



NEWS RELEASE

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DISTRICT 51 STAFF AND FAMILIES TO SAVE ON HEALTHCARE COVERAGE *Monument Health Awarded Sole Health Benefits Contract*





GRAND JUNCTION, CO - Monument Health, the Grand Junction-based Clinically Integrated Network (CIN), has been awarded the single-source healthcare network contract for Mesa County School District 51 (D51). The Board of Education voted unanimously to enter final contract negotiations with Monument Health to provide Tier 1 healthcare services for district employees at its board meeting on Tuesday, August 30, 2022.

The decision was primarily driven by the cost savings offered to D51 by Monument Health. Lower costs for D51 will be significant and tangible in the form of reduced employee premiums and a lower overall price to D51. The Monument Health proposal, as presented, will bring premium relief to employees and their families by as much as \$3,500 annually and is expected to fully replenish the districts depleted reserves by the end of 2023.

"These cost savings will have real impacts on our educators and help D51 reallocate more money into the classrooms to support teachers," said Monument Health's Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Michael Pramenko. "Our plan will allow D51 to balance its budget in one year, and then sustain those savings by focusing on preventive, value-based care for its employees. This is a big win for everyone."

Monument Health's integrated care model translates into cost savings because physicians and specialists work together to avoid unnecessary redundancies, cut red tape, and improve healthcare outcomes. Efficiencies such as embedding behavioral health specialists, physical, occupational, and speech therapists, and nutritional, diabetic, and weight loss counseling into an appointment are standard practices.

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The advanced care coordination offered through Monument Health saves its members time and hassle and results in a more personalized experience at lower costs.

“Monument Health has been a proud partner with District 51 for the past two years and we are excited to deepen our relationship. We are parents and members of this community, too, and we are extremely humbled and proud to be able to save precious district resources that can be reinvested back into achieving D51’s core mission to engage, equip, and empower our kids and teachers,” said Ashley Thurow, Monument Health’s Executive Director, after the board meeting.

In addition to serving as the plan’s Tier 1 network, Monument Health will also provide its Good Life Wellness Solutions package to District 51 employees in support of a revitalized workplace wellness effort. The wellness platform was created to help improve employee health and culture, and directly supports the D51 strategic plan focusing on employee wellness.

“It is a privilege to serve District 51 as their partner in employee wellness and well-being.” Thurow went on to say. “We know that the best healthcare is the kind that you never need to receive. Prevention is so important and the cost savings from preventing unnecessary healthcare expenses will directly and positively impact D51’s budget, which allows the district to stay in control of its health insurance premiums and to reallocate dollars back into classrooms.”

District 51 staff will start final contract negotiations with Monument Health immediately, and it is expected a final contract will be reached by early September. Open enrollment for district employees will begin on October 1, 2022. The new benefits plan will take effect for employees on January 1, 2023. For District 51 employees needing immediate support, Monument Health’s local care coordinators can be reached at support@monumenthealth.net.

To learn more about Monument Health, visit MonumentHealth.net.

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