5.3 RETIREE COVERAGE

For the purposes of this section, retirement is defined as a faculty member's termination from full-time District employment which is concurrent with his/her retirement under STRS and/or PERS.

5.3.1 District Contributions

Retired unit employees and eligible dependents shall receive district-paid benefits in accordance with the current medical/dental plans (see Section 5.2.1) based upon the following eligibility criteria:

For employees whose first paid date of contract service is prior to May 31, 1986, who have fifteen (15) years of service, the District will pay its portion of the insurance premium for life.

For employees whose first paid date of contract service is on or after May 31, 1986, who subsequently qualify for the foregoing fifteen (15) year retiree service benefit, the District will pay its portion of the insurance premium until the retiree reaches age 70, after which such retirees may continue coverage at their own expense.

Employees retiring on or after July 1, 1975, with less than fifteen (15) but with ten (10) or more years of service to the District may participate in medical/dental benefits by paying their own premiums.

5.3.2 Range of Coverage

Eligible retirees will receive the same medical coverage as current employees until reaching age 65 at which time coverage will be provided under a supplementary policy.

5.3.3 Surviving Dependents

Surviving dependents may continue coverage at their own expense.