what you are supposed to do...for example... when students are injured, when you see a dangerous condition at school, when you suspect that a student is being abused. The written "paper trail" protects the student, the school, and the school district.

And the paper trail protects you, the educator. And your protection is the focus of this month's column.

One of the benefits of membership in JFT is the Occupational Liability Plan. The Plan protects and covers you when "stuff happens."

So why do you need an occupational liability plan? Why do you need insurance? After all...you'll never deliberately hit a student, so why do you need protection?

We hear it all the time.

And here's the answer: Educators need protection against false accusations and exaggerated accusations.

"Educators" means all school employees: teachers, paraeducators, clerical employees, etc.

Case in point: a student goes home from school one afternoon, and his parent notices a bruise and a scratch on his arm and asks him if he was in a fight. The student has two choices: to answer truthfully and face consequences, or to divert the focus off of himself. So he decides to take the easy way out: "No, I wasn't in a fight. My teacher grabbed me by the arm." The next morning, the angry and irate parent arrives at school, and later, the Sheriff's office arrives, to conduct an investigation.

JFT members have legal protection: immediate access to an attorney at no charge, reimbursement of legal fees to defend against potential or actual criminal charges, and up to \$2 million in liability insurance coverage if a lawsuit is filed. For details, go to [www.rittenbergsamuel.com](http://www.rittenbergsamuel.com), then click "Publications," and see the first document, entitled AFT Liability Insurance Protection.

That's just one type of legal dilemma that educators face each day.

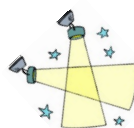
The policy is tailored to serve the needs of educators, but there's a catch: In order for educators to enjoy the benefits and protections of the AFT Occupational Liability Plan, they must be a JFT member at the time the "stuff happened". Just as any insurance policy, you won't be entitled to retroactive protection and coverage if you decide to join the union *after* the "stuff happened".

# General Membership Meeting Set For October 18th

The next JFT General Membership Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 18, 2016, 6:30 p.m., at the Seafarers' Hall, 3911 Lapalco Boulevard, Harvey. All JFT members are encouraged to attend to hear the latest updates.

Please make plans to attend!

## JFT Member Benefits Spotlight



TRUECar™

### Need a new car?

Get up-front pricing on new cars from dealers in your area in three minutes online and use the no-hassle program through TrueCar.

- Pre-negotiated pricing
- \$100 rebate on purchases of new union-made cars
- \$200 rebate for purchases of new union-made, EPA Green Cars

#### TrueCar Buyers Bonus Benefits:

- Auto Repair Reimbursement (valued at up to \$1000)
- Auto Deductible Reimbursement (valued at up to \$1000)
- Auto Expert Opinion

This benefit is available to JFT members only. To learn more, please visit [www.unionplus.org/autobuying](http://www.unionplus.org/autobuying). (You will need your membership ID information.)

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