



Benefits & Terms of Employment (Unit III)

January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023

This overview provides highlights of your benefits and terms of employment. Refer to your Negotiated Agreement and/or Board Policy and Regulations for more details.

Overview

Work Year: 10 months

Paid Work Days

Transportation Technicians—

200 per school year (8 hours per day)

All others—

181 per school year (daily hours vary)

Daily Work Hours: Varies 2 to 8 Hours

Probationary Period

New Transportation employees shall serve a probationary period of six calendar months.

Compensation

Payday

Biweekly (every other Wednesday) through direct deposit. 22 per year. Employees working 20 hours per week minimum may opt for 26 paydays.

Pay Advancements

Step increase—July 1, if applicable.

Bonuses

Bonuses are awarded for attendance and performance (see Negotiated Agreement).

Travel Reimbursement (authorized)

Prevailing IRS rate at time of travel.

Tuition Reimbursement

For details, visit the AACPS Intranet page, *click on Staff > Benefits > Tuition Reimbursement* and see Article 18.10 of the Unit III Negotiated Master Agreement.

Leave

All leave is tracked in hours. Reference to days accrued or used must be converted to the hourly equivalent based on the employee's Full Time Equivalent (FTE) status.

Sick Leave

1-9 years employed = 11 days received

10+ years employed = 13 days received

Sick leave accrued in other Maryland Public School Systems transferable.

Sick Leave Bank

All Unit III employees on active duty are eligible; enrollment required.

Personal Business Leave

Two days per year, which is cumulative. Up to 5 days converted to sick leave.

Religious Leave

Up to two days per school year with pay for observance of religious holy days.

Retirement

Maryland State Teachers'/Employees' Pension System

Mandatory enrollment as condition of employment. Contribution is 7% of annual salary.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

The EAP provides counseling and resources for personal, family, and work-related concerns, including legal and financial issues, for employees and their household members. Services are free and confidential.

Voluntary Benefits

Employees may elect to participate in any of the many voluntary benefit programs available through employment with AACPS.

Deferred Compensation/ Supplemental Retirement Plans

At any time, employees can elect to contribute on a pre-tax basis to the 403(b) or 457(b) and post-tax basis to the Roth 403(b) or Roth 457(b) to save for retirement through participation in the AACPS Supplemental Retirement Plan. For guidance on how to enroll, visit www.aacps.org/SupplementalRetirement.

Flexible Spending Accounts

Employees of AACPS may enroll in Flexible Spending Accounts for both healthcare expenses and dependent care expenses.

Other voluntary programs available include College Savings Plans (Section 529) and Long-Term Care insurance. More are described in the *Employee Benefits Guide* available on the AACPS website.

Insurance

The rate of employer contribution varies by plan and is contained in the Unit III Negotiated Agreement. Employees working less than full-time will receive a prorated employer contribution, based on FTE.

Employees hired on or after December 1, 2017, must work 20 hours per week or more to be eligible for healthcare benefits.

Medical

Employees may select a medical plan from three plans offered: two HMOs and a Triple Option plan.

Employees enrolled in medical plans may access mental health benefits through The CareFirst Assist Behavioral Health Plan.

Dental

Employees may select a dental plan from three plans offered: a dental HMO plan, a PPO plan, and a Traditional plan.

Vision

An annual benefit is available for eye exams and eyewear reimbursement. Additional vision discounts are available with the medical plans.

Prescriptions

Employees enrolled in any AACPS medical plan are provided prescription coverage. Employees may purchase their short-term prescriptions (30-day supply plus one refill) at local participating pharmacies. Long-term or maintenance medication prescriptions are filled by mail order or at a CVS pharmacy (Maintenance Choice) providing a 90-day supply of medication.

The program has four tiers: generic, preferred brand, non-preferred brand, or specialty. At retail, the co-pays are \$5/\$20/\$35/\$75 respectively. At mail order or CVS retail pharmacies (Maintenance Choice), the co-pays are \$10/\$40/\$70/\$150 respectively, for a 90-day supply.

Term Life Insurance

All Unit III employees are covered by a \$50,000 policy paid by the Board of Education. Additional voluntary term life insurance is available to all permanent employees up to \$200,000. Evidence of Insurability requirements apply for new hires for coverage in excess of \$100,000, and for any employee applying during open enrollment. Coverage for spouse and child(ren) is also available.

Liability Insurance

The Board's insurance program will pay all sums which employees may become legally obligated to pay as damages because of bodily injury or property damage arising out of their activities while on duty.

Workers' Compensation

All Board employees covered under Maryland State Law. 60-day injury on the job benefit for permanent employees.