

## Bryan County Board of Education

### Short Term Disability Insurance

Coverage that can help protect your income when you are unable to work due to illness or injury.

**Explore the coverage that helps you protect your income and your lifestyle.**

#### What is Short Term Disability insurance?

**Short Term Disability (STD)** insurance may help you replace a portion of your income during the initial weeks of a Disability.

#### Eligibility Requirements

**Short Term Disability:** All active full-time employees working at least 20 hours per week are eligible to participate.

#### How is “Disability” defined under your Plan?

Generally, you are considered disabled and eligible for short term benefits if, due to sickness or accidental injury, you are receiving appropriate care and treatment and complying with the requirements of the treatment and, you are unable to perform the duties of any gainful occupation for any employer for which you are reasonably qualified taking into account your training, education and experience; and you are unable to earn more than 80% of your predisability earnings from any employer at any gainful occupation for which you are reasonably qualified taking into account your training, education and experience.

For a complete description of this and other requirements that must be met, refer to the Certificate of Insurance provided by your Employer or contact your MetLife benefits administrator with any questions.

#### What is the benefit amount?

##### Short Term Disability:

The Short Term Disability benefit may help replace a portion of your predisability earnings, less the income that was actually paid to you during the same Disability from other sources<sup>1</sup> (e.g., state disability benefits, no-fault auto laws, sick pay, vacation pay, etc

The Benefit amount is 60% of your predisability weekly earnings; subject to the plan's maximum weekly benefit of \$1500

#### Special Considerations

If you work in a state with state-mandated disability or paid medical leave benefits (“State Benefits”), you should carefully consider whether to enroll for this coverage. In California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Washington, Connecticut and Oregon (, and Colorado starting 1/1/24), if eligible, you must apply for State Benefits. Your STD benefit will be reduced by State Benefits or other government benefits that apply. Depending on your compensation, the amount of the State Benefit, and other factors, you may only receive the minimum weekly benefit. Please consider, based on your individual circumstances, whether you need additional coverage beyond the State Benefit.

#### When do benefits begin and how long do they continue?

##### Short Term Disability:

Benefits begin after the end of the elimination period. The elimination period begins on the day you become disabled and is the length of time you must wait while being disabled before you are eligible to receive a benefit. The elimination periods are/is as follows:

###### Plan 1:

**For Injury:** 30 days.

**For Sickness (includes pregnancy):** 30 days.

Benefits continue for as long as you are disabled up to a maximum duration of 9 weeks of Disability.

###### Plan 2:

**For Injury:** 14 days.

**For Sickness (includes pregnancy):** 14 days.



Benefits continue for as long as you are disabled up to a maximum duration of 11 weeks of Disability.

Your plan's maximum benefit period and any specific limitations are described in the Certificate of Insurance provided by your Employer.

### **Additional Disability Plan Benefits: Coverage with Your Best Interests in Mind...**

When you are ill or injured for a long time, MetLife believes you need more than a supplement to your income. That's why we offer return-to-work services, assistance in obtaining Social Security Disability Benefits to help you get the maximum benefits from your coverage.

**Services to Help You Get Back to Work Can Include:** **Nurse Consultant or Case Manager Services:** Specialists who personally contact you, your physician and your employer to coordinate an early return-to-work plan when appropriate.

**Vocational Analysis:** Help with identifying job requirements and determining how your skills can be applied to a new or modified job with your employer.

**Job Modifications:** Adjustments (e.g., redesign of work station tools) that enable you to return to work.

**Retraining:** Development programs to help you return to your previous job or educate you for a new one.

**Financial Incentives:** Allow you to receive Disability benefits or partial benefits while attempting to return to work.

**The Services of Social Security Specialists:** Once you are approved for Disability benefits, MetLife can help you obtain Social Security Disability benefits. Our experts can guide you through the initial application and appeals processes and may also help you access assistance from attorneys or vendors to pursue Social Security benefits.

### **Questions & Answers**

#### **Q. Can I still receive benefits if I return to work part time?**

**A. Maybe.** As long as you are disabled and meet the terms of your Disability plan, you may qualify for adjusted Disability benefits.

Your plan offers financial and Rehabilitation incentives designed to help you to return to work when appropriate, even on a part-time basis when you participate in an approved Rehabilitation Program.

While disabled, you may receive up to 100% of your predisability earnings following your return to work when combining your disability benefit, your work earnings and income from other sources.

the Rehabilitation Incentive you can get a 10% increase in your weekly benefit.

If you work or participate in a rehabilitation program while disabled, following the 4th weekly benefit payment, the Family Care Incentive provides reimbursement up to \$100 per week for eligible expenses, such as child care.

You may be eligible for the Moving Expense Incentive if you incur expenses in order to move to a new residence recommended as part of the Rehabilitation Program. Expenses must be approved in advance.

#### **Q. Are there any exclusions for Pre-Existing Conditions?**

**A. Yes.** Your plan may not cover a sickness or accidental injury that arose in the months prior to your participation in the plan. A complete description of the pre-existing condition exclusion is included in the Certificate of Insurance/Summary Plan Description provided by your Employer or contact your MetLife benefits administrator with any questions.

#### **Q. Are there any exclusions to my coverage?**

**A. Yes.** Your plan does not cover any Disability which results from or is caused or contributed to by:

- Elective treatment or procedures, such as cosmetic surgery, reversal of sterilization, liposuction, visual correction surgery, in-vitro fertilization, embryo transfer procedure, artificial insemination or other specific procedures.  
However, pregnancies and complications from any of these procedures will be treated as a sickness.
- War, whether declared or undeclared, or act of war, insurrection, rebellion or terrorist act;
- Active participation in a riot;
- Intentionally self-inflicted injury or attempted suicide;
- Commission of or attempt to commit a felony.

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The "Plan Benefits" provides only a brief overview of the STD plan. A more complete description of the benefits provisions, conditions, limitations, and exclusions will be included in the Certificate of Insurance/Summary Plan Description. If any discrepancies exist between this information and the legal plan documents, the legal plan documents will govern.



Short Term Disability ("STD") coverage is provided under a group insurance policy issued to your employer by MetLife. This STD coverage terminates when your employment ceases, when you cease to be an eligible employee, when your STD contributions cease (if applicable) or upon termination of the group contract by your employer. Like most group insurance policies, MetLife's group policies contain certain exclusions, exceptions, elimination periods, reductions, limitations and terms for keeping them in force. State variations may apply.

**Please refer to your Certificate of Insurance/Certificate Rider for more details or contact your benefits administrator with any questions.**

<sup>1</sup> Under certain circumstances, MetLife may estimate the amount of income you may receive from other sources.

†Pursuant to IRS Circular 230, MetLife is providing you with the following notification: The information contained in this document is not intended to (and cannot) be used by anyone to avoid IRS penalties. This document supports the promotion and marketing of this Disability insurance. You should seek advice based on your particular circumstances from an independent tax advisor.

Like most group benefit programs, benefit programs offered by MetLife contain certain exclusions, exceptions, waiting periods, reductions, limitations, and terms for keeping them in force. Ask your MetLife group representative for costs and complete details.

