

# What you need to know about Employees and Retirees Benefits (ERB)

ERB is a division of the Washington State Health Care Authority and is responsible for obtaining benefits for public and school employees and retirees. The Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Program and School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB) Program provide access to insurance benefits such as medical, dental, vision, basic life and accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance, and long-term disability insurance.

PEBB and SEBB members include employees of Washington's school districts, charter schools, educational service districts (ESDs), state agencies, institutions of higher education, and participating employer groups (like hospital districts, counties, etc.). Retiree coverage for PEBB and SEBB members is provided through the PEBB Program.

ERB also oversees the state's self-insured Uniform Medical Plan (UMP) and Uniform Dental Plan (UDP), administered by Regence and Delta Dental.

Within the framework established by the Legislature, the PEB and SEB Boards set eligibility requirements, approve premiums, and design and approve the plans offered to PEBB and SEBB Program members. Board members are appointed by the Governor.

#### **Optional benefits**

Most PEBB and SEBB Program members have access to optional benefits including: Flexible Spending Arrangement (FSA) or Limited Purpose FSA; Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP); a Voluntary Employee's Beneficiary Association (VEBA) medical expense plan; long-term disability (LTD) insurance; life and accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) insurance; and SmartHealth, our wellness program.

#### **Eligibility**

In addition to the subscriber, PEBB and SEBB offers coverage to a subscriber's spouse or state-registered domestic partner (SRDP), and children until age 26 (longer for dependent children with a disability).

# Who pays for benefits

**Employers** contribute toward employee medical premiums, health savings accounts (for high-deductible health plans), and pay the full premium for dental, vision, basic life/AD&D insurance, and basic LTD insurance.

**Employees** contribute toward their medical premiums, deductibles, copays/coinsurance and may voluntarily contribute to FSA, Limited Purpose FSA, DCAP, and HSA. Employees pay for supplemental life/AD&D, and LTD insurance.

**Retirees** who are pre-Medicare members pay the full cost of their medical, dental, and vision premiums. Retirees enrolled in Medicare receive a state contribution toward medical coverage of up to \$183 per member or 50 percent of the plan's monthly premium, whichever is less.

#### **Funding**

The state provides employers a set amount of funding based on the average cost of benefits per eligible employee. A portion of this funding rate, called the employer medical contribution (EMC), is established under the PEBB and SEBB collective bargaining agreements. The EMC is set at 85 percent of the plan bid rate for UMP Classic for PEBB plans and UMP Achieve 2 for SEBB plans. State agencies, higher education institutions, and school districts pay the funding rate, which is set by the Legislature, per eligible employee per month.



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# **Populations**

These graphs and maps display member enrollment in medical benefits. Approximately 60,000 additional subscribers, spouses or SRDPS, and dependents are enrolled in only dental and/or vision.

**Note:** Employer group benefits vary by employer and may only include medical benefits.

Out of U.S.: 45

#### PEBB enrollment by county (2024)

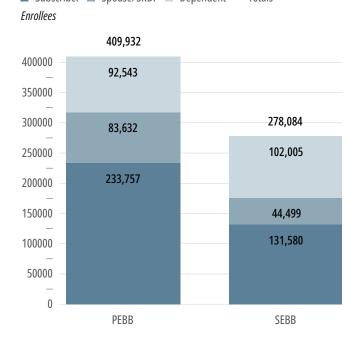
Total enrollment: 409,932 Out of state: 19,796

#### Whatcom San Juan 1,199 Ferry 343 Oreille 766 1.685 Island 3,842 33,570 Chelar 4,052 Douglas 2,165 Lincoln 1,150 Grays Harbor 7,016 Mason 5,738 Grant 3,807 Whitman 7,295 Garfield Franklin 3,937 1,673 Columbia Cowlitz Skamania Bentor 9,737 Walla Walla Klickitat Total Enrollment: 409.932

## PEBB enrollment by county (2024)

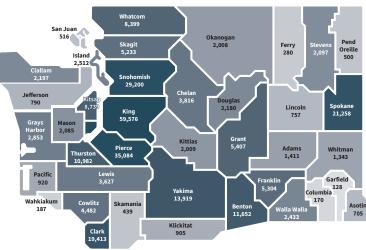
PEBB and SEBB member enrollment

■ Subscriber ■ Spouse/SRDP ■ Dependent Totals



### SEBB enrollment by county (2024)

Total enrollment: 278,084 Out of state: 2,568



SEBB enrollment by county (2024)

Total Enrollment: 278 No County: 2,568

### Member enrollment by eligibility type

Enrollees 276,461 255,292 251,000 201,000 151,000 117,623 101,000 51,000 36.225 1,623 792 1.000 Active PEBB PEBB PEBB PEBB **Active SEBB** SEBB **Employee Empoyer Continuation** Retiree **Employee Continuation** Group Coverage Coverage