

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN # 6790

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December 21, 2023

TO: Business, Payroll and Personnel Administrators

HRS District Coordinators

Los Angeles County School and Community College Districts

Charter Schools and Other Local Educational Agencies

FROM: Raymond Bribiesca, School Financial Systems and Services Manager

District Personnel Information Services
Division of School Financial Services

SUBJECT: Human Resource System (HRS) Form W-2 Additional Compensation Adjustments

This bulletin provides information and instructions concerning W-2 reporting for additional wage and tax items and Human Resource System (HRS) procedures.

HRS will produce the annual *W-2 Employee Wage and Tax Statements* for all district employees with taxable wages in 2023. The 2023 wage and tax data will be electronically transmitted to the Social Security Administration (SSA) as part of the annual W-2 production process. Districts do not need to submit a Form W-3 for the W-2s produced in HRS.

W-2s are created based on final year-to-date data in HRS and will not require any district action. There are, however, a variety of year-end "additional compensation" items that may require district processing in order to be included on the W-2.

Tax Advice

This bulletin and its attachments are not intended to provide tax advice, but rather to assist school districts in understanding the W-2 reporting requirements and HRS capabilities. Districts with specific tax questions should seek advice from their tax professional or Federal and State tax agency resources.

Reportable Additional Compensation Items

Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Publication 15-B contains a discussion of employer-provided fringe benefits and the tax treatment applied to those benefits. The following are some of the possible **additional fringe benefit** items that may require reporting on the 2023 Form W-2. This is not an exhaustive list. Detailed information is provided for the following topics:

- Group Term Life Insurance in Excess of \$50,000: Internal Revenue Code (IRC) §79 & §6052
- Whole (Permanent) Life Insurance: Income Tax Regulations §1.61-2(d)(2) ii
- Mileage Reimbursements: Reporting excess over the federal maximum as wages
- Automobile Allowances and Personal Use of District-Provided Automobiles: Generally required to be included on the W-2.
- Allowances or Reimbursements for Business Travel Expenses: Income Tax Regulations §1.62-2. If paid under a non-accountable plan, reporting is required per IRS rules.
- Third-Party Sick Pay and Workers' Compensation Adjustments (WCA)
- Dependent Care: IRC §129
- Group Legal Services
- Educational Assistance: IRC §127, §132, §162 and Regulation §1.162-5
- Domestic Partners and Same-Sex Spouse Health Coverage
- Nondiscrimination Requirements: Federal requirements as to the value of the benefits and their inclusion in employee wages.
- Military Differential Pay: payment to employees while on active duty status in the US uniformed services if scheduled to work more than 30 days

Procedures for and examples of "Other Compensation" items in the W-2s produced by LACOE are attached. Due to HCM/FIN implementation activities and staffing challenges during the holiday periods, districts are encouraged to enter any necessary adjustments into HRS as early as possible.

The final supplemental scheduled for 2023 W-2 adjustments is Schedule 004, produced January 4, 2024. Adjustments for 2023 wage and tax reporting entered into HRS after January 4, 2024 will produce a Form W-2C.

Districts are reminded to review the HRS message board daily for possible changes to previously published schedules and/or information.

HRS Form W-2 Additional Compensation Adjustments December 21, 2023 Page 3

Bulletin Attachment Distribution

This bulletin and supplemental attachments should be distributed to the district payroll supervisor and HRS district coordinator. This information should be shared with staff inputting year-end adjustments and/or for W-2 reconciliation and tax deposits.

Should you have questions regarding this bulletin, please contact the SFS Payroll Unit at SFS_Payroll_Manager@lacoe.edu.

Approved: Nkeiruka Benson, Director Division of School Financial Services

RB:sm Attachment

SFS-A26-2023-2024

Los Angeles County Office of Education Division of School Financial Services

With references from the Internal Revenue Service

Reporting W-2 Data to HRS

December 2023

Attachment to: Info. Bul. No. 6790 SFS-A26-2023-2024

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PART I

Reporting W-2 Data to HRS Part I: W-2 Reportable Items

W-2 Reportable Items

A. General Information

The Internal Revenue Code (IRC) provides that all payments in cash or benefits to an employee by an employer are income to the employee and are to be reported as part of "wages, tips and other compensation" on W-2 statements and are subject to deductions for Social Security and Medicare taxes if the employee's service is covered. This is a general statement. Only items specifically excluded by *other* provisions of the code are not reportable or subject to mandatory tax deductions.

For example, employer payments of employee health insurance premiums are excluded from employee income by IRC §106. Reimbursements for medical expenses attributable to district-paid health insurance premiums are excluded by IRC §105. State law is generally consistent with Federal tax law for **most** payments or benefits.

1. Reportable Income Requiring District Action

Some types of reportable employee income are not *automatically* included on the HRS W-2s and must be included on W-2s by manually entering balance adjustments into HRS as described in this bulletin. There are at least three of these types of income:

Special Valuation

• Reportable income amounts which are not equal to the district payment processed in HRS; i.e., those requiring special valuation methods. For example, the "cost" of district-paid group term life insurance coverage in excess of \$50,000 requires use of a special table. Also, coverage for domestic partner and civil union spousal benefits requires an adjustment to employee taxable wages.

Commercial Warrant Benefits

• Benefits reportable as salary, which are paid on commercial warrants, such as flat auto or mileage allowances (non-accountable plan).

Third-Party Pay

Reportable income pursuant to certain payments made outside HRS by third-parties, attributable to a
district-paid benefit; e.g., third-party sick pay payments made pursuant to a district-paid income
protection policy.

2. Reportable Items Which Are Not Income

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires employers to report other items which are not income on W-2s. For example, the amount of third-party sick pay, which is **not includable in income due to payment of premium by the employee, must be reported on W-2 statements as a memo item by processing balance adjustments.**

3. Items Automatically Reported by HRS

Some reportable items, such as 403(b)/TSA salary reductions, flat auto or mileage allowances paid in HRS with earnings type AAL, and dependent care benefits are automatically included in the W-2s by HRS.

4. Use of Balance Adjustments to Include Reportable Items on HRS W-2s

Balance adjustments will be included on the 2023 W-2 statements produced through HRS, **if entered in accordance with timelines specified.** Otherwise, the balance adjustments processed **after** Schedule 004 on Thursday, January 4, 2024, will generate 2023 Forms W-2C reflecting the additional compensation. Issuance of additional Forms W-2 to report other compensation is not recommended.

B. Reminders for 2023

1. California Employer W-2 Reporting

DE-9C: School Financial Services (SFS) reports individual employee State wage and tax withholding information to the CA Employment Development Department (EDD) for each district on a quarterly DE-9C electronic file. Districts will receive a DVD containing reports of the detail that is sent.

DE-9: The CA EDD requires employers to electronically submit a quarterly *Form DE-9* to report total wages and taxes for the quarter. Each district must prepare and submit its own *Form DE-9* on the CA EDD website portal.

2. HRS Quarterly Accumulators

DE-9C Reconciliation Notes:

- State Personal Income Tax (PIT): Year-to-Date (YTD) accumulator balances are used to create the wage and tax amounts SFS will submit to the CA EDD. The PIT totals reported on the DE-9C are the calculated differences between the YTD accumulator balances at the end of the current quarter, minus the YTD accumulator balances at the end of the previous quarter.
- When reconciling quarterly and annual PIT wage and tax spreadsheets, it is recommended to use the
 current and previous YTD accumulator reports for comparisons, and not the Quarter to Date (QTD)
 accumulator reports. The QTD reports may not include balance adjustments which updated the YTD
 fields.

3. Workers' Compensation Adjustments (WCA)

The Workers' Compensation payment earnings code WCA only updates the current year wage accumulators. Individuals who have been paid on taxable salary continuation will require an adjustment to reduce their Federal and State taxable wages. For 2023 W2 adjustments, the WCA earnings code is only valid for use through December 20, 2023. Starting December 21, 2023, any adjustments to year 2023 must use prior year balance elements and not code WCA. See page 9 in this publication for more information.

4. Social Security (OASDI) and Medicare Tax Adjustments

OASDI and Medicare taxes will self-correct based upon a comparison within HRS of the OASDI GR NL or Med GR NL YTD subject wage bases and the tax withholding YTD. If the employee has one more paid payroll in the calendar year, OASDI and Medicare taxes for a wage adjustment will be applied and reported correctly on the W-2.

Beginning December 21, 2023, use the balance elements listed on page 25 for prior-year balance adjustments. OASDI and Medicare tax withholding will self-correct on the next payroll. After January 8, 2024, these corrections will produce a W-2C.

Adjust taxable wage bases, but do not adjust tax withholding balances unless the amounts were actually recovered from the individual. Form 941 and Schedule B totals will require reconciliation if the tax withholding was not received from the individual.

C. Compensation Which Must Be Included on W-2s

1. Life Insurance (current as of published date)

a) Group Term Life Insurance in Excess of \$50,000

The cost of employer provided group term life insurance coverage up to \$50,000 is excludable from gross income under IRC §79 as a qualified benefit. **Any** employee premiums required for coverage may be taken pre-tax. If the coverage is in excess of \$50,000, the cost of the excess portion requires a separate calculation to determine a value of taxable income.

i.) Reportable income is calculated using the *IRS Uniform Premium Table* below. It is an addition to employee Federal and State wages. The income or value of coverage is not the district's "actual" cost of the policy.

Table 2.-2. Cost Per \$1,000 of Protection for 1 Month

Age	Cost
Under 25	\$ 0.05
25 through 29	0.06
30 through 34	0.08
35 through 39	0.09
40 through 44	0.10
45 through 49	0.15
50 through 54	0.23
55 through 59	0.43
60 through 64	0.66
65 through 69	1.27
70 and older	2.06

^{*} For purposes of this table, the age of the employee is the age on December 31, 2023.

Worksheet Example A

District XYZ pays premiums on an \$80,000 group term life insurance policy for John Doe, age 55. John Doe pays \$5 tenthly deductions (\$50 annually) in after-tax deductions toward the cost of the policy, which will reduce the taxable amount to be reported. If employee deductions are pre-tax, they do not reduce the taxable calculation.

Step 1:

Determine excess coverage:	\$80,000	Total Coverage
	(50,000)	Exclusion
	\$30,000	Excess Coverage

Step 2:

Determine the yearly value of excess coverage from the table above.

The value from the table **per \$1,000** coverage for John Doe, age 55, is \$0.43 per month. The value of \$30,000 excess coverage for 12 months is calculated as follows: $30 \times 0.43 \times 12 = 154.80$. Total fair market value for the 12-month period is \$154.80.

If John Doe pays \$50 in after-tax deductions toward the cost of the coverage, the value of additional Federal and State income to be added to his tax bases is (\$154.80 - \$50.00) = \$104.80. If the deductions were taken pre-tax, the employee reduction would not apply.

ii.) This amount is also includable in W-2 Social Security (OASDI) and Medicare wages, if applicable, and the OASDI or Medicare tax must be withheld.

For employees whose prime assignment is subject to Social Security (OASDI) and/or Medicare, report the value as Social Security wages and/or Medicare wages and process and report payroll deductions at 6.2% and 1.45% respectively.

Using the above wage calculation from (i): Addition to Social Security (OASDI) wages = \$104.80. Tax to be deducted is $($104.80 \times 6.2\%) = 6.50 . Addition to Medicare wages = \$104.80. Tax to be deducted is $($104.80 \times 1.45\%) = 1.52 . Only adjust the tax if collected outside of HRS.

Special Group Term Life

iii.) Employer-paid group term life insurance **for dependents** need not be reported if the policy face value of coverage does not exceed \$2,000. Otherwise, calculate and report the "cost" of the policy in the same way as for the employee, except the \$50,000 and \$2,000 exclusions do not apply. Use the "Under Age 25" rate for minor dependents.

Special cases of group term life insurance for terminated employees who are retired or disabled, or where the district or charitable organization is the beneficiary, or when the insurance is provided as part of an IRC §125 Cafeteria Plan have different tax implications. Consult your tax counsel or the insurance provider.

b) Group Whole (Permanent) Life Insurance

District-paid premiums must generally be reported as an addition to reportable Federal and State wages if the proceeds of the policy are payable to the employee's designated beneficiaries. If the employer is the sole beneficiary or the employee pays premiums with after-tax dollars, the value is not included in income. Consult your tax counsel or insurance carrier to determine if the insurance is provided as part of a qualified, non-taxable plan.

Worksheet Example B

District XYZ benefit plan pays a \$200 annual premium under a plan for a group **whole life** insurance policy for John Doe. John Doe's wife is the beneficiary. Process HRS balance adjustments to report \$200 as additions to Federal and State wages subject to income tax.

"Individual" term life insurance is treated basically the same as group whole life insurance. Districts are advised to seek tax counsel if there is a question whether their particular life insurance is group term life insurance or "individual term" life insurance and regarding possible differences in taxation in special instances.

2. Mileage, Travel and Related Items

a) Mileage Reimbursements

Mileage reimbursements are those made at a **per mile** rate contingent on submission of claims by employees. Typically, a claim shows the destination and distance, purpose or explanation, and a per mile rate of reimbursement. Reimbursements in 2023 at a rate not greater than 65.5 cents per mile for the period January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 need not be reported. They are considered as substantiated under an accountable plan.

If mileage is reimbursed at a rate greater than the Federal maximum benefit rates per mile, process HRS balance adjustments to report the following:

- The portion of reimbursement **in excess** of the Federal maximum rate as an addition to Federal wages and State wages and as an addition to Social Security or Medicare wages, if the employee is subject to the taxes.
- Deductions for Social Security (OASDI) and/or Medicare (**only** if the district has collected taxes from the employee).
- Total reimbursed at the Federal maximum rate of 65.5 cents per mile. This is entered as a memo item, "Employee Business Expense," on the employee's W-2.

Worksheet Example C

For October 2023, John Doe is reimbursed \$700 for 1,000 miles at a rate of 70 cents per mile. The Federal maximum non-taxable reimbursement rate is 65.5 cents per mile. Total non-taxable reimbursement is $$655.00 (1,000 \times $0.655 = $655)$. The taxable wages to be added to employee's W-2 is \$45 (\$700 total payment, minus \$655 Federal maximum).

The total excess payment of \$45 is subject to Federal, State, Social Security and Medicare taxes. Year-to-date Federal and State taxable wages would be increased using the appropriate Current or Prior year balance adjustment numbers.

Employee's OASDI and Medicare taxes will be taken on the employee's next payroll. The tax withholding balances are only increased if the district collects the amounts from the employee. If collected, the district would enter balance adjustments for Social Security (OASDI) of 4.65 (6.2% x 75) and Medicare of 1.09 (1.45% x 75).

The reimbursement of \$655 at the Federal maximum rate of 65.5 cents is reported as an additional balance element 5536 (current year) or 5549 (prior year), "Employee Business Expense." It will display in W- 2 Box 12.

b) Automobile Allowances/Mileage Allowances

- Automobile allowances/mileage allowances (paid monthly as a flat amount) do **not** require submission of detailed expense claims by an employee.
- They are considered paid under a **non-accountable plan** and must be reported on W-2 statements.
- Deductions may be required for Social Security or Medicare, if applicable to the employee.
- Earnings type AAL can be used to pay these amounts in HRS with required deductions and will be automatically included on W-2 statements.
- For earnings types other than AAL, process HRS balance adjustments to report additions to Federal and State wages and, where applicable, additions to Social Security and/or Medicare wages and deductions.

c) Reimbursements/Advances for Travel Expenses

Travel expense advances or reimbursements must be reported as an addition to W-2 reportable Federal and State wages and Social Security and/or Medicare wages if the employee's service is subject to the respective taxes, **unless** the reimbursements are made under an **accountable** plan.

In an **accountable** plan, the employee substantiates the expenses to the district; the expenses are only business related expenses, and unused advances are returned to the district in a "reasonable time" as defined by the IRS, usually within 120 days after incurring the expense.

• For reimbursements to be nontaxable and non-reportable, the substantiation must be timely submission of adequate supporting evidence of ordinary and necessary expenses (expense itemization), including specification of time, place, and reason for travel. Reg. 1.62.2(g)(2)(i).

In a **non-accountable** plan, the employee does not substantiate expenses to the district. Process HRS balance adjustments by **adding the total reimbursements/advances to** Federal and State wages and to Social Security and/or Medicare only wages (if the employee is subject to those taxes).

Reimbursements for travel **expenses which are not business related are fully reportable** and subject to all applicable employment taxes.

d) District-Provided Automobiles

District provided vehicles are considered a fringe benefit. Districts should figure and report either the actual value of an employee's personal use of the car or the value of the car as if used only for personal purposes (100% income inclusion). IRS Publication 463 provides tables for inclusion amounts for leased vehicles. Employees can deduct the value of the business use of a district provided car if the employer reports 100% of the value of the car as income. See IRS Publication 463 (Travel, Entertainment, Gift and Car Expenses) for more information.

3. Ridesharing Incentives

Rideshare incentives consisting of additional cash and paid with earnings type RSS in HRS will automatically be included on the HRS W-2 as an addition to Federal wages (but not State wages) and OASDI/Medicare deductions/contributions will be processed and reported if the employee is otherwise subject to the tax(es). If you want to use earnings type RSS, and it is not available to you, submit a request to SFS Payroll Requests@lacoe.edu.

If a rideshare cash incentive was paid outside HRS, use HRS balance adjustments to include the incentive in Federal wages and collect and report applicable Social Security and/or Medicare deductions. Only adjust the tax if collected outside of HRS.

California Revenue and Taxation Code §17149 provides that rideshare incentives which are contingent on actual carpooling, and not part of base wages are **not** reportable state wages.

If the rideshare incentive is *property* or a *service* and the value is so small that it would be "unreasonable or impractical" to account for it, it is excludable from Federal taxable wages and Social Security/Medicare (*de minimis* fringe benefit, see IRC §132).

Reporting and taxability may vary for ridesharing incentives **other** than carpooling. Consult district tax counsel if there are any questions.

4. Third-Party Sick Pay

Third-party sick pay consists of sick pay benefits paid to employees by a third-party (e.g., insurance company) pursuant to an individual "income protection" disability insurance plan.

Whether payments to an employee are taxable income to the employee depends on how the benefits were funded. Any benefits attributable to employee after-tax contributions are not taxable. Benefits based on employer contributions or employee IRC §125 pre-tax contributions are taxable income.

Process HRS Balance Adjustments to Report: Taxable Portion (Employer Paid)

- The taxable portion of the third-party sick pay is the amount attributable to the **district-paid** premiums or the employee pre-tax contributions. Enter this portion of sick pay benefits as additions to Federal and state wages.
- The portion of sick pay benefits attributable to premiums paid by the district or employee pre-tax contributions are also subject to OASDI and Medicare taxes.
- There is a six-month limitation for sick pay to be reported as subject to Social Security and Medicare taxes.
- Federal income tax (if any) withheld from third-party sick pay should be posted to balance elements 081Y and 5591 through December 20, 2023. Post to prior balance elements 5538 and 5592, after December 20, 2023.

Only the **first 6 months** of third-party sick payments are reportable as wages subject to Social Security (OASDI) and/or Medicare taxes.

Non-Taxable Portion (Employee Paid)

• The portion of third-party sick pay attributable **to employee paid after-tax premiums** ("nontaxable third party sick pay") is a special information entry on the *Form W-2*. Post to balance element 5528 through December 20, 2023. Use balance element 5547 after December 20, 2023.

Reporting

The third-party payer is responsible for the withholding and remittance of applicable employee Social Security, Medicare, and requested Federal income taxes from employee payments that it makes. The district is responsible for the W-2 and 941 reporting of these employee tax deductions, based on information received from the third-party payer. A separate W-2 may be prepared to report employees' third-party sick payments, if not included on HRS produced W-2.

Third-Party Sick Pay Recap

IRS Form 8922 must be used for filing "third-party sick pay recaps" used to reconcile the reporting of sick pay paid by a third-party on behalf of employers to employees in situations in which the liability for the OASDI/Medicare taxes on the sick pay is shared. This modified procedure only affects the **filing of the third-party sick pay recaps and does not otherwise affect the current rules** for (1) furnishing statements of the third-party sick pay to individual employees on Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement, (2) filing with SSA copies of the Forms W-2 together with Form W-3, Transmittal of Wage and Tax Statements, that are not third-party sick pay recaps, and (3) reporting such payments to the IRS on Form 941, Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return. The use of IRS Form 8922 also has no effect on liability for OASDI/Medicare tax, income tax withholding, or other taxes. Consult your district's third-party sick leave administrator for more information. (Reference: IRS Notice 2015-6)

District tax deposits include only the employer Social Security and Medicare taxes on employee payments. The difference between the total tax required and district deposit is reconciled by an adjustment on Federal Form 941, Employer's Quarterly Tax Return. A separate Form 941 to report third-party sick pay is not allowed.

Worksheet Example D

Example employee, John Doe, received \$4,000 in third-party sick pay benefits in two months of 2023. The policy premiums were 25 percent district-paid and 75 percent employee-paid. John Doe is subject to Social Security and Medicare, and the third-party payer reported to the district that it withheld \$250 in Federal income tax.

District-Paid Portion

- \$1,000 = 25% x \$4,000 is reportable as an addition to Federal and State wages subject to income tax and as wages subject to Social Security and Medicare.
- \$62 = 6.2% (Social Security rate) x \$1,000 (wages) is reportable as the Social Security deduction.
- \$14.50 = 1.45% (Medicare rate) x \$1,000 (wages) is reportable as the Medicare deduction.
- \$250 is reportable as an addition to Federal withholding tax **and** as an addition to the third-party sick pay Federal withholding balance. Use current year element 5591 through December 20, 2023, and prior-year element 5592 after December 20, 2023.

Employee-Paid Portion

• \$3,000 = 75% x \$4,000 is reportable as non-taxable third-party sick pay. Use current-year element 5528 through December 20, 2023 and prior-year element 5547 after December 20, 2023.

Notes:

Employee/Employer Group Insurance Policy

If the income protection is provided by the employer and employee contributions under a group insurance policy, premiums for three years preceding the tax year must be used to value the portion of benefit attributable to district-paid premiums. If premium information is not known for the preceding three years, the current year premiums may be used, as in the example. The formula for calculating the employee's monthly taxable amount is:

Employee's Monthly	X	Employer-Paid Premiums Last 3 Years	=	Monthly Taxable Amount
Sick Payment		Total of Employee/Employer Premiums Last 3 Years		

IRC §125 Cafeteria Plan

If the income protection policy is **funded completely by employee salary reductions** pursuant to IRC §125 Cafeteria Plan, **all of the sick pay is reportable as an addition to employee wages**. The proration based on employer-paid and employee-paid amounts does not apply since the reduced amount paid to the insurance company is considered employer money.

Under certain circumstances, the third-party payer may be responsible for W-2 reporting.

See IRS Publication 15-A, Employer's Supplemental Tax Guide for information on third-party sick payments.

5. Workers' Compensation Adjustments (WCA)

Workers' Compensation payment earnings code WCA only updates the current year wage accumulators. Individuals who have been paid on taxable salary continuation will require an adjustment to reduce their Federal and State taxable wages. For 2023 W-2 adjustments, the WCA earnings code is only valid for use through December 20, 2023.

Reporting W-2 Data to HRS Part I: W-2 Reportable Items

If the WCA earnings code is used for 2023 adjustments after December 20, 2023, it will not update records for tax year 2023. See page 25 for the prior year balance elements to use for 2023 Workers' Compensation adjustments for the period December 21, 2023 through January 4, 2024.

Adjustments may be processed with one WCA transaction through HRS Time Reporting, Function 02, rather than Adjustments Time Reporting, Function 03, where several transactions would be required.

NOTE: HRS will **not allow** districts to perform **negative adjustments** to most W-2 balances. Should a negative adjustment be necessary, please submit your request to the appropriate SFS Payroll support staff.

6. Dependent Care

Reportable Dependent Care

- Fair market value of free or discounted employee use of a district-owned or district-funded child day care center.
- District reimbursements to employees or to the facility for dependent care services.
- Dependent care benefits funded by IRC §125 Cafeteria Plan salary reductions.

Regulations require inclusion of the value of dependent care benefits, including those paid through IRC §125 Cafeteria Plan salary reductions, in W-2 Box 10.

If the dependent care benefit is processed in HRS; e.g., salary reductions to a "Flex Account" in HRS or established as a district contribution benefit in HRS, with appropriate gross-to-net number, **no special district action is required.**

Exceeding Dependent Care Limits

If the employee has exceeded the \$5,000 deferral limit, report the excess over \$5,000 as an addition to W-2 Federal and State wages.

If the employee is subject to Social Security (OASDI) and/or Medicare, process balance adjustments to report the excess over \$5,000 as additional Social Security and/or Medicare (no limit) wages.

Worksheet Example E

John Doe is a single parent and had \$6,500 in dependent care benefits processed through HRS salary reductions. HRS will report the full amount of \$6,500 as "Dependent Care Benefits" in W-2 Box 10. The district must report \$1,500 = \$6,500 (benefit) - \$5,000 (exclusion) as an addition to reportable Federal and State wages. Since Doe is covered by Social Security and Medicare, these wages must be increased as well.

HRS will collect the OASDI and Medicare tax withholdings on the next payroll, or the district can collect and update tax fields for \$93 (6.2% x \$1,500) for employee Social Security (OASDI) and \$21.75 (1.45% x \$1,500) for employee Medicare. See Part II, Section B, "Adjustments to Social Security (OASDI) or Medicare."

7. Educational Assistance

Certain types of educational assistance are excludable from Federal wages, State wages, and from Social Security (OASDI) and Medicare wages.

2023 Federal Tax Status

Federal legislation under IRC §127 provides for a \$5,250 annual exclusion from taxable wages for educational assistance for non-job-related undergraduate courses and for graduate courses which are not job-related. Employers must include amounts over \$5,250 in wages.

2023 State Tax Status

California provides a permanent \$5,250 annual exclusion from State taxable wages for **both undergraduate** and **graduate** courses.

There is no dollar limit on the amount of **job-related** educational assistance or reimbursement which can be excluded from reportable income (IRC §132, §162). IRS rules must be applied to determine whether a course is job-related. Other restrictions apply—consult tax counsel for specific cases.

See IRS Publications 970 (Tax Benefits for Education) and 15-B (Employer's Guide to Fringe Benefits) for more information.

8. Domestic Partners and Same-Sex Spouse Health Coverage

California law (AB 205) requires all California employers to offer the same health care benefits to employees with registered domestic partners that are offered to spouses or dependents of employees. In 2015, the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of same-sex marriage. Same sex couples will receive the same treatment as heterosexual married couples for federal tax purposes. Premiums paid for same-sex spouses' health insurance coverage by legally married same-sex couples are considered pre-tax and excludable from income. Same-sex married couples must file either married or married filing separately for California tax returns.

Federal Tax Law

IRC §106 contains provisions for exclusion from income of the employer-paid portion of health plans for an employee's spouse (including same-sex spouses) or dependents. Federal tax law does not provide for the tax exclusion of a domestic partner, unless that individual is the employee's dependent.

The fair market value portion of health/benefit insurance coverage provided to a non-dependent domestic partner is included in Federal gross income as taxable compensation to the employee for Federal income tax and Social Security and Medicare taxes.

Fair market value can be calculated in several ways, as listed below. Districts are advised to confirm with their legal counsel on applying a fair market value. The IRS does not recommend one specific method.

- a) A calculated difference between (1) the premium the **district contributes** for the employee alone and (2) the premium the district contributes for coverage of an employee and spouse or family, minus (3) the amount the **employee contributes** for the coverage.
- b) An actuarial calculation. The difference between the **actuarial value of insurance** for (1) a single person and (2) insurance for a couple or family, minus (3) the amount the employee pays for the coverage. This method would involve the need for actuarial calculations.
- c) Another conservative option when there is no insurance cost increase, such as with a blended rate, is to use the COBRA single individual premium for determining an imputed taxable value.

The IRS has not provided specific guidance on how a taxable value must be calculated. It does require that a fair market value of insurance coverage must be included in the employee's income, even if the cost of the coverage does not change as a result of adding a non-tax dependent. There are various Federal tax consequences for domestic partner coverage, based upon the dependent vs. non-dependent status of an individual and premium payments on a pre-tax and after-tax basis. District tax counsel should review any report issues regarding taxable or non-taxable status.

IRC §125 regulations provide that employee contributions can be tax-deferred for spouse or dependent coverage. If a domestic partner is not a dependent, the portion of the employee's contribution assignable to the domestic partner must be an **after-tax deduction**.

Any added income is fully taxable for Federal Income Tax (FIT) and Social Security (OASDI) and Medicare taxes.

HRS earnings codes for recording taxable domestic partner or civil union spouse fringe benefits are listed below. These codes will increase the tax bases only; they will **not** increase net pay.

- a) **DPA** = Registered Domestic Partner or Civil Union Spouse
 - Subject to Federal income tax, Social Security (OASDI) and Medicare taxes only
 - Not subject to State taxes
 - Increases only Federal tax bases; does not increase net pay
- b) **DPB** = Non-Registered Domestic Partner (if district plan permits)
 - Subject to both Federal and State taxes and Social Security (OASDI) and Medicare taxes

Year to date balance adjustments can also be used to include taxable domestic partner benefits in employee wages.

Current balance adjustments should be added to the FIT, State (if applicable) OASDI, and Medicare subject wage bases in HRS in time to be included with the employee's final regular payroll production for 2023.

HRS will calculate the proper Social Security (OASDI) and Medicare tax withholdings. Prior balance adjustments through Schedule 007 will appear on the 2023 W-2.

Reference: IRS Code Section 61, 106; IRS Pub 15, 15B, and various IRS Letter Rulings.

California Tax Law

California tax liability for domestic partner health benefits is determined by whether or not there is a registered domestic partnership on file with the Secretary of State's office.

On July 30, 2019, SB 30 was signed into law, which eliminates the limitations on who may form domestic partnerships. SB 30 allows opposite-sex couples under the age of 62 to be eligible to form domestic partnerships. The new law became effective January 1, 2020.

California law provides that domestic partner health benefits for registered domestic partnerships are non-taxable for State income tax. Individuals are treated the same way as a spousal relationship in a registered domestic partnership.

Health benefits in a qualified partnership are non-taxable to the employee, per *California Revenue and Taxation Code* §17021.7. Same-sex couples who are legally married will be treated the same as heterosexual married for tax purposes.

Reference: http://www.sos.ca.gov/; California AB 25, AB 205, AB 2208; FTB Notice 2008-5

9. Moving Expenses

For Tax years 2018 through 2025, the deduction of certain moving expenses is suspended for nonmilitary taxpayers. In order to deduct certain moving expenses, you must be an active member of the military and moving due to a permanent change of duty station.

10. Group Legal Services

Employer-paid group legal service coverage costs must be included in Federal and State wages and is subject to applicable Social Security (OASDI) and/or Medicare taxes.

11. Membership/Professional Dues

The cost of professional dues paid by an employer, which would be deductible as a business expense on an employee's tax return if paid by the employee, qualifies as a "working condition fringe benefit" and is excludable from (being reported as) income. The cost of memberships, which are primarily of personal benefit, may be reportable. Consult with a tax counsel as necessary.

A. HRS Year-End Balance Maintenance (W-2s)

- The last payroll with an issue date in 2023 is produced on **December 20, 2023**.
- Immediately afterward, the 2023 current year wage and tax balances will be rolled into the prior year accumulator fields.
- Current year accumulators will be set to zero and used for the first payroll production with 2024 issue dates.

Reporting W-2 Data to HRS

Part I: W-2 Reportable Items

• 2023 Form W-2 and annual reports will be generated from the **prior-year** year to date wage and tax accumulator balances.

B. District Entry of Fringe Benefits and Related Data

To update 2023 wage and tax accumulators for W-2 adjustments, the balance element numbers to be entered will depend upon the following conditions:

- Through **Schedule 354**, produced on **December 20**, **2023**, any adjustments to the current year balance numbers will affect 2023 wages and taxes.
- From **December 21, 2023 thru January 4, 2024**, corrections to 2023 wage and tax records will require HRS updates using the prior year balance element numbers.
- Current year and prior year balance element numbers are located on page 25.

Adjustments to Social Security (OASDI) or Medicare

- HRS will always attempt to deduct or refund OASDI or Medicare tax from future earnings to keep employee year-to-date deductions equal to 6.2 percent or 1.45 percent of the year-to-date subject gross wages.
- The collection or refund of OASDI or Medicare tax will only occur if the respective "No Limit (NL)" wage balances are adjusted (OASDI GR NL or Med GR NL).
 - If you are increasing OASDI or Medicare NL wages, only adjust the related tax deduction balance(s) if the taxes were already collected outside of HRS.
- The HRS System will generate tax deductions based upon the subject NL base and year to date tax amount.
- A system generated deduction or refund warrant of a few pennies could result if the amounts collected outside HRS were not computed accurately.

C. Worker's Compensation Adjustments (WCA), Function 02

- WCA adjustments must only be processed on a Supplemental schedule in which there are no other pay transactions for the employee. Combining WCA adjustments with other pay entries could cause system miscalculations.
 - Earnings type **WCA adjusts only current-year balances**. WCA earnings input **after** December 20, 2023, will adjust 2024 records.

D. Adjustment Examples for Employee, John Doe (Pages 15-22)

This attachment contains various examples which were calculated for example employee, John Doe. These examples are the basis for posting to the attached year end adjustment worksheet.

Pages 15-17 illustrate the screen entries required to adjust current balances for John Doe through Schedule 354, with the production date of December 20, 2023. It is recommended that entries with current balance elements are input prior to Schedule 354.

Pages 18-19 illustrate the HRS W-2 adjustment worksheets completed for John Doe, per the example benefits calculated in the text.

Pages 20-22 illustrate the screen entries required to adjust balances for John Doe **after** December 20, 2023. The illustrated schedule is Schedule 004. The final schedule will be Schedule 004, with a production date of January 4, 2024.

Pages 23-24 are blank master worksheets for your use.

EXAMPLE ADJUSTMENTS FOR JOHN DOE DOLLAR BALANCES IF

Input by December 20, 2023

DISTRICT	: 00111			LLAR BALANCE 354 BAT				
EMPLOYEE	NAME: [OOE,JOHN					EID:	UC1234567
ELEM 5509 5579	AMOUNT 2829.80 104.80	+/- + + +	ELEM 55 05 5527	AMOUNT 2829.80 225.00	+/- <u>+</u> +	ELEM 5513	AMOUNT 2629.80	+/- <u>+</u> -
1) - PLEA	CE DEVIEW	NATA ON	SCREEN.	OK TO PROCE	ED?			Y

EXAMPLE ADJUSTMENTS FOR JOHN DOE DOLLAR BALANCES IF

Input by December 20, 2023

** PAY -DOLLAR BALANCE - UPD **	0317
	0317
DISTRICT: 00111 SCHEDULE: 354 BATCH: 100	
EMPLOYEE NAME: DOE, JOHN EID: UC1234567	
ELEM AMOUNT +/- ELEM AMOUNT +/- ELEM AMOUNT +/-	
5528 3000.00 + 5570 2629.80 + 5536 575.00 +	
(001) - PLEASE REVIEW DATA ON SCREEN. OK TO PROCEED?	
TRANS <u>017</u> EID <u>UC1234567</u> SCD <u>354</u> BT <u>100</u> DIST	00111

EXAMPLE ADJUSTMENTS FOR JOHN DOE GROSS-TO-NET BALANCES

If Input by December 20, 2023

DI	STRICT	г: 6		CHEDULE:			BALANCE - U					031
EM	IPLOYEI	E NAME	: DOE,J	OHN						EID:	UC123456	7
	ELEM 020	CD Y	AMOUNT *	+/- +	ELEM 022	CD Y	AMOUNT *	+/- +	ELEM 026	CD Y	AMOUNT *	+/
_	<u> </u>	Y	*	<u>+</u>	081	Y	*	<u>+</u>		<u> </u>		- <u>-</u>

The amounts shown are the example amounts as calculated in the text of this bulletin, including third-party sick pay, where applicable. See example worksheets.

*Adjust the Social Security tax and Medicare tax only if the district has collected or will collect Social Security or Medicare taxes outside HRS.

imployee Name:	EID or SSN:	
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HRS W-2 ADJUSTMENT WORKSHEET – 2023

Taxable (1) Dependent Care	Group Legal Services	Auto Allowance/ District Auto/ Commuting	Exc Milea Reimbur	ge (2)	Whole (Permanent) Life Insurance		Excess (3) Group Term Life Ins.		Expenses/ Other		Γotal ustment	Current-Year Balance No. (7)	Prior-Year Balance No. (8)
1,500.00	+	+	+ 65.	00	+ 200.00	+	104.80	+		= 1.8	869.80	Federal Wages 5509	5580
1,500.00	+	+	+ 65.	00	+ 200.00	+	104.80	+		_	869.80	State Wages 5505	5581
	+	+	+		+	+		+		=		FIT Withheld 081Y	5538
	+	+	+		+	+		+		=		State Tax Withheld 082Y	5539
1,500.00	+	+	+ 65.	00	+	+	104.80	+		= 1,0	569.80	Soc. Sec Wages (OASDI wages) 5513 no limit (4)	5516 no limit (4)
(6)	_ +	+	+(6	<u> </u>	+	+	(6)	+		=	(6)	Soc. Sec Tax Withheld 020Y & 022Y (6)	
1,500.00	+	+	+65.	00	+	+	104.80	+		=	669.80	MEDI Wages 5570 no limit (4)	5572 no limit (4)
(6)	+	+	+(6		+	+	(6)	+		=	(6)	MEDI Tax Withheld 026Y & 027Y (6)	5577 & 5578 (6)
	+	+	+		+	+	104.80	+		=1	04.80	Reportable Group Term Life 5579	5546
	+	+	+65.		200.00	+		+		=2	65.00	Fringe Benefits incl in Box 1 as Other Comp. 5527	5548
				Enter the t	otal of district-pai	d dep	endent care not p	rocessed	l in HRS (5)	=		Dependent Care Benefits 5534 FED Employee Bus.	5553
If more th	an the federal mile	age rate maximum was pa	aid, enter the fe	deral fringe	maximum amount	. (The	e excess is includ	ded in wa	ages above.)	=5:	35.00	Expense 5536 Moving Expense	5549
				Enter mo	oving expense reim	ıburse	ements excluded t	from taxa	able wages	=		Reimbursement 5594	5595

Footnotes:

- (1) Excess over \$5,000. (Example E)
- (2) Amount over 56.0 cents per mile
- (3) Coverage over \$50,000. (Example A)
- (4) Make adjustments only to the "wages No Limit" balances without regard to the maximum taxable wage base. HRS will apply the limit to the reportable W-2 wages. If the "wages no limit" are increased but are less than the maximum wage base, HRS will attempt to process additional deductions from the employee's future pay. HRS will not try to take the additional deductions if you simultaneously adjust upward the deduction balance by the amount required for the additional wages (this would occur if you had already collected the required tax deductions outside HRS.)
- (5) Dependent care benefits processed as salary reductions in HRS will automatically be reported on W-2s. Adjust Federal and State Wages by excess over \$5,000.
- (6) Adjust the Social Security tax and Medicare tax only if your district has already collected or will collect Social Security or Medicare taxes outside HRS.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- (7) Input into HRS through 12/20/23 (schedule 354), post to the Current-year balance number only.
 (8) Input into HRS after 12/21/23; use the prior-year balances only. (HRS will have all 2023 wage and tax balances moved to the prior-year balances.)

Employ	ee Name:	John Doe	SSN:	123-45-6789
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HRS W-2 ADJUSTMENT WORK SHEET - 2023 Third-Party Sick Pay

(EXAMPLE D)

			(12)			W-2 Item
Taxable 3 rd Party Sick Pay	Nontaxable 3 rd Party <u>Sick Pay</u>	Federal Income Tax Withheld from 3 rd Party Sick Pay		Total <u>Adjustment</u>	Current-Year Balance No.	Prior-Year <u>Balance No</u> .
1,000.00	+		=	1,000.00	Federal Wages 5509	5580
1,000.00	+		=	1,000.00	State Wages 5505	5581
		+250.00	_ = .	250.00	FIT Withheld 081Y	5538
	+	+250.00	= _	250.00	FIT Withholding from 3 rd Party Sick Pay 5591	5592
1,000.00	<u>+</u>		= .	1,000.00	Soc. Sec. Wages (OASDI wages) 5513 no limit	5516 no limit
**	+		=	**	Soc. Sec. Tax Withheld 020Y &022Y	5518 & 5519
1,000.00	+		=	1000.00	MEDI Wages 5570 no limit	5571 no limit
**	+		=	**	MEDI Tax Withheld 026Y & 027Y	5577 & 5578
	3,000.00	-	= .	3,000.00	Nontaxable 3 rd Party Sick Pay 5528	5547

^{*} If your district is responsible for W-2 reporting of third-party sick pay, and the third-party payer withholds and deposits federal income tax from the sick pay, post the amount of withheld tax to both the federal withholding tax balance and to this special balance for third-party sick pay withholding.

NOTE:

If the quarterly element numbers are not adjusted at the time the annual balances are adjusted, the quarterly reports will be out of balance with the accumulator reports.

^{**} Adjust the Social Security tax and Medicare tax only if your district has **already collected or will collect** Social Security or Medicare taxes outside HRS.

EXAMPLE ADJUSTMENTS FOR JOHN DOE GROSS-TO-NET BALANCES

If Input AFTER December 20, 2023

Prior-Year Elements

DISTRICT:	00111			LLAR BALANCE 004 BATO					031
EMPLOYEE	NAME: D	OE,JOHN	I				EID:	UC1234567	
5580 5546	AMOUNT 2829.80 104.80	+/- <u>+</u> <u>+</u>	ELEM 5581 5548	AMOUNT 2829.80 225.00	+/- <u>+</u> +	ELEM 5516	AMOUNT 2629.80	+/- <u>+</u> -	
01) - PLEA ANS 017	SE REVIEW D	ATA ON	SCREEN.	OK TO PROCE	ED? 234567	SCD 00	4 BT 10	<u>Y</u> 90 DIST	00111

EXAMPLE ADJUSTMENTS FOR JOHN DOE DOLLAR BALANCES

If Input AFTER December 20, 2023

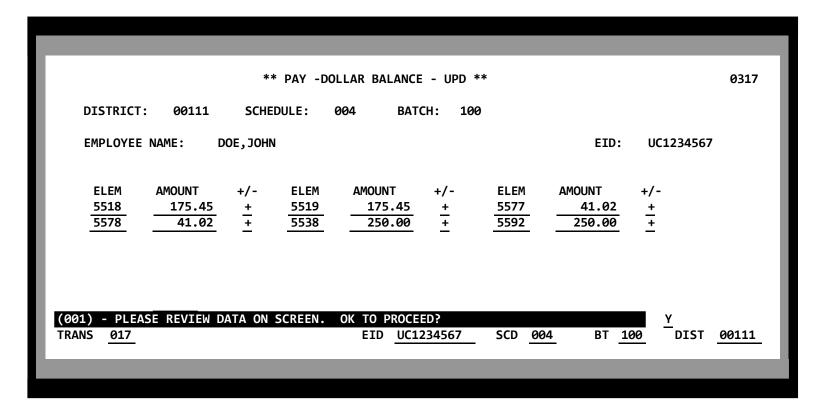
Prior-Year Elements

DISTRICT	: 00111	** SCHED		LLAR BALANCE 004 BAT					031
EMPLOYEE		OOE,JOHN					EID:	UC1234567	
ELEM 5547	AMOUNT 3000.00	+/- <u>+</u> -	ELEM 5571	AMOUNT 2629.80	+/- <u>+</u> -	ELEM 5549	AMOUNT 575.00	+/- <u>+</u> -	
001) - PLEA	SE REVIEW D	ATA ON S	SCREEN.	OK TO PROCE	ED?			Y	

EXAMPLE ADJUSTMENTS FOR JOHN DOE DOLLAR BALANCES

If Input AFTER December 20, 2023

Prior-Year Elements



Social Security Deduction/Contribution Adjustments

Employee Name:			

EID or SSN:	
EID or SSN:	

HRS W-2 ADJUSTMENT WORKSHEET- 2023

Taxable (1) Dependent Care	Group Legal Services	Auto Allowance/ District Auto/ Commuting	Excess Mileage (2) Reimbursement	Whole (Permanent) Life Insurance	Excess (3) Group Term Life Ins.	Domestic Partner Expenses/ Other		Total Adjustment	Current-Year Balance No. (7)	Prior-Year Balance No (8)
	+	+	+	_ +	+	+	-	0.00	Federal Wages 5509	5580
	+	+	+	+	+	+	=	0.00	State Wages 5505	5581
	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	0.00	FIT Withheld 081Y	5538
	+	+	+	+	+	+	=	0.00	State Tax Withheld 082Y	5539
	+	+	+	+	+	+	=	0.00	Soc. Sec Wages (OASDI wages) 5513 no limit (4)	5516 no limit (4
	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	0.00	Soc. Sec Tax Withheld 020Y & 022Y (6)	5518 & 5519 (6)
	+	+	+	+	+	+	=	0.00	MEDI Wages 5570 no limit (4)	5571 no limit (4
	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	0.00	MEDI Tax Withheld 026Y & 027Y (6)	5577 & 5578 (6)
-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	0.00	Reportable Group Term Life 5579	5546
	+	+	+	+	+	+	=	0.00	Fringe Benefits incl in Box 1 as Other Comp. 5527	5548
		-	Enter	the total of district-paid	dependent care not p	rocessed in HRS (5)	=		Dependent Care Benefits 5534	5553
If more tha	an the federal mil	leage rate maximum was	paid, enter the federal fri	inge maximum amount.	(The excess is includ	ed in wages above.)	-			

Footnotes:

(1) Excess over \$5,000. (Example E)

- (2) Amount over 56.0 cents per mile (Example C)
- (3) Coverage over \$50,000. (Example A)
- (4) Make adjustments only to the "wages No Limit" balances without regard to the maximum taxable wage base. HRS will apply the limit to the reportable W-2 wages. If the "wages no limit" are increased but are less than the maximum wage base, HRS will attempt to process additional deductions from the employee's future pay. HRS will not try to take the additional deductions if you simultaneously adjust upward the deduction balance by the amount required for the additional wages (this would occur if you had already collected the required tax deductions outside HRS.)

Enter moving expense reimbursements excluded from taxable wages =

- (5) Dependent care benefits processed as salary reductions in HRS will automatically be reported on W-2s. Adjust Federal and State Wages by excess over \$5,000.
- (6) Adjust the Social Security tax and Medicare tax only if your district has already collected or will collect Social Security or Medicare taxes outside HRS.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- (7) Input into HRS through 12/20/23 (schedule 354), post to the Current-year balance number only.
- (8) Input into HRS after 12/21/23; use the prior-year balances **only.** (HRS will have all 2023 wage and tax balances moved to the prior-year balances.)

HRS W-2 ADJUSTMENT WORK SHEET -

Third-Party Sick Pay

(EXAMPLE)

			(EAAMI LE)		W-2 Item
Taxable 3rd Party Sick Pay	Nontaxable 3rd Party Sick Pay	Federal Income Tax Withheld from 3rd Party Sick Pay	Total <u>Adiustment</u>	Current-Year Balance No.	Prior-Year Balance No.
	+				5580
	+				5581
		+			5538
	+	+		FIT Withholding from 3'd Pty Sick Pay 5591	5592
	+			Soc. Sec. Wages (OASDI wages) 5513 no limit	5516 no li <u>m</u> it
	+			Soc. Sec. Tax Withheld 020Y &022Y	5518 & 5519
	+			MEDI Wages 5570 no limit	5571 no limit
	+			MEDI Tax Withheld 026Y & 027Y	5577 & 5578
				Nontaxable 3'd Party Sick Pay 5528	5547

^{*} If your district is responsible for W-2 reporting of third-party sick pay, and the third-party payer withhold s and deposits federal income tax from the sick pay, post the amount of withheld tax to both the federal withholding tax balance and to this special balance for third-party sick pay withholding.

NOTE:

If the quarterly element numbers are not adjusted at the time the annual balances are adjusted, the quarterly reports will be out of balance with the accumulator reports.

2023 HRS Balance Name Reference

Current-Year Accumulator Balance Number

Prior-Year Accumulator Balance Number

W-2 ITEM

HRS SHORT NAME

HRS SHORT NAME

Wages, Tips, & Other Comp. (Box 1)	5509	FED GROSS YTD	5580	FED GROSS - P
State Wages, Tips & Other Comp.	5505	STATE GROSS YTD	5581	STATE GROSS – P
Federal Income Tax Withheld	081Y	FWT	5538	FWT DED – P
State Income Tax Withheld	082Y	SWT	5539	SWT DED – P
Social Security Wages	5513	OASDI GR NL YTD	5516	OASDI GR NL – P
Medicare Wages	5570	MED GR NL YTD	5571	MED GR NL – P
Social Security Taxes Withheld	020Y	OASDI DED	5518	OASDI DED – P
Social Security District Contribution*	022Y	OASDI CON	5519	OASDI CON – P
Medicare Taxes Withheld	026Y	MEDICARE DED	5577	MED DED – P
Medicare District Contribution*	027Y	MEDCAR CON	5578	MED CON – P
Group Term Life in Excess of \$50,000	5579	GRP LIFE>50K	5546	GRP LIFE>50K - P
Nontaxable Third-Party Sick Pay	5528	NONTXBL3PSP	5547	NONTXBL3PSP – P
Taxable Fringe Benefits Included in Box 1*	5527	FED FRINGE YTD	5548	FED FRINGE – P
Employee Business Expense	5536	FED MAX BEN	5549	FED MAX BEN – P
Dependent Care Benefits	5534	DEPEND CARE	5553	DEPEND CARE – P
Excludable Moving Expense Reimbursement	5594	MOV EXP RMB	5595	MOV EXP RMB – P
Federal Tax Withheld from Third-Party Sick Pay**	5591	3PSP FED WHT	5592	3PSP FED WHT – P

^{*}These items are not displayed on the W-2 form.
**Included with total Federal Tax on W-2 form.