Breaking News on Obamacare (and for once it isn't bad!) Bobby Truhe (402) 434-3000 H & S School Law @btruhe schoollaw@hslegalfirm.com Transition Relief Uncertainty

Transition Relief Announced

- What is transition relief?
- Planning ahead
 - Schools that do NOT qualify for transition relief, could pay additional taxes 1/1/15
 - With transition relief, earliest most Nebraska schools would be taxed is 9/1/16

Three Different Situations

- 1. Schools with less than 50 employees
- 2. Schools with between 50-99 employees
- 3. Schools with more than 100 employees

1) Less than 50 employees

>50

"Large Employer" Counting

Keep separate from individual eligibility counting

Are you covered?	
An employer's status as an applicable large employer for a calendar year is determined by taking the sum of the total number of full-time employeesfor each calendar month in the preceding calendar year and the total number of FTEsfor each calendar month in the preceding calendar year, and dividing by 12. - 26 CFR §54.4980H-2(b)(1) (final reg)	
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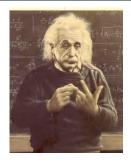
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How to count employees:

- Full-Time Employees
 - -120 hours in the month
 - -Count as "1" no matter how many hours over 120
 - Full-Time Equivalent Employees
 - -Fewer than 120 hours in the month
 - -Add up all hours of the month and divide by 120
- "Hour of service" means paid or entitled to payment (vacation, holiday)
- <u>All</u> calculated by the <u>month</u> (summer months)

Counting to 50

- MONTHLY computation
- Each month will have one "FT" and a different "FTE"
- Add up the 12 "FT's" and 12 "FTE's" then divide by 12



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How THO	OUGHT count
Fake S	
Sep: 42, 9.	2, 8.6
Oct: 42, 8.7	42, 8.7
Nov: 42, 7.8	12, 8.7
Dec: 42	7
Jan:	Jul:
Feb: 4.	Aug: 42,

Counting under the new rules

Fake School Dist.

Sep: 42, 9.3 Mar: 42, 8.6
Oct: 42, 8.7 Apr: 42, 8.7
Nov: 42, 7.8 May: 22, 5.7
Dec: 42, 7.5 Jun: 8, 2.1
Jan: 42, 9.2 Jul: 8, 2.1
Feb: 42, 9.9 Aug: 22, 5.7

Large Employer Ex.

- 42+42+42+42+42+42+42+2+8+ 8+22 = **396** FT
- 9.3+8.7+7.8+7.5+9.2+9.9+8.6+8.7 +5.7+2.1+2.1+5.7 = **85.3** FTE
- -396 + 85.3 = 481.3
- **481.3**/ 12 = 40.108
- Round down: 40 EEs = NOT "Large Employer"

The Bottom Line

- If you have less then 50 employees, your school does not have to comply with the employer mandate
- Under the new counting rules, many more schools will be under the 50 employee threshold
- This "divide by 12" rule will apply for all subsequent years as well

2) 50-99 employees

50 - 99

No Mandate until 9/1/16 if:

- **■ 50-99 employees**
 - Use counting rules above
 - Can use 6 month period for 2014-15*
- Don't cut hours to get to 99
- Don't eliminate or reduce insurance coverage already offered*
- File yearly forms with IRS beginning in 2015

3) 100 or more employees



Limited Transition Relief

■ To understand this, we need to quickly review the tax penalties:

Tax Penalties under ACA

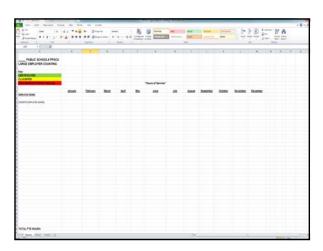
- "Death Penalty:"
 - Offer no insurance
 - pay \$2000 times total staff (less 30)
- "Unaffordable Penalty"
 - Offer insurance, but it isn't affordable to everyone
 - 9.5% = affordable*
 - Pay \$3,000 for each staff member who
 - Doesn't take school's insurance
 - Obtains insurance on the exchange
 - Receives a subsidy

Limited Transition Relief

- If coverage offered to at least 70% of <u>full-time</u> (30 hours per/week) employees, district will only have to pay individual penalty (not group or "death" penalty) if any of the plans are unaffordable
- "Death penalty" calculated by total employees less 80 (not 30) for 2015

What you NEED to do NOW

- If you're not tracking hours, START
 - Consider having all staff track, at least in specific months
- If you are over 100, calculate 70%
- If you don't qualify for any of the relief listed here, other options may be available contact your attorney
- Make your PPACA database



After transition relief...

- DIFFERENT COUNTING...
- May-Jun, 2015: begin lookback
- Feb-Mar, 2016: new subgroups
- June 1, 2016: administrative period
 - Make "offers"
 - Can make offers earlier
- July 1, 2016: EHA app deadline
- Sept 1, 2016: tax penalties kick in
 - Must offer to 95% of FT employees

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