

## **Optional Benefits and Long Term Care Benefits**

In addition to the requirement that OEGB contract for health, dental and vision benefit plans, the statute allows OEGB to contract with carriers for optional benefit plans. Those benefits can include life, supplemental medical, supplemental dental, accidental death or disability insurance plans. OEGB is also directed by statute to offer fully-insured long term care insurance to members.

The OEGB Board will offer life, short- and long-term disability and accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) policies to members beginning in October 2009. OEGB's consultant initially estimated that savings to members and districts in the first year will total about \$660,000 (\$440,000 to districts and \$220,000 to members) based on estimates of current enrollment in optional benefit programs.

A request for proposal (RFP) for optional benefits was posted for bidders on December 30, 2008. At its March 12, 2009, meeting the Board selected a vendor to provide the life, short- and long-term disability, and AD&D plans to participating entities. Based on the rates included in the successful bid, the savings increased to an estimated \$6.3 million annually with two-thirds of the savings going to educational entities.

The Board will offer long-term care insurance in October 2010; evaluation of the long-term care benefit will begin in the latter part of 2009.