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**PLAN DOCUMENT AND  
SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTION  
FOR**

**IREDELL-STATESVILLE SCHOOLS  
DENTAL BENEFIT PLAN**

**JULY 1, 2016**

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## INTRODUCTION

This document is a description of Iredell-Statesville Schools Dental Benefit Plan (the Plan). No oral interpretations can change this Plan. The Plan described is designed to protect Plan Participants against certain other expenses.

Coverage under the Plan will take effect for an eligible Employee and designated Dependents when the Employee and such Dependents satisfy the Waiting Period and all the eligibility requirements of the Plan.

The Employer fully intends to maintain this Plan indefinitely. However, it reserves the right to terminate, suspend, discontinue or amend the Plan at any time and for any reason.

Changes in the Plan may occur in any or all parts of the Plan including benefit coverage, deductibles, maximums, exclusions, limitations, definitions, eligibility and the like.

Failure to follow the eligibility or enrollment requirements of this Plan may result in delay of coverage or no coverage at all. Reimbursement from the Plan can be reduced or denied because of certain provisions in the Plan, such as coordination of benefits, subrogation, exclusions, timeliness of COBRA elections, utilization review or other cost management requirements, lack of Medical Necessity, lack of timely filing of claims or lack of coverage. These provisions are explained in summary fashion in this document; additional information is available from the Plan Administrator at no extra cost.

The Plan will pay benefits only for the expenses incurred while this coverage is in force. No benefits are payable for expenses incurred before coverage began or after coverage terminated. An expense for a service or supply is incurred on the date the service or supply is furnished.

Dental care has become an increasingly common and expensive medical cost in recent years. Yet, dental health can be maintained easily through regular, routine care. Therefore, in addition to reimbursement for much of the cost of major procedures, the Plan encourages preventive and restorative dental care in order to avoid future, more costly major dental expenses.

If the Plan is terminated, amended, or benefits are eliminated, the rights of Covered Persons are limited to Covered Charges incurred before termination, amendment or elimination.

This document summarizes the Plan rights and benefits for covered Employees and their Dependents and is divided into the following parts:

**Eligibility, Funding, Effective Date and Termination.** Explains eligibility for coverage under the Plan, funding of the Plan and when the coverage takes effect and terminates.

**Schedule of Benefits.** Provides an outline of the Plan reimbursement formulas as well as payment limits on certain services.

**Benefit Descriptions.** Explains when the benefit applies and the types of charges covered.

**Defined Terms.** Defines those Plan terms that have a specific meaning.

**Claim Provisions.** Explains the rules for filing claims.

**Coordination of Benefits.** Shows the Plan payment order when a person is covered under more than one plan.

**Third Party Recovery Provision.** Explains the Plan's rights to recover payment of charges when a Covered Person has a claim against another person because of injuries sustained.

**Continuation Coverage Rights Under COBRA.** Explains when a person's coverage under the Plan ceases and the continuation options which are available.

## **ELIGIBILITY, FUNDING, EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERMINATION PROVISIONS**

A Plan Participant should contact the Plan Administrator to obtain additional information, free of charge, about Plan coverage of a specific benefit, particular drug, treatment, test or any other aspect of Plan benefits or requirements.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

**Eligible Classes of Employees.** All Active Employees of the Employer.

**Eligibility Requirements for Employee Coverage.** A person is eligible for Employee coverage from the first day that he or she:

- (1) is a Full-Time, Active Employee of the Employer. An Employee is considered to be Full-Time if he or she normally works at least 20 hours per week and is on the regular payroll of the Employer for that work.
- (2) is in a class eligible for coverage.

**Eligible Classes of Dependents.** A Dependent is any one of the following persons:

- (1) A covered Employee's Spouse.

The term "Spouse" shall mean the person with whom covered Employee has established a valid marriage under applicable State law. The term "Spouse" shall include an individual of the same sex as the covered employee, if they were legally married under the laws of a State or other foreign or domestic jurisdiction. The Plan Administrator may require documentation proving a legal marital relationship.

- (2) A covered Employee's Child(ren).

An Employee's "Child" includes his natural child, adopted child, or a child placed with the Employee for adoption, stepchild or Foster child. An Employee's Child will be an eligible Dependent until reaching the limiting age of 26, without regard to student status, marital status, financial dependency or residency status with the Employee or any other person. Then the child reaches the applicable limiting age, coverage will end on the last day of the child's birthday month.

The phrase "placed for adoption" refers to a child whom a person intends to adopt, whether or not the adoption has become final, who has not attained the age of 18 as of the date of such placement for adoption. The term "placed" means the assumption and retention by such person of a legal obligation for total or partial support of the child in anticipation of adoption of the child. The child must be available for adoption and the legal process must have commenced.

If a covered Employee or Spouse is the Legal Guardian of an unmarried child or children, under the limiting age of 26, residing with the covered Employee and primarily dependent upon the covered Employee for support and maintenance, these children may be enrolled in the Plan as Dependents.

The Plan Administrator may require documentation proving eligibility for Dependent coverage, including birth certificates, tax records or initiation of legal proceedings severing parental rights.

- (3) A covered Dependent Child who reaches the limiting age and is Totally Disabled, incapable of self-sustaining employment by reason of mental or physical handicap, primarily dependent upon the covered Employee for support and maintenance and unmarried. The Plan Administrator may require, at reasonable intervals, continuing proof of the Total Disability and dependency.

The Plan Administrator reserves the right to have such Dependent examined by a Physician of the Plan Administrator's choice, at the Plan's expense, to determine the existence of such incapacity.

These persons are excluded as Dependents: other individuals living in the covered Employee's home, but who are not eligible as defined; the legally separated or divorced former Spouse of the Employee; any Spouse who is on active duty in any military service of any country; or any person who is covered under the Plan as an Employee.

If a person covered under this Plan changes status from Employee to Dependent or Dependent to Employee, and the person is covered continuously under this Plan before, during and after the change in status, credit will be given for all amounts applied to maximums.

If both mother and father are Employees, their children will be covered as Dependents of the mother or father, but not of both.

**Eligibility Requirements for Dependent Coverage.** A family member of an Employee will become eligible for Dependent coverage on the first day that the Employee is eligible for Employee coverage and the family member satisfies the requirements for Dependent coverage.

At any time, the Plan may require proof that a Spouse or a Child qualifies or continues to qualify as a Dependent as defined by this Plan.

**Employee Obligation to Notify Employer.** It is the Employee's obligation to notify the Plan Sponsor of changes in circumstances that affect the eligibility of a Dependent. The Employee must notify the Plan Sponsor within 30 days if a Dependent no longer meets the definition of an eligible Dependent. Failure to provide timely notice may constitute a material misrepresentation.

## FUNDING

**Cost of the Plan.** Iredell-Statesville Schools shares the cost of Employee and Dependent coverage under this Plan with the covered Employees. The enrollment application for coverage will include a payroll deduction authorization. This authorization must be completed in a manner set forth by the Plan Administrator.

The level of any Employee contributions is set by the Plan Administrator. The Plan Administrator reserves the right to change the level of Employee contributions.

## ENROLLMENT

**Enrollment Requirements.** An Employee must enroll for coverage by filling out and signing an enrollment application along with the appropriate payroll deduction authorization.

**Eligibility Requirements for Newborn Children.** If the child is required to be enrolled and is not enrolled within 31 days of birth, the enrollment will be considered a Late Enrollment.

## TIMELY OR LATE ENROLLMENT

- (1) **Timely Enrollment** - The enrollment will be "timely" if the completed form is received by the Plan Administrator no later than 31 days after the person becomes eligible for the coverage, either initially or under a Special Enrollment Period

If two Employees (husband and wife) are covered under the Plan and the Employee who is covering the Dependent children terminates coverage, the Dependent coverage may be continued by the other covered Employee with no Waiting Period as long as coverage has been continuous.

- (2) **Late Enrollment** - An enrollment is "late" if it is not made on a "timely basis" or during a Special Enrollment Period. Late Enrollees and their eligible Dependents who are not eligible to join the Plan during a Special Enrollment Period may join only during open enrollment.

Unless otherwise required by law, if an individual loses eligibility for coverage as a result of terminating employment or a general suspension of coverage under the Plan, then upon becoming eligible again due to resumption of employment or due to resumption of Plan coverage, only the most recent period of eligibility will be considered for purposes of determining whether the individual is a Late Enrollee.

The time between the date a Late Enrollee first becomes eligible for enrollment under the Plan and the first day of coverage is not treated as a Waiting Period. Coverage begins on July 1.

## **SPECIAL ENROLLMENT RIGHTS**

Federal law provides Special Enrollment provisions under some circumstances. If an Employee is declining enrollment for himself or herself or his or her dependents (including his or her spouse) because of other health insurance or group health plan coverage, there may be a right to enroll in this Plan if there is a loss of eligibility for that other coverage (or if the employer stops contributing towards the other coverage). However, a request for enrollment must be made within 31 days after the coverage ends (or after the employer stops contributing towards the other coverage).

In addition, in the case of a birth, marriage, adoption or placement for adoption, there may be a right to enroll in this Plan. However, a request for enrollment must be made within 31 days of the birth, marriage, adoption or placement for adoption.

The Special Enrollment rules are described in more detail below. To request Special Enrollment or obtain more detailed information of these portability provisions, contact the Plan Administrator, Iredell-Statesville Schools, 549 N. Race Street, Statesville, North Carolina, 28677, (704) 872-8931.

## **SPECIAL ENROLLMENT PERIODS**

The Enrollment Date for anyone who enrolls under a Special Enrollment Period is the first date of coverage. Thus, the time between the date a special enrollee first becomes eligible for enrollment under the Plan and the first day of coverage is not treated as a Waiting Period.

- (1) Individuals losing other coverage creating a Special Enrollment right.** An Employee or Dependent who is eligible, but not enrolled in this Plan, may enroll if loss of eligibility for coverage meets all of the following conditions:
  - (a)** The Employee or Dependent was covered under a group health plan or had health insurance coverage at the time coverage under this Plan was previously offered to the individual.
  - (b)** If required by the Plan Administrator, the Employee stated in writing at the time that coverage was offered that the other health coverage was the reason for declining enrollment.
  - (c)** The coverage of the Employee or Dependent who had lost the coverage was under COBRA and the COBRA coverage was exhausted, or was not under COBRA and either the coverage was terminated as a result of loss of eligibility for the coverage or because employer contributions towards the coverage were terminated. Coverage will begin no later than the first day of the first calendar month following the date the completed enrollment form is received.
  - (d)** The Employee or Dependent requests enrollment in this Plan not later than 30 days after the date of exhaustion of COBRA coverage or the termination of non-COBRA coverage due to loss of eligibility or termination of employer contributions, described above. Coverage will begin no later than the first day of the first calendar month following the date the completed enrollment form is received.
- (2)** For purposes of these rules, a loss of eligibility occurs if one of the following occurs:
  - (a)** The Employee or Dependent has a loss of eligibility due to the plan no longer offering any benefits to a class of similarly situated individuals (i.e.: part-time employees).
  - (b)** The Employee or Dependent has a loss of eligibility as a result of legal separation, divorce, cessation of dependent status (such as attaining the maximum age to be eligible as a

dependent child under the plan), death, termination of employment, or reduction in the number of hours of employment or contributions towards the coverage were terminated.

- (c) The Employee or Dependent has a loss of eligibility when coverage is offered through an HMO, or other arrangement, in the individual market that does not provide benefits to individuals who no longer reside, live or work in a service area, (whether or not within the choice of the individual).
- (d) The Employee or Dependent has a loss of eligibility when coverage is offered through an HMO, or other arrangement, in the group market that does not provide benefits to individuals who no longer reside, live or work in a service area, (whether or not within the choice of the individual), and no other benefit package is available to the individual.

If the Employee or Dependent lost the other coverage as a result of the individual's failure to pay premiums or required contributions or for cause (such as making a fraudulent claim or an intentional misrepresentation of a material fact in connection with the plan), that individual does not have a Special Enrollment right.

**(3) Dependent beneficiaries. If:**

- (a) The Employee is a participant under this Plan (or has met the Waiting Period applicable to becoming a participant under this Plan and is eligible to be enrolled under this Plan but for a failure to enroll during a previous enrollment period), and
- (b) A person becomes a Dependent of the Employee through marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption,

then the Dependent (and if not otherwise enrolled, the Employee) may be enrolled under this Plan. In the case of the birth or adoption of a child, the Spouse of the covered Employee may be enrolled as a Dependent of the covered Employee if the Spouse is otherwise eligible for coverage. If the Employee is not enrolled at the time of the event, the Employee must enroll under this Special Enrollment Period in order for his eligible Dependents to enroll.

The Dependent Special Enrollment Period is a period of 30 days and begins on the date of the marriage, birth, adoption or placement for adoption. To be eligible for this Special Enrollment, the Dependent and/or Employee must request enrollment during this 30-day period.

The coverage of the Dependent and/or Employee enrolled in the Special Enrollment Period will be effective:

- (a) in the case of marriage, the first day of the first month beginning after the date of the completed request for enrollment is received;
- (b) in the case of a Dependent's birth, as of the date of birth; or
- (c) in the case of a Dependent's adoption or placement for adoption, the date of the adoption or placement for adoption.

**(4) Medicaid and State Child Health Insurance Programs.** An Employee or Dependent who is eligible, but not enrolled in this Plan, may enroll if:

- (a) The Employee or Dependent is covered under a Medicaid plan under Title XIX of the Social Security Act or a State child health plan (CHIP) under Title XXI of such Act, and coverage of the Employee or Dependent is terminated due to loss of eligibility for such coverage, and the Employee or Dependent requests enrollment in this Plan within 60 days after such Medicaid or CHIP coverage is terminated.
- (b) The Employee or Dependent becomes eligible for assistance with payment of Employee contributions to this Plan through a Medicaid or CHIP plan (including any waiver or demonstration project conducted with respect to such plan), and the Employee or

Dependent requests enrollment in this Plan within 60 days after the date the Employee or Dependent is determined to be eligible for such assistance.

If a Dependent becomes eligible to enroll under this provision and the Employee is not then enrolled, the Employee must enroll in order for the Dependent to enroll.

Coverage will become effective as of the first day of the first calendar month following the date the completed enrollment form is received unless an earlier date is established by the Employer or by regulation.

## EFFECTIVE DATE

**Effective Date of Employee Coverage.** An Employee will be covered under this Plan as of the first day of the calendar month following the date that the Employee satisfies all of the following:

- (1) The Eligibility Requirement.
- (2) The Active Employee Requirement.
- (3) The Enrollment Requirements of the Plan.

**Active Employee Requirement.** An Employee must be an Active Employee (as defined by this Plan) for this coverage to take effect.

**Effective Date of Dependent Coverage.** A Dependent's coverage will take effect on the day that the Eligibility Requirements are met; the Employee is covered under the Plan; and all Enrollment Requirements are met.

## TERMINATION OF COVERAGE

**The Employer or Plan has the right to rescind any coverage of the Employee and/or Dependents for cause, making a fraudulent claim or an intentional material misrepresentation in applying for or obtaining coverage, or obtaining benefits under the Plan. The Employer or Plan may either void coverage for the Employee and/or covered Dependents for the period of time coverage was in effect, may terminate coverage as of a date to be determined at the Plan's discretion, or may immediately terminate coverage. The Employer will refund all contributions paid for any coverage rescinded; however, claims paid will be offset from this amount. The Employer reserves the right to collect additional monies if claims are paid in excess of the Employee's and/or Dependent's paid contributions.**

**When Employee Coverage Terminates.** Employee coverage will terminate on the earliest of these dates (except in certain circumstances, a covered Employee may be eligible for COBRA continuation coverage. For a complete explanation of when COBRA continuation coverage is available, what conditions apply and how to select it, see the section entitled Continuation Coverage Rights under COBRA):

- (1) The date the Plan is terminated.
- (2) The last day of the calendar month in which the covered Employee ceases to be in one of the Eligible Classes. This includes death or termination of Active Employment of the covered Employee. (See the section entitled Continuation Coverage Rights under COBRA.) It also includes an Employee on disability, leave of absence or other leave of absence, unless the Plan specifically provides for continuation during these periods.
- (3) The end of the period for which the required contribution has been paid if the charge for the next period is not paid when due.
- (4) If an Employee commits fraud, makes an intentional misrepresentation of material fact in applying for or obtaining coverage, or obtaining benefits under the Plan, or fails to notify the Plan Administrator that he or she has become ineligible for coverage, then the Employer or Plan may either void coverage for the Employee and covered Dependents for the period of time coverage was in effect, may terminate coverage as of a date to be determined at the Plan's discretion, or may immediately terminate coverage.



- (5) The date a covered Employee requests termination of coverage that is on account of and corresponds with a change made under the plan of a Spouse if 1) the benefit plan of the Spouse permits participants to make a change; or 2) the plan of the Spouse permits participants to make an election for a period of coverage that is different from the period of coverage under the plan of the covered Employee.
- (6) The date the covered Employee requests termination of coverage because the Employee has become entitled to coverage under Part A or Part B of the Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (Medicare) or Title XIX of the Social Security Act (Medicaid).

**Continuation During Periods of Employer-Certified Disability, Leave of Absence or Layoff.** A person may remain eligible for a limited time if Active, full-time work ceases due to disability, leave of absence or layoff. This continuance will end as follows:

**For disability leave only:** the date the Employer ends the continuance.

**For leave of absence or layoff only:** the date the Employer ends the continuance.

While continued, coverage will be that which was in force on the last day worked as an Active Employee. However, if benefits reduce for others in the class, they will also reduce for the continued person.

**Continuation During Family and Medical Leave.** Regardless of the established leave policies mentioned above, this Plan shall at all times comply with the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 as promulgated in regulations issued by the Department of Labor.

During any leave taken under the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Employer will maintain coverage under this Plan on the same conditions as coverage would have been provided if the covered Employee had been continuously employed during the entire leave period.

If Plan coverage terminates during the FMLA leave, coverage will be reinstated for the Employee and his or her covered Dependents if the Employee returns to work in accordance with the terms of the FMLA leave. Coverage will be reinstated only if the person(s) had coverage under this Plan when the FMLA leave started, and will be reinstated to the same extent that it was in force when that coverage terminated. For example, Waiting Periods will not be imposed unless they were in effect for the Employee and/or his or her Dependents when Plan coverage terminated.

**Rehiring a Terminated Employee.** A terminated Employee who is rehired will be treated as a new hire and be required to satisfy all Eligibility and Enrollment requirements to the extent permitted under applicable law.

**Employees on Military Leave.** Employees going into or returning from military service may elect to continue Plan coverage as mandated by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) under the following circumstances. These rights apply only to Employees and their Dependents covered under the Plan immediately before leaving for military service.

- (1) The maximum period of coverage of a person and the person's covered Dependents under such an election shall be the lesser of:
  - (a) The 24 month period beginning on the date on which the person's absence begins; or
  - (b) The day after the date on which the person was required to apply for or return to a position of employment and fails to do so.
- (2) A person who elects to continue health plan coverage is not required to pay up to 102% of the full contribution under the Plan, except a person on active duty for 30 days or less cannot be required to pay more than the Employee's share, if any, for the coverage.
- (3) An exclusion or Waiting Period may not be imposed in connection with the reinstatement of coverage upon reemployment if one would not have been imposed had coverage not been terminated because of service. However, an exclusion or Waiting Period may be imposed for

coverage of any Illness or Injury determined by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to have been incurred in, or aggravated during, the performance of uniformed service.

If the Employee wishes to elect this coverage or obtain more detailed information, contact the Plan Administrator Iredell-Statesville Schools, 549 N. Race Street, Statesville, North Carolina, 28677, (704) 872-8931. The Employee may also have continuation rights under USERRA. In general, the Employee must meet the same requirements for electing USERRA coverage as are required under COBRA continuation coverage requirements. Coverage elected under these circumstances is concurrent, not cumulative. The Employee may elect USERRA continuation coverage for the Employee and their Dependents. Only the Employee has election rights. Dependents do not have any independent right to elect USERRA health plan continuation.

**When Dependent Coverage Terminates.** A Dependent's coverage will terminate on the earliest of these dates (except in certain circumstances, a covered Dependent may be eligible for COBRA continuation coverage. For a complete explanation of when COBRA continuation coverage is available, what conditions apply and how to select it, see the section entitled Continuation Coverage Rights under COBRA):

- (1) The date the Plan or Dependent coverage under the Plan is terminated.
- (2) The date that the Employee's coverage under the Plan terminates for any reason including death. (See the section entitled Continuation Coverage Rights under COBRA.)
- (3) The date a covered Spouse loses coverage due to loss of eligibility status. (See the section entitled Continuation Coverage Rights under COBRA.)
- (4) Coverage will end on the last day of the month in which the Child ceases to meet the applicable eligibility requirements. (See the section entitled Continuation Coverage Rights under COBRA.)
- (5) The end of the period for which the required contribution has been paid if the charge for the next period is not paid when due.
- (6) If a Dependent commits fraud or makes an intentional misrepresentation of material fact in applying for or obtaining coverage, or obtaining benefits under the Plan, or fails to notify the Plan Administrator that he or she has become ineligible for coverage, then the Employer or Plan may either void coverage for the Dependent for the period of time coverage was in effect, may terminate coverage as of a date to be determined at the Plan's discretion, or may immediately terminate coverage.
- (7) The date the covered Employee requests termination of Dependent coverage that is on account of and corresponds with a change made under the benefit plan of a Spouse or covered Dependent if 1) the plan of the Spouse or covered Dependent permits participants to make a change; or 2) the plan of the Spouse or covered Dependent permits participants to make an election for a period of coverage that is different from the period of coverage under the plan of the covered Employee.
- (8) The date the covered Employee requests termination of Dependent coverage because the Spouse or covered Dependent has become entitled to coverage under Part A or Part B of the Title XVIII of the Social Security Act (Medicare) or Title XIX of the Social Security Act (Medicaid).

## **OPEN ENROLLMENT**

Every open enrollment period eligible Employees and their eligible Dependents who are Late Enrollees will be able to enroll in the Plan.

Benefit choices for Late Enrollees made during the open enrollment period will become effective July 1.

Plan Participants will receive detailed information regarding open enrollment from their Employer.

## SCHEDULE OF BENEFITS

**Verification of Eligibility** (919) 877-9933 or (800) 426-8739

Call this number to verify eligibility for Plan benefits **before** the charge is incurred.

**Please read the sections Alternate Treatment and Predetermination of Benefits in the Dental Plan. You will need to follow these sections or reimbursement from the Plan may be reduced.**

### DENTAL CARE BENEFIT SCHEDULE – BASIC PLAN

| DENTAL CARE BENEFIT  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>DENTAL CARE DEDUCTIBLE, PER PLAN YEAR</b>   |                |
| Per Covered Person   | \$50           |
| <b>Plan Year Deductible applies to these classes of services: Class B Services - Basic</b> |                |
| <b>MAXIMUM BENEFIT AMOUNT</b>  | <b>BENEFIT</b> |
| For Class A - Preventive and Class B - Basic Services                                      |                |
| Per Covered Person per Plan Year   | \$1,000        |
| <b>COVERED CHARGES</b>   |                |
| <b>Dental Percentage Payable</b>   |                |
| Class A Services - Preventive  | 100%           |
| Class B Services - Basic   | 80%            |

### DENTAL CARE BENEFIT SCHEDULE – HIGH PLAN

| DENTAL CARE BENEFIT  |                |
|--|----------------|
| <b>DENTAL CARE DEDUCTIBLE, PER PLAN YEAR</b>   |                |
| Per Covered Person   | \$50           |
| <b>Plan Year Deductible applies to these classes of services: Class B Services - Basic, Class C Services - Major and Class D Services - Orthodontia</b>  |                |
| <b>MAXIMUM BENEFIT AMOUNT</b>  | <b>BENEFIT</b> |
| For Class A - Preventive, Class B - Basic and Class C - Major Services   |                |
| Per Covered Person per Plan Year   | \$1,000        |
| For Class D - Orthodontia<br>Limited to orthodontic treatment started prior to a covered Dependent's 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday   |                |
| Lifetime maximum per Covered Person  | \$1,000        |
| <b>COVERED CHARGES</b>   |                |
| <b>Dental Percentage Payable</b>   |                |
| Class A Services - Preventive  | 100%           |
| Class B Services - Basic   | 80%            |
| Class C Services - Major   | 50%            |
| Class D Services - Orthodontia   | 50%            |
| <b>Note:</b> No benefits are payable for Class D Services - Orthodontia for the first 12 months of the Covered Dependent's coverage under the High Plan. Orthodontic treatment must be started prior to a covered Dependent's 19 <sup>th</sup> birthday. |                |

## DEFINED TERMS

The following terms have special meanings and when used in this Plan will be capitalized.

**Active Employee** is an Employee who is on the regular payroll of the Employer and who has begun to perform the duties of his or her job with the Employer on a full-time basis.

**Calendar Year** means January 1st through December 31st of the same year.

**COBRA** means the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985, as amended.

**Cosmetic Dentistry** means dentally unnecessary procedures.

**Covered Charge(s)** means those Medically Necessary services or supplies that are covered under this Plan.

**Covered Person** is an Employee or Dependent who is covered under this Plan.

**Dentist** is a person who is properly trained and licensed to practice dentistry and who is practicing within the scope of such license.

**Emergency Services** means a medical screening examination (as required under Section 1867 of the Social Security Act (EMTALA)) within the capability of the Hospital emergency department, including routine ancillary services, to evaluate a Medical Emergency and such further medical examination and treatment as are within the capabilities of the staff and facilities of the Hospital and required under EMTALA to stabilize the patient.

**Employee** means a person who is an Active, regular Employee of the Employer, regularly scheduled to work for the Employer in an Employee/Employer relationship.

**Employer** is Iredell-Statesville Schools.

**Enrollment Date** is the first day of coverage or, if there is a Waiting Period, the first day of the Waiting Period.

**Experimental and/or Investigational** means services, supplies, care and treatment which does not constitute accepted medical practice properly within the range of appropriate medical practice under the standards of the case and by the standards of a reasonably substantial, qualified, responsible, relevant segment of the dental community or government oversight agencies at the time services were rendered.

The Plan Administrator must make an independent evaluation of the experimental/nonexperimental standings of specific technologies. The Plan Administrator shall be guided by a reasonable interpretation of Plan provisions. The decisions shall be made in good faith and rendered following a detailed factual background investigation of the claim and the proposed treatment. The decision of the Plan Administrator will be final and binding on the Plan. The Plan Administrator will be guided by the following principles:

- (1) if the drug or device cannot be lawfully marketed without approval of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and approval for marketing has not been given at the time the drug or device is furnished; or
- (2) if the drug, device, medical treatment or procedure, or the patient informed consent document utilized with the drug, device, treatment or procedure, was reviewed and approved by the treating facility's Institutional Review Board or other body serving a similar function, or if federal law requires such review or approval; or
- (3) if Reliable Evidence shows that the drug, device, medical treatment or procedure is the subject of on-going phase I or phase II clinical trials, is the research, experimental, study or Investigational arm of on-going phase III clinical trials, or is otherwise under study to determine its maximum tolerated dose, its toxicity, its safety, its efficacy or its efficacy as compared with a standard means of treatment or diagnosis; or
- (4) if Reliable Evidence shows that the prevailing opinion among experts regarding the drug, device, medical treatment or procedure is that further studies or clinical trials are necessary to determine its

maximum tolerated dose, its toxicity, its safety, its efficacy or its efficacy as compared with a standard means of treatment or diagnosis.

Reliable Evidence shall mean only published reports and articles in the authoritative medical and scientific literature; the written protocol or protocols used by the treating facility or the protocol(s) of another facility studying substantially the same drug, service, medical treatment or procedure; or the written informed consent used by the treating facility or by another facility studying substantially the same drug, device, medical treatment or procedure.

Drugs are considered Experimental if they are not commercially available for purchase and/or they are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration for general use.

**Family Unit** is the covered Employee and the family members who are covered as Dependents under the Plan.

**Injury** means an accidental physical Injury to the body caused by unexpected external means.

**Late Enrollee** means a Plan Participant who enrolls under the Plan other than during the first 31-day period in which the individual is eligible to enroll under the Plan or during a Special Enrollment Period.

**Legal Guardian** means a person recognized by a court of law as having the duty of taking care of the person and managing the property and rights of a minor child.

**Medically or Dentally Necessary** care and treatment is recommended or approved by a Dentist; is consistent with the patient's condition or accepted standards of good dental practice; is medically proven to be effective treatment of the condition; is not performed mainly for the convenience of the patient or provider of dental services; is not conducted for research purposes; and is the most appropriate level of services which can be safely provided to the patient.

All of these criteria must be met; merely because a Physician recommends or approves certain care does not mean that it is Medically Necessary.

The Plan Administrator has the discretionary authority to decide whether care or treatment is Medically Necessary.

**No-Fault Auto Insurance** is the basic reparations provision of a law providing for payments without determining fault in connection with automobile accidents.

**Physician** means a Doctor of Medicine (M.D.), Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.), Doctor of Podiatry (D.P.M.), Audiologist, Certified Nurse Anesthetist, Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Professional Physical Therapist, Master of Social Work (M.S.W.), Midwife, Occupational Therapist, Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.), Physiotherapist, Psychiatrist, Psychologist (Ph.D.), Speech Language Pathologist and any other practitioner of the healing arts who is licensed and regulated by a state or federal agency and is acting within the scope of his or her license.

**Plan** means Iredell-Statesville Schools Dental Benefit Plan, which is a benefits plan for certain Employees of Iredell-Statesville Schools and is described in this document.

**Plan Participant** is any Employee or Dependent who is covered under this Plan.

**Plan Year** is the 12-month period beginning on July 1 and ending on the following June 30.

**Total Disability (Totally Disabled)** means: In the case of a Dependent, the complete inability as a result of Injury or Sickness to perform the normal activities of a person of like age and sex in good health.

**Usual and Reasonable Charge** is a charge which is not higher than the usual charge made by the provider of the care or supply and does not exceed the usual charge made by most providers of like service in the same area. This test will consider the nature and severity of the condition being treated. It will also consider medical complications or unusual circumstances that require more time, skill or experience.

The Plan will pay benefits on the basis of the actual charge billed if it is less than the Usual and Reasonable Charge.

The Plan Administrator has the discretionary authority to decide whether a charge is Usual and Reasonable.

## **DENTAL BENEFITS**

This benefit applies when covered dental charges are incurred by a person while covered under this Plan.

### **DEDUCTIBLE**

**Deductible Amount.** This is an amount of dental charges for which no benefits will be paid. Before benefits can be paid in a Plan Year, a Covered Person must meet the deductible shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

### **BENEFIT PAYMENT**

Each Plan Year benefits will be paid to a Covered Person for the dental charges in excess of the deductible amount if applicable. Payment will be made at the rate shown under Dental Percentage Payable in the Schedule of Benefits. No benefits will be paid in excess of the Maximum Benefit Amount.

### **MAXIMUM BENEFIT AMOUNT**

The Maximum dental benefit amount is shown in the Schedule of Benefits.

### **DENTAL CHARGES**

Dental charges are the Usual and Reasonable Charges made by a Dentist or other Physician for necessary care, appliances or other dental material listed as a covered dental service.

A dental charge is incurred on the date the service or supply for which it is made is performed or furnished. However, there are times when one overall charge is made for all or part of a course of treatment. In this case, the Claims Administrator will apportion that overall charge to each of the separate visits or treatments. The pro rata charge will be considered to be incurred as each visit or treatment is completed.

## **COVERED DENTAL SERVICES – BASIC PLAN**

### **Class A Services: Preventive and Diagnostic Dental Procedures**

The limits on Class A services are for routine services. If dental need is present, this Plan will consider for reimbursement services performed more frequently than the limits shown.

- (1) Clinical oral exams. Limit of 2 per Covered Person each Plan Year.
- (2) Cleaning and scaling of teeth. Limit of 2 per Covered Person each Plan Year. Prophylaxis frequencies will be combined with periodontal maintenance.
- (3) One bitewing x-ray series every Plan Year.
- (4) One fluoride treatment for covered Dependent children under age 14 each Plan Year.
- (5) Space maintainers for covered Dependent children under age 16 to replace primary teeth. This service includes all adjustments and recementing done within 6 months of installation.
- (6) Treatment to control harmful habits for Dependent children under age 16. Once per covered Dependent, not covered if orthodontic related
- (7) Sealants on the occlusal surface of a permanent posterior tooth for Dependent children under age 16, no more than once per tooth.

**Class B Services:  
Basic Dental Procedures**

- (1) One full mouth or panoramic x-ray every 60 months. Panoramic film may also be considered in connection with the removal of impacted teeth.
- (2) Periapical x-rays limited to 4 every 12 months; occlusal films limited to 2 every 12 months; extraoral films limited to 2 every 12 months; sialography.
- (3) Emergency palliative treatment for pain will be a covered service only if no other service is rendered during the visit, except x-rays. Specialist consultations, limited oral evaluations and re-evaluations.
- (4) Fillings. Fillings include amalgams and composites, however posterior tooth restoration is considered at the amalgam benefit level. Replacement amalgam and composite restorations will be considered only if 24 months have passed since existing filling was placed unless new decay in additional tooth surface. Multiple restorations on one surface will be considered a single restoration. Mesial-lingual, distal-lingual, mesial-facial and distal-facial resin restorations on anterior teeth will be considered as a single surface restoration. These services include local anesthesia.
- (5) Pin retention one time per restoration when in conjunction with amalgam or resin restoration.
- (6) Minor oral surgery. Simple extractions, surgical incisions and drainage of abscess, extraction of erupted tooth or exposed root. These services include local anesthesia and routine post-operative care.
- (7) Minor periodontics. Scaling and root planning limited to once per quadrant every 24 months. Occlusal adjustments limited to one full mouth treatment every 12 months only when performed with periodontal surgery (regardless of whether the periodontal surgery itself is a covered dental service). Provisional splinting, excluding inlays, onlays, crowns or other cast or prepared restorations made for the purpose of splinting.
- (8) Periodontal maintenance. Periodontal maintenance frequency combined with prophylaxis. Limit of 2 per Covered Person each Plan Year.
- (9) Bacteriologic studies for determination of pathologic agents
- (10) Therapeutic drug injection.
- (11) Accession and examination of tissue.

**COVERED DENTAL SERVICES – HIGH PLAN**

**Class A Services:  
Preventive and Diagnostic Dental Procedures**

The limits on Class A services are for routine services. If dental need is present, this Plan will consider for reimbursement services performed more frequently than the limits shown.

- (1) Clinical oral exams. Limit of 2 per Covered Person each Plan Year.
- (2) Cleaning and scaling of teeth. Limit of 2 per Covered Person each Plan Year. Prophylaxis frequencies will be combined with periodontal maintenance.
- (3) One bitewing x-ray series every Plan Year.
- (4) One fluoride treatment for covered Dependent children under age 14 each Plan Year.
- (5) Space maintainers for covered Dependent children under age 16 to replace primary teeth. This service includes all adjustments and recementing done within 6 months of installation.



- (6) Treatment to control harmful habits for Dependent children under age 16. Once per covered Dependent, not covered if orthodontic related.
- (7) Sealants on the occlusal surface of a permanent posterior tooth for Dependent children under age 16, no more than once per tooth.

**Class B Services:  
Basic Dental Procedures**

- (1) One full mouth or panoramic x-ray every 60 months. Panoramic film may also be considered in connection with the removal of impacted teeth.
- (2) Periapical x-rays limited to 4 every 12 months; occlusal films limited to 2 every 12 months; extraoral films limited to 2 every 12 months; sialography.
- (3) Emergency palliative treatment for pain will be a covered service only if no other service is rendered during the visit, except x-rays. Specialist consultations, limited oral evaluations and re-evaluations.
- (4) Fillings. Fillings include amalgams and composites, however posterior tooth restoration is considered at the amalgam benefit level. Replacement amalgam and composite restorations will be considered only if 24 months have passed since existing filling was placed unless new decay in additional tooth surface. Multiple restorations on one surface will be considered a single restoration. Mesial-lingual, distal-lingual, mesial-facial and distal-facial resin restorations on anterior teeth will be considered as a single surface restoration. These services include local anesthesia.
- (5) Pin retention one time per restoration when in conjunction with amalgam or resin restoration.
- (6) Minor oral surgery. Simple extractions, surgical incisions and drainage of abscess, extraction of erupted tooth or exposed root. These services include local anesthesia and routine post-operative care.
- (7) Bacteriologic studies for determination of pathologic agents
- (8) Therapeutic drug injection.
- (9) Accession and examination of tissue.

**Class C Services:  
Major Dental Procedures**

- (1) Complex oral surgery including but not limited to surgical extractions.
- (2) Anesthesia and IV sedation, covered only in conjunction with complex oral surgery.
- (3) Endodontics. Endodontic retreatment service is a covered service only if 24 months have passed since the initial treatment.
- (4) Periodontics, including but not limited to:
  - Scaling and root planning limited to once per quadrant every 24 months.
  - Occlusal adjustments limited to one full mouth treatment every 12 months only when performed with periodontal surgery.
  - Periodontal maintenance frequency combined with prophylaxis. Limit of 2 per Covered Person each Plan Year.
  - Major periodontal services include local anesthesia, temporary restorations and appliances and one-year follow-up care.
  - Gingivectomy, gingivoplasty, gingival flap procedure and osseous surgery covered only if more than 36 months have passed since the procedure was performed in the same area of the mouth.

- Occlusal guards, limited to 1 every 24 months.
  - Provisional splinting does not include inlays, onlays, crowns or other cast or prepared restorations made for the purpose of splinting.
- (5) Inlays and onlays. Inlay and onlay benefit will be considered based on the Usual and Reasonable Charge for metallic inlay and onlay. This service includes local anesthesia and one year follow up care.
  - (6) Crowns. Benefit will be based on the Usual and Reasonable Charge for predominantly base metal. For covered Dependent children under the age of 16, crowns on deciduous or primary teeth are limited to prefabricated stainless steel or prefabricated resin crowns.
  - (7) Labial veneers, limited to anterior teeth.
  - (8) Tissue conditioning. Limited to once every 36 months only if at least 12 months have passed since the insertion of a full or partial denture.
  - (9) Repair or recementing of crowns, inlays, onlays, bridgework and dentures only if 6 months have passed since initial insertion.
  - (10) Rebasing or relining of removable dentures Limited to once every 36 months only if more than 12 months have passed since insertion. Denture adjustment will be considered if more than 6 months have passed since the initial insertion and only 1 time in any 12 months in a row.
  - (11) Replacing inlays, onlays, crowns, core build-ups, cast restorations or other lab prepared restorations if the last placement is at least 7 years old (5 years for labial veneers, 3 years for prefabricated stainless steel or prefabricated resin crowns), and they are not serviceable and cannot be restored.
  - (12) Replacing an existing removable partial or full denture or fixed bridgework; adding teeth to an existing removable partial denture; or adding teeth to existing bridgework to replace newly extracted natural teeth. Covered only if the existing denture or bridgework was installed at least 5 years (7 for fixed bridgework) prior to its replacement and cannot currently be made serviceable.
  - (13) Diagnostic casts, no more than 1 every 36 months if required for extensive bilateral prosthetic dentistry other than dentures. Not a covered service if for orthodontic evaluation.

**Class D Services:  
Orthodontic Treatment and Appliances  
Waiting period applies**

Orthodontic treatment must be started prior to a covered Dependent's 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. All covered Dependents are subject to a 12 month waiting period after joining the High Plan for Class D Services.

This is treatment to move teeth by means of appliances to correct a handicapping malocclusion of the mouth.

These services include preliminary study, including x-rays, diagnostic casts and treatment plan, active treatments and retention appliance.

Payments for comprehensive orthodontic treatments are made in installments upon receipt of claim.

**PREDETERMINATION OF BENEFITS**

Before starting a dental treatment for which the charge is expected to be \$300 or more, a predetermination of benefits form may be submitted.

A regular dental claim form is used for the predetermination of benefits. The covered Employee fills out the Employee section of the form and then gives the form to the Dentist.

The Dentist must itemize all recommended services and costs and attach all supporting x-rays to the form.

The Dentist should send the form to the Claims Administrator at this address:

Interactive Medical Systems. Corp.  
PO Box 1349  
Wake Forest, North Carolina 27588  
(919) 877-9933

The Claims Administrator will notify the Dentist of the benefits payable under the Plan. The Covered Person and the Dentist can then decide on the course of treatment, knowing in advance how much the Plan will pay.

If a description of the procedures to be performed, x-rays and an estimate of the Dentist's fees are not submitted in advance, the Plan reserves the right to make a determination of benefits payable taking into account alternative procedures, services or courses of treatment, based on accepted standards of dental practice. If verification of necessity of dental services cannot reasonably be made, the benefits may be for a lesser amount than would otherwise have been payable.

### **ALTERNATE TREATMENT**

Many dental conditions can be treated in more than one way. This Plan has an "alternate treatment" clause which governs the amount of benefits the Plan will pay for treatments covered under the Plan. If a patient chooses a more expensive treatment than is needed to correct a dental problem according to accepted standards of dental practice, the benefit payment will be based on the cost of the treatment which provides professionally satisfactory results at the most cost-effective level.

For example, if a regular amalgam filling is sufficient to restore a tooth to health, and the patient and the Dentist decide to use a gold filling, the Plan will base its reimbursement on the Usual and Reasonable Charge for an amalgam filling. The patient will pay the difference in cost.

### **EXCLUSIONS**

A charge for the following is not covered:

- (1) **Administrative costs.** Administrative costs of completing claim forms or reports or for providing dental records.
- (2) **Athletic mouthguards.**
- (3) **Before or after coverage.** Care, treatment or supplies for which a charge was incurred before a person was Covered under this Plan or following the date of termination of coverage.
- (4) **Broken appointments.** Charges for broken or missed dental appointments.
- (5) **Cosmetic.** Services for cosmetic purposes unless made necessary by an accident occurring while covered except treatment which is related to congenital defects or anomalies of a covered Dependent child covered by the Plan at the time of birth. Upon placement in the home of a covered Employee, adopted or Foster children who are covered Dependents will become eligible for coverage of congenital defects or anomalies on the same basis as newborn children. Facings on molar crowns are always considered cosmetic.
- (6) **Crowns.** Crowns for teeth that are restorable by other means or for the purpose of Periodontal Splinting.
- (7) **Denture.** A denture or fixed bridge involving replacement of teeth missing before the individual was covered, unless it also replaces a tooth that is extracted while covered.
- (8) **Excess charge.** The part of an expense for care and treatment of an Injury or Sickness that is in excess of the Usual and Reasonable Charge.

- (9) **Felonious behavior.** Charges for services received as a result of Injury or Sickness caused or contributed to by engaging in an illegal act or occupation; by committing or attempting to commit any crime, assault or other felonious behavior, or by participating in a riot or public disturbance.
- (10) **Foreign travel.** Care, treatment or supplies outside of the U.S. other than emergency treatment,
- (11) **Government.** Care, treatment or supplies furnished by a program or agency funded by any government. This exclusion does not apply to Medicaid or when otherwise prohibited by applicable law.
- (12) **Hygiene.** Oral hygiene, plaque control programs or dietary instructions.
- (13) **Implants.** Implants, including any appliances and/or crowns and the surgical insertion or removal of implants.
- (14) **Medical services.** Services, that to any extent, are payable under any medical expense benefits of a plan sponsored by the Employer.
- (15) **Missing tooth.** Initial installation of dentures or fixed bridgework (including crowns and inlays forming the abutments) for replacing teeth lost before the Covered Person was covered by the Plan.
- (16) **No charge.** Care and treatment for which there would not have been a charge if no coverage had been in force.
- (17) **No listing.** Services which are not included in the list of covered dental services.
- (18) **No obligation to pay.** Charges incurred for which the Plan has no legal obligation to pay.
- (19) **Not Medically or Dentally Necessary.** Care and treatment that is not Medically or Dentally Necessary.
- (20) **Occupational.** Charges arising out of or in the course of any occupation for wage or profit or for which the Covered Person is entitled to benefits under any worker's compensation or occupational disease law, or any such similar law.
- (21) **Orthognathic surgery.** Surgery to correct malpositions in the bones of the jaw.
- (22) **Personalization.** Personalization of dentures.
- (23) **Plan design.** Charges excluded or limited by the Plan design as stated in this document.
- (24) **Relative.** Professional services performed by a person who ordinarily resides in the Covered Person's home or is related to the Covered Person as a spouse, parent, child, brother or sister, whether the relationship is by blood or exists in law.
- (25) **Replacement.** Replacement of lost or stolen appliances. A crown, denture or fixed bridge or addition of teeth to one, if the work involves a replacement or modification of a crown, denture or fixed bridge installed less than 7 years before (5 years for cast metal, resin bonded fixed retainer).
- (26) **Self-inflicted.** Any loss due to an intentionally self-inflicted Injury. This exclusion does not apply if the Injury resulted from an act of domestic violence or a medical (including both physical and mental health) condition.
- (27) **Splinting.** Crowns, fillings or appliances that are used to connect (splint) teeth, or change or alter the way the teeth meet, including altering the vertical dimension, restoring the bite (occlusion) or are cosmetic.
- (28) **TMJ.** All diagnostic and treatment services related to the treatment of jaw joint problems including temporomandibular joint (TMJ) syndrome.
- (29) **War.** Any loss that is due to a declared or undeclared act of war.

## HOW TO SUBMIT A CLAIM

**Benefits under this Plan shall be paid only if the Plan Administrator decides in its discretion that a Covered Person is entitled to them.**

When a Covered Person has a Claim to submit for payment that person must:

- (1) Obtain a Claim form from the Personnel Office, Human Resources Office or the Plan Administrator.
- (2) Complete the Employee portion of the form. ALL QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED.
- (3) Have the Dentist complete the provider's portion of the form.
- (4) For Plan reimbursements, attach bills for services rendered. ALL BILLS MUST SHOW:
  - Name of Plan
  - Employee's name
  - Name of patient
  - Name, address, telephone number of the provider of care
  - Diagnosis
  - Type of services rendered, with diagnosis and/or procedure codes
  - Date of services
  - Charges
- (5) Send the above to the Claims Administrator at this address:

Interactive Medical Systems. Corp.  
PO Box 1349  
Wake Forest, North Carolina 27588  
(919) 877-9933

## WHEN CLAIMS SHOULD BE FILED

Claims should be filed with the Claims Administrator within 180 days of the date charges for the service were incurred. Benefits are based on the Plan's provisions at the time the charges were incurred. Claims filed later than that date may be declined or reduced unless:

- (a) it's not reasonably possible to submit the claim in that time; and
- (b) the claim is submitted within one year from the date incurred. This one year period will not apply when the person is not legally capable of submitting the claim.

The Claims Administrator will determine if enough information has been submitted to enable proper consideration of the claim. If not, more information may be requested from the claimant. The Plan reserves the right to have a Plan Participant seek a second medical opinion.

## CLAIMS AND APPEAL PROCEDURES

### CLAIMS PROCEDURE

Following is a description of how the Plan processes claims for benefits and reviews the appeal of any claim that is denied. The terms used in this section are defined below.

A "Claim" is defined as any request for a Plan benefit, made by a claimant or by a representative of a claimant, which complies with the Plan's reasonable procedure for filing claims and making benefit claims determinations.

A "Claim" does not include a request for a determination of an individual's eligibility to participate in the Plan.

If a Claim is denied, in whole or in part, the denial is known as an "Adverse Benefit Determination."

A claimant has the right to request a review of an Adverse Benefit Determination. This request is an "Appeal." If the Claim is denied at the end of the Appeal process, as described below, the Plan's final decision is known as a "Final Adverse Benefit Determination."

Both the Claims and the Appeal procedures are intended to provide a full and fair review.

A claimant must follow all Claims and Appeal procedures before he or she can file a lawsuit. If a lawsuit is brought, it must be filed within two years after the final determination of an Appeal.

Any of the authority and responsibilities of the Plan Administrator under the Claims and Appeal Procedures, including the discretionary authority to interpret the terms of the Plan, may be delegated to a third party. If you have any questions regarding these procedures, please contact the Plan Administrator.

There are different kinds of Claims and each one has a specific timetable for each step in the review process. Upon receipt of the Claim, the Plan Administrator must decide whether to approve or deny the Claim. The Plan Administrator's notification to the claimant of its decision must be made as soon as practical and not later than the time shown in the timetable. However, if the Claim has not been filed properly, or if it is incomplete, or if there are other matters beyond the control of the Plan Administrator, the claimant may be notified that the period for providing the notification will need to be extended. If the period is extended because the Plan Administrator needs more information from the claimant, the claimant must provide the requested information within the time shown on the timetable. Once the Claim is complete, the Plan Administrator must make its decision as shown in the timetable. If the Claim is denied, in whole or in part, the claimant has the right to file an Appeal. Then the Plan Administrator must decide the Appeal and, if the Appeal is denied, provide notice to the claimant within the time periods shown on the timetable. The time periods shown in the timetable begin at the time the Claim or Appeal is filed in accordance with the Plan's procedures. Decisions will be made within a reasonable period of time appropriate to the circumstances, but within the maximum time periods listed in the timetables below. Unless otherwise noted, "days" means calendar days.

The definitions of the types of Claims are:

### **Urgent Care Claim**

A Claim involving Urgent Care is any Claim for medical care or treatment where the Plan conditions receipt of benefits, in whole or in part, on approval in advance of obtaining the care or treatment, and using the timetable for a non-urgent care determination could seriously jeopardize the life or health of the claimant; or the ability of the claimant to regain maximum function; or in the opinion of the attending or consulting Physician, would subject the claimant to severe pain that could not be adequately managed without the care or treatment that is the subject of the Claim. The Urgent Care Claim rules do not apply to claims involving urgent care where Plan benefits are not conditioned on prior approval. These claims are subject to the rules on Post-Service Claims described below.

A Physician with knowledge of the claimant's medical condition may determine if a Claim is one involving Urgent Care. If there is no such Physician, an individual acting on behalf of the Plan applying the judgment of a prudent layperson who possesses an average knowledge of health and medicine may make the determination.

In the case of a Claim involving Urgent Care, responses must be made as soon as possible consistent with the medical urgency involved, and no later than the following times:

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Notification to claimant of Claim determination | 72 hours |
|---|----------|

Insufficient information on the Claim, or failure to follow the Plan's procedure for filing a Claim:

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| Notification to claimant, orally or in writing | 24 hours |
|--|----------|

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Response by claimant, orally or in writing              | 48 hours |
| Benefit determination, orally or in writing             | 48 hours |
| Notification of Adverse Benefit Determination on Appeal | 72 hours |

If there is an Adverse Benefit Determination on a Claim involving Urgent Care, a request for an expedited Appeal may be submitted orally or in writing by the claimant. All necessary information, including the Plan's benefit determination on review, may be transmitted between the Plan and the claimant by telephone, facsimile, or other similarly expeditious method.

**Concurrent Care Claims**

A Concurrent Care Claim is a special type of Claim that arises if the Plan informs a claimant that benefits for a course of treatment that has been previously approved for a period of time or number of treatments is to be reduced or eliminated. In that case, the Plan must notify the claimant sufficiently in advance of the effective date of the reduction or elimination of treatment to allow the claimant to file an Appeal. This rule does not apply if benefits are reduced or eliminated due to Plan amendment or termination.

In the case of a Concurrent Care Claim, the following timetable applies:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Notification to claimant of benefit reduction                                 | Sufficiently prior to scheduled termination of course of treatment to allow claimant to appeal                     |
| Notification to claimant of rescission  | 30 days  |
| Notification of determination on Appeal of Claims involving Urgent Care       | 24 hours (provided claimant files Appeal more than 24 hours prior to scheduled termination of course of treatment) |
| Notification of Adverse Benefit Determination on Appeal for non-Urgent Claims | As soon as feasible, but not more than 30 days   |

**Post-Service Claim**

A Post-Service Claim means any Claim for a Plan benefit that is not an Urgent Care Claim; in other words, a Claim that is a request for payment under the Plan for medical services already received by the claimant.

In the case of a Post-Service Claim, the following timetable applies:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Notification to claimant of Adverse Benefit Determination | 30 days |
| Extension due to matters beyond the control of the Plan   | 15 days |
| Extension due to insufficient information on the Claim    | 15 days |
| Notification of Adverse Benefit Determination on Appeal   | 60 days |

**Notice to claimant of Adverse Benefit Determinations**

If a Claim is denied in whole or in part, the denial is considered to be an Adverse Benefit Determination. Except with Urgent Care Claims, when the notification may be oral followed by written or electronic notification within three days of the oral notification, the Plan Administrator shall provide written or electronic notification of the Adverse Benefit Determination. The notice will state in a manner calculated to be understood by the claimant:

- (1) The specific reason or reasons for the adverse determination.

- (2) Reference to the specific Plan provisions on which the determination was based.
- (3) A description of any additional material or information necessary for the claimant to perfect the Claim and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary.
- (4) A description of the Plan's Appeal procedures. This description will include information on how to initiate the Appeal and the time limits applicable to such procedures. This will include a statement of the claimant's right to bring a civil action under section 502 of ERISA following a Final Adverse Benefit Determination.
- (5) If the Adverse Benefit Determination was based on an internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion, the specific rule, guideline, protocol, or criterion will be provided free of charge. If this is not practical, a statement will be included that such a rule, guideline, protocol, or criterion was relied upon in making the Adverse Benefit Determination and a copy will be provided free of charge to the claimant upon request.
- (6) If the Adverse Benefit Determination is based on the Medical Necessity or Experimental or Investigational treatment or similar exclusion or limit, an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination, applying the terms of the Plan to the claimant's medical circumstances, will be provided. If this is not practical, a statement will be included that such explanation will be provided free of charge, upon request.

## Appeals

When a claimant receives notification of an Adverse Benefit Determination, the claimant generally has 180 days following receipt of the notification in which to file a written request for an Appeal of the decision. However, for Concurrent Care Claims, the Claimant must file the Appeal prior to the scheduled reduction or termination of treatment. A claimant may submit written comments, documents, records, and other information relating to the Claim.

If the claimant so requests, he or she will be provided, free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to the Claim.

A document, record, or other information shall be considered relevant to a Claim if it:

- (1) was relied upon in making the benefit determination;
- (2) was submitted, considered, or generated in the course of making the benefit determination, without regard to whether it was relied upon in making the benefit determination;
- (3) demonstrated compliance with the administrative processes and safeguards designed to ensure and to verify that benefit determinations are made in accordance with Plan documents and Plan provisions have been applied consistently with respect to all claimants; or
- (4) constituted a statement of policy or guidance with respect to the Plan concerning the denied treatment option or benefit.

The period of time within which a benefit determination on Appeal is required to be made shall begin at the time an Appeal is filed in writing in accordance with the procedures of the Plan. This timing is without regard to whether all the necessary information accompanies the filing.

The review shall take into account all comments, documents, records, and other information submitted by the claimant relating to the Claim, without regard to whether such information was submitted or considered in the initial benefit determination. The review will not afford deference to the initial Adverse Benefit Determination and will be conducted by a fiduciary of the Plan who is neither the individual who made the adverse determination nor a subordinate of that individual.



If the determination was based on a medical judgment, including determinations with regard to whether a particular treatment, drug, or other item is Experimental, Investigational, or not Medically Necessary or appropriate, the fiduciary shall consult with a health care professional who was not involved in the original benefit determination. This health care professional will have appropriate training and experience in the field of medicine involved in the medical judgment. Additionally, medical or vocational experts whose advice was obtained on behalf of the Plan in connection with the initial determination will be identified.

If the Appeal of a Claim is denied, in whole or in part, the Plan Administrator shall provide written notification of the Adverse Benefit Determination on Appeal. The notice will state, in a manner calculated to be understood by the claimant:

- (1) The specific reason or reasons for the adverse determination.
- (2) Reference to the specific Plan provisions on which the determination was based.
- (3) A description of any additional material or information necessary for the claimant to perfect the Claim and an explanation of why such material or information is necessary.
- (4) A description of the Plan's review procedures and the time limits applicable to such procedures. This will include a statement of the claimant's right to bring a civil action under section 502 of ERISA following an Adverse Benefit Determination on review.
- (5) A statement that the claimant is entitled to receive, upon request and free of charge, reasonable access to, and copies of, all documents, records, and other information relevant to the Claim.
- (6) If the Adverse Benefit Determination was based on an internal rule, guideline, protocol, or other similar criterion, the specific rule, guideline, protocol, or criterion will be provided free of charge. If this is not practical, a statement will be included that such a rule, guideline, protocol, or criterion was relied upon in making the Adverse Benefit Determination and a copy will be provided free of charge to the claimant upon request.
- (7) If the Adverse Benefit Determination is based on the Medical Necessity or Experimental or Investigational treatment or similar exclusion or limit, an explanation of the scientific or clinical judgment for the determination, applying the terms of the Plan to the claimant's medical circumstances, will be provided. If this is not practical, a statement will be included that such explanation will be provided free of charge, upon request.

## COORDINATION OF BENEFITS

**Coordination of the benefit plans.** Coordination of benefits sets out rules for the order of payment of Covered Charges when two or more plans -- including Medicare -- are paying. When a Covered Person is covered by this Plan and another plan, or the Covered Person's Spouse is covered by this Plan and by another plan or the couple's Covered children are covered under two or more plans, the plans will coordinate benefits when a claim is received.

The plan that pays first according to the rules will pay as if there were no other plan involved. The secondary and subsequent plans will pay the balance due up to 100% of the total Allowable Charges.

**Benefit plan.** This provision will coordinate the medical and dental benefits of a benefit plan. The term benefit plan means this Plan or any one of the following plans:

- (1) Group or group-type plans, including franchise or blanket benefit plans.
- (2) Blue Cross and Blue Shield group plans.
- (3) Group practice and other group prepayment plans.
- (4) Federal government plans or programs. This includes, but is not limited to, Medicare and Tricare.
- (5) Other plans required or provided by law. This does not include Medicaid or any benefit plan like it that, by its terms, does not allow coordination.
- (6) No Fault Auto Insurance, by whatever name it is called, when not prohibited by law.

**Allowable Charge.** For a charge to be allowable it must be a Usual and Reasonable Charge and at least part of it must be covered under this Plan.

In the case of HMO (Health Maintenance Organization) or other in-network only plans: This Plan will not consider any charges in excess of what an HMO or network provider has agreed to accept as payment in full. Also, when an HMO or network plan is primary and the Covered Person does not use an HMO or network provider, this Plan will not consider as an Allowable Charge any charge that would have been covered by the HMO or network plan had the Covered Person used the services of an HMO or network provider.

**Benefit plan payment order.** When two or more plans provide benefits for the same Allowable Charge, benefit payment will follow these rules:

- (1) Plans that do not have a coordination provision, or one like it, will pay first. Plans with such a provision will be considered after those without one.
- (2) Plans with a coordination provision will pay their benefits up to the Allowable Charge:
  - (a) The benefits of the plan which covers the person directly (that is, as an employee, member or subscriber) ("Plan A") are determined before those of the plan which covers the person as a dependent ("Plan B").
  - (b) The benefits of a benefit plan which covers a person as an Employee who is neither laid off nor retired are determined before those of a benefit plan which covers that person as a laid-off or Retired Employee. The benefits of a benefit plan which covers a person as a Dependent of an Employee who is neither laid off nor retired are determined before those of a benefit plan which covers a person as a Dependent of a laid off or Retired Employee. If the other benefit plan does not have this rule, and if, as a result, the plans do not agree on the order of benefits, this rule does not apply.
  - (c) The benefits of a benefit plan which covers a person as an Employee who is neither laid off nor retired or a Dependent of an Employee who is neither laid off nor retired are determined before those of a plan which covers the person as a COBRA beneficiary.

- (d) When a child is covered as a Dependent and the parents are not separated or divorced, these rules will apply:
  - (i) The benefits of the benefit plan of the parent whose birthday falls earlier in a year are determined before those of the benefit plan of the parent whose birthday falls later in that year;
  - (ii) If both parents have the same birthday, the benefits of the benefit plan which has covered the parent for the longer time are determined before those of the benefit plan which covers the other parent.
- (e) When a child's parents are divorced or legally separated, these rules will apply:
  - (i) This rule applies when the parent with custody of the child has not remarried. The benefit plan of the parent with custody will be considered before the benefit plan of the parent without custody.
  - (ii) This rule applies when the parent with custody of the child has remarried. The benefit plan of the parent with custody will be considered first. The benefit plan of the stepparent that covers the child as a Dependent will be considered next. The benefit plan of the parent without custody will be considered last.
  - (iii) This rule will be in place of items (i) and (ii) above when it applies. A court decree may state which parent is financially responsible for medical and dental benefits of the child. In this case, the benefit plan of that parent will be considered before other plans that cover the child as a Dependent.
  - (iv) If the specific terms of the court decree state that the parents shall share joint custody, without stating that one of the parents is responsible for the health care expenses of the child, the plans covering the child shall follow the order of benefit determination rules outlined above when a child is covered as a Dependent and the parents are not separated or divorced.
  - (v) For parents who were never married to each other, the rules apply as set out above as long as paternity has been established.
- (f) If there is still a conflict after these rules have been applied, the benefit plan which has covered the patient for the longer time will be considered first. This includes situations in which a person who is covered as a dependent child under one benefit plan is also covered as a dependent spouse under another benefit plan. When there is a conflict in coordination of benefit rules, the Plan will never pay more than 50% of Allowable Charges when paying secondary.
- (3) If a Plan Participant is under a disability extension from a previous benefit plan, that benefit plan will pay first and this Plan will pay second.
- (4) The Plan will pay primary to Tricare and a State child health plan to the extent required by federal law.

**Claims determination period.** Benefits will be coordinated on a Calendar Year basis. This is called the claims determination period.

**Right to receive or release necessary information.** To make this provision work, this Plan may give or obtain needed information from another insurer or any other organization or person. This information may be given or obtained without the consent of or notice to any other person. A Covered Person will give this Plan the information it asks for about other plans and their payment of Allowable Charges.

**Facility of payment.** This Plan may repay other plans for benefits paid that the Plan Administrator determines it should have paid. That repayment will count as a valid payment under this Plan.

**Right of recovery.** This Plan may pay benefits that should be paid by another benefit plan. In this case this Plan may recover the amount paid from the other benefit plan or the Covered Person. That repayment will count as a valid payment under the other benefit plan.

Further, this Plan may pay benefits that are later found to be greater than the Allowable Charge. In this case, this Plan may recover the amount of the overpayment from the source to which it was paid.

## THIRD PARTY RECOVERY PROVISION

### RIGHT OF SUBROGATION AND REFUND

**When this provision applies.** The Covered Person may incur medical or dental charges due to Injuries which may be caused by the act or omission of a Third Party or a Third Party may be responsible for payment. In such circumstances, the Covered Person may have a claim against that Third Party, or insurer, for payment of the medical or dental charges. Accepting benefits under this Plan for those incurred medical or dental expenses automatically assigns to the Plan any rights the Covered Person may have to Recover payments from any Third Party or insurer, including but not limited to the Covered Person's insurer. This Subrogation right allows the Plan to pursue any claim which the Covered Person has against any Third Party, or insurer, whether or not the Covered Person chooses to pursue that claim. The Plan may make a claim directly against the Third Party or insurer, but in any event, the Plan has a lien on any amount Recovered by the Covered Person whether or not designated as payment for medical expenses. This lien shall remain in effect until the Plan is repaid in full.

The payment for benefits received by a Covered Person under the Plan shall be made in accordance with the assignment of rights by or on behalf of the Covered Person as required by Medicaid.

In any case in which the Plan has a legal liability to make payments for benefits received by a Covered Person, to the extent that payment has been made through Medicaid, the payment for benefits under the Plan shall be made in accordance with any state law that has provided that the state has acquired the rights of the Covered Person to the payments of those benefits.

The Covered Person:

- (1) automatically assigns to the Plan his or her rights against any Third Party or insurer when this provision applies; and
- (2) must repay to the Plan the benefits paid on his or her behalf out of the Recovery made from the Third Party or insurer.

**Amount subject to Subrogation or Refund.** The Covered Person agrees to recognize the Plan's right to Subrogation and reimbursement. These rights provide the Plan with a 100%, first dollar priority over any and all Recoveries and funds paid by a Third Party to a Covered Person relative to the Injury or Sickness, including a priority over any claim for non-medical or dental charges, attorney fees, or other costs and expenses. This provision expressly abrogates the "make whole" and "common fund" doctrines and similar defenses to the Plan's claims. Accepting benefits under this Plan for those incurred medical or dental expenses automatically assigns to the Plan any and all rights the Covered Person may have to recover payments from any responsible third party. Further, accepting benefits under this Plan for those incurred medical or dental expenses automatically assigns to the Plan the Covered Person's Third Party Claims.

Notwithstanding its priority to funds, the Plan's Subrogation and Refund rights, as well as the rights assigned to it, are limited to the extent to which the Plan has made, or will make, payments for medical or dental charges as well as any costs and fees associated with the enforcement of its rights under the Plan. The Plan reserves the right to be reimbursed for its court costs and attorneys' fees if the Plan needs to file suit in order to Recover payment for medical or dental expenses from the Covered Person. Also, the Plan's right to Subrogation still applies if the Recovery received by the Covered Person is less than the claimed damage, and, as a result, the claimant is not made whole.

When a right of Recovery exists, the Covered Person will execute and deliver all required instruments and papers as well as doing whatever else is needed to secure the Plan's right of Subrogation as a condition to having the Plan make payments. In addition, the Covered Person will do nothing to prejudice the right of the Plan to Subrogate.

**Conditions Precedent to Coverage.** The Plan shall have no obligation whatsoever to pay medical or dental benefits to a Covered Person if a Covered Person refuses to cooperate with the Plan's reimbursement and Subrogation rights or refuses to execute and deliver such papers as the Plan may require in furtherance of its reimbursement and Subrogation rights. Further, in the event the Covered Person is a minor, the Plan shall have no obligation to pay any medical or dental benefits incurred on account of Injury or Sickness caused by a responsible Third Party until after the Covered Person or his authorized legal representative obtains valid court

recognition and approval of the Plan's 100%, first dollar reimbursement and Subrogation rights on all Recoveries, as well as approval for the execution of any papers necessary for the enforcement thereof, as described herein.

**Defined terms:** "Covered Person" means anyone covered under the Plan, including minor dependents.

"Recover," "Recovered," "Recovery" or "Recoveries" means all monies paid to the Covered Person or his designee by way of judgment, settlement, or otherwise to compensate for all losses caused by the Injury or Sickness, whether or not said losses reflect medical or dental charges covered by the Plan. "Recoveries" further includes, but is not limited to, recoveries for medical or dental expenses, attorneys' fees, costs and expenses, pain and suffering, loss of consortium, wrongful death, lost wages and any other recovery of any form of damages or compensation whatsoever.

"Refund" means repayment to the Plan for medical or dental benefits that it has paid toward care and treatment of the Injury or Sickness.

"Subrogation" means the Plan's right to pursue and place a lien upon the Covered Person's claims for medical or dental charges against the other person.

"Third Party" means any Third Party including another person or a business entity.

**Recovery from another plan under which the Covered Person is covered.** This right of Refund also applies when a Covered Person Recovers under an uninsured or underinsured motorist plan (which will be treated as Third Party coverage when reimbursement or Subrogation is in order), homeowner's plan, renter's plan, medical malpractice plan or any liability plan.

**Rights of Plan Administrator.** The Plan Administrator has a right to request reports on and approve of all settlements.

## CONTINUATION COVERAGE RIGHTS UNDER COBRA

Under federal law, the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 (COBRA), certain Employees and their families covered under Iredell-Statesville Schools Dental Benefit Plan (the Plan) will be entitled to the opportunity to elect a temporary extension of health coverage (called "COBRA continuation coverage") where coverage under the Plan would otherwise end. This notice is intended to inform Plan Participants and beneficiaries, in summary fashion, of their rights and obligations under the continuation coverage provisions of COBRA, as amended and reflected in final and proposed regulations published by the Department of the Treasury. This notice is intended to reflect the law and does not grant or take away any rights under the law.

The Plan Administrator is Iredell-Statesville Schools, 549 N. Race Street, Statesville, North Carolina, 28677, (704) 872-8931. The Plan Administrator is responsible for administering COBRA continuation coverage. Complete instructions on COBRA, as well as election forms and other information, will be provided by the Plan Administrator or its designee to Plan Participants who become Qualified Beneficiaries under COBRA.

**There may be other options available 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 the temporary extension of group health plan coverage that must be offered to certain Plan Participants and their eligible family members (called "Qualified Beneficiaries") at group rates. The right to COBRA continuation coverage is triggered by the occurrence of a life event that results in the loss of coverage under the terms of the Plan (the "Qualifying Event"). The coverage must be identical to the Plan coverage that the Qualified Beneficiary had immediately before the Qualifying Event, or if the coverage has been changed, the coverage must be identical to the coverage provided to similarly situated active employees who have not experienced a Qualifying Event (in other words, similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiaries).

**Who can become a Qualified Beneficiary?** In general, a Qualified Beneficiary can be:

- (1) Any individual who, on the day before a Qualifying Event, is covered under a Plan by virtue of being on that day either a covered Employee, the Spouse of a covered Employee, or a Dependent child of a covered Employee. If, however, an individual who otherwise qualifies as a Qualified Beneficiary is denied or not offered coverage under the Plan under circumstances in which the denial or failure to offer constitutes a violation of applicable law, then the individual will be considered to have had the Plan coverage and will be considered a Qualified Beneficiary if that individual experiences a Qualifying Event.
- (2) Any child who is born to or placed for adoption with a covered Employee during a period of COBRA continuation coverage, and any individual who is covered by the Plan as an alternate recipient under a qualified medical support order. If, however, an individual who otherwise qualifies as a Qualified Beneficiary is denied or not offered coverage under the Plan under circumstances in which the denial or failure to offer constitutes a violation of applicable law, then the individual will be considered to have had the Plan coverage and will be considered a Qualified Beneficiary if that individual experiences a Qualifying Event.

The term "covered Employee" includes any individual who is provided coverage under the Plan due to his or her performance of services for the employer sponsoring the Plan (e.g., common-law employees (full or part-time), self-employed individuals, independent contractor, or corporate director). However, this provision does not establish eligibility of these individuals. Eligibility for Plan Coverage shall be determined in accordance with Plan Eligibility provisions.

An individual is not a Qualified Beneficiary if the individual's status as a covered Employee is attributable to a period in which the individual was a nonresident alien who received from the individual's Employer no earned income that constituted income from sources within the United States. If, on account of the preceding reason, an individual is not a Qualified Beneficiary, then a Spouse or Dependent child of the individual will also not be considered a Qualified Beneficiary by virtue of the relationship to the individual. A domestic partner is not a Qualified Beneficiary.

Each Qualified Beneficiary (including a child who is born to or placed for adoption with a covered Employee during a period of COBRA continuation coverage) must be offered the opportunity to make an independent election to receive COBRA continuation coverage.

**What is a Qualifying Event?** A Qualifying Event is any of the following if the Plan provided that the Plan participant would lose coverage (i.e.: cease to be covered under the same terms and conditions as in effect immediately before the Qualifying Event) in the absence of COBRA continuation coverage:

- (1) The death of a covered Employee.
- (2) The termination (other than by reason of the Employee's gross misconduct), or reduction of hours, of a covered Employee's employment.
- (3) The divorce or legal separation of a covered Employee from the Employee's Spouse. If the Employee reduces or eliminates the Employee's Spouse's Plan coverage in anticipation of a divorce or legal separation, and a divorce or legal separation later occurs, then the divorce or legal separation may be considered a Qualifying Event even though the Spouse's coverage was reduced or eliminated before the divorce or legal separation.
- (4) A covered Employee's enrollment in any part of the Medicare program.
- (5) A Dependent child's ceasing to satisfy the Plan's requirements for a Dependent child (for example, attainment of the maximum age for dependency under the Plan).

If the Qualifying Event causes the covered Employee, or the covered Spouse or a Dependent child of the covered Employee, to cease to be covered under the Plan under the same terms and conditions as in effect immediately before the Qualifying Event, the persons losing such coverage become Qualified Beneficiaries under COBRA if all the other conditions of COBRA are also met. For example, any increase in contribution that must be paid by a covered Employee, or the Spouse, or a Dependent child of the covered Employee, for coverage under the Plan that results from the occurrence of one of the events listed above is a loss of coverage.

The taking of leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, as amended ("FMLA") does not constitute a Qualifying Event. A Qualifying Event will occur, however, if an Employee does not return to employment at the end of the FMLA leave and all other COBRA continuation coverage conditions are present. If a Qualifying Event occurs, it occurs on the last day of FMLA leave and the applicable maximum coverage period is measured from this date (unless coverage is lost at a later date and the Plan provides for the extension of the required periods, in which case the maximum coverage date is measured from the date when the coverage is lost.) Note that the covered Employee and family members will be entitled to COBRA continuation coverage even if they failed to pay the employee portion of premiums for coverage under the Plan during the FMLA leave.

**What factors should be considered when determining to elect COBRA continuation coverage?** When considering options for health coverage, Qualified Beneficiaries should consider:

- **Premiums:** This plan can charge up to 102% of total plan premiums for COBRA coverage. Other options, like coverage on a spouse's plan or through the Marketplace, may be less expensive. Qualified Beneficiaries have special enrollment rights under federal law (HIPAA). They have the right to request special enrollment in another group health plan for which they are otherwise eligible (such as a plan sponsored by a spouse's employer) within 30 days after Plan coverage ends due to one of the Qualifying Events listed above.
- **Provider Networks:** If a Qualified Beneficiary is currently getting care or treatment for a condition, a change in health coverage may affect access to a particular health care provider. You may want to check to see if your current health care providers participate in a network in considering options for health coverage.
- **Drug Formularies:** For Qualified Beneficiaries taking medication, a change in health coverage may affect costs for medication – and in some cases, the medication may not be covered by another plan. Qualified beneficiaries should check to see if current medications are listed in drug formularies for other health coverage.



- **Severance payments:** If COBRA rights arise because the Employee has lost his job and there is a severance package available from the employer, the former employer may have offered to pay some or all of the Employee's COBRA payments for a period of time. This can affect the timing of coverage available in the Marketplace. In this scenario, the Employee may want to contact the Department of Labor at 1-866-444-3272 to discuss options.
- **Service Areas:** If benefits under the Plan are limited to specific service or coverage areas, benefits may not be available to a Qualified Beneficiary who moves out of the area.
- **Other Cost-Sharing:** In addition to premiums or contributions for health coverage, the Plan requires participants to pay copayments, deductibles, coinsurance, or other amounts as benefits are used. Qualified beneficiaries should check to see what the cost-sharing requirements are for other health coverage options. For example, one option may have much lower monthly premiums, but a much higher deductible and higher copayments.

**Are there other coverage options besides COBRA Continuation Coverage?** Yes. Instead of enrolling in COBRA continuation coverage, there may be other coverage options for Qualified Beneficiaries through the Health Insurance Marketplace, Medicaid, 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](http://www.healthcare.gov).

**What is the procedure for obtaining COBRA continuation coverage?** The Plan has conditioned the availability of COBRA continuation coverage upon the timely election of such coverage. An election is timely if it is made during the election period.

**What is the election period and how long must it last?** The election period is the time period within which the Qualified Beneficiary must elect COBRA continuation coverage under the Plan. The election period must begin no later than the date the Qualified Beneficiary would lose coverage on account of the Qualifying Event and ends 60 days after the later of the date the Qualified Beneficiary would lose coverage on account of the Qualifying Event or the date notice is provided to the Qualified Beneficiary of her or his right to elect COBRA continuation coverage. If coverage is not elected within the 60 day period, all rights to elect COBRA continuation coverage are forfeited.

**Is a covered Employee or Qualified Beneficiary responsible for informing the Plan Administrator of the occurrence of a Qualifying Event?** The Plan will offer COBRA continuation coverage to Qualified Beneficiaries only after the Plan Administrator or its designee has been timely notified that a Qualifying Event has occurred. The employer (if the employer is not the Plan Administrator) will notify the Plan Administrator of the Qualifying Event within 30 days following the date coverage ends when the Qualifying Event is:

- (1) the end of employment or reduction of hours of employment,
- (2) death of the Employee,
- (3) commencement of a proceeding in bankruptcy with respect to the employer, or
- (4) entitlement of the employee to any part of Medicare.

**IMPORTANT:**

**For the 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 or someone on your behalf must notify the Plan Administrator or its designee in writing within 60 days after the Qualifying Event occurs, using the procedures specified below. If these procedures are not followed or if the notice is not provided in writing to the Plan Administrator or its designee during the 60-day notice period, any Spouse or Dependent child who loses coverage will not be offered the option to elect continuation coverage. You must send this notice to the Plan Sponsor.**

**NOTICE PROCEDURES:**

Any notice that you provide must be ***in writing***. Oral notice, including notice by telephone, is not acceptable. You must mail, fax or hand-deliver your notice to the person, department or firm listed below, at the following address:

Iredell-Statesville Schools  
549 N. Race Street  
Statesville, North Carolina 28677

If mailed, your notice must be postmarked no later than the last day of the required notice period. Any notice you provide must state:

- the **name of the plan or plans** under which you lost or are losing coverage,
- the **name and address of the Employee** covered under the plan,
- the **name(s) and address(es) of the Qualified Beneficiary(ies)**, and
- the **Qualifying Event** and the **date** it happened.

If the Qualifying Event is a **divorce or legal separation**, your notice must include **a copy of the divorce decree or the legal separation agreement**.

Be aware that there are other notice requirements in other contexts, for example, in order to qualify for a disability extension.

Once the Plan Administrator or its designee receives ***timely 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 for their Spouses, and parents may elect COBRA continuation coverage on behalf of their children. For each Qualified Beneficiary who elects COBRA continuation coverage, COBRA continuation coverage will begin on the date that plan coverage would otherwise have been lost. If you or your Spouse or Dependent children do not elect continuation coverage within the 60-day election period described above, the right to elect continuation coverage will be lost.

**Is a waiver before the end of the election period effective to end a Qualified Beneficiary's election rights?** If, during the election period, a Qualified Beneficiary waives COBRA continuation coverage, the waiver can be revoked at any time before the end of the election period. Revocation of the waiver is an election of COBRA continuation coverage. However, if a waiver is later revoked, coverage need not be provided retroactively (that is, from the date of the loss of coverage until the waiver is revoked). Waivers and revocations of waivers are considered made on the date they are sent to the Plan Administrator or its designee, as applicable.

**Is COBRA coverage available if a Qualified Beneficiary has other group health plan coverage or Medicare?** Qualified beneficiaries who are entitled to elect COBRA continuation coverage may do so even if they are covered under another group health plan or are entitled to Medicare benefits on or before the date on which COBRA is elected. However, a Qualified Beneficiary's COBRA coverage will terminate automatically if, after electing COBRA, he or she becomes entitled to Medicare or becomes covered under other group health plan coverage (but only after any applicable preexisting condition exclusions of that other plan have been exhausted or satisfied).

**When may a Qualified Beneficiary's COBRA continuation coverage be terminated?** During the election period, a Qualified Beneficiary may waive COBRA continuation coverage. Except for an interruption of coverage in connection with a waiver, COBRA continuation coverage that has been elected for a Qualified Beneficiary must extend for at least the period beginning on the date of the Qualifying Event and ending not before the earliest of the following dates:

- (1) The last day of the applicable maximum coverage period.
- (2) The first day for which Timely Payment is not made to the Plan with respect to the Qualified Beneficiary.

- (3) The date upon which the Employer ceases to provide any group health plan (including a successor plan) to any employee.
- (4) The date, after the date of the election, that the Qualified Beneficiary first becomes covered under any other Plan that does not contain any exclusion or limitation with respect to any pre-existing condition, other than such an exclusion or limitation that does not apply to, or is satisfied by, the Qualified Beneficiary.
- (5) The date, after the date of the election, that the Qualified Beneficiary first becomes entitled to Medicare (either part A or part B, whichever occurs earlier).
- (6) In the case of a Qualified Beneficiary entitled to a disability extension, the later of:
  - (a) (i) 29 months after the date of the Qualifying Event, or (ii) the first day of the month that is more than 30 days after the date of a final determination under Title II or XVI of the Social Security Act that the disabled Qualified Beneficiary whose disability resulted in the Qualified Beneficiary's entitlement to the disability extension is no longer disabled, whichever is earlier; or
  - (b) the end of the maximum coverage period that applies to the Qualified Beneficiary without regard to the disability extension.

The Plan can terminate for cause the coverage of a Qualified Beneficiary on the same basis that the Plan terminates for cause the coverage of similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiaries, for example, for the submission of a fraudulent claim.

In the case of an individual who is not a Qualified Beneficiary and who is receiving coverage under the Plan solely because of the individual's relationship to a Qualified Beneficiary, if the Plan's obligation to make COBRA continuation coverage available to the Qualified Beneficiary ceases, the Plan is not obligated to make coverage available to the individual who is not a Qualified Beneficiary.

**What are the maximum coverage periods for COBRA continuation coverage?** The maximum coverage periods are based on the type of the Qualifying Event and the status of the Qualified Beneficiary, as shown below:

- (1) In the case of a Qualifying Event that is a termination of employment or reduction of hours of employment, the maximum coverage period ends 18 months after the Qualifying Event if there is not a disability extension and 29 months after the Qualifying Event if there is a disability extension.
- (2) In the case of a covered Employee's enrollment in the Medicare program before experiencing a Qualifying Event that is a termination of employment or reduction of hours of employment, the maximum coverage period for Qualified Beneficiaries ends on the later of:
  - (a) 36 months after the date the covered Employee becomes enrolled in the Medicare program. This extension does not apply to the covered Employee; or
  - (b) 18 months (or 29 months, if there is a disability extension) after the date of the covered Employee's termination of employment or reduction of hours of employment.
- (3) In the case of a Qualified Beneficiary who is a child born to or placed for adoption with a covered Employee during a period of COBRA continuation coverage, the maximum coverage period is the maximum coverage period applicable to the Qualifying Event giving rise to the period of COBRA continuation coverage during which the child was born or placed for adoption.
- (4) In the case of any other Qualifying Event than that described above, the maximum coverage period ends 36 months after the Qualifying Event.

**Under what circumstances can the maximum coverage period be expanded?** If a Qualifying Event that gives rise to an 18-month or 29-month maximum coverage period is followed, within that 18- or 29-month

period, by a second Qualifying Event that gives rise to a 36-months maximum coverage period, the original period is expanded to 36 months, but only for individuals who are Qualified Beneficiaries at the time of and with respect to both Qualifying Events. In no circumstance can the COBRA maximum coverage period be expanded to more than 36 months after the date of the first Qualifying Event. The Plan Administrator must be notified of the second Qualifying Event within 60 days of the second Qualifying Event. This notice must be sent to the Plan Sponsor in accordance with the procedures above.

**How does a Qualified Beneficiary become entitled to a disability extension?** A disability extension will be granted if an individual (whether or not the covered Employee) who is a Qualified Beneficiary in connection with the Qualifying Event that is a termination or reduction of hours of a covered Employee's employment, is determined under Title II or XVI of the Social Security Act to have been disabled at any time during the first 60 days of COBRA continuation coverage. To qualify for the disability extension, the Qualified Beneficiary must also provide the Plan Administrator with notice of the disability determination on a date that is both within 60 days after the date of the determination and before the end of the original 18-month maximum coverage. This notice should be sent to the Plan Sponsor in accordance with the procedures above.

**Does the Plan require payment for COBRA continuation coverage?** For any period of COBRA continuation coverage under the Plan, qualified beneficiaries who elect COBRA continuation coverage is not required to pay for COBRA continuation coverage.

**Must the Plan allow payment for COBRA continuation coverage to be made in monthly installments?** Yes. The Plan is also permitted to allow for payment at other intervals.

**What is Timely Payment for payment for COBRA continuation coverage?** Timely Payment means a payment made no later than 30 days after the first day of the coverage period. Payment that is made to the Plan by a later date is also considered Timely Payment if either under the terms of the Plan, covered employees or Qualified Beneficiaries are allowed until that later date to pay for their coverage for the period or under the terms of an arrangement between the Employer and the entity that provides Plan benefits on the Employer's behalf, the Employer is allowed until that later date to pay for coverage of similarly situated non-COBRA beneficiaries for the period.

Notwithstanding the above paragraph, the Plan does not require payment for any period of COBRA continuation coverage for a Qualified Beneficiary earlier than 45 days after the date on which the election of COBRA continuation coverage is made for that Qualified Beneficiary. Payment is considered made on the date on which it is postmarked to the Plan.

If Timely Payment is made to the Plan in an amount that is not significantly less than the amount the Plan requires to be paid for a period of coverage, then the amount paid will be deemed to satisfy the Plan's requirement for the amount to be paid, unless the Plan notifies the Qualified Beneficiary of the amount of the deficiency and grants a reasonable period of time for payment of the deficiency to be made. A "reasonable period of time" is 30 days after the notice is provided. A shortfall in a Timely Payment is not significant if it is no greater than the lesser of \$50 or 10% of the required amount.

## **IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS**

If you have questions about your COBRA continuation coverage, you should contact the Plan Sponsor. For more information about your rights under COBRA, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), 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). Addresses and phone numbers of Regional and District EBSA Offices are available through EBSA's website at [www.dol.gov/ebsa](http://www.dol.gov/ebsa).

## **KEEP YOUR PLAN ADMINISTRATOR INFORMED OF ADDRESS CHANGES**

In order to protect your family's rights, you should keep the Plan Administrator informed of 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.

## RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PLAN ADMINISTRATION

**PLAN ADMINISTRATOR.** Iredell-Statesville Schools Dental Benefit Plan is the benefit plan of Iredell-Statesville Schools, the Plan Administrator, also called the Plan Sponsor. An individual or committee may be appointed by Iredell-Statesville Schools to be Plan Administrator and serve at the convenience of the Employer. If the Plan Administrator or a committee member resigns, dies or is otherwise removed from the position, Iredell-Statesville Schools shall appoint a new Plan Administrator as soon as reasonably possible.

The Plan Administrator shall administer this Plan in accordance with its terms and establish its policies, interpretations, practices, and procedures. It is the express intent of this Plan that the Plan Administrator shall have maximum legal discretionary authority to construe and interpret the terms and provisions of the Plan, to make determinations regarding issues which relate to eligibility for benefits, to decide disputes which may arise relative to a Plan Participant's rights, and to decide questions of Plan interpretation and those of fact relating to the Plan. The decisions of the Plan Administrator will be final and binding on all interested parties.

### DUTIES OF THE PLAN ADMINISTRATOR.

- (1) To administer the Plan in accordance with its terms.
- (2) To interpret the Plan, including the right to remedy possible ambiguities, inconsistencies or omissions.
- (3) To decide disputes which may arise relative to a Plan Participant's rights.
- (4) To prescribe procedures for filing a claim for benefits and to review claim denials.
- (5) To keep and maintain the Plan documents and all other records pertaining to the Plan.
- (6) To appoint a Claims Administrator to pay claims.
- (7) To delegate to any person or entity such powers, duties and responsibilities as it deems appropriate.

**PLAN ADMINISTRATOR COMPENSATION.** The Plan Administrator serves **without** compensation; however, all expenses for plan administration, including compensation for hired services, will be paid by the Plan.

**CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR IS NOT A FIDUCIARY.** A Claims Administrator is **not** a fiduciary under the Plan by virtue of paying claims in accordance with the Plan's rules as established by the Plan Administrator.

**COMPLIANCE WITH HIPAA PRIVACY STANDARDS.** Certain members of the Employer's workforce perform services in connection with administration of the Plan. In order to perform these services, it is necessary for these employees from time to time to have access to Protected Health Information (as defined below).

Under the Standards for Privacy of Individually Identifiable Health Information (45 CFR Part 164, the "Privacy Standards"), these employees are permitted to have such access subject to the following:

- (1) **General.** The Plan shall not disclose Protected Health Information to any member of the Employer's workforce unless each of the conditions set out in this HIPAA Privacy section is met. "Protected Health Information" shall have the same definition as set out in the Privacy Standards but generally shall mean individually identifiable health information about the past, present or future physical or mental health or condition of an individual, including genetic information and information about treatment or payment for treatment.
- (2) **Permitted Uses and Disclosures.** Protected Health Information disclosed to members of the Employer's workforce shall be used or disclosed by them only for purposes of Plan administrative functions. The Plan's administrative functions shall include all Plan payment and health care operations. The terms "payment" and "health care operations" shall have the same definitions as set out in the Privacy Standards, but the term "payment" generally shall mean activities taken with respect to payment of premiums or contributions, or to determine or fulfill Plan responsibilities with respect to coverage, provision of benefits, or reimbursement for health care. "Health care

operations" generally shall mean activities on behalf of the Plan that are related to quality assessment; evaluation, training or accreditation of health care providers; underwriting, premium rating and other functions related to obtaining or renewing an insurance contract, including stop-loss insurance; medical review; legal services or auditing functions; or business planning, management and general administrative activities. However, Protected Health Information that consists of genetic information will not be used or disclosed for underwriting purposes.

- (3) **Authorized Employees.** The Plan shall disclose Protected Health Information only to members of the Employer's workforce who are designated and are authorized to receive such Protected Health Information, and only to the extent and in the minimum amount necessary for these persons to perform duties with respect to the Plan. For purposes of this HIPAA Privacy section, "members of the Employer's workforce" shall refer to all employees and other persons under the control of the Employer.
- (a) **Updates Required.** The Employer shall amend the Plan promptly with respect to any changes in the members of its workforce who are authorized to receive Protected Health Information.
- (b) **Use and Disclosure Restricted.** An authorized member of the Employer's workforce who receives Protected Health Information shall use or disclose the Protected Health Information only to the extent necessary to perform his or her duties with respect to the Plan.
- (c) **Resolution of Issues of Noncompliance.** In the event that any member of the Employer's workforce uses or discloses Protected Health Information other than as permitted by the Privacy Standards, the incident shall be reported to the privacy official. The privacy official shall take appropriate action, including:
- (i) Investigation of the incident to determine whether the breach occurred inadvertently, through negligence, or deliberately; whether there is a pattern of breaches; and the degree of harm caused by the breach;
  - (ii) Applying appropriate sanctions against the persons causing the breach, which, depending upon the nature of the breach, may include, oral or written reprimand, additional training, or termination of employment;
  - (iii) Mitigating any harm caused by the breach, to the extent practicable; and
  - (iv) Documentation of the incident and all actions taken to resolve the issue and mitigate any damages.
- (4) **Certification of Employer.** The Employer must provide certification to the Plan that it agrees to:
- (a) Not use or further disclose the Protected Health Information other than as permitted or required by the Plan documents or as required by law;
  - (b) Ensure that any agent or subcontractor, to whom it provides Protected Health Information received from the Plan, agrees to the same restrictions and conditions that apply to the Employer with respect to such information;
  - (c) Not use or disclose Protected Health Information for employment-related actions and decisions or in connection with any other benefit or employee benefit plan of the Employer;
  - (d) Report to the Plan any use or disclosure of the Protected Health Information of which it becomes aware that is inconsistent with the uses or disclosures hereunder or required by law;
  - (e) Make available Protected Health Information to individual Plan members in accordance with Section 164.524 of the Privacy Standards;

- (f) Make available Protected Health Information for amendment by individual Plan members and incorporate any amendments to Protected Health Information in accordance with Section 164.526 of the Privacy Standards;
- (g) Make available the Protected Health Information required to provide any accounting of disclosures to individual Plan members in accordance with Section 164.528 of the Privacy Standards;
- (h) Make its internal practices, books and records relating to the use and disclosure of Protected Health Information received from the Plan available to the Department of Health and Human Services for purposes of determining compliance by the Plan with the Privacy Standards;
- (i) If feasible, return or destroy all Protected Health Information received from the Plan that the Employer still maintains in any form, and retain no copies of such information when no longer needed for the purpose of which disclosure was made, except that, if such return or destruction is not feasible, limit further uses and disclosures to those purposes that make the return or destruction of the information unfeasible; and
- (j) Ensure the adequate separation between the Plan and member of the Employer's workforce, as required by Section 164.504(f)(2)(iii) of the Privacy Standards.

The following members of Iredell-Statesville Schools' workforce are designated as authorized to receive Protected Health Information from Iredell-Statesville Schools Dental Benefit Plan ("the Plan") in order to perform their duties with respect to the Plan: Plan Administrator, Human Resources and Payroll.

**COMPLIANCE WITH HIPAA ELECTRONIC SECURITY STANDARDS.** Under the Security Standards for the Protection of Electronic Protected Health Information (45 CFR Part 164.300 et. seq., the "Security Standards"), the Employer agrees to the following:

- (1) The Employer agrees to implement reasonable and appropriate administrative, physical and technical safeguards to protect the confidentiality, integrity and availability of Electronic Protected Health Information that the Employer creates, maintains or transmits on behalf of the Plan. "Electronic Protected Health Information" shall have the same definition as set out in the Security Standards, but generally shall mean Protected Health Information that is transmitted by or maintained in electronic media.
- (2) The Employer shall ensure that any agent or subcontractor to whom it provides Electronic Protected Health Information shall agree, in writing, to implement reasonable and appropriate security measures to protect the Electronic Protected Health Information.
- (3) The Employer shall ensure that reasonable and appropriate security measures are implemented to comply with the conditions and requirements set forth in Compliance With HIPAA Privacy Standards provisions (3) Authorized Employees and (4) Certification of Employers described above.

### **FUNDING THE PLAN AND PAYMENT OF BENEFITS**

The cost of the Plan is funded as follows:

**For Employee and Dependent Coverage:** Funding is derived from the funds of the Employer and contributions made by the covered Employees.

The level of any Employee contributions will be set by the Plan Administrator. These Employee contributions will be used in funding the cost of the Plan as soon as practicable after they have been received from the Employee or withheld from the Employee's pay through payroll deduction.

Benefits are paid directly from the Plan through the Claims Administrator.

## **PLAN IS NOT AN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT**

The Plan is not to be construed as a contract for or of employment.

### **CLERICAL ERROR**

Any clerical error by the Plan Administrator or an agent of the Plan Administrator in keeping pertinent records or a delay in making any changes will not invalidate coverage otherwise validly in force or continue coverage validly terminated. An equitable adjustment of contributions will be made when the error or delay is discovered.

If, an overpayment occurs in a Plan reimbursement amount, the Plan retains a contractual right to the overpayment. The person or institution receiving the overpayment will be required to return the incorrect amount of money. In the case of a Plan Participant, the amount of overpayment may be deducted from future benefits payable.



## GENERAL PLAN INFORMATION

### TYPE OF ADMINISTRATION

The Plan is a self-funded Plan and the administration is provided through a Third Party Claims Administrator. The funding for the benefits is derived from the funds of the Employer and contributions made by covered Employees. The Plan is not insured.

### PLAN NAME

Iredell-Statesville Schools Dental Benefit Plan

**TAX ID NUMBER:** 56-1744276

**PLAN EFFECTIVE DATE:** July 1

**PLAN YEAR ENDS:** June 30

### EMPLOYER INFORMATION

Iredell-Statesville Schools  
549 N. Race Street  
Statesville, North Carolina 28677  
(704) 872-8931

### PLAN ADMINISTRATOR

Iredell-Statesville Schools  
549 N. Race Street  
Statesville, North Carolina 28677  
(704) 872-8931

### CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR

Interactive Medical Systems. Corp.  
PO Box 1349  
Wake Forest, North Carolina 27588  
(919) 877-9933

BY THIS AGREEMENT, Iredell-Statesville Schools Dental Benefit Plan is hereby adopted as shown.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this instrument is executed for Iredell-Statesville Schools on or as of the day and year first below written.

By Melissa Wike  
Iredell-Statesville Schools

Date 4/28/16

Witness Landy Fraver

Date 4-28-16