

Group Benefits

Gaston County Schools

Life

**CERTIFICATE OF
GROUP INSURANCE**

Union Security Insurance Company certifies that the insurance stated in this Certificate became effective on the Effective Date shown in your Schedule. This Certificate is subject to the provisions of the below numbered *policy* issued by Union Security Insurance Company to the *policyholder*.

Please read your certificate carefully

This Certificate has a Termination Provision.

Policyholder: Gaston County Schools

Group Policy Number: 5481333

Participation Number: 0

Type of Coverage:

Group Term Life Insurance

This Certificate replaces any and all Certificates and Certificate Endorsements, if any, issued to you under the *policy*.



President and
Chief Executive Officer

NOTICE TO FIDUCIARY OF OBLIGATIONS UNDER NORTH CAROLINA LAW

Under North Carolina general statute section 58-50-40, no person, employer, principal, agent, trustee, or third party administrator, who is responsible for the payment of group health or life insurance or group health plan premiums, shall: (1) cause the cancellation or nonrenewal of group health or life insurance, hospital, medical, or dental service corporation plan, multiple employer welfare arrangement, or group health plan coverages and the consequential loss of the coverages of the persons insured, by willfully failing to pay those premiums in accordance with the terms of the insurance or plan contract, and (2) willfully fail to deliver, at least 45 days before the termination of those coverages, to all persons covered by the group policy a written notice of the person's intention to stop payment of premiums. This written notice must also contain a notice to all persons covered by the group policy of their rights to health insurance conversion policies under Article 53 of Chapter 58 of the general statutes and their rights to purchase individual policies under the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and under Article 68 of Chapter 58 of the general statutes. Violation of this law is a felony. Any person violating this law is also subject to a court order requiring the person to compensate persons insured for expenses or losses incurred as a result of the termination of the insurance.

SCHEDULE

Eligible Persons

To be eligible for insurance, a person must be a member of an Eligible Class. The person must also complete a period of continuous service (Service Requirement) with the *policyholder* (or any *associated company*).

Eligible Class: Each *full-time* employee of the *policyholder* or an *associated company*,

- who is at *active work*, and
 - who is working in the United States of America,
- as identified on the *policyholder's* or our records, except any temporary or seasonal worker.

Associated Companies: None

Service Requirement: None

Entry Date

Insurance will take effect on the later of (i) the date shown below, and (ii) the first of the month occurring on or after the day all the eligibility requirements are met.

Effective Date of Insurance

April 1, 2018 (subject to Entry Date)

Life Insurance for You

1. If you have not reached age 65, your amount of insurance will be \$5,000.
2. If you have reached age 65, but not age 70, your amount of insurance will be 65% of the amount shown in 1 above.*
3. If you have reached age 70 or more, your amount of insurance will be 50% of the amount shown in 1 above.*

* Your amount of insurance will be rounded to the next higher multiple of \$1,000, if not already an exact multiple. Any reduction will be subject to the other provisions of the *policy* and will also apply if your insurance is continued during *disability*.

Maximum Amount Without Proof of Good Health: \$5,000

Change Date: For changes in age, the Change Date will be the policy anniversary occurring on or after the date of the change.

NON-INSURANCE BENEFITS AND SERVICES

You are eligible for benefits and services provided by third-party vendors as described below. A third-party vendor is an entity with whom we contract to provide non-insurance benefits and services.

Will Preparation Services

As a *covered person*, you are entitled to will preparation services as an included benefit. The included benefit is provided through a third-party vendor and is not an insured benefit provided by us. The included benefit is available to you and your dependent(s) as defined by the third-party vendor. You must remain insured under this *policy* in order to qualify for the included benefit.

The included benefit may not be available if prohibited by law. The third-party vendor providing the service is solely responsible for providing and administering the included benefit. We are not liable for the third-party vendor's failure to provide or its negligence in providing the included benefit. The included benefit is only available while we have a contract in effect with a third-party vendor to provide the included benefit.

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GENERAL DEFINITIONS

These terms have the meanings shown here when *italicized*. The pronouns "we", "us", "our", "you", and "your" are not *italicized*.

Active work means the expenditure of time and energy for the *policyholder* or an *associated company* at your usual place of business on a *full-time* basis.

Associated company means any company shown in the *policy* which is owned by or affiliated with the *policyholder*.

Contributory means you pay part of the premium.

Covered person means an eligible employee or member of the *policyholder*, or an *associated company* who has become insured for a coverage.

Doctor means a person acting within the scope of his or her license to practice medicine, prescribe drugs or perform surgery. Also, a person whom we are required to recognize as a *doctor* by the laws or regulations of the governing jurisdiction, or a person who is legally licensed to practice psychiatry, psychology or psychotherapy and whose primary work activities involve the care of patients, is a *doctor*. However, neither you nor a *family member* will be considered a *doctor*.

Eligible class means a class of persons eligible for insurance under the *policy*. This class is based on employment or membership in a group.

Family member means a person who is a parent, spouse, child, sibling, domestic partner, grandparent or grandchild of the *covered person*.

Full-time means working at least 18.75 hours per week, unless indicated otherwise in the *policy*.

Home office means our office in Kansas City, Missouri.

Injury means accidental bodily injury. It does not mean intentionally self-inflicted injury while sane or insane.

Noncontributory means the *policyholder* pays the premium.

Policy means the group policy issued by us to the *policyholder* that describes the benefits for which you may be eligible.

Policyholder means the entity to whom the *policy* is issued.

Proof of good health means evidence acceptable to us of the good health of a person.

We, us, and our mean Union Security Insurance Company.

You and your mean an eligible employee or member of the *policyholder* or an *associated company* who has become insured for a coverage.

DEFINITIONS FOR LIFE INSURANCE

Beneficiary means the person or entity you choose to receive your amount of insurance at your death.

Conversion policy means a policy of individual life insurance which may be issued to you by us when part or all of your group *life insurance* ends, as described in the "Conversion to an Individual Policy" provision.

Disabled and *disability* mean that you are under the *regular care and attendance* of a *doctor*, and prevented by *injury* or physical or mental disease from performing the material duties of any occupation for which your education, training, or experience qualifies you.

Government plan means the United States Social Security Act, the Railroad Retirement Act, the Canadian Pension Plan, similar plans provided under the laws of other nations, and any plan provided under the laws of a state, province, or other political subdivision. It also includes any public employee retirement plan or any teachers' employment retirement plan, or any plan provided as an alternative to any of the above acts or plans. It does not include any Workers' Compensation Act or similar law, or the Maritime Doctrine of Maintenance, Wages, or Cure.

Life insurance means the group term life insurance under the *policy* issued by us to the *policyholder*.

Period of disability means the time that begins on the day you become *disabled* and ends on the day before you return to *active work*. If you satisfy the *qualifying period* and then:

- return to *active work*;
- become *disabled* again; and
- remain insured under the *policy*;

the same *period of disability* may continue. Your return to *active work* must be for less than:

- 6 months, if the later *disability* results from the same cause, or a related one; or
- 1 day, if the later *disability* results from a different cause.

If you return to *active work* for more than the time shown above, and then become *disabled* again, you will start a new *period of disability*. You must satisfy the *qualifying period* again and the period outlined in the Maximum Benefit Period provision will start over.

Any day which is not a scheduled working day for a *covered person* will be considered a day of *active work* if the person would have been able to perform his or her normal duties on that day.

Qualifying period means the length of time you must be *disabled* before your insurance will be continued without further premium payment under the Disability Benefit. This time period is your Qualifying Period stated in any long term disability insurance policy issued by us to the *policyholder* under which you are insured, or if none, 6 months.

Regular care and attendance means the regular and personal care of a *doctor* which, under prevailing medical standards, is appropriate for your condition. We will no longer require the regular care of a *doctor* if we receive acceptable proof that further care would be of no benefit.

Retire means you begin receiving retirement benefits from either:

- a *retirement plan* sponsored by your employer, the *policyholder*, or an *associated company*, or

DEFINITIONS FOR LIFE INSURANCE (continued)

- a *government* plan.

Retirement plan means a formal or informal retirement plan, whether or not under an insurance or annuity contract.

ELIGIBILITY AND TERMINATION PROVISIONS FOR YOU

Exception to Effective Date

If you are not at *active work* on the day you would otherwise become insured, your insurance will not take effect until you return to *active work*. If the day your insurance would normally take effect is not a regular work day for you, your insurance will take effect on that day if you are able to do your regular job.

When Your Insurance Ends

Your insurance will end on the date:

- the *policy* ends;
- the *policy* is changed to end the insurance for your *eligible class*;
- you are no longer in an *eligible class*;
- you stop *active work*; however, if you renew your contract with the *policyholder* for the next school year, the *policyholder* may consider insurance to continue even though you stop *active work* during the summer recess; or
- a required contribution was not paid.

CONTINUITY OF COVERAGE

Definitions

Prior plan means the *policyholder's* plan of group *life insurance*, if any, under which you were insured on the day before the Effective Date of the *policy*.

Prior plan benefits mean the benefits, if any, that would have been paid to you or your *beneficiary* under the *prior plan* had it remained in effect, and had you continued to be insured under the *prior plan*.

Continuity of Coverage for You

We will provide continuity of coverage if you were covered under the *prior plan*.

If you are not at *active work* on the Effective Date of the *policy* due to a disability, you are not eligible to become insured under the *policy*. However, we will cover you for the *prior plan benefits* until the earlier of:

- the date you return to *active work*; or
- the end of any period of continuance or extension of the *prior plan*.

If you are not at *active work* on the Effective Date of the *policy* due to a reason other than a disability, and would otherwise be eligible to become insured under the *policy*, we will cover you for the *prior plan benefits* until the earliest of:

- the date you return to *active work*;
- the end of any period of continuance of the *prior plan*; or
- the date coverage would otherwise end, according to the provisions of the *policy*.

Any benefits payable under the conditions described above will be paid by us:

- as if the *prior plan* had remained in effect; and
- will be reduced by any benefits paid or payable by the *prior plan*.

If you are at *active work* on the Effective Date of the *policy*, you will be insured under the *policy*.

Prior Plan Credit for Life Insurance

We will give you credit for time periods which were met under the *prior plan* for the same provision(s). This credit will apply to the time-insured requirement, if any, shown in the following section(s) of the Life Insurance for You provision in the *policy*:

- Insurance Provided. However, for any *contributory* insurance, this credit will not apply to any increase in your amount of insurance under the *policy*.
- Conversion to an Individual Policy.

If we accept a copy of the enrollment card you submitted under the *prior plan*, this credit will also apply to the Incontestability section shown in Additional Provisions for Life Insurance.

LIFE INSURANCE FOR YOU

Insurance Provided

We will pay your *beneficiary* the amount of insurance shown in the Schedule when we receive all the required proof of covered loss, including written proof of your death, acceptable to us, and a completed claim form. Your amount of insurance may be reduced by the amount of any *conversion policy*.

For any *contributory* insurance, if you take your own life within 1 year after you become insured under the *policy*, the amount of insurance we pay will be the sum of your contributions for this insurance.

For any *contributory* insurance, if you take your own life within 1 year after you elect an increase in your amount of insurance under the *policy*, the amount of the increase will be limited to the sum of your contributions for the increase.

Changes in Amounts of Insurance

If your amount of insurance changes for any reason, the change will take place on the Change Date shown in the Schedule. But in the case of an increase, if you are not at *active work* on that day, no increase will take effect until you return to *active work*.

Proof of Good Health

If you are eligible for more than the Maximum Amount Without Proof of Good Health shown in the Schedule, you will be limited to that Maximum until you give us *proof of good health*. If the proof is accepted, the additional amount of insurance will take effect on the date we approve your *proof of good health*. Once insured for more than that Maximum, future increases will also require *proof of good health*.

If both *noncontributory* and *contributory* insurance are provided under the *policy*, your *contributory* amount will be affected by this provision before your *noncontributory* amount.

DISABILITY BENEFIT

If you stop *active work* before age 65 because you become *disabled* while insured under the *policy* and remain *disabled* for the *qualifying period*, your *life insurance* will continue for the period outlined in the Maximum Benefit Period provision. Once the *qualifying period* is satisfied, no further premium is due for you while you remain *disabled* for the amount of *life insurance* that is being continued.

Amount

The amount of insurance continued will be the amount for which you were insured on the day before you became *disabled*. However, it is subject to any reduction in amount contained in the *policy*, on that day, and may be reduced by the amount of any *conversion policy*.

Proof of Disability

You must give us proof of your *disability* as stated in the Claim Provisions. You must submit all proof to our *home office* at no expense to us. If you die while *disabled*, we require proof that you were continuously *disabled* until death.

Maximum Benefit Period

If you become *disabled* before your 60th birthday, your insurance will continue as long as you are *disabled*, but not past the earlier of age 65, or the date you *retire*. If you become *disabled* on or after your 60th birthday, but before age 65, your insurance may continue for up to 1 year, but not past the earlier of age 65, or the date you *retire*.

LIFE INSURANCE FOR YOU (continued)

If you are no longer *disabled*, your insurance will end unless you re-enter an *eligible class* and premium payments begin again. If you become *disabled* again during the same *period of disability*, you do not have to satisfy the *qualifying period* again. The maximum benefit period will not start over but will continue on the day you become *disabled* again.

If your amount of insurance reduces or ends while you are *disabled*, you can apply for an individual policy. See the Conversion to an Individual Policy provision.

Extension of Benefits

Your insurance will continue even if the *policy* ends, if you meet the proof requirements as stated in the Claim Provisions.

Exclusions

Your insurance will not continue under the Disability Benefit if your *disability* results directly or indirectly from:

- intentionally self-inflicted injury, while sane or insane;
- war or any act of war, whether declared or not;
- service in the armed forces of any country, combination of countries or international organization at war, whether declared or not; or
- taking part in a riot or insurrection, or an act of riot or insurrection.

Your insurance will not continue if your *disability* starts:

- after you are no longer in an *eligible class*;
- after the *policy* ends; or
- during the time allowed for conversion to an individual policy.

If you have converted to an individual policy after part or all of your group *life insurance* ended, no group insurance for the amount that ended will be paid unless the individual policy is returned without claim. Then we will refund all premiums paid for the individual policy, less any payments we made.

Conversion to an Individual Policy

If any or all of your group *life insurance* ends, you can apply for any individual policy offered by us (*conversion policy*). You must apply and pay the premium within 31 days. The individual policy may be any we offer for conversion. No *proof of good health* is required. The amount of insurance available to you depends on the reason your insurance ends.

If your insurance ends because you are no longer eligible or because of a change in age or other status, you may convert the full amount that ended. However, if your insurance ends as the result of a change in the *policy*, you may not convert the full amount that ended.

If the *policy* ends or is changed to reduce or end your *life insurance*, and if you have been insured for at least 5 years under the *policy*, you may convert up to the lesser of:

- \$10,000, and

LIFE INSURANCE FOR YOU (continued)

- the amount of *life insurance* that ended minus the amount of any group life insurance for which you become eligible within 31 days.

If you die within 31 days after your *life insurance* ends, we will pay to your *beneficiary* the amount you could have converted, whether or not you applied or paid the premium.

You cannot apply for a *conversion policy* if your group *life insurance* ended because you did not pay your share of the premium.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR LIFE INSURANCE

Optional Payment Methods

You or your *beneficiary* may choose to have all or part of your insurance paid in installments. You can request this at any time. Your *beneficiary* may request this within 31 days after your death.

This option is not available if the *beneficiary* is an estate, corporation, partnership, association, or trustee.

Beneficiary

You may change the *beneficiary* at any time. Any request to name or change the *beneficiary* must be in writing on a form acceptable to us and signed by you. After we receive the request at our *home office*, the change will take effect on the date you signed it. A *beneficiary* change will be without prejudice to us for any payment we made before we received notice in our *home office*.

You may also send a request to change the *beneficiary* to the main office of the *policyholder*. The change must be made in a manner acceptable to us.

Any application to convert all your group *life insurance* which names a *beneficiary* different from the last *beneficiary* you named under the *policy* will be considered a change of *beneficiary* to the person named in the application. The change will take effect on the date of the application.

If you named more than 1 *beneficiary*, your amount of insurance will be divided among them equally, unless you specified otherwise.

If a *beneficiary* dies before you do, the rights and interest of that *beneficiary* will end.

If no *beneficiary* is living or existing when you die, or if none was named, or if the *beneficiary* is disqualified by operation of law, your insurance will be paid to the first qualified surviving class of the following classes in this order:

- your lawful spouse;
- your living children, in equal shares;
- your living parents, in equal shares; or
- your estate.

Assignment

If you assign your interest under the *policy* to another person, all your rights under the *policy* are permanently transferred. This includes the right to name and change the *beneficiary* and the right to convert to an individual policy. You may assign your insurance to only 1 of the following:

- your lawful spouse;
- your child, parent, brother, or sister; or
- the trustee of a trust you set up for the benefit of your lawful spouse, children, parents, brothers, or sisters.

We are not responsible for the validity of any assignment. An assignment will not affect us until we receive written notice at our *home office*.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR LIFE INSURANCE (continued)

Incontestability

The validity of the *policy* cannot be contested after it has been in force for 2 years. The validity of your coverage under the *policy* cannot be contested after you have been insured under the *policy* for 2 years during your lifetime. However, if the premiums are not paid, the validity of the *policy* or your coverage can be contested at any time.

No statement you made regarding *proof of good health* can be used in a legal dispute unless it was in writing, it was signed by you, and a copy was given to you or your *beneficiary*.

Spendthrift

As permitted by law, the benefits under the *policy* are not subject to commutation, encumbrance or alienation. They are not subject to the claim of, or legal process by, any creditor of you or your *beneficiary*.

CLAIM PROVISIONS

Payment of Benefits

We will pay benefits when we receive all the required proof of covered loss.

To Whom Payable

We will pay your *life insurance* benefits according to the Beneficiary provision. For any other benefits we will follow the provisions applicable to such benefits, if any. Otherwise, all other benefits will be paid to you, if you are living. If not, we will pay your estate.

If no *beneficiary* is living at your death, we may pay part of your life insurance to any person we decide is entitled to it because of expenses incurred during your last illness or for your funeral.

Any amount we pay in good faith releases us from further liability for that amount.

Filing a Life Disability Benefit Claim

Within 30 days of the start of your *disability*, you should give us proof that you are currently *disabled* and have been continuously *disabled* since your last day of *active work*. Proof must be given within 90 days after the end of your *qualifying period*. If it is not reasonably possible to give proof on time, it must be given no later than 1 year after the time proof is otherwise required, except in the absence of legal capacity.

Continuing proof of *disability* must be given as often as we may reasonably require. Continuing proof must be given within 60 days of our request.

You must furnish whatever items we decide are necessary as proof of *disability*. You must agree to be examined by a *doctor* we choose, as often as needed to decide the existence or extent of *disability*. We will pay for any exam we require. If, within a reasonable time, you do not furnish any required items or do not have any required exam, your coverage will end.

Authority

The *policyholder* delegates to us and agrees that we have the sole discretionary authority to determine eligibility for participation or benefits and to interpret the terms of the *policy*. All determinations and interpretations made by us are conclusive and binding on all parties.

Review Procedure

You must request, in writing, a review of a denial of your claim within 60 days (180 days for Life Disability Benefit) after you receive notice of denial.

You have the right to review, upon request and free of charge, copies of all documents, records, and other information relevant to your claim for benefits, and you may submit written comments, documents, records and other information relating to your claim for benefits.

We will review your claim after receiving your request and send you a notice of our decision within 60 days (45 days for Life Disability Benefit) after we receive your request, or within 120 days (90 days for Life Disability Benefit) if special circumstances require an extension. We will state the reasons for our decision and refer you to the relevant provisions of the *policy*. We will also advise you of your further appeal rights, if any.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Entire Contract

The *policy* and the *policyholder's* application attached to it are the entire contract. Any statement made by you or the *policyholder* is considered a representation. It is not considered a warranty or guarantee. A statement will not be used in a dispute unless it is written and signed, and a copy is given to you or your *beneficiary*.

Errors

An error in keeping records will not cancel insurance that should continue nor continue insurance that should end. We will adjust the premium, if necessary, but not beyond 3 years before the date the error was found. If the premium was overpaid, we will refund the difference. If the premium was underpaid, the difference must be paid to us.

Misstatements

If any information about you or the *policyholder's* plan is misstated or altered after the application is submitted, including information with respect to participation or who pays the premium and under what circumstances, the facts will determine whether insurance is in effect and in what amount. We will retroactively adjust the premium.

Certificates

We will send certificates to the *policyholder* to give to each *covered person*. The certificate will state the insurance to which the person is entitled. It does not change the provisions of the *policy*.

Workers' Compensation

The *policy* is not in place of, and does not affect any state's requirements for coverage by Workers' Compensation insurance.

Agency

Neither the *policyholder*, any employer, any *associated company*, nor any administrator appointed by the foregoing is our agent. We are not liable for any of their acts or omissions.

Fraud

It is unlawful to knowingly provide false, incomplete or misleading facts or information with the intent of defrauding us. An application for insurance or statement of claim containing any materially false or misleading information may lead to reduction, denial or termination of benefits or coverage under the *policy* and recovery of any amounts we have paid.

Union Security Insurance Company
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Kansas City, MO 64108

Policy 5481333
Participant 0
Booklet 1
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