

Dozens of MTI members have contacted MTI with questions about unemployment insurance (UI) benefits from the loss of summer employment with MMSD or MSCR. Due to the way these claims are being processed and the criteria for benefits eligibility, [school-year employees](#)' claims have generally been denied on the basis of what is called "reasonable assurance" that you will be returning to similar work in the fall.

Generally, [school-year employees are not eligible for unemployment](#) during traditional break periods (the summer, winter break, spring break, Thanksgiving break) because of this "reasonable assurance." However, we believe that loss of summer school employment should be considered separately and should be evaluated for eligibility on its own.

Unfortunately, due to specific eligibility criteria related to total earnings, many summer school claims will not be eligible for 'regular unemployment' benefits. This employment only pays wages in one quarter of the year under consideration and falls short of eligibility calculations for this program. As long as you had reasonable assurance of teaching work when school restarted this fall, your regular school year earnings are excluded from these calculations. (*For additional information scroll down to see "[Qualifying Wages](#)" in the "[Computing Benefits Entitlement](#)" section of the Claimant's Handbook.*)

Therefore, MTI is encouraging members to re-file for the [Pandemic Unemployment Assistance](#) (PUA). This program is intended to assist unemployed folks who are not typically eligible for 'regular unemployment benefits' but who are unemployed due to COVID-19. At least one claim has been approved for a summer school claimant under this program. If you have already refiled and been approved, please let MTI know.

### **I already filed an appeal and am waiting for an appeal date. What should I do?**

Given the challenges facing the Department of Workforce Development due to the volume of claims, the appeals process could take months before hearings are scheduled. Many members have filed claims under the PUA program while appeals are pending for the "Regular Unemployment" claim. At this time we are not aware of a PUA claim that is being held because of a pending appeal; however, ***we believe members who only worked, or expected to work, summer school outside of their regular school-year employment should drop their appeals to expedite claims proceedings.***

### **Dropping an Appeal**

*Only the party who requested the hearing (the appellant) may withdraw that request. You can withdraw the request for a hearing at any time during the appeal process online, by mail, by fax, or by calling the hearing office. ([Contact information below](#))*

UI Hearing Office  
P.O. Box 7975  
Madison, WI 53707  
**(608) 266-8010 (7:45 AM – 4:30 PM M-F)**  
Fax: (608) 327-6498

If you have additional complicating circumstances, such as a regular 2<sup>nd</sup> job with MSCR or another employer during the school year, you may want to consult with MTI to help determine the merits of your appeal. Make sure you gather all of [the relevant information to support your appeal](#) and let MTI know if your appeal date is set.

We know that this has been a trying time to navigate the summer with this loss of income, only to be denied unemployment benefits. Unfortunately, DWD regulations required folks to be evaluated for regular unemployment eligibility before allowing a PUA application. ***If you apply for and are denied PUA, file an appeal and contact MTI for assistance.***

If you have any questions about this or would like specific assistance with your claim, please contact [mti@madisonteachers.org](mailto:mti@madisonteachers.org) or call 608.257.0491.

We will get through this together.